

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Season

703 – My Soul In Stillness Waits

(Disc 1, Track 2 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

Refrain

*For you, O Lord, my soul in stillness waits,
truly my hope is in you.*

1. O Lord of Light, our only hope of glory,
Your radiance shines in all who look to you,
Come, light the hearts of all in dark and shadow.

Refrain

2. O Spring of Joy, rain down upon our spirits,
Our thirsty hearts are yearning for your Word,
Come, make us whole, be comfort to our hearts.

Refrain

3. O Root of Life, implant your seed within us,
And in your advent draw us all to you,
Our hope reborn in dying and in rising.

Refrain

4. O Key of Knowledge, guide us in our pilgrimage,
We ever seek, yet unfulfilled remain,
Open to us the pathway of your peace.

Refrain

“O” Antiphons, adapted

1. How does the refrain capture the pensive yet joyous nature of Advent? In what way(s) is that mood different from the usual feeling of our life in December?
2. How does the name given to Jesus match with what is subsequently said about the Messiah’s work in each verse?
3. Underline the Gospel content of each verse.
4. Look up the following passages from Isaiah and match it to a verse that expounds it:

Isaiah 22:22 _____

Isaiah 9:2 _____

Isaiah 11:10 _____

Isaiah 55:1 _____

Isaiah 9:7 _____

Isaiah 44:3 _____

Isaiah 11:1 _____

5. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. How does the music of the hymn match its message?
6. How could your congregation use this hymn in a creative way during its Advent worship (Sunday or Midweek)?
7. Take some time this week and explore the “O Antiphons” upon which this song is based. (For more information about the “O Antiphons” confer *Christian Worship Handbook* p. 37ff or the Electronic Edition of the hymnal supplement.)

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Hymns of the Season

707 – Peace Came to Earth

(Disc 1, Track 3 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. Peace came to earth at last that chosen night
When angels clove the sky with song and light
And God embodied love and sheathed his might –
Who could but gasp: Immanuel!
Who could but sing: Immanuel!
2. And who could be the same for having held
The infant in their arms, and later felt
The wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled –
Who could but sigh: Immanuel!
Who could but shout: Immanuel!
3. You show the Father none has ever seen,
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain,
In bread and wine you visit us again –
Who could but see: Immanuel!
Who could but thrill: Immanuel!
4. How else could I have known you, O my God!
How else could I have loved you, O my God!
How else could I embrace you, O my God!
Who could but pray: Immanuel!
Who could but praise: Immanuel!

Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919-2008 © 1984 CPH

1. What reactions to “God in the flesh” does the hymn-writer express in the final line of each verse?
2. How is each reaction appropriate to what the verse says? Tell of a time when you felt one or more of these reactions to the truth about Jesus.
3. How is it true that in the birth of Jesus God’s love is embodied and his might sheathed? Why was each necessary?
4. To what future events in Jesus’ life does verse two allude? Why would a Christmas hymn look that far ahead?
5. In verse three in what way does the hymn-writer connect Jesus’ incarnation to the present?

6. In verse four how does the hymn-writer apply the first Christmas to us today? What is the progression of thought in this verse?
7. What does the name “Immanuel” mean? What is the author’s intent in repeating this name?
8. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. Do the text and music lend themselves to a Christmas Eve service or a Christmas Day service?
9. This hymn text was written by the sainted Jaroslav Vajda, an impressive figure in 20th century hymnody. In the week ahead, examine the texts of other Vajda hymns in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, *Let All the People Praise You*, and *Christian Worship Supplement*. (For more information about Jaroslav Vajda confer *Christian Worship Handbook* p. 866ff or the Electronic Edition of *Christian Worship Supplement*.)

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Season

711 – Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal
(Disc 1, Track 4 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,
O great Redeemer, you come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!
2. Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
See him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Lifts us from shame to the place of his honor.
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!
3. Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,
Brings forth the pris'ners triumphant, unharmed.
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master.
Jesus has come! He, the Mighty Redeemer.
4. Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Heaven and earth, oh, declare his great pow'r,
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Welcome him now in this fast-fleeting hour!
Ponder his love! Take the crown he has for you!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!

Johann Ludwig Conrad Allendorf, 1693-1773; tr. Oliver C. Rupprecht,
1903-2000, alt. © 1982 CPH

1. What is the great wonder that heaven and earth proclaim?
2. What are some of the deep theological truths poetically expressed in the first verse?
3. Which of your enemies does King Jesus defeat according to verse two?
4. Which defeated enemy is the focus of verse three?
5. How is verse four a fitting closing verse?
6. How does this hymn fit the Epiphany seasons?

7. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. How does the tune reflect the text?
8. The Epiphany season follows a progression as it gradually reveals Jesus as the true Son of God and Savior of the world through his messages and his miracles (culminating in the Transfiguration!). Where during the season of Epiphany does this hymn seem to fit?
9. Read through the hymns in the Epiphany section of *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* and note the wide variety of themes expressed in those hymns.

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Season

714 – The Lamb

(Disc 1, Track 5 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. The Lamb, the Lamb,
O Father, where's the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes
God will provide the Lamb of price!

Refrain

*Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me his own!
The Lamb is reigning on his throne.*

2. The Lamb, the Lamb,
One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,
Let earth join heav'n his praise to sing. **Refrain**

3. The Lamb, the Lamb,
As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, his will,
On our behalf the law to fill. **Refrain**

4. He sighs, he dies,
He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,
He gives me his own righteousness. **Refrain**

5. He rose, he rose,
My heart with thanks now overflows.
His song prolong
'Til ev'ry heart to him belong. **Refrain**

Gerald P. Coleman, b. 1953 © MorningStar Music, 1987

1. From what book of the Bible does the refrain come? How is it a fitting response to what the verses preach?
2. To what story in Scripture does verse one refer?
3. What is "final" about the offering of the Lamb, Jesus?
4. What two responses to the Law do you see in verse three? In which response do you see yourself?
5. Which of the following passages is restated in verse four (mark with an "x")?
Isaiah 53:7 _____
John 3:16 _____
2 Corinthians 5:21 _____
6. The message of verse five is an overtly Easter proclamation. Why is that entirely proper in a hymn so strongly focused on Good Friday?

7. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. What makes this tune easy to learn?
8. How could a congregation use this hymn innovatively on both Good Friday and Easter Sunday?
9. The images of sheep, shepherd and lamb are popular metaphors in Scripture. Use a concordance or a computer Bible program to look up those words and meditate on the message God has for you.

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Season

716 – No Tramp of Soldiers’ Marching Feet
(Disc 2, Track 4 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. No tramp of soldiers’ marching feet
With banners and with drums,
No sound of music’s martial beat –
“The King of glory comes!”
To greet what pomp of kingly pride
No bells in triumph ring,
No city gates swing open wide:
“Behold, behold your king!”
2. And yet he comes, the children cheer;
With palms his path is strown.
With ev’ry step the cross draws near –
The King of glory’s throne.
Astride a colt he passes by
As loud hosannas ring,
Or else the very stones would cry
“Behold, behold your King!”
3. What fading flow’rs his road adorn;
The palms, how soon laid down!
No bloom or leaf but only thorn
The King of glory’s crown.
The soldiers mock, the rabble cries.
The streets with tumult ring,
As Pilate to the mob replies,
“Behold, behold your King!”
4. Now he who bore for mortal’s sake
The cross and all its pains
And chose a servant’s form to take,
The King of glory reigns.
Hosanna to the Savior’s name
Till heaven’s rafters ring,
And all the ransomed host proclaim
“Behold, behold your king!”

Timothy Dudley-Smith b.1926 © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.

1. What refrain appears in each verse of this hymn? How does the hymn-writer make use of that phrase in different ways?
2. What image does the hymn invoke in verse one? What is the irony of that image?
3. Why does the author connect the cross with a throne?
4. What does “hosanna” mean? Why is that such a fitting word for Palm Sunday?
5. If the first two verses tell us about Palm Sunday, on what day does verse three place us?
6. Does verse three make you feel uncomfortable? Why or why not?
7. What is the time context of verse four?
8. What effective use of consonance has the hymn-writer made throughout this hymn?
9. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. What about the tune reminds you of “marching feet”?
10. Aside from Palm Sunday, on what other Sundays of the Church Year could this hymn be sung?

