CONFESSIONS AND STATEMENTS OF FAITH
From Lift Up Your Hearts Hymnal

Compiled by Rev. Howard Vanderwell

"Harvest Wheat" by Elizabeth Steele Halstead
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Preface

Lift Up Your Hearts hymnal is a collection of music that is biblical, Reformed, balanced, and accessible. This document accompanies the hymnal as a resource for worship planning, preaching, and/or private devotion. It has identified selections from the confessions and statements of faith of the Christian Reformed Church in North America and Reformed Church in America, that speak the same testimony as a selection from Lift Up Your Hearts, and can be used liturgically in worship with the psalm, hymn, or spiritual song.

Rev. Howard Vanderwell is Resource Development Specialist for Pastoral Leadership at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship and compiled this document.

These selections are organized by section of the hymnal. There are two indices available at the end of the document to help you navigate this document. The first index (found on page 99) lists the selection in Lift Up Your Hearts and the corresponding page in this document that you can find the entry. The second index (found on page 124) is organized by confession or statement of faith, and lists the corresponding psalm, hymn, or spiritual song title from Lift Up Your Hearts along with the hymnal number.

“Harvest Wheat” appears throughout and is a wood cut by Elizabeth Steele Halstead, from her book Visuals for Worship (Faith Alive Christian Resources). Elizabeth Steele Halstead is a Resource Specialist for Visual Arts at the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.
Old Testament Life and Witness

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

1. All People That on Earth Do Dwell
The truths of Genesis, that “he (God) formed us without our aid” resounds in stanza 2 and is paralleled in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26, Belgic Confession, Article 12; and Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 8, which states that God the Father created the world “out of nothing.”

Stanza 4 speaks of the nature of God as goodness, mercy and faithfulness; this list is enlarged in Belgic Confession, Article 1: God is “eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty; completely wise, just and good, and the overflowing source of all good.”

2. O Worship the King
God’s “bountiful care,” as mentioned in stanza 3, is pregnant with meaning. Confessional statements on the providence of God speak to the comprehensiveness of this care. Belgic Confession, Article 13 calls this “fatherly care;” and Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 27 professes that “all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.”

Frail and feeble children (stanza 4) do trust him and this trust in God’s bountiful care is, according to Belgic Confession, Article 13 an “unspeakable comfort.” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 26 says “I trust him so much that I do not doubt...” In Question and Answer 28 the Catechism says this trust leads us to be patient when things go against us, to be thankful when things go well, and to have good confidence for the future.

3. The Heavens Declare Your Glory
Beautifully declaring how we learn of God’s glory through his creation, this song is consistent with Belgic Confession, Article 2, which explains that the “creation, preservation and government of the universe...is before our eyes like a beautiful book.”

4. God of Wonders
This song weaves together thoughts about the nature of God, saying that the “universe declares your majesty.” Before singing this song, it is worth considering Belgic Confession, Article 1, which speaks of the nature of God: “eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty; completely wise, just and good, and the overflowing source of all good.”
Article 2 speaks of how we learn of his wonders through the universe around us: “...since the universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book...”

5. Let All Things Now Living
This song beautifully merges God’s creative work, his providential guidance of all, and our response of trust and thanksgiving. Each of these themes is amplified clearly in the confessions. Singing can be meaningfully coupled with a reading of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Questions and Answers 27-28: “The almighty and ever present power of God...upholds, as with his hand, heaven and earth and all creatures and so rules them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink, health and sickness, prosperity and poverty—all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand...nothing can separate us from his (God’s) love.”

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 9 claims that God made this “a world of color, beauty and variety...,” a theme which is picked up throughout this song. The universe is a beautiful book to make us ponder the “invisible things of God” (Belgic Confession, Article 2).

6. Praise the LORD, Sing Hallelujah
Angels figure prominently in this song of praise. “All his angels” and “all his hosts” are to join with the entire universe to bring praise to the Creator. Belgic Confession, Article 12 professes that God “also created the angels good, that they might be his messengers and serve the elect.”

8. Affirmation: How We Know God
This affirmation speaks about the two ways in which we come to know God using the words of Belgic Confession, Article 2.

9. The Mighty God with Power Speaks
Belgic Confession, Article 2, confesses that “the universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book,” a truth that is picked up in stanza 1 of this song: “God’s wonder earth displays.”

10. We Sing the Mighty Power of God
Stanza 1 provides a very nurturing picture of the Creator and whose “power [that] made the mountains rise,” whose “wisdom [that] ordained the sun to rule the day.”

This song tells of the Lord who “filled the earth with good” and then “pronounced it good” (stanza 2). All these references are echoed in Belgic Confession, Article 2: this “beautiful book” makes us “ponder the invisible things of God.”

11. We Worship You, Whose Splendor Dwarfs the Cosmos
While God’s splendor is revealed in his Word, it is also revealed through his creation. Belgic Confession, Article 2, professes that “the creation, preservation and government of the
universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book...to make us ponder the invisible things of God: God’s eternal power and divinity...”

14. Soplo de Dios/O Living Breath
This beautiful prayer for the Holy Spirit to come and pour out his gifts has three foci: creation, the Son, and through baptismal waters.

In stanza 1 the Spirit brings creation to birth, a prayer that is supported by Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 8, where the Spirit also was involved in calling “this world into being out of nothing and giving it shape and order.”

In stanza 2, the Spirit brings the Son to birth among us, a prayer that is supported by Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 14, Question and Answer 35, which testifies that the conception and birth of Jesus Christ happened “through the working of the Holy Spirit.”

And in stanza 3, the Spirit’s work is seen in “bearing us to life through baptismal waters,” a prayer that also appears in Belgic Confession, Article 34 when it teaches that just as water washes away the dirt of the body, “so too the blood of Christ does the same thing internally, in the soul, by the Holy Spirit.”

17. Beautiful Savior
The phrase “King of Creation,” which has come to characterize this hymn, is reflected in many of the confessions. Belgic Confession, Article 12, professes that God created everything and Article 13 completes the picture by professing that he “leads and governs all things according to his holy will...”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26 professes similarly that God the Creator still upholds and rules everything by his eternal counsel and providence.

The exclamation of Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 2 proclaims this truth with excitement: “Our World Belongs to God! God is King! Let the earth be glad! Christ is victor; his rule has begun!”

