

Hymns of the Church

"Come before His presence with singing"

Hymns of the Church

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“To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God, to feed the mind with the truth of God, to purge the imagination by the beauty of God, to open the heart to the love of God, and to devote the will to the purpose of God.”

—*William Temple*



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Fixing Our Eyes On Jesus

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Hymns of the Church

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Acknowledgments

The generous contribution of many friends brought this hymnal into existence. We first thank God for creating music to answer the song He placed in our hearts. He inspired all the beauty and delight reflected in this collection of songs.

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May God suit a rich reward to all these valued brothers and sisters for their priceless efforts through years of challenging work. May God's glory shine through any excellence of worship experienced as these songs are sung.

Persistent efforts were made to determine the copyright status of all the song compositions and texts. Please notify us about any possible oversights, and due corrections will be made in future editions of this hymnal.

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Introduction

God sings! He will “joy over thee with singing” (Zeph 3:17). Moreover, our singing God takes particular note of people who sing His song and responds by coming to dwell among them. The Psalmist spoke of this powerful reality when he said

O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. (Ps. 22:3)

God’s people have often summoned His presence with song. When Solomon dedicated the Temple, the glory of the Lord filled the house of God precisely when the singing began (2 Chron. 5:12–14). The hand of the Lord once came upon Elisha at the sound of music, and he prophesied (2 Kings 3:14,15). After King Saul’s anointing, he was filled with the Spirit of the Lord when he met a company of prophets making music as they came down a hill (1 Sam. 10:5–11). King Jehoshaphat marched a singing army against three attacking nations and won the victory without lifting a sword (2 Chron. 20:1–30).

King David knew that song was the most effective way to elicit God’s presence. He appointed men to prophesy with music (1 Chron. 25:1). Furthermore, he established 4,000 paid musicians to praise God full-time in the Temple (1 Chron. 23:5). Truly, David was a man after the heart of our singing God. No wonder David’s kingdom reached a high point of power and favor with God. During his reign filled with constant song, the Kingdom of Israel expanded to ten times its original size, reaching its originally promised borders.

David once exclaimed:

Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall
walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. (Ps. 89:15)

Christians who sing experience God’s continual guidance, blessing, and presence. They also have a prophetic word from God, deliverance, and power in times of need. Coupled with prayer, genuine praise in song is the Christian’s most powerful resource. Moreover, song is the authentic evidence that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit:

Be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms
and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody
in your heart to the Lord. (Eph. 5:18,19)

In the battle against powerful spiritual foes, singing is not an optional activity for the Christian. Indeed, for our great benefit, God commands us to sing in many of the 300 references to song in the Bible. The Christian who has no song is spiritually handicapped. Therefore, we urge all Christians everywhere to sing in every circumstance.

Hymns of the Church was compiled to equip God's people with songs for victory in every situation. The collection focuses on the great hymns of the church modeled on the style of the new song described in Revelation 5:9–14. The new song has a theme: "Worthy is the Lamb." That theme is repeated throughout the song, but as in all timeless expression, the repetition is varied for maximum effect. The song explains why the Lamb is worthy, celebrates the attributes of His worthiness, and enumerates the creatures who recognize His worthiness. Finally, the song climactically concludes the theme with every creature in the universe declaring the worthiness of the Lamb forever and ever!

The majority of the songs in *Hymns of the Church* also develop a theme in both the text and the music. The music of these hymns advances the theme through varied repetitions to a definite conclusion (e.g., songs 2, 5, 120, 141, and 261). As such, these songs reflect the timeless qualities and depth of the new song. For this reason, they should constitute the main repertoire of songs sung regularly.

A smaller proportion of the selections are gospel songs (generally songs with a refrain) that tend toward musical repetition with less variety and a conclusion with a weaker resolution. Used on an occasional basis, these songs offer a simple message for a particular need. However, a steady diet of these songs will subtly place an unbalanced focus on the experience of the worshiper rather than the worthiness of God and the Lamb. An attempt was made to avoid the cheap gospel song that replaces solemn worship with musical harangue. It is a fact that shallow music tends to support only a trite, excessively repetitious text.

