

Praise Today

Contemporary Worship Forms in the Context of the Historical Service
Volume 4, Number 2 † Fall 1998

Hymn & Bible Study: Praise The Name Above All Names

by Mark Bergman

*The following is a five-part Bible Study and four-verse hymn developed by
Mark Bergmann (WELS, Brookfield, WI), 1997.*

This song can be sung to any 8787D melody such as Christian Worship (CW) 577. The song is written in an 87878787 (or 8787D) metric. This means that each of the 8 lines alternates between 8 and 7 syllables. Seventeen tunes and 26 songs in Christian Worship (CW) use this meter. Near the end of both CW and The Lutheran Hymnal (TLH) is an index of songs by their meter. The author of this song had the tune "O Du Liebe Meiner Liebe" (CW 108, 380, 577) in mind during composition.

PRAISE THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

1. From the rising of the bright sun,
Till it dims and leaves the sky,
Glory, praise, and honor to you,
Lord we worship You on high.
Let us be your servants faithful,
Keep us on the narrow way,
We are clay and You're the Potter,
Use us Lord we humbly pray.
2. God JEHOVAH You're the "I AM,"
All else changes You're the same,
Timeless, changeless, always faithful,
Praise and honor to Your Name.
Lord, the guilty You must punish,
Yet love overflows from You,
Full forgiveness, great compassion,
What You promise, that You do.
3. ELOHIM You're our Creator,
When You spoke all came to be,
And You made us in Your image,
Let us praise and honor Thee.
ELOHIM with strength unbounded,
You're the Rock, of You we sing,
There is not another like You,
You created everything.
4. ADONAI You rule and govern,
You're the highest majesty,
All is under Your dominion,
You have all authority.
JEHOVAH all glory to You,
ELOHIM we worship Thee,
ADONAI all praise forever,
Glory, praise, and honor be.

ELOHIM
Adonai
Jehovah
King of Kings
El Shaddai
Immanuel



GOD'S NAMES

A Devotion for Families or Individuals

Introduction

God has used many names to reveal Himself to us. A few are listed below. Each name emphasizes particular attributes of our Lord.

Hebrew	KJV / NIV translation	Meaning
El, Elohim	God	be strong
Shaddai	Almighty	
El Shaddai	God Almighty	most high God
Adonai	Lord	ruler, master
Jehovah (Yahweh)	LORD	the eternal I Am

ADONAI—is the normal Hebrew name of God. It means “ruler” or “master of all.”

ELOHIM—means to “be strong.” This name is used in the first verse of the Bible, “In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth.”

JEHOVAH (YAHWEH)—is God’s most important name. In Hebrew, “Yahweh” is derived from “I Am.” The ancient Hebrews revered this name so highly that they would not speak this name of God, but would instead substitute “Adonai” when reading it. This is why this name’s pronunciation was lost in antiquity. The correct vowels for this name are also not known, because in Hebrew, the vowels are not written, but are instead supplied by the reader. The form of this name that is commonly used today is “Jehovah,” which was formed around 1500 AD by inserting the vowels from “Adonai” to the consonant letters of the tetragrammaton (the four letters that make up God’s name).



Part 1:

Sing or read together stanzas 1 and 2 of the song.

God introduced Himself to Moses at the burning bush as the great “I Am,” then God revealed His name Jehovah: “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD [Jehovah] the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever, the name by which I am to be remembered from generation to generation.”

- Read Exodus 3:1-15.

Note: The KJV and NIV translate “Jehovah” as “LORD” with small capital letters.

Our God is the “Living God” (Jer 10:10; Dan 6:26),

He had no beginning nor will He ever cease to be (Psalm 102:25-27; Rev 1:8).

How is this idea expressed in the name “I Am?”

Why is it comforting to have an eternal God?

Praise Today is an independent publication serving pastors and worship leaders of confessional Lutheranism. It is published quarterly and relies heavily on the submissions of subscribers to share their ideas of worship framed in the historical orders of service with application to the needs of Christians today.

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Part 2:

Sing or read together stanzas 1 and 2 of the song.

Jehovah is God's covenant name. It stresses God's great unchanging love for His people and that God is faithful in keeping His promises. As God passed in front of Moses, He elaborated on the meaning of this name.