18. Touch the Earth Lightly
Here is a song with a long-neglected message—that God’s people are called to be faithful stewards of God’s creation. The newer testimonies of the church also carry this message. Our Song of Hope, stanza 2 admits that “God’s world has been trapped by our fall, governments trapped by human pride, and nature polluted by human greed.” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 16 admits that “All spheres of life...bear the wounds of our rebellion.” And paragraph 51 calls God’s people to “lament that our abuse of creation has brought lasting damage to the world we have been given...” Christian obedience, therefore, is a call to a pattern of life that will serve the renewal of creation.
23. Children of the Heavenly Father
This familiar and well-loved hymn has several important truths embedded in it. First, God’s children are created by God and receive their life from him. This is affirmed in Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 11: “Life is God’s gift to us…”

These children, as well as adults, belong to God, a truth affirmed in the sacrament of infant baptism and professed in confessional statements such as Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 27, Question and Answer 74: “Infants as well as adults are included in God’s covenant…” This comforting truth is also professed in Our Song of Hope, stanza 20: “Christ’s hand reaches out…to infants who live in the atmosphere of faith.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 28 says that God will always protect and preserve his children: “All creatures are so completely in God’s hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.”

24. Affirmation: God as Creator and Provider
This affirmation is to be a helpful tool for expressing the creation and providence of God, through the words of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 9 and 10, Questions and Answers 26 and 27.

25. God Moves in a Mysterious Way
This beloved hymn has been the source of encouragement to many believers in their times of trial and pain, for it enables them to express in song what they have learned from the confessions. First, God will always be with his people. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26 professes that God will “turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world.”

Secondly, nothing happens outside of God’s will. Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 27 professes that “all things, in fact, come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.” Belgic Confession, Article 13 teaches that “this doctrine (of God’s Providence) gives us unspeakable comfort since it teaches us that nothing happens to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly father.”

Finally, nothing can separate God’s people from his gracious love. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 28 professes that we can have “good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.”

26. He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands
Boldly proclaiming that “(God’s) got the whole world in his hands,” this African-American spiritual is clearly rooted in a conviction of God’s sovereign care. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 1 heartily professes, “We declare with joy and trust: Our World Belongs to God!”
because “Jesus Christ rules over all” (paragraph 43). Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26 reassures us that “the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...still upholds and rules...by his eternal counsel and providence.”

**Theme: Praise for God’s Creative Hand**

In this song, we lift our praise for the gifts from God’s creative hand—of the earth, the skies, landscape, time, health, relationships, and, best of all, his Son. Stirring preparation for singing this comes from those confessions which speak of God’s creation of all things, such as *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraphs 7-12; Belgic Confession, Article 12; and Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26.

Songs that follow this theme:

19. *For the Beauty of the Earth*
20. *All Things Bright and Beautiful*
21. *This Is My Father’s World*

**Theme: God Created the World Out of Nothing**

It is worth dwelling on God’s creativity before singing this song. Consider reading Belgic Confession, Article 12 or *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 8: “In the beginning, God—Father, Word, and Spirit—called this world into being out of nothing, and gave it shape and order.”

Songs that follow this theme:

27. *Many and Great*
28. *God Marked a Line and Told the Sea*
Old Testament Life and Witness

FALL AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

Theme:
This theme speaks about the fall into sin and the resulting sinfulness of the human race. God’s people are called to be aware of the fall. Belgic Confession, Article 14 summarizes the fall and its impact with these words: “They subjected themselves willingly to sin and consequently to death and the curse…”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 3, Question and Answer 7 points out that “this fall has so poisoned our nature that we are all conceived and born in a sinful condition.” Yet, God’s people are also called to know about God’s grace, which is freely given, despite the depravity of the world. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 14 claims that “we prove each day apart from grace that we are guilty sinners…”

Songs follow this theme:
29. How Sweet Was the Garden, Fertile and Fair
30. God, Let Me Like a Spreading Tree
33. All Have Sinned
34. What Adam’s Disobedience Cost
Old Testament Life and Witness

**GOD’S COVENANT FAITHFULNESS**

**Theme: God’s Keeps Covenant Forever**
This rich theme affirms that, as children of God, our identity comes from God who calls us his own. *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 2 speaks of God’s promise which first came to Abraham (paragraph 21) and gives even more firm assurance when it says that “from the beginning through all the crises of our times, until the kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever...”

Songs that follow this theme:
35. You Are Our God; We Are Your People
36. Litany of Praise: Our Covenanting God

**Theme: God Chose Israel to Show His Glory**
God has made himself and his ways known through Abraham. *Our World Belongs to God* recognizes this as the beginning of covenant relationships and professes in Article 21, “The Lord promised to be God to Abraham, Sarah, and their children, calling them to walk faithfully before him and blessing the nations through them. God chose Israel to show the glory of his name, the power of his love, and the wisdom of his ways.”

Songs that follow this theme:
39. The God of Abraham Praise
40. I Will Be Your God

**Theme: God Holds the World with Fierce Love**
The exodus from Egypt has become the key paradigm for God’s gracious deliverance. *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 5 shows God’s response to this event as evidence of the fact that “God holds this world with fierce love,” and paragraph 21 points to the fact that “God chose Israel to show the glory of his name, the power of his love, and the wisdom of his ways.”

Songs that follow this theme:
41. When Egypt Fled from Egypt Land
42. When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land

**Theme: God Has a Plan**
The journey of the Israelites through the wilderness is a picture of God’s children as pilgrims on a long and sometimes difficult journey. Yet, through everything God has a plan, which is
revealed in the unfolding of the covenant. *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 33 testifies about a “story of God’s mighty acts in the unfolding of covenant history.” This unfolding of the covenant plan is a testimony, according to *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 18, of “the long road of redemption” for the Israelites and for God’s children living today.

Songs that follow this theme:

43. Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer
44. Lift Every Voice and Sing
52. We Give Thanks unto You

**Theme: God’s Promise**

Throughout all of history, God’s people proved to be unfaithful to him and yet God, in his mercy, was full of grace. These truths are expressed in *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 22: “When Israel spurned God’s love...God scattered them among the nations, yet kept a faithful remnant and promised them the Messiah...God promised to forgive their sins and give them a new heart and a new spirit, moving them to walk in his ways.”

