

532

The Head that was crowned with thorns

TEXT BACKGROUND

Often used on the feast of the Ascension, hymn by Thomas Kelly (1769-1855) finds its inspiration not only from the words of Holy Scripture, primary Hebrews 2:10, but also from another work inspired by the Scriptures, a lengthy poem by John Bunyan entitled *One Thing Is Needful; or, Serious Meditation upon the Four Lasting Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell* and published about 1665.¹ In fact, the first stanza of the hymn is nearly identical to the thirty-ninth quatrain of the grouping. It is entitled “Heave” and reads as follows.

That Head that one was Crown'd with Thorns,
Sall now with Glory shine,
That heart that broken was with Scorns,
Sall flow with Life Divine.²

USE

This is the Hymn of the Day for Proper 29 (A)