- Read Exodus 33:19-34:7.

What 6 words from the last 2 verses of this Bible section are found in stanza 2 of the song? Re-read verse 7. God must punish the guilty. We are also guilty of many sins and so was Moses. What did God do with our guilt?

- Read Isaiah 53:5-6.

God put our guilt on Jesus. Through faith, God has given us Christ's righteousness as a free gift (Rom 3:21-25).

Part 3:

Sing or read together stanzas 1 and 2 of the song.

- Read Psalm 103.

What benefits from God are listed here?

What are the ways of God spoken of in verse 7?

David lists the ways of God in verses 8-14, and he repeats some of what God said in Exodus 34:6. By revealing Himself as Jehovah, God has given us a fuller picture of His great love and faithfulness.

- Read Exodus 5:22-6:8 and especially note verse 3, "I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob as God Almighty [El Shaddai], but by my name the LORD [Jehovah] I did not make myself known to them."

As believers today, we have been given a blessing even greater than that granted to the believers in Moses' day, since we can read the details of how God completed His work of Salvation by sending His Son to die on the cross.

- 1John 4:8 "Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love."

[optional: Read 1John 4:7-21.]

Part 4:

Sing or read together stanzas 1 and 3 of the song.

- Read Isaiah 44:6-23.

Name some idols that people worship today. God is serious when He demands to be first in our lives. He will not take second position. Anything that we hold as more important than God becomes our idol.

Part 5:

Sing or read together stanzas 1 and 3 of the song.

- Read Isaiah 40:25-31.

Have you ever returned from a trip to the Grand Canyon and then tried to describe the canyon to your friends? You can report the dimensions. You can tell how the canyon made you feel. The fact remains, no one knows the Grand Canyon until they've been there. The Grand Canyon is unique.

It is the same with God, only more so. God is completely unique. Nothing in the universe comes close in any way. God is THE SOURCE, and everything else has been created by Him. The only way to know God is through His Spirit dwelling in our hearts. The Spirit of God enters our hearts through the Gospel. This same Gospel, found in Word and Sacrament, is the means which God has chosen to continue His work in us.

This is why continual exposure to the Scriptures is so important.

What is asked in verse 27? How is it answered?

God is the strong one who has unlimited power and endurance. His very nature is love and therefore He provides for all our needs.

- Read Matthew 6:25-34.

msb 6/9/97 Mark Bergemann--to God be all glory

Θεός

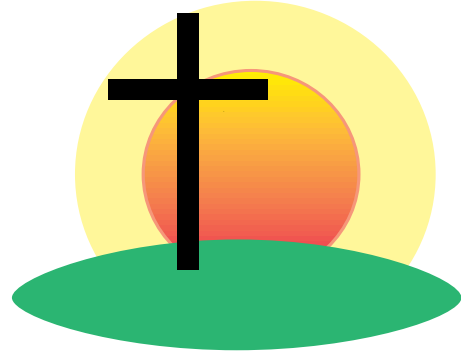
Hymn: Sun of My Soul

... John Keble (1792-1866)

This poem came my way and I thought I'd share it with you. It can be used with any 8888 metered tune, many of which are found in Christian Worship. It is suitable for use within the liturgy, as an opening hymn for a morning service, or as a closing hymn for an evening service. The poem can be adapted to several melodies and emotions and can be used throughout the church year.

Sun of my soul, Thou Savior dear,
It is not night if Thou be near;
O may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide Thee from thy servant's eyes.

... John Keble (1792-1866)



Hymn: The Evangel

by Gerard (Digory) J. Mahar

This hymn was supplied by Gerard (Digory) J. Mahar, a WELS layman. It is a poem he wrote for a poetry contest and graciously allowed me to share it with you. It does not lend itself readily to a standard melody, but can be used possibly with a plainchant melody, such as those used with the Psalms in Christian Worship.

