THE LORD'S DAY

October 1, 2023

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Matthew 18:20
PRELUDE – The prelude is a time for heart preparation. It is important that we use this time for preparing ourselves for the privilege of entering the presence of the King.

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"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren." Romans 8:29

Nevertheless Afterward

I was so happy in my lot, I was so glad of work or play, I only asked that I might walk With others on life's common way; My Father let the sorrows come That blotted out the sunlit skies, That stopped the toil of busy hands And turned my laughter into sighs.

I was so sorrowful, so spent, I only asked to dwell apart, And in the silence and the dark To nurse my bruised and broken heart; My Father came and took my hand And led me forth in paths unknown, He filled my days with crowding cares, He would not let me weep alone.

But, looking backward now, I know How wise and kind He was to me, The clouds all gone, the shadows fled, His glorious afterward I see; If He had left me to myself I know the joys I should have lost, The good that I had lacked or missed, How much I gained, how small the cost.

And shall I doubt His love today Because once more the mists arise, Because His hand, though leading still, Is hidden from my blinded eyes? Nay, help me to remember, Lord, As 'neath the chastening rod I bow, Thy wondrous dealing past, and trust Thine afterward for this dark now.

Annie Johnson Flint