11. This hymn text was written by the sainted Timothy Dudley-Smith, an English hymn-writer of more than 300 texts. In the week ahead, examine the texts of other Dudley-Smith hymns in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, *Let All the People Praise You*, and *Christian Worship Supplement*. (For more information about Dudley-Smith confer *Christian Worship Handbook* p. 690ff)

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Season

720 – Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
(Disc 2, Track 7 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

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|---|---|
| 1. Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands
For our offenses given;
But now at God's right hand he stands
And brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be
And sing to God right thankfully
Loud songs of alleluia. Alleluia! Alleluia! | 5. Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
Whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursed tree --
So strong his love -- to save us.
See, his blood now marks our door;
Faith points to it; death passes o'er,
And Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia! Alleluia! |
| 2. No son of man could conquer death,
Such ruin sin had wrought us.
No innocence was found on earth,
And therefore death had brought us
Into bondage from of old
And ever grew more strong and bold
And held us as its captive. Alleluia! Alleluia! | 6. So let us keep the festival
To which the Lord invites us;
Christ is himself the joy of all,
The sun that warms and lights us.
Now his grace to us imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
The night of sin is ended. Alleluia! Alleluia! |
| 3. Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down,
His people to deliver;
Destroying sin, he took the crown
From death's pale brow forever.
Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns;
An empty form alone remains;
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! | 7. Then let us feast this Easter Day
On Christ, the bread of heaven;
The Word of grace has purged away
The old and evil leaven.
Christ alone our souls will feed;
He is our meat and drink indeed;
Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia! Alleluia! |
| 4. It was a strange and dreadful strife When life and death contended.
The victory remained with life; The reign of death was ended.
Holy Scripture plainly says That death is swallowed up by death,
Its sting is lost forever. Alleluia! Alleluia! | Martin Luther, 1483-1546;
tr. Richard Massie, 1800-87, alt. |

1. How are death and life, defeat and victory, and sorrow and joy contrasted in verse one?
2. How are verses two and three mirror images of each other?
3. What event(s) does verse four describe?
4. What Bible History story does Luther connect with Holy Week in verse five?
5. What two images in the final two verses round out this Easter sermon in song?
6. From what source does Luther find the vivid Easter images contained in this hymn?
7. Sing this hymn from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* (#161) and then from *Christian Worship Supplement* or listen to it on the CD. How do the different tunes reinforce different moods of the text?
8. God's people love to sing on Easter. Consider adding to the body of Easter hymns with one of your own!

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Hymns of the Season

723 – Holy Spirit, the Dove Sent From Heaven
(Disc 2, Track 8 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. Holy Spirit, the dove sent from heaven,
Ever one with the One who is Three,
From the Father you came, words of peace to proclaim,
Come and comfort us, speak tenderly.
You, the fragrance of life we are seeking;
Fill your temple, your altar make clean.
Joyous shelter of love, Gracious friend from above,
In your care we are resting, serene.
2. Holy Spirit, the fire celestial,
Who on Pentecost came as foretold,
To descend from on high, And the Church occupy
As the cloud filled the temple of old;
All the baptized you seal with your promise,
All believers your gift there receive,
So that all the elect— All in Christ— may expect
To enjoy what by grace they believe.
3. Holy Spirit, the unction of blessing,
Sacred oil of the green olive tree,
Giving heat, giving light, As the tent lamps ignite
And as Aaron praised God joyfully.
Blessed living and life-giving water,
Now preserve us from evil within;
For in Jesus, God's Son, All believers are one
In this washing that cleanses from sin.
4. Holy Spirit, the wind of great power,
Source of strength and of peace and of love,
Truest Comforter, plead, As you bring all our need
To the throne of God's glory above.
Be the light that enlightens the Scriptures;
Keep our feet from each devilish snare;
Only you can make whole All that troubles our soul;
By your chrism, Christ's triumph we share.

Philip W. Blycker, b. 1939; tr. © 2004 Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

1. Read through the entire hymn and underline the references to the Old Testament with one line and the references to the New Testament with a double line.
2. Verse one delves into the person of the Holy Spirit. Which creed does it sound like?
3. What are the predominant images used for the work of the Holy Spirit in verse two? in verse three?
4. How does the hymn-writer expound on the work of the Holy Spirit to “call, gather, enlighten, sanctify, and keep” the Church?
5. Which sacrament is especially in focus in this hymn?
6. What comforts do you find in the final verse?

7. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. The hymnal supplement committee had as one of its stated goals “to prepare a supplement... that will assist worshipers and worship planners by providing them a resource that... represents the best of a variety of musical genres appropriate for worship.” How does this hymn help to fulfill that goal?
8. In the week ahead review those sections of The Small Catechism that deal with the work of the Holy Spirit and match what you learn there with the texts of Pentecost hymns.