1. Wonder of wonders, King of Kings,
Gloria in excelsis, all creation sings!
The earth around us shows His work, the heavens
declare His Praise!
A life lived by the Word of God, bears fruit in many
ways.
2. To turn from all our wicked ways, repent and seek
His face.
The Glory of His majesty, His peace will have their
place.
Seeking first His Kingdom and doing what is right.
Strengthened by His Spirit to stand up in the fight.
3. Love and truth are both important, balance is the
key.
Jesus the Way, the Truth, the Life for all reality.
Many take the wide road, that leads them to
destruction.
The road to life is narrow, founded on His
Resurrection!
4. His grace is all sufficient, the only thing that lasts.
The blood of Jesus covers our sins, future, now, and

past.

Faith in Him, the key to life, unlocks the mystery
hidden,
To deny ourselves, take up our cross, we have now
been bidden.

5. All our work apart from Him results in only grief.
The lying lion seeking, comes to steal like a thief.
We His spotless bride made ready, don our wedding
gown,
Jesus brings the victory, our reigning King now
wears the crown.



Hymn: In Pastures Green

Anonymous



1. "In pastures green?" Not always; sometimes He,
Who knoweth best, in kindness leadeth me
In weary ways, where heavy shadows be.
2. And "by still waters?" No, not always so;
Ofttimes the heavy tempests round me blow,
And o'er my soul the waves and billows go.
3. But when the storm beats loudest, and I cry
Aloud for help, the Master standeth by,
And whispers to my soul, "Lo, it is I."
4. So, where He leads me, I can safely go,
And in the blest hereafter I shall know
Why, in His wisdom, He hath led me so.

Responsive Reading: Habakkuk

by Vicar Timothy Smith

Vicar Timothy Smith (WELS, Salem, Milwaukee, WI) arranged this responsive reading of Habakkuk. The final chapter served as the psalm, Habakkuk 2:4 served as the Gospel. This would be a good responsive reading for your Reformation Festival service.

1. (Sung)
Lord, keep us steadfast in your Word
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would seek to overthrow your Son
And to destroy what he has done.

First Lesson: Habakkuk 1:1-11

Habakkuk's First Complaint and God's Answer

The prophet cries out to God, "Kow long, O LORD?" God's answer is not what the prophet expected: "I am going to do something...you would not believe." God is going to send Israel into exile in Babylon. We will read the first lesson together as follows:

MINISTER—The oracle that Habakkuk the prophet received.

• *Habakkuk's Complaint:*

MEN—"How long, O LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted."

• *The LORD's answer:*

WOMEN—"Look at the nations and watch-- and be utterly amazed. For I am going to do something in your days that you would not believe, even if you were told. I am raising up the Babylonians, [1] that ruthless and impetuous people, who sweep across the whole earth to seize dwelling places not their own. They are a feared and dreaded people; they are a law to themselves and promote their own honor. Their horses are swifter than leopards, fiercer than wolves at dusk. Their cavalry gallops headlong; their horsemen come from afar. They fly like a vulture swooping to devour; they all come bent on violence. Their hordes [2] advance like a desert wind and gather prisoners like sand. They deride kings and scoff at rulers. They laugh at all fortified cities; they build earthen ramps and capture them. Then they sweep past like the wind and go on-- guilty men, whose own strength is their god."

2. (Sung)
Lord Jesus Christ, your pow'r make known,
For you are Lord of Lords alone;
Defend your Christendom that we
May sing your praise eternally.

Second Lesson: Habakkuk 1:12-2:8

Habakkuk's Second Complaint and God's Answer

The prophet now is in despair: who can stand before God's holy judgment? No one! But God assures the prophet: The righteous will live by faith. God's judgment is certain, but so is his unfailing grace.

• *Habakkuk's Complaint:*

MINISTER—"O LORD, are you not from everlasting? My God, my Holy One, we will not die. O LORD, you have appointed them to execute judgment; O Rock, you have ordained them to punish. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong.

MEN—Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves? You have made men like fish in the sea, like sea creatures that have no ruler. The wicked foe pulls all of them up with hooks, he catches them in his net, he gathers them up in his dragnet; and so he rejoices and is glad. Therefore he sacrifices to his net and burns incense to his dragnet, for by his net he lives in luxury and enjoys the choicest food. Is he to keep on emptying his net, destroying nations without mercy?

MINISTER—I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint."

