

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Savior

752 – In Christ Alone

(Disc 1, Track 7 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. In Christ alone my hope is found,
He is my light, my strength, my song;
This cornerstone, this solid ground,
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace,
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease!
My comforter, my all in all,
Here in the love of Christ I stand.

2. In Christ alone – who took on flesh,
Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness,
Scorned by the ones he came to save.
Till on that cross, as Jesus died,
The wrath of God was satisfied;
For every sin on him was laid.
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground his body lay,
Light of the world by darkness slain;
Then bursting forth in glorious day
Up from the grave he rose again!
And as he stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am his and he is mine –
Bought with the precious blood of Christ.

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death,
This is the power of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final death,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No power of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from his hand;
Till he returns or calls me home,
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

Keith Getty, b. 1974 and Stuart Townend, b. 1963 © 2002
Thankyou Music; admin. EMI CMG

1. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. Match the themes below with the appropriate verse:

_____ Christ's resurrection secured the victory over our enemies.

_____ Christ's love brings hope and peace in life's hard times.

_____ Christ's power gives us confidence in the present and for the future.

_____ Christ's life, suffering, and death paid the price for our sins.

2. In what ways does the message of verse one fit the Epiphany season?

3. Tell of a time in your life when the message of verse one would have been beneficial to hear.

4. How could the message of verse two be valuable when counseling someone troubled by their sin?

5. This hymn is found in the "Redeemer" section of the hymnal supplement. What part of verse three makes this the correct section for this hymn?

6. Mark those verses with a "✓" that speak primarily about "Christ for us" and those verses with a "○" that speak primarily about "Christ in us."

7. *Christianity Today* ran an article about the author of this hymn, Keith Getty (and his wife, Kristyn) entitled "Singable Doctrine." This week, reflect on how hymnody serves as an educational tool (doctrine!) for what we teach and believe.

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Savior

753 – Father, God of Grace, You Knew Us
(Disc 2, Track 16 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. Father, God of grace, you knew us,
Chose us, named us as your own,
Through eternal ages planning
To redeem us in your Son.
Praise the Father, God who loved us
Ere creation was begun!
2. We, your creatures, sinned against you,
And our guilt was crimson-red.
Son of God, you came incarnate,
Crushed the crafty serpent's head,
Died our death, now live triumphant:
Praise the Firstborn from the dead!
3. Counselor, you bring as promised
From the Father and the Son
Righteousness fulfilled, accomplished,
Free forgiveness, heaven won.
Praise the Spirit! He assures us
Our salvation's work is done!
4. Lord, your changeless Word has fed us,
Spanning time, transcending space.
Water, bread and wine sustained us
When the darkness hid your face.
Keep us with you, faithful Shepherd,
By your saving means of grace!
5. Forward lead us; Christ, we follow,
Drawn by Word and promise true:
"To all nations preach the gospel;
I am evermore with you."
Keep us faithful! Then, Lord Jesus,
Quickly come! Make all things new!
6. Praise the Father, great Creator.
Praise the Son, who took our place.
Praise the Spirit, Sanctifier,
God of free and faithful grace!
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Amen.

Paul E. Eickmann, 1928-2006 © 1999 WELS

1. Trace the chronology of this hymn.
2. Identify those words in the hymn that speak about the following Bible teachings:
 - The means of grace (*squiggly line*)
 - Election (*underline*)
 - Christ's humanity (*o*)
 - Christ's divinity (*+*)
 - Creation (*dotted line*)
 - The Vicarious Atonement (*circle*)
 - Sin (*strike through*)
 - The Holy Spirit proceeding from Father and Son (*double underline*)
 - Sanctification (*double circle*)
 - The Great Commission (*dots and dashes*)
3. "Praise" is the word most used in this hymn. What reasons does the hymn-writer give us for such praise?
4. What is the main message of each verse?
Verse one: _____
Verse two: _____
Verse three: _____
Verse four: _____
Verse five: _____
Verse six: _____
5. This hymn was written for the 150th anniversary of WELS. How is its message appropriate for the anniversary of a church or church body?

6. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. How do the message and music match?
7. During the week ahead, reflect on the blessings you enjoy as a member of your church and church body.

Sermons in Song – Hymnal Supplement

Hymns of the Savior

754 – The Tree of Life

(Disc 1, Track 8 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. The tree of life with ev'ry good
In Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet
God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew
Another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned
Against whose eating God had warned.

2. The stillness of that sacred grove
Was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile
And Adam to by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed
Within the world so newly made.

3. What mercy God showed to our race,
A plan of rescue by his grace:
In sending One from woman's seed,
The One to fill our greatest need—
For on a tree uplifted high
His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread
To crush the ancient serpent's head!

4. Now from that tree of Jesus' shame
Flows life eternal in his name;
For all who trust and will believe,
Salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet
The Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood
The tree of life with ev'ry good.

© 1993 Stephen P. Starke, b. 1955

1. Look up the following Bible passages and discuss God's use of the "tree".

- Genesis 2:9,16,17
- Genesis 3
- Deuteronomy 21:22,23
- Matthew 27:32
- Acts 5:30; 10:39
- Galatians 3:13
- 1 Peter 2:24
- Revelation 2:7; 22:2,14,19

2. What two trees does verse one tell us about? Why would the author speak of them both in glowing terms ("pure and sweet" and "lovely limbs")?

3. In what unique ways does verse two describe the fall into sin?

4. In verse three, highlight those ways in which salvation is spoken of in "Eden" terms.

5. Verse one and verse four serve as bookends...almost. How are these two verses the same? How are they different?

6. List occasions during the church year when this hymn would carry an appropriate message.

7. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. How would you describe this tune?

8. Inspiration for this hymn came from the proper preface (seasonal sentence) for Lent, "[We give thanks to Jesus Christ] who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome." Read and meditate on the message contained in the proper prefaces in *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* (p.21, 33) and in *Christian Worship Supplement* (p. 23, 34).

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Hymns of the Savior

769 – Lord of All Hopefulness

(Disc 1, Track 14 Christian Worship Supplement Hymn Sampler)

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord, of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Jan Struther, 1901-1953 © 1931 Oxford University Press

1. Examine the chronological flow of this hymn.
2. Verse two sings about “our labors.” Take a poll of the class. What are the various vocations represented by the members of your congregation?
3. What characteristics of God does the hymn-writer connect with each time of the day?
☀ Morning: _____
☀ Noon: _____
☀ Evening: _____
☀ Night: _____

4. Why do you think the author connected those characteristics with those specific times of day?
5. What prayer is spoken at each time of day?
6. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. Take note of the pleasing symmetry of these verses. What are the benefits of writing a hymn with this kind of poetic balance?
7. Other than Sunday morning, on what other occasions in the life of the Christian might this hymn be sung?
8. Morning, evening, noon and night are logical times for daily prayer and meditation. During the week look through any of the hymnals you may have on your shelf and find (and use in your devotions) those hymns that specifically speak to these times of the day.