

CAST YOUR NETS

Kate Bluett

You see our nets are empty, Lord,
though we have worked all night
and struggled with the sails and oars
until the dawn of light.
But now you bid us cast once more
our nets upon the right.

Oh, Lord, we cannot help but doubt,
though still we will obey.
Though we have spent the whole night out,
yet we will work today.
Forgive our doubts; we turn about
to follow what you say.

We cast again into the waves
the nets we could not fill.
We know full well that you who save
will bring about your will.
In you we trust for all our days,
in all things good and ill.

We haul the ropes and draw the nets
again across the side
Your promises you don't forget,
but meet us when we've tried.
Your grace and mercy meet us yet
in ev'ry turning tide.

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John 21:1–6 • Luke 5:1–11

Christian literature and music abounds with exhortations to ever greater efforts in virtue, in evangelization, and in every aspect of Christian life. But in that life itself, what abounds so often is discouragement, even disappointment. Not all our efforts are fruitful, and we are often left without a vocabulary to express that discouragement, even in prayer. “Cast Your Nets” comes from a recognition of the disciples’ exhaustion and discouragement; they have worked all night with nothing to show for it. But, as Saint Mother Theresa said, God has not called us to be successful; he has called us to be faithful. In order to remain faithful, to keep going, we need healthy ways to acknowledge that discouragement and give it to God. We can do this confidently, knowing that God will meet us where we are, even in those frustrating times. It is my hope that “Cast Your Nets” provides parishes with a way to acknowledge both hard work and setbacks, and to move forward with renewed confidence.

Use: Christian Life, Discipleship, Trust



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CORONATION

1. You see our nets are emp - ty, Lord, though
2. Oh, Lord, we can - not help but doubt, though
3. We cast a - gain in - to the waves the
4. We haul the ropes and draw the nets a -

1. we have worked all night and strug - gled with the
2. still we will o - bey. Though we have spent the
3. nets we could not fill. We know full well that
4. gain a - cross the side Your prom - is - es you

1. sails and oars un - til the dawn of
2. whole night out, yet we will work to -
3. you who save will bring a - bout your
4. don't for - get, but meet us when we've



CAST YOUR NETS, cont. (2)

1. light. But now you bid us cast — once — more our
2. day. For - give our doubts; we turn — a - bout to
3. will. In you we trust for all — our — days, in
4. tried. Your grace and mer - cy meet — us — yet in

1. nets up - on — the right.
2. fol - low what — you say.
3. all things good — and ill.
4. ev - 'ry turn - ing tide.

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Music: CORONATION; *Union Harmony*, 1793; Oliver Holden, 1765–1844.

