

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

175

# Seek Ye First

*Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia,

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God  
2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you;  
3 You shall not live by bread a - lone,

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/2 time signature. It contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia,'. The middle staff is a piano accompaniment in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The piano parts feature chords and moving lines that support the vocal melody.

al - le - lu - ia,

and its righ - teous - ness,  
seek, and you shall find;  
but by ev - ery word

The second system of the musical score continues the piece. It also consists of three staves: a vocal line in treble clef, and piano accompaniment in treble and bass clefs. The vocal line contains the lyrics 'al - le - lu - ia,' followed by 'and its righ - teous - ness, seek, and you shall find; but by ev - ery word'. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and melodic lines.

The author and composer wrote the first stanza and folk-style tune after attending a Bible study on Matthew 6:33. The later stanzas, based respectively on Matthew 7:7 and Matthew 4:4 emerged anonymously. Such meditative singing of scripture is an important form of sung prayer.

TEXT: Stanza 1, Karen Lafferty, 1971, alt.; stanzas 2–3, anon.; Spanish trans. anon.;  
Korean trans. The United Methodist Korean Hymnal Committee

MUSIC: Karen Lafferty, 1971

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LAFFERTY  
Irregular

JESUS CHRIST: LIFE

al - le - lu - ia,  
and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you.  
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you.  
that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

al - le - lu - ia!  
Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

SPANISH

1 Busca primero el reino de Dios  
y su perfecta justicia,  
que lo demás lo añadirá el Señor.  
Alelu, aleluya.

KOREAN

1 너희는 먼저- 주의 나라와  
그의를 구하-면  
이모든것 네게 더하시리라  
알렐-루 알렐루야