

“... songs, hymns and spiritual songs ...”

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Colossians 3:16. *“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”*

Luther on music. *“... next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise ... The Devil, the originator of sorrowful anxieties and restless troubles, flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God ... (Music) makes people joyful; they forget thereby all wrath, unchastity, arrogance, and the like. Next after theology, I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor ... I would allow no man to preach or teach God’s people without proper knowledge of the use and power of sacred song.”*

Be Thou My Vision, 7th century, Irish

1. Introduction

2. Listen to the hymn tune

3. Story behind the hymn

4. Sing along

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2. Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word;
I ever with thee, and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my great Father, I thy true son,
thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one.

3. Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the
fight,

Be thou my armor, be thou my might,
Thou my soul’s shelter, thou my high tower.
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my
power.

4. Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise;
thou mine inheritance, now and always.
Thou and thou only, first in my heart,
Ruler of heaven, my treasure thou art.

5. High King of heaven, my victory won,
may I reach heaven’s joys, O bright heaven’s
Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

“... songs, hymns and spiritual songs ...”

A Mighty Fortress, Martin Luther, 1528

1. Introduction

2. Listen to the hymn (rhythmic version) and read the Lutheran translation

(Lutheran translation)

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a trusty shield and weapon;
he helps us free from every need
that has us now overtaken.
The old evil foe
now means deadly woe;
deep guile and great might
are his dread arms in fight;
on earth is not his equal.

2. With might of ours can naught be done,
soon were our loss effected;
but for us fights the valiant one
whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?"
Jesus Christ it is,
the almighty Lord,
and there's no other God;
he holds the field forever.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,
all eager to devour us,
we tremble not, we fear no ill:
they shall not overpower us.
This world's prince may still
scowl fierce as he will,
he can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
one little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain
nor any thanks have for it;
he's by our side upon the plain
with his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
goods, fame, child, and wife,
though all may be gone,
our victory is won;
the kingdom's ours forever!

(Frederick H. Hodge translation)

**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
does seek to work us woe;
his craft and power are great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth is not his equal.**

**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.
You 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.**

**3. And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God has 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.**

**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!**

3. Story behind the hymn 4. Sing along

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In Christ Alone, Stuart Townend & Keith Getty, 2000

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Listen to the hymn**
- 3. Story behind the hymn**
- 4. Sing along**

1. In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

2. In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live.

3. There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

4. No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand