

GOD'S GRACE

*Written by Verna Kwiatkowski, who defines God's grace as undeserved, unearned favor.
"In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with
the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding"
(Ephesians 1:7,8). A Sky View poem.*

Splash! Splash! All over the place –
Splash! Splash! – God showers us with grace.

Lord, how could I complain,
 when blessings fall like rain?
And how could I grouse,
 while living in this house?

I can't! I won't! I'll be grateful instead,
While sitting in my chair, or lying in my bed.

Lord, help me spread your grace
 until I see you face to face,
Until I sing with loosened tongue
 the heavenly angels' song.

For now I'll sing within myself until my course is run.
Please join me with your voices. Choir practice has begun!

Splash! Splash! All over the place –
Splash! Splash! – God showers us with grace.

Thank you, Lord!

VERNA'S COMMENTS ON THE POEM: To fully understand this poem, you need to know that I can no longer walk, talk, or sing, and I live in the nursing home at Sky View. When I say, "While sitting in my chair, or lying in my bed," these are the only two places where I spend my days, except briefly when I am being transferred from one to the other. That verse, then, means I will be grateful all day long.

The verses about singing bring up another point: I don't think of my limitations as permanent, nor do I think of Sky View as my final home. By faith, I see Heaven as my final dwelling place, where my tongue will work again and I will be able to enter fully into the joy of my Lord. I sing internally in preparation for that day.

Are you familiar with the word "grouse"? It means to grumble, or complain, and was commonly used in the Pennsylvania Dutch area where I grew up. The children in our town understood when an adult said, "Quit your grouching!" "This house" in that same verse refers

to Sky View, with its exquisite setting and beautifully decorated interior, but I hope those who read the poem will apply it to wherever they live as well.

Most of us who live at Sky View have little or no control over the problems that brought us here, but most of us (not all) can control how we react to it. What would happen if, instead of complaining, we decided to express gratitude? Then we would ALSO be splashing grace all over the place! Let's do it!

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