• *The LORD's answer:*

WOMEN—Then the LORD replied: "Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay. See, he is puffed up; his desires are not upright--

ALL--but the righteous will live by his faith--

WOMEN--indeed, wine betrays him; he is arrogant and never at rest. Because he is as greedy as the grave and like death is never satisfied, he gathers to himself all the nations and takes captive all the peoples.

MEN--Will not all of them taunt him with ridicule and scorn, saying, "Woe to him who piles up stolen goods and makes himself wealthy by extortion! How long must this go on? Will not your debtors suddenly arise? Will they not wake up and make you tremble? Then you will become their victim. Because you have plundered many nations, the peoples who are left

will plunder you. For you have shed man's blood; you have destroyed lands and cities and everyone in them.

3. (Sung)
O, Comforter of priceless worth
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife,
And lead us out of death to life.

Habakkuk's Psalm of Praise: Habakkuk 3

A prayer of Habakkuk the prophet.

1. (Refrain--Sung)
Surely it is God who saves me;
I will trust in him and not be afraid.
For the LORD is my stronghold
and my sure defense,
and he will be my Savior.

LORD, I have heard of your fame; *
I stand in awe of your deeds, O LORD.

Remember your deeds in our day; *
in your wrath remember mercy.

Were you angry with the rivers, LORD? *
Was your wrath against the streams?

Torrents of water swept by; *
the deep roared and lifted its waves on high.

Refrain

In wrath you strode through the earth; *
and in anger you threshed the nations.

But you came out to deliver your people, *
in order to save your anointed one.

I heard and my heart pounded; *
Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity.

Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no
grapes on the vines; *
yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in
God my Savior.

The Sovereign LORD is my strength;
he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he
enables me to go on the heights.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen**

Refrain

(Refrain setting by Jack Noble White; Psalm setting by Kermit Moldenhauer; Text arranged by Vicar Timothy Smith and originally used at Salem Ev. Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, WI (Eastside), on 9 August 1998.

Responsive Reading: The Good Shepherd

by John L. Hoh, Jr.

One fascinating aspect of Scripture, in my mind, is the unity throughout. Old Testament prophecy, New Testament fulfilment can be found throughout. The last issue presented a responsive reading combining Paul's "Imitate Christ" verses in Philippians with the "Suffering Servant" in Isaiah 52 and 53.

This issue, I will share with you the Good Shepherd Psalm (23) and the "I Am" statement from John 10: I AM the Good Shepherd.

- M**— I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- C**— The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.
- M**— The hired hand is not the shepherd who owns the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.
- C**— Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
- M**— I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me-- just as the Father knows me and I know the Father--and I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.
- C**— You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.
- M**— The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life--only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.
- C**— Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.



Responsive Reading: Song of Songs

by Vicar Timothy Smith

A book of Scripture that rarely is looked at is found in the poetical section of the Old Testament. Right after Ecclesiastes ("Meaningless! Meaningless!") comes the book that describes what *is* meaningful--the bridegroom who has purchased His bride with His own blood!

Vicar Timothy Smith recently taught this book at Bible study at Salem. For the reading, he had one lady volunteer to read the portions tabbed "Beloved," He read those marked "Lover," and everyone else joined in with reading those verses labeled "Friends."



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Praise Today

Praise, Benediction: *Daniel's Prayer*

by Vicar Timothy Smith, John L. Hoh, Jr.

Vicar Smith used this prayer of Daniel (Daniel 2:20-23) to close a Bible study on the book of Daniel. However, it is very fitting as an after-sermon chant, end of service chant (Matins or Vespers especially), or even after the Scripture readings. One set is set for singing with a psalm chant melody (your choice); the other for responsive reading.

Chanted Version

Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.

He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and
deposes them.

He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to
the discerning.

He reveals deep and hidden things;
he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells
with him.

I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers:
You have given me wisdom and power, you have
made known to me what we asked of you, you
have made known to us the dream of the King.



Responsive Version

M— Praise be to the name of God for ever and ever;
wisdom and power are his.

C— He changes times and seasons; he sets up kings and
deposes them. He gives wisdom to the wise and
knowledge to the discerning.

M— He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what
lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.

C— I thank and praise you, O God of my fathers: You
have given me wisdom and power, you have made
known to me what we asked of you, you have made
known to us the dream of the King.

