Once to Every Man and Nation
Choose you this day whom ye will serve. Joshua 24:15

1. Once to ev'ry man and na-tion Comes the mo-ment to de-cide,
2. Then to side with truth is no-ble, When we share her wretch-ed crust,
3. By the light of burn-ing mar-tyrs, Christ, Thy bleed-ing feet we track;
4. Tho' the cause of evil pros-p'er, Yet the truth a-lone is strong;

In the strife of truth with false-hood, For the good or evil side;
Ere her cause bring fame and prof-it, And 'tis pros-p'rous to be just;
Tho' her por-tion be the scaf-fold, And up-on the throne be wrong,

Some great cause, some great de-ci-sion, Of f'ring each the bloom or blight,
Then it is the brave man choos-es While the cow-ard stands a-side,
New oc-ca-sions teach new du-ties; An cient val-u'es test our youth.
Yet that scaf-fold sways the fu-ture, And, be hind the dim un-known,

And the choice goes by for-ev-er Twixt that dark-ness and that light.
Till the mul-ti-tude make vir-tue Of the faith they had de-nied.
They must up-ward still and on-ward, Who would keep a-breast of truth.
Stand-eth God, with-in the shad-ow, Keep-ing watch a-bove His own.

TEXT: James Russell Lowell
MUSIC: Thomas J. Williams
A lower setting may be found at No. 352