

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther · 1529 · Tune: Ein' feste Burg (Martin Luther)
Meter: 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.7

Verse 1

A mighty fortress is our God,
A bulwark never failing;
Our helper He, amid the flood
Of mortal ills prevailing:
For still our ancient foe
Doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great,
And, armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.

Verse 2

Did we in our own strength confide,
Our striving would be losing;
Were not the right Man on our side,
The Man of God's own choosing:
Dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is He;
Lord Sabaoth His Name,
From age to age the same,
And He must win the battle.

Verse 3

And though this world, with devils filled,
Should threaten to undo us,
We will not fear, for God hath willed
His truth to triumph through us:
The Prince of Darkness grim,
We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure,
For lo, his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him.

Verse 4

That word above all earthly powers,
No thanks to them, abideth;
The Spirit and the gifts are ours
Through Him who with us sideth:
Let goods and kindred go,
This mortal life also;

The body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
His kingdom is forever.

History

Luther wrote both text and tune around 1527-1529 during a season of plague and persecution. It became the rallying anthem of the Protestant Reformation and is sometimes called 'the Battle Hymn of the Reformation'.

Scripture References (KJV)

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

Psalm 46:7

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

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