Songs that follow this theme:

47. O God, We Have Heard
48. It Is Good to Give Thanks to You, Lord
51. When the Lord Restored Our Blessing
54. Wisdom Calls
55. When God First Brought Us Back

**Other songs in this section:**

37. Te exaltaré/I Will Exalt
From the beginning of time, each generation has been called to celebrate God’s works and words. *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 2 claims “from the beginning through all the crises of our times, until the kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever...” This is a truth that truly needs to resound in all times and in all places.

38. In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness
Rare is the song that reaches back into eternity, back into the “deep, unbounded darkness” of the world before creation, to note the work of God in “embracing us,” his children, as his own. In doing so, this song echoes the teachings of the Canons of Dort I, 7: “Before the foundation of the world, by sheer grace, according to the free good pleasure of his will, God chose in Christ to salvation a definite number...” The same is professed in Belgic Confession, Article 16.

53. Song of the Prophets
Here’s a unique song which gives us opportunity to hear the Word of God through multiple prophetic voices. Framed by stanzas 1 and 18 (summary stanzas), stanzas 2-17 summarize the
teaching of the prophets. Belgic Confession, Article 3 says that all these prophetic voices, though different from one another, were speaking from God and therefore “we call such writings holy and divine Scriptures.” All of these stories are part of “God’s mighty acts in the unfolding of covenant history” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 33).
Advent Expectation

ADVENT EXPECTATION

Theme: A Long-Expected Savior
The phrase “long-awaited” and “the Savior promised long” are descriptors of Jesus and are familiar terms to many Christians. These words speak of generations who waited while centuries passed. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 23 also uses such terminology in calling him the “long-awaited Messiah.” And Belgic Confession, Article 18 professes that this all happened only “at the time appointed.”

Songs that follow this theme:
56. Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
57. Todo la tierra/All Earth Is Waiting
60. Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes

Theme: Jesus Is Fully Human and Fully Divine
In these songs, it becomes clear that the one waited for is “Emmanuel—God with us.” The confessions of the church are very eager to identify that Emmanuel as the only Son of God “according to his divine nature” (Belgic Confession, Article 10). Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 11-13, Questions and Answers 29-34 put great effort into explaining why he is called Jesus, Christ, and God’s only begotten Son.

When stanza 2 of “All the Earth is Waiting” sings “a virgin mother will bear Emmanuel,” it is worth considering Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 14, Question and Answer 35, which explains what the virgin birth and conception by the Holy Spirit means.

Songs that follow this theme:
57. Todo la tierra/All Earth Is Waiting
61. O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Theme: Christ’s Coming Involved the Trinity
What is notable about this song is that it concludes with a Trinitarian doxology, thus pointing to the truth that the coming of Christ was clearly a redeeming action involving all three members of the Trinity. Heidelberg Catechism captures the role of each member of the Trinity in Lord’s Day 12, Question and Answer 31 when it professes that Christ is called anointed, because he has been “ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit” to be our prophet, priest, and king.
Songs that follow this theme:

70. On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry
71. Creator of the Stars of Night
74. Savior of the Nations, Come

Other Songs in this section:

63. My Soul in Stillness Waits
This song refers to Jesus Christ in stanza 1 as “our only hope of glory.” This concept seems to carry all the rest with it. Similarly, Our Song of Hope centers on Jesus Christ, as “our hope of glory as well.” “We are a people of hope” it says (stanza 1) and “we know Christ to be our only hope” (stanza 2) and “our only hope is Jesus Christ” (stanza 3). But it declares even more broadly that “Jesus Christ is the hope of God’s world” (stanza 4), giving hope for two worlds – in this age and in the age to come (stanza 5)!

65. LORD, You Have Lavished on Your Land
The intensity of this song with its profound sense of God’s goodness toward his world is a reminder of Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 5: “God holds this world in fierce love. Keeping his promise, he sends Jesus into the world, pours out the Holy Spirit, and announces the good news; sinners who repent and believe in Jesus live anew as members of the family of God—the first fruits of a new creation.”

67. Blessed Be the God of Israel
The words of Zechariah which form this song express the long hope of Israel that God would be faithful to his promises and provide new hope through David’s seed. The Confessions recall this promise-keeping God as the heart of our Advent hope. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 5 speaks of God “keeping his promise” and paragraph 23 speaks of God “remembering the promise to reconcile” as the basis for sending his Son.

Similarly Belgic Confession, Article 18 says that God “fulfilled the promise made to the early fathers and mothers...” Further, the generations are to be the “fruit of the loins of David.”

74. Savior of the Nations, Come
The incarnation is able to “fill with wonder, all the earth” (stanza 1) because it is such an unexplainable birth—accomplished not “by human power or seed” but “only by the Spirit’s breath” (stanza 2). The Confessions and Testimonies of the church are careful to affirm the miraculous nature of the virgin birth. Belgic Confession, Article 18 says that Jesus was “conceived in the womb...by the power of the Holy Spirit, without male participation.”

Additionally, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 14, Question and Answer 35 teaches that he took the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary “through the working of the Holy Spirit.” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 23 also includes the phrase, “conceived by the Holy Spirit.”
75. Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor
A sense of amazement pervades this song. Why would someone so rich become poor? It is for “love’s sake,” says stanza 1 and stanza 3 proclaims: “Lord you are love beyond all telling.” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 5 says it is “with fierce love” that God holds this world and sent Jesus into the world.

78. Of the Father’s Love Begotten
God’s “fierce love” referred to in Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 5 is the power behind the scenes in this song.

In stanza 2, this song, like Heidelberg Catechism, Question and Answer 35, explains the conceiving of Christ by the Holy Spirit: the eternal Son of God took a truly human nature to himself “through the working of the Holy Spirit from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary.”

This hymn concludes with a doxology of praise for all three members of the Trinity who were involved in the incarnation. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Question and Answer 31 captures the role of each when it professes that Christ is called anointed, because he has been “ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit” to be our prophet, priest, and king.

80. Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
Belgic Confession, Articles 18 and 19 proclaim that Christ is “truly our Emmanuel—God with us” and he, as a divine being, truly assumed a human nature by the power of the Holy Spirit so that the two natures are “inseparably united and joined together.” This profound truth, that Jesus is fully human and fully divine, is proclaimed through Jesus’ many names in this song: “everlasting Lord,” “offspring of the virgin’s womb,” “incarnate Deity,” and the Godhead “veiled in flesh.”

81. Angels, from the Realms of Glory
Long before his birth, Jesus was promised, and thus he became “the great desire of nations” (stanza 3). When he came, he did as foretold by “gathering all nations to him” (stanza 4).

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 21 leads us to profess that the Lord promised to be God to Abraham and Sarah and their children, “blessing the nations through them” and shaping them to be a people who will be “a light to the nations.” In these words we catch a glimpse of
what Heidelberg Catechism teaches in Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54, that Christ “through his Spirit and Word” will gather a church “from the entire human race.”

This Christmas hymn concludes with a Trinitarian doxology, a reflection of the perspective found in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Question and Answer 31 that all three persons of the Trinity are involved in the birth of the newborn King. Christ is ordained by God the Father and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

87. Once in Royal David’s City
There is a sharp contrast in this song from the child who is characterized as a “baby in a manger” and “little child” in stanza 1 and “weak and helpless” in stanza 3, and then in stanzas 4 and 5 is seen as the “Lord in heaven above” and “at God’s right hand on high.” The Apostles’ Creed, as explained in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 14-19, Questions and Answers 35-52 shows the same contrast when “born,” “suffered,” “dead,” and “buried” give way to “ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God” and “will come to judge the living and the dead.”

91. God Reigns! Earth Rejoices
“Former lamentations now are songs of peace,” stanza 3 of the song says. This hopeful joy in Christ’s coming is found in Our Song of Hope, stanza 1: “God is the world’s true Hope,” and therefore “we are a people of hope” (stanza 1), “Jesus Christ is the hope of God’s world” (stanza 4), and it even makes clear that “our ascended Lord gives hope for two ages”—in the age to come and in this age (stanza 5).

92. Joy to the World
The confident and joyful proclamation of this well-loved carol is echoed in the conviction expressed in Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 18 that “our Lord set out on the long road of redemption to reclaim the lost as his people and the world as his kingdom.” As a result, “Jesus ascended in triumph, raising our humanity to the heavenly throne. All authority, glory and sovereign power are given to him” (paragraph 27).

95. What Child Is This
The narrative of Christ’s incarnation is told in this song: stanza 1 begins with a child sleeping on Mary’s lap, a child who is the Word made flesh. In stanza 2, this child is called to bear the cross and yet is proclaimed as the King of kings who brings salvation. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 23 teaches that “God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.”

96. What Feast of Love
This Christmas song sets in contrast the gift from heaven that is celebrated around the manger with the gift that is celebrated at the table—the reason for the newborn in the manger. The metaphors here of Christ as the bread from heaven and of the banquet from heaven (stanza 1) and the wine of love (stanza 3) are reminders of the Lord’s Supper which Christ instituted as a way of remembering him and of being nurtured with the food of everlasting life (stanza 1). The words “taste and see,” in stanzas 1 and 3, are reminders of the invitation of Christ in the upper room to “take...eat...drink...”

It is worth considering Belgic Confession, Article 35, as a reminder to recognize the “spiritual and heavenly bread...by which our life is sustained.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 29, Question and Answer 79 also brings to mind that these elements are the “true food and drink of our souls for eternal life.”

97. Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace
When Simeon prayed these words, he must have been well aware of “the long road of redemption” as Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 18 calls it. God’s “fierce love” (paragraph 5) with which he held this world caused him to turn toward this world with patience and tender care (paragraph 18). Simeon is delighted to see the fulfillment of his promises.
Christ’s Life

EPHANAY

Theme: Jesus Is the Light of the World

In stanza 2 of “Jesus, the Light of the World,” “the nations” rise to joyfully praise Jesus and come to his light. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 21, leads us to profess that the Lord promised to be God to Abraham and Sarah and their children, “blessing the nations through them” and shaping them to be a people who will be “a light to the nations.” In these words we catch a glimpse of what Heidelberg Catechism teaches us in Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54, that Christ “through his Spirit and Word”...will gather a church “from the entire human race.”

In stanza 4, Jesus is proclaimed as the “heaven-born Prince of Peace.” We also hear Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 54 identifying him as the “Prince of Peace,” and calling us all to be “peacemakers,” walking in the ways of peace and calling on our governments to work for peace.

Songs that follow this theme:
100. Jesus, the Light of the World
103. Arise, Shine, for Your Light Is Come

Other songs in this section:

101. How Bright Appears the Morning Star
In stanza 1, this song gives Jesus multiple names: “Righteous Branch, Jesse’s Rod, Song of Man and Son of God,” and “great Emmanuel.” Belgic Confession, Article 18 explains the process by which he took on the flesh and blood of children and then concludes by saying, “In this way Christ is truly our Emmanuel—that is: ‘God with Us.’”

Stanza 2 refers to the way in which Christ “cast a pitying eye on his helpless creature.” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 5 uses a much stronger reference in professing that God sent Jesus into the world because of his “fierce love.”

104. Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
Throughout stanza 2, Jesus is manifested as “prophet, priest and king supreme”; using parallel language, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Question and Answer 31 explains that Jesus is
“anointed with the Holy Spirit” to be our “chief prophet and teacher,” our “only high priest” and our “eternal king.”

The refrain ends by confessing that “God in flesh [is] made manifest.” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 14, Question and Answer 35 also confesses that Jesus “took to himself, through the working of the Holy Spirit, from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, a truly human nature...”

109. Hail to the Lord’s Anointed
Stanza 1 proclaims immediately that the Lord’s anointed one is “great David’s greater Son!” Belgic Confession, Article 18 also traces his lineage back to David: “…the fruit of the loins of David...descended from David...the seed of David; the root of Jesse.”

And yet, the rule of the promised descendent of David, Jesus, will only begin “in the time appointed” (stanza 1). This truth is also told in Belgic Confession, Article 18: God fulfilled his promise “at the time appointed.”

Stanza 4 says, “all nations shall adore you,” a truth that is rooted in the prediction that the Messiah was coming for “all nations.” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54 professes that the Son of God gathers his church “out of the entire human race,” a church that “is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain people. But it is spread and dispersed through the entire world...” (Belgic Confession, Article 27).

