

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981

Ps. 46



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;



Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.



For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.



There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more than fifty languages.

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.

For another version, see 440

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Lord Jesus, Who through Forty Days

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Claudia F. I. Hernaman, 1873; alt.

Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13



1 Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2 As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic-tory win,
3 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas-sion - tide,
4 A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fer-ing shall be past,



Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con-quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.



Unflagging in her zeal for religious education of children, Claudia F. I. Hernaman wrote some 150 hymns. This one appeared in her Child's Book of Praise (1873).

Tune: ST. FLAVIAN C.M.
Day's The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1562

710 We Are Called to Be God's People

Now you are the people of God. 1 Pet. 2:10

1. We are called to be God's peo - ple, show - ing by our lives his grace,
 2. We are called to be God's ser - vants, work - ing in his world to - day;
 3. We are called to be God's proph - ets, speak - ing for the truth and right,

one in heart and one in spir - it, sign of hope for all the race.
 tak - ing his own task up - on us, all his sa - cred words o - bey.
 stand - ing firm for god - ly jus - tice, bring - ing e - vil things to light.

Let us show how he has changed us, and re - made us as his own,
 Let us rise, then, to his sum - mons, ded - i - cate to him our all,
 Let us seek the cour - age need - ed, our high call - ing to ful - fill,

let us share our life to - geth - er as we shall a - round his throne.
 that we may be faith - ful ser - vants, quick to an - swer now his call.
 that the world may know the bless - ing of the do - ing of God's will.

WORDS: Thomas A. Jackson, 1973, alt.
 MUSIC: Franz Joseph Haydn, 1797
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AUSTRIAN HYMN
 8.7.8.7.D.