

# "THE ASHES GO ON SINGING"

A Hymn Festival on the Hymns of Martin Luther

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# Featuring

LAUDAMUS

THE ST. LOUIS LUTHERAN CHORALE
PETER C. RESKE, NARRATOR



The First Sunday in Lent, A.D. 2024 Commemoration of Martin Luther February 18 • 3 p.m.

The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

#### **Prelude**

# Chorale and Fantasia on Mit Fried und Freud

Kevin Hildebrand

#### **Welcome and Prayer**

#### **Narration**

#### **Luther's First Hymn**

#### A New Song Now Shall Be Begun

Achtliederbuch

The choirs sing stanzas 1–9 and 11; the congregation sings stanzas 10 and 12

- 1 A new song now shall be begun, Lord, help us raise the banner Of praise for all that God has done, For which we give Him honor. At Brussels in the Netherlands God proved Himself most truthful And poured His gifts from open hands On two lads, martyrs youthful, Through whom He showed His power.
- 2 One was named John, a name to show He stood in God's high favor.
  His brother Henry, well we know,
  Was salt of truest savor.
  They now have left this world behind
  And wear bright crowns of glory.
  These sons of God had fixed the mind
  Upon the Gospel story,
  For which they died as martyrs.
- 3 From where the Foe in ambush lay, He sent to have them taken To force them God's Word to betray And make their faith be shaken.

  Louvain sent clever men, who came In twisting nets to break them.

  Hard played they at their crooked game, But from faith could not shake them.

  God made their tricks look foolish.
- 4 Oh, they sang sweet, and they sang sour, They tried all their devices.
  The youths stood firmly like a tow'r And overcame each crisis.
  It filled the Foe with raging hate
  To know himself defeated
  By these two lads, and he so great.
  His rage flared high, and heated
  His plan to see them burning.

- 5 Their cloister garments off they tore, Took off their consecrations; All this the youths were ready for, They said Amen with patience. They gave to God the Father thanks That He would them deliver From Satan's scoffing and the pranks That make men quake and shiver When he comes masked and raging.
- 6 The God they worshiped granted them A priesthood in Christ's order.
  They offered up themselves to Him And crossed His kingdom's border By dying to the world outright,
  With ev'ry falsehood breaking.
  They came to heaven pure and white;
  All monkery forsaking,
  They turned away from evil.
- 7 A paper given them to sign—And carefully they read it—Spelled out their faith in ev'ry line As they confessed and said it.
  Their greatest fault was to be wise And say, "We trust God solely, For human wisdom is all lies, We should distrust it wholly."
  This brought them to the burning.
- 8 Then two great fires were set alight,
  While men amazed did ponder
  The sight of youths who showed no fright;
  Their calm filled men with wonder.
  They stepped into the flames with song,
  God's grace and glory praising.
  The worldly sages puzzled long
  But found these new things dazing
  Which God was here displaying.

9 They now regret their deed of shame, Would like to slough it over; They dare not glory in their blame, But put it under cover.
They feel their gnawing infamy, Their friends hear them deplore it. God's Spirit cannot silent be, But on Cain's guilty forehead He marks the blood of Abel.

#### The congregation sings stanzas 10 and 12.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. F. Samuel Janzow (1913–2001), alt.; © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000082.

Tune: Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein, Erfurt, 1524.

#### **PSALM HYMNS**

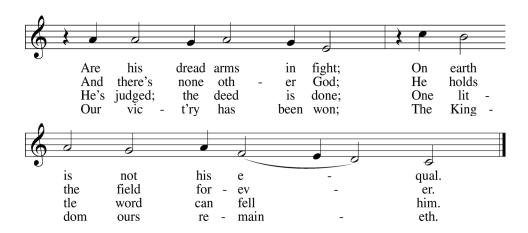
#### Psalm 46

# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

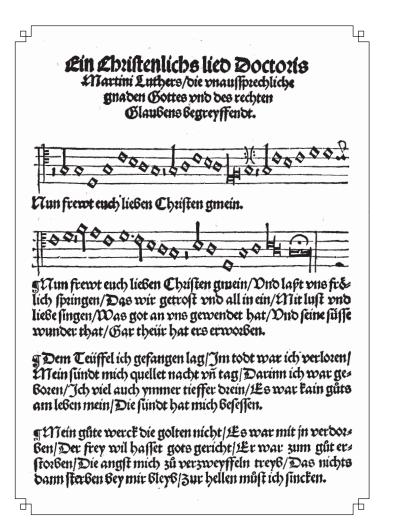
LSB 656

The congregation sings stanzas 1 and 4; the choirs sing stanzas 2 and 3





Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. composite.



