

# 275 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



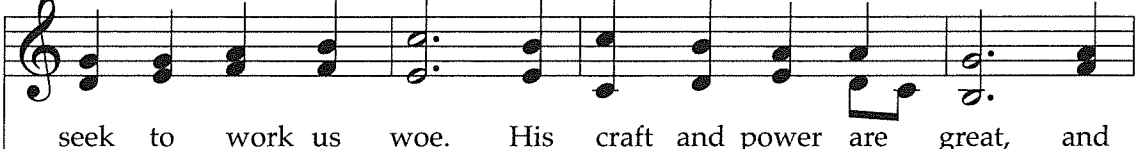
1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul-wark nev - er  
 2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3 And though this world, with dev - ils filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4 That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, no thanks to them, a -



fail - ing. Our help - er he, a - mid the flood of  
 los - ing, were not the right man on our side, the  
 do us, we will not fear, for God hath willed his  
 bid - eth. The Spir - it and the gifts are ours through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe doth  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ  
 truth to tri - umph through us. The Prince of Dark - ness grim, we  
 him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, this



seek to work us woe. His craft and power are great, and  
 Je - sus, it is he. Lord Sab - a - oth his name, from  
 trem - ble not for him. His rage we can en - dure, for  
 mor - tal life al - so. The bod - y they may kill; God's



Long before Isaac Watts began to Christianize the Psalms, Martin Luther had already done so when he created the text and tune for this, his most famous hymn, which is based on Psalm 46. Luther encouraged metrical versions of psalms as well as chanted psalms and new hymns.

armed with cru - el hate, on earth is not his e - qual.  
 age to age the same, and he must win the bat - tle.  
 lo, his doom is sure. One lit - tle word shall fell him.  
 truth a - bid - eth still. His king - dom is for - ev - er.

FORGIVENESS

447

We Are Forgiven

G Am D7 Gsus G C  
 We are for - giv - en. We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to  
 G Am7 Dsus D G Am  
 God. Thanks be to God. We are for - giv - en.  
 D7 Gsus G C G Am7 D G  
 We are for - giv - en. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

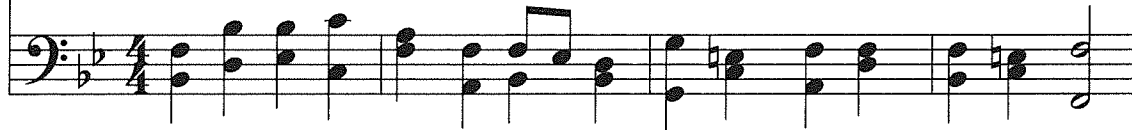
To sing, rather than simply say, a response to the Declaration of Forgiveness has the effect of making the moment both more affirmative and more corporate. The musical repetition of the two sentences also strengthens awareness of what it means to be assured of God's pardon.

# 755 Alleluia! Laud and Blessing

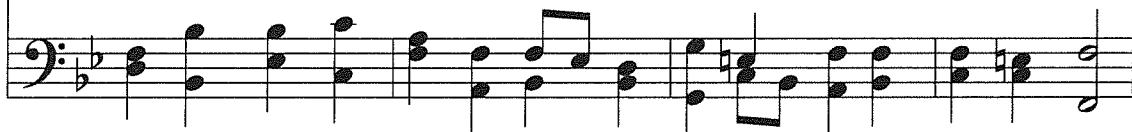
(Psalms 111 and 112)



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Laud and bless - ing to our God, whose Word is sure;  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! God sus - tains us; match - less are the gifts we share:  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Ho - ly Par - ent, all your chil - dren now re - claim;



by whose grace we find re - demp - tion, in whose love we live se - cure.  
 light in dark - ness, hope in con - flict, an - swers to our deep - est prayer.  
 may our lives re - flect your jus - tice, heirs to your most sa - cred name.



Righ - teous - ness and rich com - pas - sion shall at - tend us all our days;  
 Ours to give as we are giv - en: arms to lift when oth - ers fall;  
 Fill our hearts with un - der - stand - ing, brace our weak - ness by your might;



may God's prom - ise to be faith - ful ech - o through our songs of praise!  
 im - ag - es of God's great good - ness, faith - ful ser - vants to God's call.  
 awe - some hon - or, born in wis - dom; your great glo - ry, our de - light!

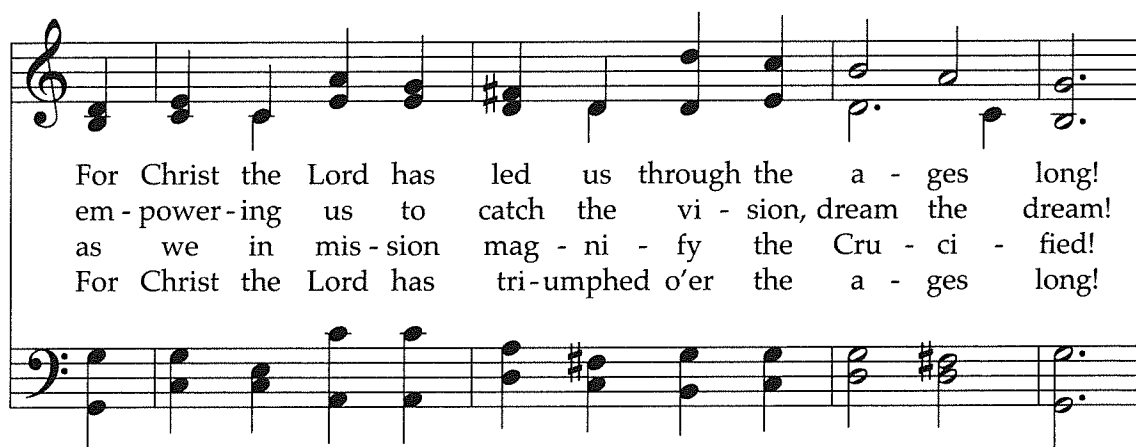


Psalms 111 and 112 are appropriately brought together in this paraphrase. Both form acrostics: each poetic line begins with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet in order. In addition, both psalms begin with "hallelujah," and they share much vocabulary as well as a theme of praise.

## 305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!



1 Come sing, O church, in joy!      Come join, O church, in song!  
 2 Long years have come and gone,      and still God reigns su - preme,  
 3 Let cour - age be our friend;      let wis - dom be our guide,  
 4 Come sing, O church, in joy!      Come join, O church, in song!



For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!  
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!  
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!  
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!



In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme “Celebrate the Journey.” The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.