The song concludes in stanza 4 picturing “a kingdom without end,” a truth that parallels Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 44: “Jesus Christ rules over all,” “His kingdom will come, and the Lord will rule” (paragraph 55). Our Song of Hope, stanza 21 professes: “There will be a new heaven and a new earth, and all creation will be filled with God’s glory.”

110. Behold the Lamb of God
Stanza 13 climaxes with a profession of Christ’s resurrection. The Apostles’ Creed professes: “The third day he rose again from the dead,” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 17, Question and Answer 45) calling God’s people to declare that in Christ’s resurrection, “he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death.” By his resurrection we are “already raised to a new life.”

And “Christ’s resurrection is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 25 states that “God raised him from the dead; he walked out of the grave, conqueror of sin and death—Lord of life!”

111. O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
There was only one way for the sins of the world to be atoned for—God sent his one and only beloved Son into the world, who took “our mortal form for mortal’s sake” (stanza 1) and was
made in "‘human form’, truly assuming a human nature, with all its weaknesses, except for sin...” (Belgic Confession, Article 18).

He was baptized for us, stanza 2 says, and Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 24 assures us that “in his baptism and temptations...Jesus lived a full and righteous human life before us.”

Yet the reason for his coming was to suffer and die for the sins of the world. Stanza 4 captures the process of his suffering and death on the cross. Belgic Confession, Article 21, recounts the many stages of Jesus’ suffering: “...He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.” In Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 15 and 16, Questions and Answers 37-44, there is a more complete description of the significance of his sufferings and death. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 25, professes that in his suffering and death, “He carried God’s judgment on our sin—his sacrifice removed our guilt.”

Stanza 5 proclaims: “For us he rose from death again” and the same truth is professed in Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 25, that “God raised him from the dead; he walked out of the grave, conqueror of sin and death—Lord of Life!” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 19, Question and Answer 50 explains that he “ascended to heaven to show there that he is head of his church, the one through whom the Father rules all things.” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 28 says that the ascended Jesus, at Pentecost, “becomes the baptizer, drenching his followers with his Spirit, creating a new community where Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make their home.”

And finally, the song ends in stanza 6 with a doxology to the Trinity. Belgic Confession, Article 8 gives a fuller explanation of all three persons of the Holy Trinity, while Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 8, Questions and Answers 24 and 25 identifies the primary tasks of each. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 2 proclaims: “God is King: Let the earth be glad! Christ is victor: his rule has begun! The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed! Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!”
Christ’s Life

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

112. When You, O Lord, Were Baptized
In this song there are references to the actions of each member of the Holy Trinity in the event of Jesus’ baptism. The authenticity of this event is verified by its inclusion in Belgic Confession, Article 9, in which all three persons are included—the voice of the Father, the Son in the water, and the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove: “So, in the baptism of all believers this form was prescribed by Christ: Baptize all people ‘in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’”

113. Mark How the Lamb of God’s Self-Offering
Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 25 testifies that when we are set right with God, we are “given new life, and called to walk with him in freedom from sin’s dominion.”

Stanza 3 refers to the “royal priesthood,” a calling that all of God’s children share, because we “share in his anointing...to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, and to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Question and Answer 32).

See also number 112 (above), “When You, O Lord, Were Baptized.”

115. Jesus, Tempted in the Desert
It is worth considering, when reflecting on the temptations of Christ, to bear in mind the testimony from Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 24, that Jesus “in his baptism and temptations, teaching and miracles, battles with demons and friendship with sinners...lived a full and righteous human life before us... He lovingly obeyed the Father and made present in deed and word the coming rule of God.”
TEACHING AND MIRACLES

117. Blest Are They
Stanzas 4 and 5 speak about the call to seek peace and, even, to suffer hate. These requirements are the same as those which gave rise to the Belhar Confession, Section 3. The church is called to be a “peacemaker” and to “witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwell.” The Belhar Confession, Section 5 calls the church to obedience even though “...punishment and suffering be the consequence.”

118. The Kingdom of Our God Is Like
This song proclaims the identity of the kingdom toward which God’s children are called to work. Similarly, Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 24 says: “As God’s Son, he lovingly obeyed the Father and made present in deed and word this coming rule of God.”

119. Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning
The entire spirit of this song is expectancy and readiness, cultivated by the awareness that the “time is drawing nigh” and Jesus Christ will soon return and bring the final consummation. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 57 declares: “We live confidently, anticipating his coming, offering him our daily lives – our acts of kindness, our loyalty, and our love—knowing that he will weave even our sins and sorrows into his sovereign purpose.”

120. Look and Learn
This song speaks about looking and learning from God’s creation, particularly the flowers and the birds. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Questions and Answers 27 and 28 profess that we learn to have “good confidence in our God and Father...for all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they can neither move nor be moved.” Belgic Confession, Article 13 testifies that we may trust that God watches over us with such fatherly care that not “even a little bird can fall to the ground without the will of our father.”

121. Jesus Calls Us, O’er the Tumult
Stanza 2 warns us against “the vain world’s golden store” and “each idol,” a parallel warning to that of the Decalogue given on Mt. Sinai. Similarly, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 34, Question and Answer 95 says: “Idolatry is having or inventing something in which one trusts in place of or alongside of the only true God, who has revealed himself in the Word.”

122. Far from Home We Run, Rebellious
It is worth considering the picture of the Prodigal Son while singing this song. *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 5 describes the redeeming love of God, “God holds this world in fierce love!”

124. A Sower’s Seed Fell on a Path
While the Parable of the Sower is the scripture reference for this song, the refrain highlights the key responsibility of having “ears to hear your Word and hearts where seed can grow.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54 proclaims that the Holy Spirit gathers the church “through his Spirit and Word.”

Belgic Confession, Article 7 testifies that “this Holy Scripture contains the will of God completely and...everything one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it.”

125. Jesus the Lord Said, “I Am the Bread”
Before singing this song, consider reading Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 7, Question and Answer 20: “Only those are saved who through true faith are grafted into Christ and accept all his benefits.”

Additionally, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 11, Question and Answer 30 says, “Either Jesus is not a perfect savior, or those who in true faith accept this savior have in him all they need for their salvation.”