By contrast, songs patterned after God's new song offer a rich content of timeless truth to be pondered. They nurture the singers to a deep practical understanding of God and His purposes for His children. These hymns are a treasured heritage gleaned from songwriters who could exquisitely hymn the infinite excellencies of God's character. By describing God's glories seen in a wide variety of life's most challenging experiences, these hymns instill and reinforce a sturdy sense of spiritual reality as they are sung.

Among these hymns are songs that reflect a distinct Anabaptist emphasis on the Lordship of Christ, discipleship, obedience, crossbearing, separation from the world, nonresistance, and the present Kingdom of God. Texts and musical settings have been drawn from Anabaptist authors and composers throughout the entire history of Anabaptism from its beginning in 1525 to the present. More than 65 Anabaptist hymn authors and composers are featured in this collection of hymns.

Hymns of the Church is placed in your hands to help furnish you thoroughly for spiritual conquest. In its songs, may God hear His new song from your lips and come to grace your experience with His glorious presence.

John D. Martin
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania
December 8, 2009

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Hymns of the Church

Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them. - Mt. 18:20

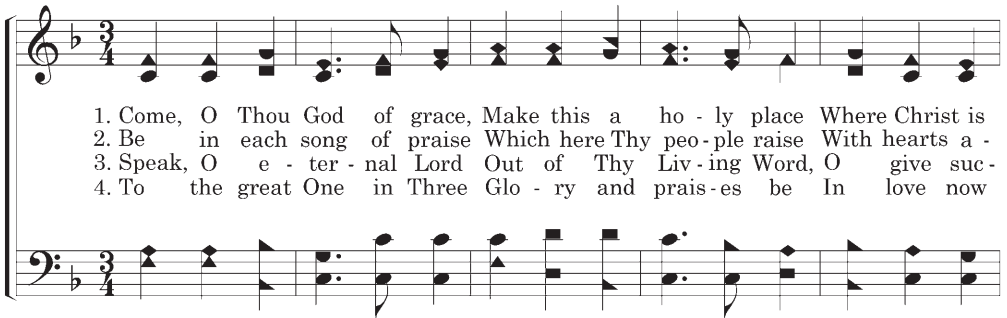
COME, O THOU GOD OF GRACE

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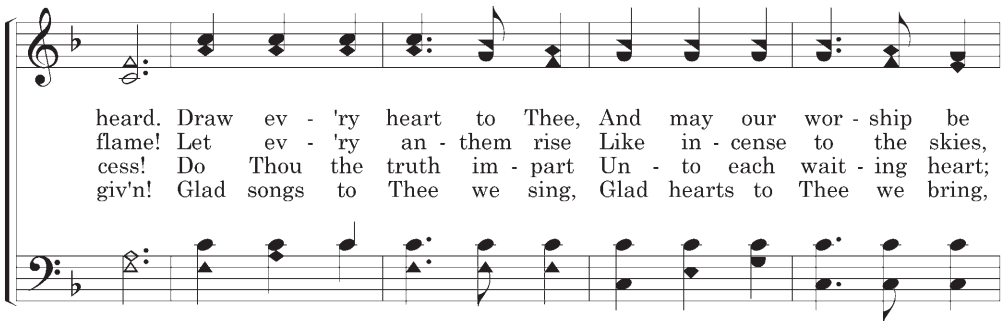
1

William E. Evans, 1886
St. I alt. John D. Martin, 2003

Henry Carey, 1743



1. Come, O Thou God of grace, Make this a ho - ly place Where Christ is
2. Be in each song of praise Which here Thy peo - ple raise With hearts a -
3. Speak, O e - ter - nal Lord Out of Thy Liv - ing Word, O give suc -
4. To the great One in Three Glo - ry and prais - es be In love now



heard. Draw ev - 'ry heart to Thee, And may our wor - ship be
flame! Let ev - 'ry an - them rise Like in - cense to the skies,
cess! Do Thou the truth im - part Un - to each wait - ing heart;
giv'n! Glad songs to Thee we sing, Glad hearts to Thee we bring,



Lives of - fered pure and free To Christ, our Lord!
A joy - ful sac - ri - fice To Thy blest Name!
Source of all strength Thou art; Thy gos - pel bless!
Till we our God and King Shall praise in heav'n! A - men.