A page from the first Lutheran hymnal, the so-called Achtliederbuch ("Eighthymn Book"), published in 1524. This page shows the earliest extant printing of "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice," written and composed by Luther.

#### **Narration**

#### Psalm 130

#### From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

LSB 607

The choirs sing stanzas 1–3; the congregation sings stanzas 4–5



Text and tune: Martin Luther, 1483-1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

The choirs sing stanzas 1, 2 and 4; the congregation sings stanzas 3, 5 and 6



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941; copyright © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000082. Tune: *Eyn Enchiridion oder Handbüchlein*, Erfurt, 1524.

#### **FESTIVAL HYMNS**

#### **Narration**

#### **Easter**

### Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

LSB 556

The congregation sings stanzas 1, 6–7 and 10;

the choirs sing stanzas 2, 5 and 8–9;

women sing stanza 3;

men sing stanza 4

#### **Narration**





Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Richard Massie, 1800–87, alt. Tune: *Etlich Cristlich lider*, 1524, Wittenberg.

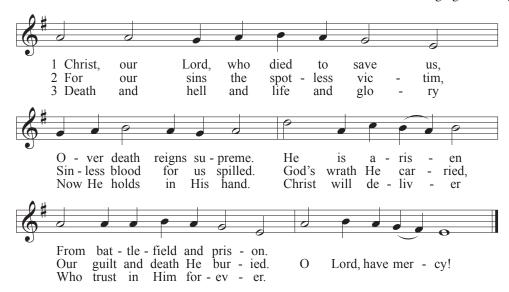
#### **Narration**

#### **Easter**

#### Christ, Our Lord, Who Died to Save Us

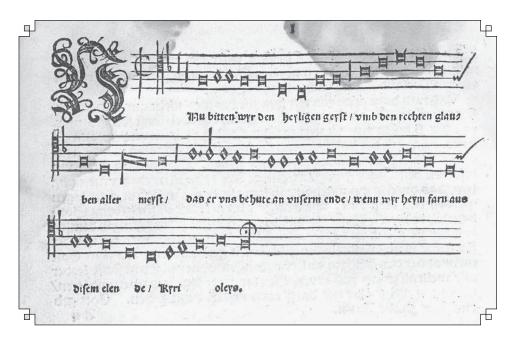
Achtliederbuch

The choirs sing stanzas 1 and 2; the congregation sings stanza 3



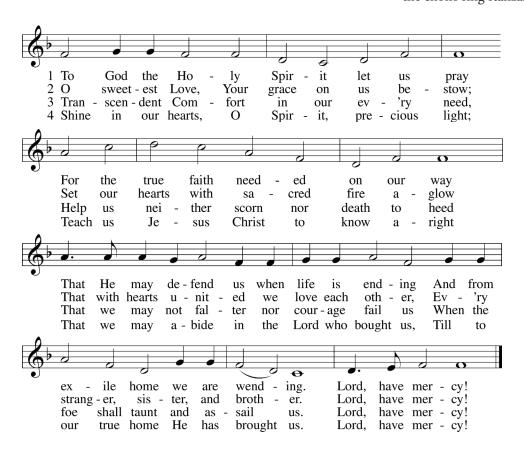
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Carl F. Schalk, 1929–2021; © 2010 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000082.

Tune: Geistliche lieder auffs new gebessert, Wittenberg, 1533.



A page from Geystliche gesank Buchleyn, another 1524 hymnal, published in Wittenberg and edited by Martin Luther's chief musician, Johann Walter. This page shows one of the earliest extant printings of "To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray".

The congregation sings stanzas 1 and 4; the choirs sing stanzas 2 and 3



Text: st. 1: German, c. 13th cent.; sts. 2–4: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Worship Supplement, 1969, alt.; © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000082.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter.

# **HYMNS FROM THE LITURGY**

#### **Narration**

Creed We All Believe in One True God LSB 954



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt. Tune: Latin, 14th cent., adapt.

The congregation sings stanzas 1 and 3; the choirs sing stanza 2



Text: st. 1: German, 14th cent.; sts. 2–3: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, alt., © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000082.

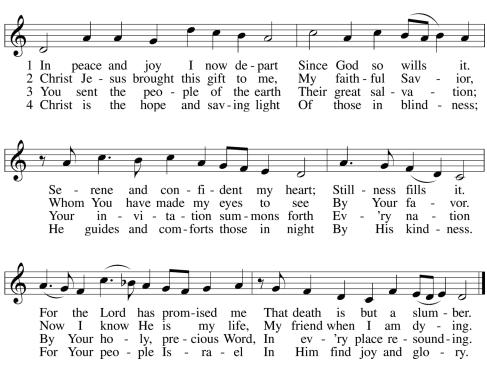
Tune: *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter.

