

**1864**

**THE MOTHER'S HYMN**

**William Cullen Bryant**

**Bryant, William Cullen (1794-1878) - American poet and editor of the New York Evening Post who practiced law before devoting his life to writing. A master of blank verse, Bryant's earliest works are considered his best. The Mother's Hymn (1864) - Opening lines: Lord, who ordainest for mankind / Benignant toils and tender cares!...**

**THE MOTHER'S HYMN**

Lord, who ordainest for mankind  
Benignant toils and tender cares!  
We thank Thee for the ties that bind  
The mother to the child she bears.

We thank Thee for the hopes that rise,  
Within her heart, as, day by day,  
The dawning soul, from those young eyes,  
Looks, with a clearer, steadier ray.

And grateful for the blessing given  
With that dear infant on her knee,  
She trains the eye to look to heaven,  
The voice to lisp a prayer to Thee.

Such thanks the blessed Mary gave,  
When, from her lap, the Holy Child,  
Sent from on high to seek and save  
The lost of earth, looked up and smiled.

All-Gracious! grant, to those that bear  
A mother's charge, the strength and light  
To lead the steps that own their care  
In ways of Love, and Truth, and Right.

**THE END**