126. Come, One And All
Stanza 4 is a beautiful testimony about our hope beyond death when “the Lord will lift us free from death to walk with him eternally.” A similarly beautiful profession is found in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Question and Answer 58, “…after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined; a blessedness in which to praise God forever.”

127. Jesus Heard with Deep Compassion
This song reflects the deep compassion of the ministry of Christ; similarly, *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 24 testifies that “in his baptism and temptations, teaching and miracles, battles with demons and friendships with sinners, Jesus lived a full and righteous human life before us.”

128. I Heard the Voice of Jesus Calling
Stanza 6 calls us to taste and see of the goodness of Christ at the Lord’s Table, a prominent theme in confessional statements about the Lord’s Table, such as Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 28-30, Questions and Answers 75-82 and Belgic Confession, Article 35.
Stanza 7 speaks of our hope of eternal life. How beautiful to match up these words with Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Question and Answer 58, “…after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined; a blessedness in which to praise God forever.”

129. Somelandela/We Will Follow
The call to follow Christ that is expressed in this song, is also expressed very comprehensively in Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 41-43: “To follow this Lord is to serve him wherever we are without fitting in, light in darkness, salt in a spoiling world.”

Belhar Confession, Section 4, is also explicit in helping us to sense our call to follow Christ who wishes to “bring about justice and true peace among people.”
Christ’s Life

TRANSFIGURATION AND LENTEN JOURNEY

130. Jesus on the Mountain Peak
Stanza 3 says that the nations “cry aloud in wonder.” In the same spirit, *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 21 confesses that the Lord promised to bless “the nations” through Abraham and his seed, and God chose Israel to be “a light to the nations.”

*Our Song of Hope*, paragraph 5 testifies that the “Holy Spirit is with us, calling nations to follow God’s path...”

131. Christ, We Climb with You the Mountain
Stanza 4 prays for Christ “help the church...share with you love’s cost and pain...” This prayer is remarkably similar to the call from *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 41 in which the mission of Christ’s church is a call to “embrace God’s mission...in the world.”

132. Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days
Stanza 5 ends by speaking of an “Easter of unending joy,” stirring the hope and confidence expressed so beautifully in *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraphs 56-58.

133. Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory
Stanza 2 is a call to follow the Savior “through the valley to the cross.” This call is remarkably similar to the call of *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 41 in which the mission of Christ’s church is a call to “embrace God’s mission...in the world.”

134. Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights
Stanzas 5-6 speak of the hope of “resurrection morn” and “Easter Day,” alluding to hope and confidence expressed so beautifully in *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraphs 56-58.

136. To My Precious Lord
Stanza 3 speaks of the hope of when Jesus comes “back to earth again,” which, according to Belgic Confession, Article 37, he will do so “bodily and visibly.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 19, Question and Answer 52 professes that Jesus will return “to judge the living and the dead.”

137. Christ, the Life of All the Living
This song is saturated with an awareness of the vicarious suffering of Christ, for this we owe him a “…thousand, thousand thanks.” Belgic Confession, Article 21 captures the heart of our
confidence and assurance with its profession: “And he endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.”

141. Somos pueblo que camina/We Are People on a Journey
Both stanza 3 and the refrain speak of the Lord’s Table with “the bread that God provides...at the holy feast of God.” This reminder leads us to focus on the truth of Belgic Confession, Article 35, which professes Christ as the “living bread,” and Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 29, Question and Answer 79, which professes that to believe this truth is “the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life.”

Stanza 5 speaks of “those who truly seek for justice”; similarly, the Belhar Confession, Section 4 reveals God as the one who “wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.”

142. We Are People on a Journey
Stanza 3 is a reminder of the table of the Lord; in the same way, Belgic Confession, Article 35 professes Christ as the “living bread,” “the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 29, Question and Answer 79).
Christ’s Passion and Exaltation

Palm Sunday

146. All Glory, Laud, and Honor
In Stanza 1, Christ is referred to as the “King of Israel and David’s royal Son” and “the King and blessed one.” Belgic Confession, Article 18 traces Christ’s lineage to David as well: Christ is “descended from David according to the flesh...”

Maundy Thursday

No links are found for this section
Christ’s Passion and Exaltation

GOOD FRIDAY

161. Go to Dark Gethsemane
The first few stanzas of this hymn recount the experiences of Christ’s suffering in Gethsemane and on Calvary. Belgic Confession, Articles 20 and 21 confess the significance of these sufferings in Christ’s priestly role and how he “endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.”

The account of his suffering and death in stanzas 1-4 is given a much more full explanation in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 15-16, Questions and Answers 37-43: “Nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the son of God.”

The end of stanza 5 proclaims the resurrection of Christ as the source of our hope. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 17, Question and Answer 45 clearly testifies of its benefits for us: “…so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death…we too are already raised to a new life...(and it) is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.”

162. To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord
While Christ was mocked by some, this text speaks of our understanding now that Christ’s reign is real (stanza 1), his crown is glorious (stanza 1), and his kingdom “will not cease to grow” (stanza 3). This firm hope is expressed in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Question and Answer 31: Christ has been anointed to be the “eternal king who governs by his word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.”

Theme: The Significance of Christ’s Suffering
These songs reflect the narrative of the suffering and death of Christ on Calvary, events whose significance and purpose is deepened by the confessions of the church. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 15-16, Questions and Answers 37-44 explain the significance of each step of his suffering. Question and Answer 40 testifies that Christ had to suffer death “because God’s justice and truth require it; nothing else could pay for our sins except the death of the son of God.”

The Belgic Confession, Article 20 professes that “God made known his justice toward his Son...poured out his goodness and mercy on us...giving to us his Son to die, by a most perfect love, and raising him to life for our justification, in order that by him we might have immortality and eternal life.”
Consider also the testimony of Belgic Confession, Article 21: “He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.”

Songs that follow this theme:

163. What Grace Is This
164. What Wondrous Love
166. Were You There
167. Beneath the Cross of Jesus
168. O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
170. Man of Sorrows—What a Name
171. Calvary
172. Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended
173. Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed
174. I Stand Amazed
175. When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
177. Oh to See the Dawn
Christ’s Passion and Exaltation

EASTER

201. Affirmation: Jesus, Our Hope
These are rich and powerful words from Our Song of Hope, Stanza 4 and 5, for a congregational affirmation before singing of our Easter joy.

