

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:

___ Verse Three ___ Christ's resurrection secured the victory over our enemies.

___ Verse One ___ Christ's love brings hope and peace in life's hard times.

___ Verse Four ___ Christ's power gives us confidence in the present and for the future.

___ Verse Two ___ 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? Use a lectionary to look over the readings during the Epiphany season. They generally focus on Jesus' miracles and message – both of which would underscore what is said in verse one.
3. Tell of a time in your life when the message of verse one would have been beneficial to hear. Answers will vary. Encourage the class to tell of hard times in life when the solid foundation of Jesus Christ and his love saw them through.
4. How could the message of verse two be valuable when counseling someone troubled by their sin? Verse two clearly affirms that every sin was taken away by Jesus. Sometimes the words of a hymn can penetrate the head more clearly than the words of the counselor or friend.
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? Redeem means to "buy back" – confer the last phrase of verse three.
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." Confer the marks at the left.

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. You might read to the class some of the quotes found in CWS Hymn Sampler (in the CD booklet).

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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 o,
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

- Trace the chronology of this hymn. This hymn begins all the way back before creation in eternity. It follows through history highlighting mankind's sin and Jesus all-atoning sacrifice. In the present, the hymn speaks of the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and sacrament and urges our evangelism. It ends in eternity anticipating Christ's return and our heavenly praise.
- Identify those words in the hymn that speak about the following Bible teachings: Confer the marks to the left.
 - 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*)
- "Praise" is the word most used in this hymn. What reasons does the hymn-writer give us for such praise? Lead the class to see all the things that the hymn talks about that are God's activities on our behalf. Lead them also to see how many things in the hymn find their source in grace, given to us as free gifts from God's love.
- What is the main message of each verse?

Verse one: **First Article** _____

Verse two: **Second Article** _____

Verse three: **Third Article** _____

Verse four: **Word, Baptism, and Lord's Supper** _____

Verse five: **Evangelism** _____

Verse six: **Worship** _____
- This hymn was written for the 150th anniversary of the WELS. How is its message appropriate for the anniversary of a church or church body? Anniversaries are a time to look back, give thanks for the present and anticipate the future. This hymn does just that. As it looks back at God's goodness in election and salvation history, it praises God for his present blessings in Word and sacrament and anticipates our future work in evangelism and our eternal worship when Christ returns.

6. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. How do the message and music match?

Both the message and the music have a stately quality.

7. During the week ahead, reflect on the blessings you enjoy as a member of your church and church body.

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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 **The two trees and God's prohibition.**
 - Genesis 3 **The devil's use and misuse of the tree and fall into sin. Adam and Eve excluded from access to the Tree of Life.**
 - Deuteronomy 21:22,23 **A curse on those who hang on a tree.**
 - Matthew 27:32 **The cross (tree not mentioned, but assumed).**
 - Acts 5:30; 10:39 **Peter speaks of Jesus' death on a tree.**
 - Galatians 3:13 **Paul connects Jesus and Deuteronomy.**
 - 1 Peter 2:24 **Jesus bears our sin on a tree.**
 - Revelation 2:7; 22:2,14,19 **Our return to the Tree of Life.**
2. What two trees does verse one tell us about? **The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.** Why would the author speak of them both in glowing terms ("pure and sweet" and "lovely limbs")? **It is obvious why the Tree of Life is called "pure and sweet." We might puzzle over the description of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil as "lovely limbs." However, we must not forget that the only thing that separated this tree from others was God's Word connected to it. Its fruit was as appealing as the others in the Garden. In fact, it was a tremendously "sensual" tree (that is, it appealed to the sense), according to Genesis 3:6.**
3. In what unique ways does verse two describe the fall into sin? **The author sets the scene in a "grove." He includes both Adam and Eve in the fall. The fall, itself, is poetically described as "O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death, its awful poison first displayed." What a memorable way of describing this watershed event!**
4. In verse three, highlight those ways in which salvation is spoken of in "Eden" terms. **Confer the underline marks to the left.**
5. Verse one and verse four serve as bookends... almost. How are these two verses the same? **"Tree of Life with ev'ry good," "fruit so pure and sweet," "eat."** How are they different? **The Tree of Life vs. The Tree of the Cross, Adam and Eve invited to eat vs. the world invited to eat, fruit warned against vs. living fruit.**
6. List occasions during the church year when this hymn would carry an appropriate message. **Answers may vary... Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, End Times.**
7. Sing through this hymn or listen to it on the CD. How would you describe this tune? **Answers may vary. To this listener's ear the melody sounds haunting. Others might find it gentle or lush.**

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. It is visually more obvious as printed in the Supplement, but people ought to be able to readily recognize the flow from verse to verse from morning, to noon, to evening to night time.
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? Answers will vary. Lead the class to an appreciation of the various “callings” that people have within the congregation, just as we ask for blessing on them in verse two.
3. What characteristics of God does the hymn-writer connect with each time of the day?
🕒 Morning: hopefulness - joy
🕒 Noon: eagerness - faith
🕒 Evening: kindness - grace
🕒 Night: gentleness - calm

4. Why do you think the author connected those characteristics with those specific times of day?
The day usually begins with the refreshment of a night’s rest and without the cares of the day on our heart, yet. For that reason morning is a time for hopefulness and joy. By noon we are fully engaged in the tasks of our vocation, needing the eagerness and faithfulness to carry through the rest of the work day. At evening, when the work day is done and those cares behind us (but yet, awaiting the cares of the family at home), we long for the warm welcome of home in kindness and grace. As we lay our head on the pillow and close our eyes, we desire the day to end with gentleness and calm so that we can get some sweet sleep.
5. What prayer is spoken at each time of day?
In the morning we ask for God’s bliss in our hearts. At noon we ask for strength. In the evening we ask for God’s love. At night we ask for God’s peace. As with the previous question, these all seem like the appropriate requests for the particular 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?
Each line of each verse follows the same general flow of thought. The verses look very similar to the pattern of a “collect” (Address, basis for petition, request, desired result, doxology). One benefit is the ease with which these verses and their thoughts can be put to memory in head and heart.
7. Other than Sunday morning, on what other occasions in the life of the Christian might this hymn be sung?
This hymn has been used at both weddings and funerals.
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.