OPENING HYMNS

The LORD hath chosen Zion; he hath desired it for his habitation. - Ps. 132:13

4 IN LOUD EXALTED STRAINS

FAIRFORD 6. 6. 6. 6. 8. 8.

Benjamin Francis, 1774

Unknown

1. In loud ex - alt - ed strains, The King of glo - ry praise;
 2. O King of glo - ry, come And with Thy fa - vor crown
 3. Now let Thine ear at - tend Our sup - pli - cat - ing cries;
 4. Here may the lis - t'ning throng Im - bibe Thy truth and love;

O'er heav'n and earth He reigns, Thru ev - er - last - ing days;
 This tem - ple as Thy home, This peo - ple as Thy own;
 Now let our praise as - cend, Ac - cept - ed, to the skies;
 Here Chris - tians join the song Of ser - a - phim a - bove;

But Zi - on with His pres - ence blest Is His de - light, His
 Be - neath this roof vouch - safe to show How God can dwell with
 Now let Thy Gos - pel's joy - ful sound Spread its ce - les - tial
 Till all who hum - bly seek Thy face Re - joice in Thy a -

cho - sen rest, Is His de - light, His cho - sen rest.
 men be - low, How God can dwell with men be - low.
 in - fluence 'round, Spread its ce - les - tial in - fluence 'round.
 bound - ing grace, Re - joice in Thy a - bound - ing grace.

God is light, ... If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another. -1Jn 1:7

O SPLENDOR OF GOD'S GLORY BRIGHT

5

HAGERSTOWN L. M

Ambrose of Milan, 340-397
Tr. Louis F. Benson, 1910

John D. Brunk, 1902

1. O splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright,
2. Come, ver - y Sun of heav - en's love,
3. Con - firm our will to do the right,
4. O joy - ful be the pass - ing day
5. Dawn's glo - ry gilds the earth and skies;

From light e - ter - nal bring - ing light;
In last - ing ra - diance from a - bove,
And keep our hearts from en - vy's blight;
With thoughts as clear as morn - ing's ray,
Do thou, our per - fect Morn, a - rise;

Thou Light of life, light's liv - ing Spring,
And pour the Ho - ly Spir - it's ray
Let faith her ea - ger fires re - new,
With faith like noon tide shin - ing bright,
The Fa - ther's help his chil - dren claim,

True Day, all days il - lu - min - ing.
On all we think or do to - day.
And hate the false, and love the true.
Our souls un - shad - ow'd by the night.
And sing the Fa - ther's glo - rious name.

OPENING HYMNS

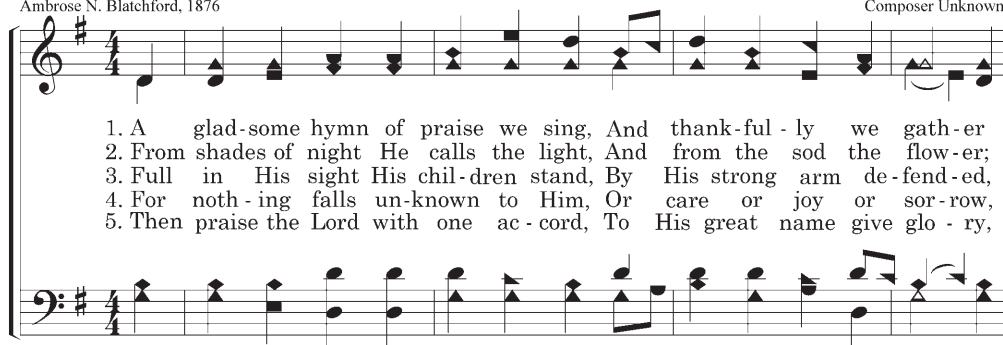
Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. - Ps. 107:8