Theme: The Truth of Easter
As a collective whole, these Easter hymns accomplish three functions: they recount the Easter narrative, proclaim our Easter hope, and celebrate our joy at Christ’s resurrection. While it is impossible to identify separate confessional links for each one, as a whole they are built on the professions of Easter truths that are expressed primarily in Heidelberg Catechism. Note especially the following:

- Lord’s Day 17, Question and Answer 45 declares that Christ’s resurrection makes us share in Christ’s righteousness, raises us to a new life by his power, and is a sure pledge to us of our resurrection.
- Lord’s Day 22, Question and Answer 57 comforts us to know that not only our soul but “also my very flesh will be raised by the power of God, reunited with my soul, and made like Christ’s glorious body.”
- Lord’s Day 22, Question and Answer 58 says that it may be a comfort to know that while experiencing the beginning of eternal joy now, “after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.”

In addition, Our Song of Hope, stanza 5 professes: “On the day of the resurrection, the tomb was empty; His disciples saw Him; death was defeated; new life had come. God’s purpose for the world was sealed.”

Songs that follow this theme:

179. Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven
181. See, What a Morning
182. Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
183. Aleluya/Alleluia
184. Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing
185. The Strife Is O’er, the Battle Done
186. Low in the Grave He Lay
187. Thine Is the Glory
188. Mfurahini, haleluya/Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia
190. O Sons and Daughters
191. Praise the Savior, Now and Ever
192. Oh, qué bueno es Jesús/Oh, How Good Is Christ the Lord
193. I Know That My Redeemer Lives
194. Refuge and Rock
196. Give Thanks to God for All His Goodness
197. Cristo vive/Christ Is Risen
198. Celtic Alleluia
199. Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain
202. This Joyful Eastertide
203. Now the Green Blade Rises
204. Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna
205. Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen
206. Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing
207. Come to Us, Beloved Stranger
Christ’s Passion and Exaltation

ASCENSION AND REIGN

213. Affirmation: The Benefits of the Ascension
This affirmation from Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 18, Question and Answer 49, is hope-filled and deeply personal. Worshipers who profess these words will be nurtured.

Theme: All Authority Belongs to Christ
The confessions make it clear that the ascension of Christ opened the door to the rule of his kingdom. This fact is comforting to those who love him and is a fearful threat to those who despise him. The response therefore is praise and adoration from people of faith, and resistance from those who reject him.

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 27 affirms “All authority, glory and sovereign power are given to him,” and reaffirms it in paragraph 43: “Jesus Christ rules over all.”

Consider the clear affirmation made in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 19, Question and Answer 50: “Christ ascended to heaven to show there that he is the head of his church, the one through whom the Father rules all things.”

It is no wonder that those who despise him join together to conspire against him, for Christ’s aim as Lord is to “destroy the devil’s work…every force which revolts against you and every conspiracy against your holy word” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 48, Question and Answer 123).

Songs that follow this theme:

214. Why This Dark Conspiracy
216. Nations, Clap Your Hands
217. The LORD unto my Lord Has Said
218. To Your Unequaled Strength
219. Jesus Shall Reign
220. At the Name of Jesus
221. For the Honor of Our King
222. He Is King of Kings
223. Crown Him with Many Crowns
224. Rejoice, the Lord is King
225. You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd
226. Jesus Is Lord
227. He Is Lord
Christ’s Passion and Exaltation

PENTECOST

229. Affirmation: The Holy Spirit
This succinct yet beautiful affirmation from Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 20, Question and Answer 53 provides a clear statement of the identity and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Theme: The Work of the Spirit
It is difficult to isolate certain confessional themes in each song about the Holy Spirit in this section. Rather, there are several themes that are woven together in nearly all of these songs. The Holy Spirit is identified as one with the Father and the Son in the Holy Trinity; we plead for the coming and indwelling of the Spirit in our lives; the Spirit’s work is evident in creation and in God’s people throughout redemptive history; the Spirit calls and empowers the church for mission; and the Spirit is the source of power, fruit, and hope. These themes are expressed in confessional statements such as these:

- Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 20, Question and Answer 53 testifies, “...the Spirit, with the Father and the Son, is eternal God.” In addition, the Spirit “makes me share in Christ and all his benefits, comforts me, and will remain with me forever.”
- Our World Belongs to God has helpful references to these multiple themes of the Spirit’s work and ministry.
  - “Jesus becomes the baptizer, drenching his followers with the Spirit, creating a new community where Father, Son and Spirit make their home” (paragraph 28).
  - “The Spirit renews our hearts and moves us to faith... stands by us in our need and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant” (paragraph 29).
  - “God the Spirit lavishes gifts on the church in astonishing variety...equipping each member to build up the body of Christ and to serve our neighbors.”
  - “The Spirit gathers people from every tongue, tribe and nation into the unity of the body of Christ” (paragraph 30).
  - “Men and women, impelled by the Spirit go next door and far away...pointing to the reign of God with what they do and say” (paragraph 30).
- Our Song of Hope also contributes very clearly regarding the Spirit’s work:
  - “The Holy Spirit speaks through the Scriptures...has inspired Greek and Hebrew words, setting God’s truth in human language, placing God’s teaching in ancient culture, proclaiming the Gospel in the history of the world” (stanza 6).
“The Holy Spirit speaks through the church, measuring its words by the canonical Scriptures...has spoken in the ancient creeds, and in the confessions of the Reformation” (stanza 7).

“The Spirit sends [the church] out in ministry to preach good news to the poor, righteousness to the nations, and peace among all people” (stanza 16).

“The Holy Spirit builds one church, united in one Lord and one hope, with one ministry around one table” (stanza 17).

The Spirit calls all believers in Jesus to respond in worship together, to accept all the gifts from the Spirit, to learn from each other’s traditions, to make unity visible on earth” (stanza 17).

“...The Spirit works at the ends of the world before the church has there spoken a word” (stanza 20).

