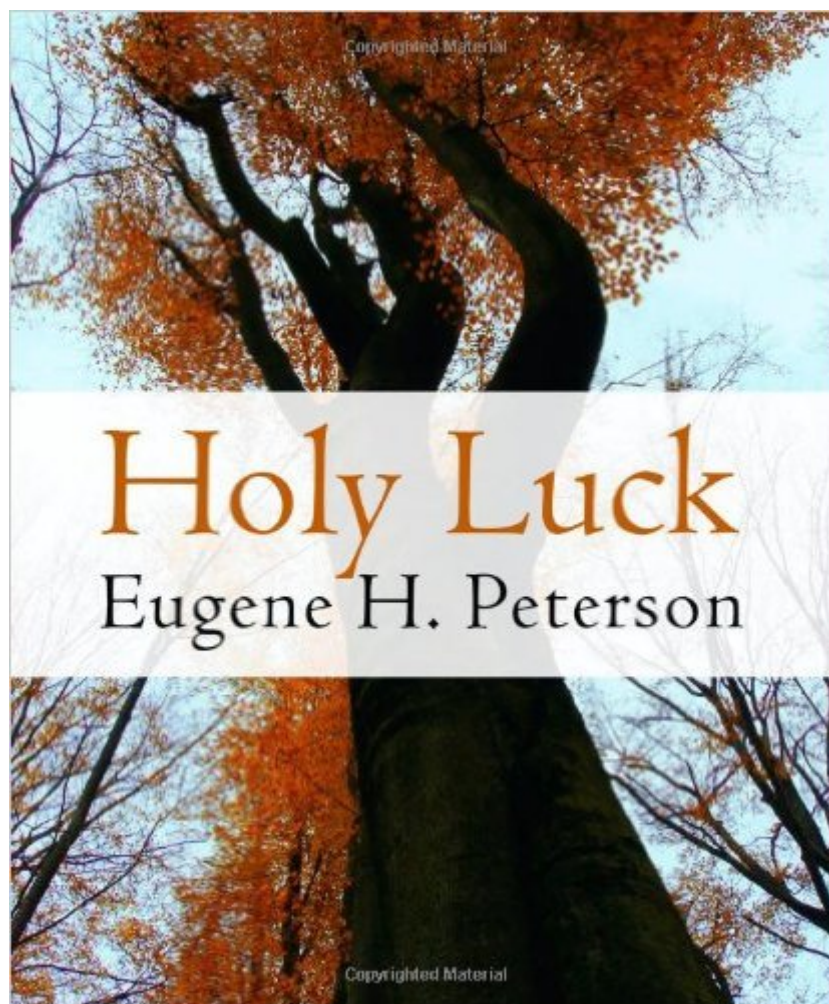


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# Holy Luck



## Synopsis

Throughout his many years of pastoral ministry, almost everything Eugene Peterson has done -- preaching, teaching, praying, counseling, writing -- has involved words. To keep himself attuned to the power of words and to help himself use language with precision and imagination, Peterson both reads and writes poetry. *Holy Luck* presents, in one luminous volume, seventy poems by Peterson, most of them not previously published. Speaking to various aspects of "Kingdom of God" living, these poems are arranged in three sets: *Holy Luck* -- poems arising out of the Beatitudes *The Rustling Grass* -- poems opening up invisible Kingdom realities through particular created things *Smooth Stones* -- occasional poems about discovering significance in every detail encountered while following Jesus. Echoing the language of Peterson's popular Bible translation, *The Message*, the poems in *Holy Luck* are well suited for devotional purposes. An ideal gift item, this volume is one that readers will look to again and again.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

He's best known for writing "The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language." (The Message was so popular that Bono quoted from it at U2 concerts.) He's also written more than 30 other books. He was the founding pastor of Christ Our King Presbyterian Church in Bel Air, Maryland. In the words of Christianity Today, he is a "shepherd's shepherd," a guide and mentor to pastors who shepherd their congregational flocks. And in addition to all of that, Eugene Peterson is a poet. Over the course of many years, Peterson wrote poems and shared them with or

gave them to friends and family. Two years ago, 70 of them were collected and published under the title of "Holy Luck." The poems were an education in words, and what words can and should be. I learned that poets are caretakers of language, he writes, shepherds of words protecting them from desecration, exploitation, misuse. Words not only mean something, they are something, each with a sound and rhythm all its own. The poems are divided into three sections: Holy Luck, a series of poems based on the Beatitudes; The Rustling Grass, about finding God in the everyday; and Smooth Stones, the daily life of following Jesus. Not surprisingly, the poems are often from the perspective of the pastor, the shepherd, seeking to train, to educate, to explain, to encourage, to guide and to direct. They flow from scripture, often a single verse. Here is Tree, taken from Isaiah 11:1 "There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, And a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse's roots, composted with carcasses of dove and lamb, parchments of ox and goat, Centuries of dried up prayers and bloody Sacrifice, now bear me gospel fruit.

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