

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

Sts. 1-3, Wilham Whiting, 1825-1878, cento, alt.
St. 4, Mary C. D. Hamilton

Melita 8. 8. 8. 8. 8.
John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

1. E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the
2. O Christ! whose voice the wa - ters heard And hushed their rag - ing
3. Most Ho - ly Spir - it! who didst brood Up - on the cha - os
4. Lord, guard and guide the men who fly Through the great spac - es

rest - less wave, Who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep
at thy word, Who walk - edst on the foam - ing deep,
dark and rude, And bid its an - gry tu - mult cease,
in the sky. Be with them al - ways in the air,

Its own ap - point - ed lim - its keep, O hear us when we
And calm a - midst its rage didst sleep, O hear us when we
And give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace, O hear us when we
In dark - ening storms or sun - light fair. O hear us when we

cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
cry to thee For those in per - il on the sea!
lift our prayer For those in per - il in the air! A - men.

5. Eternal Father, grant, we pray,
To all Marines, both night and day,
The courage, honor, strength, and skill
Their land to serve, thy law fulfill;
Be thou the shield forevermore
From every peril to the Corps.
J. E. Seim, 1966
6. Lord, stand beside the men who build,
And give them courage, strength, and skill.
O grant them peace of heart and mind,
And comfort loved ones left behind.
Lord, hear our prayer for all Seabees,
Where'er they be on land or sea.
R. J. Dietrich, 1960, alt.
7. Lord God, our power evermore,
Whose arm doth reach the ocean floor,
Dive with our men beneath the sea;
Traverse the depths protectively.
O hear us when we pray, and keep
Them safe from peril in the deep.
David B. Miller, 1965
8. O God, protect the women who,
In service, faith in thee renew;
O guide devoted hands of skill
And bless their work within thy will;
Inspire their lives that they may be
Examples fair on land and sea.
*Lines 1-4, Merle E. Strickland, 1972,
and adapted by James D. Shannon, 1973.
Lines 5-6, Beatrice M. Truitt, 1948*
9. Creator, Father, who dost show
Thy splendor in the ice and snow,
Bless those who toil in summer light
And through the cold antarctic night,
As they thy frozen wonders learn;
Bless those who wait for their return.
L. E. Vogel, 1965
10. Eternal Father, Lord of hosts,
Watch o'er the men who guard our coasts.
Protect them from the raging seas
And give them light and life and peace.
Grant them from thy great throne above
The shield and shelter of thy love.
Author and date unknown
11. Eternal Father, King of birth,
Who didst create the heaven and earth,
And bid the planets and the sun
Their own appointed orbits run:
O hear us when we seek thy grace
For those who soar through outer space.
J. E. Volonte, 1961
12. Creator, Father, who first breathed
In us the life that we received,
By power of thy breath restore
The ill, and men with wounds of war.
Bless those who give their healing care,
That life and laughter all may share.
*Galen H. Meyer, 1969
Adapted by James D. Shannon, 1970*
13. God, who dost still the restless foam,
Protect the ones we love at home.
Provide that they should always be
By thine own grace both safe and free.
O Father, hear us when we pray
For those we love so far away.
Hugh Taylor, date unknown
14. Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
And those who on the ocean ply;
Be with our troops upon the land,
And all who for their country stand:
Be with these guardians day and night
And may their trust be in thy might.
Author unknown, about 1955
15. O Father, King of earth and sea,
We dedicate this ship to thee.
In faith we send her on her way;
In faith to thee we humbly pray:
O hear from heaven our sailor's cry
And watch and guard her from on high!
16. And when at length her course is run,
Her work for home and country done,
Of all the souls that in her sailed
Let not one life in thee have failed;
But hear from heaven our sailor's cry,
And grant eternal life on high!
Stanzas 15, 16, author and date unknown