1. Given that this is a satirical poem, I need to be sure to capture the original intent, while adhering as closely as possible to the rhythm and flow of the source text. Since this is Brecht I am going to translate, he’s established in the “poetics” of American literature and as such I don’t need to worry about censoring or altering his thoughts to fit our society. Because the material being parodied is very well-known in both English and German, I do not need to worry about allusions that may get lost in translation.
2. Praise the night and the darkness, that binds you all!  
   Gather together,  
   Gaze into the night’s nether1;  
   Day has left you to nightfall2.  
     
   Praise the grass and the animals, which live and die around you!  
   Look, how closely  
   The grass and animals live like thee3,  
   And so must they also die like you.  
     
   Praise the tree which from carrion rises, exulting, into the sky!  
   Praise the carrion,  
   And the tree which from it has grown,  
   But also praise the infinite sky!  
     
   Praise from your heart the forgiveness4 of heaven!  
   Memory it does not save5,  
   Of your face nor your name,  
   No one will know when earth, you have forsaken6.  
     
   Praise the darkness, the cold, eventual destruction!  
   See the truth,  
   Inconsequential are you,  
   Your death means nothing; embrace your oblivion7.
3. Throughout, I decided to sacrifice literal meaning where the rhyme scheme would have suffered, and also tried to convey the overtly satirical tone that increases in intensity as the piece goes on.  
   I also adhered to the rhyme and rhythm scheme as much as possible and kept the formal tone in the beginning, slowly transitioning to a biting satire by the end just as the ST did.  
     
   Specific choices:  
   1. The expansive dark of night was accurately conveyed with “nether,” giving the TT an otherworldly tone, as well as keeping the rhyme scheme.  
   2. To convey the impression of the day “abandoning” the people, also indicating that life is short, I said that the day has left the people to nightfall.  
   3. “Thee” keeps with the formal tone and I used it to keep the rhyme, while still conveying the same tone as the ST.  
   4. “Forgiveness” is ironic here, invoking the phrase “forgive and forget,” but implying “forget” more strongly than “forgive.”  
   5. This phrasing invokes the double meaning of “save” as in “to rescue” and “to store for later use/retrieval.”  
   6. “Forsaken” is a very religious word, “Why have you forsaken me?” comes to mind.   
   7. This line signals the reversal of the poem’s tone, from reasoning why the world is great, to why you as a person are useless, and “oblivion” is a finalizing word, describing complete destruction and barrenness.