9 A GLADSOME HYMN OF PRAISE

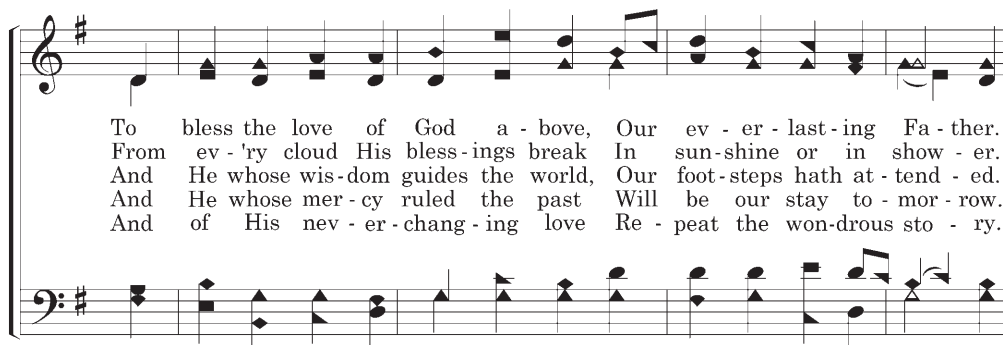
CANAAN 8. 7. 8. 7. with Refrain

Ambrose N. Blatchford, 1876

Composer Unknown



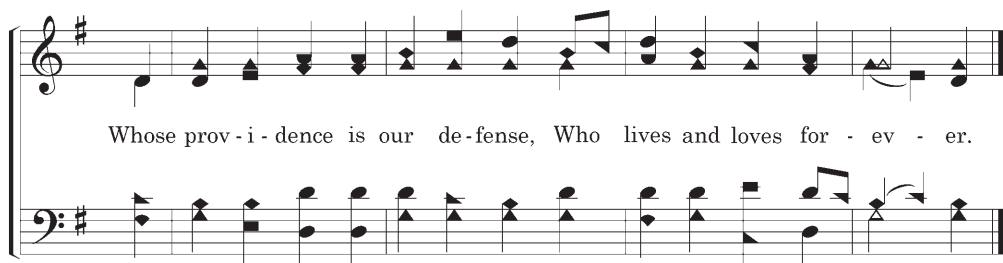
1. A glad-some hymn of praise we sing, And thank-ful - ly we gath-er
2. From shades of night He calls the light, And from the sod the flow-er;
3. Full in His sight His chil-dren stand, By His strong arm de-fend-ed,
4. For noth-ing falls un-known to Him, Or care or joy or sor-row,
5. Then praise the Lord with one ac-cord, To His great name give glo-ry,



To bless the love of God a - bove, Our ev - er - last-ing Fa - ther.
From ev - 'ry cloud His bless-ings break In sun-shine or in show - er.
And He whose wis-dom guides the world, Our foot-steps hath at - tend - ed.
And He whose mer-cy ruled the past Will be our stay to - mor-row.
And of His nev - er - chang - ing love Re - peat the won-drous sto - ry.



In Him re-joyce with heart and voice Whose glo-ry fad-eth nev-er,



Whose prov-i-dence is our de-fense, Who lives and loves for - ev - er.

CHORAL HYMNS

Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. -1 Cor. 15:20

1012 THE LORD IS RISEN INDEED

EASTER ANTHEM Irregular

Words from Scripture and Dr. Young

William Billings, 1786

Hal - le - lu - jah. The Lord is
The Lord is ris'n in - deed.

ris'n in - deed. Hal - le - lu - jah.
Now is Christ

ris - en from the dead and be - come the first fruits of them that slept.

Now is Christ risen from the dead and become the first fruits of them that slept.

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah.
Hal - le - lu - jah,

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