

# A 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 who bear  
A mother's charge the strength and light  
To guide the feet that own their care  
In ways of love and truth and right.

William Cullen Bryant

