How Blest Are They Whose Trespass

1 How blest are they whose trespass has freely been forgiven,
whose sins are wholly covered before the sight of heaven.
Blest they to whom the LORD God does not impute their sin,
who have a guileless spirit, whose heart is true within.

2 While I kept guilty silence, my strength was spent with grief:
no whelming floods shall reach them or cause their hearts to fear.
But when I owned my trespass and did not hide my sin,
and you surround me always with songs of saving grace.

3 So let the Godly seek you in times when you are near;
and, with my eye upon you, help you my counsel know.
Then do not be unruly or slow to understand;
be not perverse, but willing to heed my wise command.

4 "I graciously will teach you the way that you should go,
but those who trust the LORD God know love instead of fear.
Then in the LORD be joyful, in song lift up your voice;
be glad in God, you righteous: rejoice, O saints, rejoice.

5 The sorrows of the wicked increase from year to year,
and, with my eye upon you, help you my counsel know.
Then do not be unruly or slow to understand;
be not perverse, but willing to heed my wise command.

Text: Psalm 32; vers. Psalter, 1912, alt.
Tune: Chrétien Urban, 1834; arr. Edward F. Rimbault, 1867