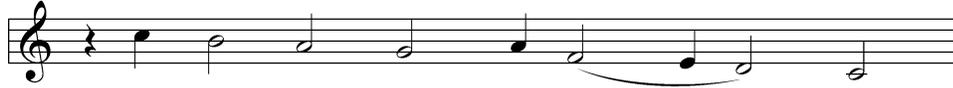


## 656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God,  
 2 With might of ours can naught be done,  
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill,  
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main



A trust - y shield and weap - on;  
 Soon were our loss ef - fect - ed;  
 All ea - ger to de - vour us,  
 Nor an - y thanks have for it;



He helps us free from ev - 'ry need  
 But for us fights the val - iant One,  
 We trem - ble not, we fear no ill;  
 He's by our side up - on the plain



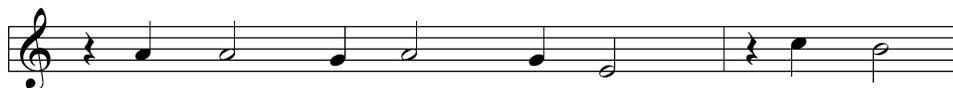
That hath us now o'er - tak - en.  
 Whom God Him - self e - lect - ed.  
 They shall not o - ver - pow'r us.  
 With His good gifts and Spir - it.



The old e - vil foe Now means  
 Ask ye, Who is this? Je - sus  
 This world's prince may still Scowl fierce  
 And take they our life, Goods, fame,



dead - ly woe; Deep guile and great might  
 Christ it is, Of Sab - a - oth Lord,  
 as he will, He can harm us none.  
 child, and wife, Though these all be gone,



Are his dread arms in fight; On earth  
 And there's none oth - er God; He holds  
 He's judged; the deed is done; One lit -  
 Our vic - t'ry has been won; The King -



is not his e - qual.  
 the field for - ev - er.  
 tle word can fell him.  
 dom ours re - main eth.

Tune and text: Public domain

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.  
**C** **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

- P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.  
**C** **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**
- P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen.**

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray.  
 Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**C** **Amen.**

### Old Testament Reading

*Isaiah 42:14–21*

<sup>14</sup>For a long time I have held my peace;  
 I have kept still and restrained myself;  
 now I will cry out like a woman in labor;  
 I will gasp and pant.  
<sup>15</sup>I will lay waste mountains and hills,  
 and dry up all their vegetation;  
 I will turn the rivers into islands,  
 and dry up the pools.  
<sup>16</sup>And I will lead the blind  
 in a way that they do not know,  
 in paths that they have not known  
 I will guide them.  
 I will turn the darkness before them into light,  
 the rough places into level ground.  
 These are the things I do,  
 and I do not forsake them.  
<sup>17</sup>They are turned back and utterly put to shame,  
 who trust in carved idols,  
 who say to metal images,  
 "You are our gods."  
<sup>18</sup>Hear, you deaf,  
 and look, you blind, that you may see!  
<sup>19</sup>Who is blind but my servant,  
 or deaf as my messenger whom I send?  
 Who is blind as my dedicated one,

- or blind as the servant of the LORD?  
<sup>20</sup>He sees many things, but does not observe them;  
his ears are open, but he does not hear.  
<sup>21</sup>The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,  
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Epistle

*Ephesians 5:8–14*

<sup>8</sup>For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), <sup>10</sup>and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,  
and arise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

- A** This is the Word of the Lord.  
**C** Thanks be to God.

## Holy Gospel

*John 9:1–41*

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.  
**C** Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud <sup>7</sup>and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

<sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” <sup>10</sup>So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” <sup>11</sup>He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” <sup>12</sup>They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. <sup>21</sup>But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” <sup>22</sup>(His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” <sup>25</sup>He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” <sup>26</sup>They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” <sup>27</sup>He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” <sup>28</sup>And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do

nothing.”<sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

<sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”<sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?”<sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.”<sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”<sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?”<sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## 719 I Leave All Things to God's Direction



1 I leave all things to God's di - rec - tion; He loves me  
2 God knows what must be done to save me; His love for  
3 My God de - sires the soul's sal - va - tion; My soul He,  
4 My God has all things in His keep - ing; He is the



both in joy and woe. His will is good, sure His af -  
me will nev - er cease. Up - on His hands He did en -  
too, de - sires to save. There - fore with Chris - tian res - ig -  
ev - er faith - ful friend. He gives me laugh - ter af - ter



fec - tion; His ten - der love is true, I know. My for - tress  
grave me With pur - est gold of lov - ing grace. His will su -  
na - tion All earth - ly trou - bles I will brave. His will be  
weep - ing, And all His ways in bless - ings end. His love en -



and my rock is He: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.  
preme must ev - er be: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.  
done e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.  
dures e - ter - nal - ly: What pleas - es God, that pleas - es me.

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## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

**C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

### Prayer of the Church

**P** Blessed Lord, You give sight to the blind, You open the ears of the deaf, and You make the lame to walk. Hear the prayers of Your people on behalf of all people as they have need.

*Brief silence*

In the darkness of sin and its death, we cry to You, O Lord. Open our ears by Your Word, our minds by Your Spirit, and our hearts by Your grace, that we may know and be thankful for all the blessings You have given to us in Christ, our Lord, especially the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Strengthen us in faith, that we may serve You with all our body, mind, soul and strength. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Bidden by Your Word, we pray to You, O Lord, on behalf of Your Church and all Your people in every place. Give to us good pastors and servants of Your Word who will preach the full counsel of Your Word and serve us with Your Sacraments. Raise up many more to serve as church workers, and bless those who are now preparing for full-time church work. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Defended by Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to provide us with good and faithful leaders who will preserve the precious gift of liberty and protect the lives of our citizens. Give them special wisdom and help them to work in harmony in the midst of this pandemic. Grant Your blessing to all emergency and medical workers who continue to come to our aid in times of great need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Enjoying the riches of Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to give us generous hearts, that we may share what You have provided with those in need and work for the common good of all. Give us patience in our seclusion, and comfort the lonely. Grant relief to the unemployed, the underemployed, the homeless and all their families. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Knowing Your healing will and gifts, we pray You, O Lord, to spare us from all calamity by pestilence, scarcity and fear. Remember the sick in their afflictions, calm those troubled in mind and keep steadfast the dying. [Hear us especially for \_\_\_\_\_.] Show us Your gracious will, O Lord, and sustain those who are afflicted in body or mind until that day when You will bestow upon us new bodies fit for the eternal life You have prepared for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Blessed in the community of faith that exists here by Your grace, we pray for our families and friends. Again, protect them from the virus. Give peace in their homes. Bless us all with a faithfulness that even in these days of separation, we may not forget You and Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** Mindful of Your promise, we ask You, O Lord, to comfort those who grieve and to build up those who mourn with hope for the resurrection. Remembering the faithful who have died in Christ, we pray You to bring us at last to be with them in Your nearer presence, looking forward to that day when we shall join in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His Kingdom without end. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

**P** All these things, O Lord, we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for the sake of Him alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer us with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. So do we pray, giving testimony of our confidence in Your gracious favor in Christ by answering with one voice.

**C** Amen.

### Lord's Prayer

**C** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;  
give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** Amen.

### 917 Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise  
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;  
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,

With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.  
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.  
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;

Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,  
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.  
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.  
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

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### Acknowledgments

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