

## **Leaves Of Hope #4**

Family Devotion written by C.M. Gullerud

In scenes exalted or depressed  
Be Thou our joy and thou our rest,  
Thy goodness all our hopes shall raise,  
Adored through all our changing days.

L.H. 119 verse 4

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**

**There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot . . .**

In this day and age when so much is being said and written in favor of euthanasia and justified suicide, it may seem as though the issues of life and death are no longer in the hands of God. In the midst of our planned and controlled economy it may seem as though we have reached a point where is completely left to the wisdom of man to decide the welfare of mankind. However wise and shrewd people may think themselves to be in these and other matters, the truth will still stand that when God wants a child to be born it will be born, and when God sets a limit to a person's life and decides it is to come to an end, it will come to an end at the divinely appointed time. In God's economy there is

a time to be born and a time to die. The issues of life and death rest in his hands and we should be well satisfied to leave them there.

Speaking of the appointed time for birth and for death, our thoughts should especially turn to the birth and death of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The time for this birth was predetermined by God. He fashioned the events of history so that everything would be in order for it to occur. All things that pointed forward to it were ready to converge upon that blessed event which called forth the heavenly song of angels and brought both shepherds from the field and wise men from the East to pay their homage. **“But when the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the full rights as sons.” Galatians 4:4-5**

**Now are the days fulfilled, God's Son is manifested,  
Now his great majesty, in human flesh is vested.  
Behold the mighty God, by whom all wrath is stilled,  
The Woman's promised seed – Now are the days fulfilled.**

**L.H. 99 verse 1**

Indeed this was the time, this was the season for the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose. Without this birth the world would languish in the throes of spiritual death with no hope of salvation. Without this birth every child born into this world

would be born to die spiritually and eternally. That there is a time for every purpose under heaven is most especially true of the birth of our Savior. The birth of the Savior brings to us a new birth through the faith which lays hold on the life which it bestows.

Of our Savior-God it is not only true that he was born at the appointed time, but it is also true that there was a time appointed for his death, even the death upon the cross. The special thing about the birth of Jesus was that he was born to die. This was the very purpose of his birth. Jesus said: “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it to the full. I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:10-11 In the Epistle to the Hebrews we read: “Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” Hebrews 2:14

Now are the days fulfilled,  
The child of God rejoices;  
No bondage of the Law,  
No curses that it voices,  
Can fill our hearts with fear;  
On Christ our hope we build,  
Behold the Prince of Peace,  
Now are the days fulfilled. L.H. 99:3