

Shall We Gather at the River

Robert Lowry · 1864 · Tune: Hanson Place (Robert Lowry)
Meter: 8.7.8.7 with refrain

Verse 1

Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod;
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.

Verse 2

On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy, golden day.

Verse 3

Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.

Verse 4

Soon we'll reach the silver river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

History

Pastor Robert Lowry of Hanson Place Baptist Church, Brooklyn wrote both words and music in July 1864 during a sweltering heat wave that was killing many in his congregation. Meditating on Revelation 22:1-2, the picture of the saints gathering at the river of life came to him along with the melody, all in one sitting.

Scripture References (KJV)

Revelation 22:1

And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters.