#### **Nunc Dimittis**

#### In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

LSB 938

The congregation sings stanzas 1, 3 and 4; the choirs sing stanza 2



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; st. 1: tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001, alt.; sts. 2–4: tr. Christian Worship, 1993, alt.; st. 1: © 1979 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000082.

Tune: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn, Wittenberg, 1524, ed. Johann Walter.

#### **Postlude**

#### Reformation Suite for Brass Quartet and Organ

Benjamin M. Culli

III. Nun freut euch

Soli Deo Gloria

You are cordially invited to join the narrator and musicians for a German-themed reception in Koburg Hall immediately following the hymn festival.

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

#### Narrator

Peter C. Reske

#### Choirs

Laudamus
The St. Louis Lutheran Chorale

#### **Instrumentalists**

Rachel Gerhardt and Amalia Magness, violin
Gregory Gastler, viola
Samuel Hart, cello
Dr. Leopoldo A. Sánchez M., double bass
Dustin Shrum and Oliver Nice, trumpet
Christina Schempf, French horn; Owen Duncan, trombone
April Parviz, flute; Julia Witt, bass clarinet
Julia Witt and Paul Gaschler, guitar

#### Accompanist

Cheryl Magness

#### Conductor

Cantor Phillip Magness

#### **Organist**

Justin Knabach

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Hearing device assistance is available in the chapel by downloading Audio Fetch to your smart phone. Once installed, "CSLListeningDevice" on the chapel Wi-Fi and use "Seminary 1839" as the password. You can then use personal headphones or earbuds to listen and adjust the sound as appropriate. If you need any help with this process, please speak with the tech worker at the sound booth located on the right side of the chapel.

#### About This Hymn Festival

It all began with a single song. Martin Luther wrote his first hymn as a protest song against the martyrdom of two monks in the summer of 1523. His hymn spread like wildfire across Europe and he quickly realized that hymns could be used to teach and spread the Gospel. In the years 1523–24, Luther followed up with some two dozen hymns in order to show others how they might go about putting the Reformation Gospel into song. The result was a veritable "hymn explosion." Luther's hymns launched the restoration of congregational singing as we know it in the western church and it hasn't stopped since.

This afternoon we celebrate God's incredible gift of congregational song by singing some of Luther's earliest hymns, written five centuries ago. Many are still well-known and others have fallen out of use. Through such songs, Luther declares, "God has cheered our hearts and minds through his dear Son, whom he gave for us to redeem us from sin, death, and the devil. He who believes this earnestly cannot be quiet about it. But he must gladly and willingly sing and speak about it so that others also may come and hear it."

#### **About the Narrator**

Peter C. Reske is senior editor of music/worship at Concordia Publishing House (CPH), where he has served since 2004. He holds degrees in English literature from Marquette University and in musicology from The Pennsylvania State University. In addition to his ongoing role overseeing music publications for CPH, he was the editor of *Lutheran Service Book* (2006) and its attendant resources, editor of *The Hymns of Martin Luther* (2016) and editorial adviser for *One and All Rejoice* (2020). With Joseph Herl and Jon D. Vieker, he was co-editor of *Lutheran Service Book: Companion to the Hymns* (2019).

#### About the Cover Art

For the 500th anniversary of the birth of Martin Luther, Concordia Seminary sponsored a concert Oct. 13, 1983, at Powell Hall with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus titled *A Musical Evening Celebrating 500 Years of Martin Luther*. As a part of the promotional materials for this concert, the Seminary also commissioned local artist Siegfried Reinhardt (1925–84) to depict Martin Luther as a hymn writer and musician. Today's cover art by Reinhardt was featured on all the promotional materials for the concert.

#### About the Music

A New Song Now Shall Be Begun — arranged by Phillip Magness. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God — stanza 2 arranged by Kevin J. Hildebrand; stanza 3 arranged by J. S. Bach (1685–1750). From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee — stanzas 2 and 3 arranged by Arnold von Bruck (ca. 1500–54). O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold — stanza 4 arranged by Heinrich Schütz (1585–1672). Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice — stanza 2 arranged by Phillip Magness; stanzas 5 and 9 arranged by Jeffrey Blersch; stanza 8 arranged by J. S. Bach. Christ, Our Lord, Who Died to Save Us — stanza 2 arranged Henry V. Gerike. To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray — stanzas 2 and 3 arranged Philip Gehring (1925–2020). We All Believe in One True God — setting by Jonathan Kohrs. O Lord, We Praise Thee — stanza 2 arranged by Richard Proulx (1937–2010). In Peace and Joy I Now Depart — stanza 2 arranged by Jonathan Kohrs.



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