



May 16, 2024

Hymns by Famous Composers

Social Time

Thanks to those who brought Treats!

Bible Study Business

Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List

Opening Prayer

Hymn Series – Hymns by Famous Composers

- *A Mighty Fortress* – Martin Luther
- *Love Divine All Loves Excelling* – Charles Wesley
- *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* – Ludwig van Beethoven and Henry van Dyke

***A Mighty Fortress is Our God* – ELW 504**

Background information on this hymn

Scripture – Psalm 46

¹God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

³though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

⁴There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns.

⁶The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice, the earth melts.

⁷The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

⁸Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth.

⁹He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰“Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.”

¹¹The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

In times of difficulty and danger Martin Luther would reportedly say to his fellow reformer, Philipp Melancthon, “Come, Philipp, let us sing the 46th Psalm” – meaning *A Mighty Fortress*

Discussion

1. As we read this Psalm and think about this hymn, what connections do you see?
2. The metaphor Martin Luther uses for God is “A Mighty Fortress.”
 - What metaphor would you use for God?
 - What images come to mind for you as you think of God?
3. Martin Luther lived in a volatile time. There was a pandemic - the Black Plague; there was the 30 Years War where many people were killed; the church was going through major change. How does this hymn speak to people in a time of uncertainty and upheaval?
4. Verse 3 starts “Though hordes of devils fill the land...”
 - Does this language work for people today? Why or why not?
 - How do you think of this when you sing these lyrics?
5. Luther cared a lot about the Word – the written word in scripture and the Word as in John 1 – “In the beginning was the Word” referring to Jesus as the Word.
 - How do you interpret these the references to “the word/the Word”?
6. What memories do you have connected with this hymn?

If you'd like to see some of the other hymns written by Martin Luther, there are 18 of them referenced on p. 1191 in the back of the ELW.

♪ **Sing *A Mighty Fortress is Our God* – ELW 504**

***Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* - ELW 631**

Background information on this hymn

Discussion

1. There are a lot of biblical references in this hymn. Look over the lyrics. What language stand out to you as biblical references?
2. This hymn is written in the form of a prayer. What are some of the things that are being prayed about here?
3. What verse or phrase connects most readily for you? Why?
4. What memories do you have associated with this hymn?

If you'd like to see some other hymns written by Charles Wesley, there are 10 of them referenced on p. 1194 in the back of the ELW.

♪ **Sing *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* - ELW 631**

***Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* - ELW 836**

Background information on this hymn

Scripture – Psalm 104: 1-15

¹Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great.
You are clothed with honor and majesty,

²wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
³you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot,
you ride on the wings of the wind,
⁴you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers.
⁵You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken.
⁶You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains.
⁷At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder they take to flight.
⁸They rose up to the mountains, ran down to the valleys to the place that you appointed for them.
⁹You set a boundary that they may not pass, so that they might not again cover the earth.
¹⁰You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills,
¹¹giving drink to every wild animal; the wild asses quench their thirst.
¹²By the streams the birds of the air have their habitation; they sing among the branches.
¹³From your lofty abode you water the mountains; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your work.
¹⁴You cause the grass to grow for the cattle, and plants for people to use,
to bring forth food from the earth,
¹⁵and wine to gladden the human heart, oil to make the face shine,
and bread to strengthen the human heart.

Discussion

1. What have you observed in creation that gives you a sense of awe of The Creator?
 - How do you better understand God through nature?
 - When have you found joy in nature?
2. Have you ever been inspired by nature to create something artistic, musical, etc.?
3. Look through the lyrics. Which phrases connect most readily with you?
4. This is a prayer that is addressed directly to God. Have you ever intentionally sung this hymn at a time when you wanted to thank and praise God?
5. What memories do you associate with *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee*?

♪ Sing *Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee* - ELW 836

Birthdays

Lord's Prayer

SCHEDULE		
Date	Theme	Musicians
5/16/24	Hymns by Well Known Composers	Lisa Schlotterback
5/23/24	No Bible Study – Memorial Day	None
5/30/24	Softer, Gentler Hymns	Lisa Schlotterbeck
6/6/24	Bible Camp Favorites	Pastor Jim Woodruff
6/13/24	Gospels, Spirituals and Social Justice	Randy Amborn
6/20/24	Blues and Folk Tunes	Old Guys Play the Blues
6/27/24	Favorites of the Women's Bible Study	Lisa Schlotterback

Selected biblical references in *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (there are many more!)

Vs 1 Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven from earth come down – 1 John 4:7-9

Vs 2 Breathe, oh breathe thy loving spirit – John 20:19-23

Vs 2 Alpha and Omega be – Revelation 22:13

Vs 3 Come Almighty to deliver – Matthew 24:30

Vs 3 Nevermore thy temples leave – John 14:23 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Vs 3 Pray and praise thee without ceasing – 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

Vs 4 Til we cast our crowns before thee – Revelation 4:9-11

1 John 4:7-9

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. ⁸Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. ⁹God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him.

John 20:19-22

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 22:13

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Matthew 24:30

³⁰Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see 'the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven' with power and great glory.

John 14:23

²³Jesus answered him, "Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

¹⁹Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? ²⁰For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

¹⁶Rejoice always, ¹⁷pray without ceasing, ¹⁸give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹Do not quench the Spirit.

Revelation 4:9-11

⁹And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever; they cast their crowns before the throne, singing, ¹¹"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."