Songs that follow this theme:

228. Send Us Your Spirit
230. Come, Holy Spirit
231. Come, Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire
232. Come, Holy Ghost
233. Haleluya, Puji Tuhan/Alleluia, Praise the Lord
234. Come Down, O Love Divine
235. Spirit, Working in Creation
236. Praise the Spirit in Creation
237. Spirit of God, Unleashed on Earth
238. Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
239. Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow
240. Fear Not, Rejoice and Be Glad
241. Santo Espíritu, excelsa paloma/Holy Spirit, from Heaven Descended
242. When Our Savior, Yesu, Went Away
Joining in the Spirit’s Work

THROUGH THE CHURCH

259. Affirmation: The Unity of the Body
This affirmation uses the words of the Belhar Confession to express the bond of communion among believers in Jesus Christ.

263. Affirmation: Joining The Mission of God
This affirmation leads God’s children to testify regarding our commitment to the work of the Church in the world through the words of Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 41 and 42.

Theme: Using God’s Gifts in Community
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 55 professes “the communion of the saints,” by which we mean that “each member should consider it a duty to use [their] gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.”

The Belhar Confession, Section 2 testifies that the unity of God’s children becomes active “in a variety of ways; in that we love one another, that we experience, practice and pursue community with one another...”

Songs that follow this theme:
256. They’ll Know We Are Christians
257. Blest Be the Tie That Binds
258. Koinonia
260. Miren qué bueno/Oh, Look and Wonder

Theme: Christ Gathers a Community
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54 confesses that the ascended Jesus Christ is now “head of his church, the one through whom the Father rules all things” and “through his Word and Spirit, out of the entire human race, gathers...a community chosen for eternal life...”

Songs that follow this theme:
261. Shout, for the Blessed Jesus Reigns
264. Lift High the Cross
268. In Christ There Is No East or West
269. All Are Welcome
Other songs in this section:

243. One People, Here, We Gather
In stanza 1, this song speaks of a “Pentecost of nations” and in doing so, acknowledges like Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54 does, which says: the Son of God gathers his church “…out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end.”

The Belgic Confession, Article 27 professes that the church is “…not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain people…but it is spread and dispersed throughout the entire world…”

*Our World Belongs to God,* paragraph 30 testifies, “The Spirit of God gathers people from every tongue, tribe and nation into the unity of the body of Christ.”

In stanza 1, this song speaks about the “varieties of gifts” that God’s children possess. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 55 professes that God’s children should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the full service and enrichment of the other members.”

248. We Are Your People
How rich is the congregation which remembers that the Holy Spirit draws all of God’s people together as the communion of saints. We not only “share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts,” but we also “consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 55).

The vision in this song is expressed in *Our World Belongs to God,* paragraph 41: the Spirit calls all members “…to embrace God’s mission in their neighborhood and in the world…this mission is central to our being.”

When we sing that we are to be God’s voice, hands and face, the *Belhar Confession,* Section 4 is a reminder that God has “revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people.”

*Our Song of Hope,* stanza 16 testifies that the Spirit “…sends [the church] out in ministry to preach good news to the poor, righteousness to the nations, and peace among all people.”

250. Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
Stanza 4 is doxological, giving praise to all three members of the Trinity. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 8, Question and Answer 24 and 25, and Belgic Confession, Article 8 give a clear and
succinct statement about the Trinity: “all three are one in truth and power, in goodness and mercy.”

251. The Church’s One Foundation
The words from stanza 1, “...she is his new creation by water and the Word” parallel Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54, testifying that Christ “…through his Spirit and Word...gathers, protects and preserves for himself a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith.”

Stanza 2 combines two powerful truths: the church is “elect” and the church is from “every nation.” The Canons of Dort I, 7 verifies both of these by teaching that “election is God’s unchangeable purpose by which he...chose in Christ to salvation a definite number of particular people out of the entire human race.”

Stanzas 3 and 4 acknowledge that the church will often suffer while she tries to be obedient. The Belhar Confession, Section 5 says that God’s people ought not to be surprised at this; it is to be expected.

Stanza 4 also speaks of the church “waiting the consummation of peace forevermore.” The Apostles Creed professes that we believe in “the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Questions and Answers 57-58 expand on this profession: “…after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forevermore.”

Similarly, several confessions end with a testimony about this consummation. These rich testimonies are in Belgic Confession, Article 37; Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 55-58; and in Our Song of Hope, stanzas 20-21.

252. Church of God, Elect and Glorious
This song speaks of the Church of God as “elect.” The Canons of Dort I, 7 verifies both of these by teaching that “election is God’s unchangeable purpose by which he...chose in Christ to salvation a definite number of particular people out of the entire human race.”

Stanza 1 calls God’s children to “know the purpose of your calling” and in stanza 4 to “fulfill your calling,” phrases that have far greater content than at first glance. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 41 powerfully explains the mission of the church and helps us realize how far-reaching this calling of the church is: “…the Spirit calls all members to embrace God’s mission in their neighborhoods and in the world: to feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner. We repent of leaving this work to a few, for this mission is central to our being.”

254. For All the Saints
Two rich and beautiful professions are woven together in this song—the perseverance of the saints, and the ultimate consummation for the church. In conjunction with this song, one might consider forming a litany from the words of the Canons of Dort V, 3 and Belgic Confession, Article 37:

- Canons of Dort V, 3: “But God is faithful, mercifully strengthening them in the grace once conferred on them and powerfully preserving them in it to the end.”
- Belgic Confession, Article 37: “...the faithful and elect will be crowned with glory and honor. The Son of God will profess their names before God his Father the holy and elect angels; all tears shall be wiped from their eyes and their cause...will be acknowledged as the cause of the Son of God. As a reward the Lord will make them possess a glory such as the human heart could never imagine.”

Similarly, a litany could be constructed from the words of Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 56-58. Rich testimonies of hope are found in these words!

255. Somos uno en Cristo/We Are One in Christ Jesus
The unity of the church in the Holy Spirit is reflected in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54 when it says that we are “united in true faith.” Additionally, Our Song of Hope, stanza 17 professes, “The Holy Spirit builds one church, united in one Lord and one hope, with one ministry around one table.”
Joining in the Spirit’s Work

IN CULTURE, COMMUNITIES, AND NATIONS

274. O God, Who Gives to Humankind
Not many songs or confessional readings address the matter of learning and education. This is a golden opportunity to reinforce the testimony of Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 47 that “…we foster schools and teaching in which God’s truth shines in all learning.”

Theme: The Cry from the Nations
Any song or testimony about the cries that comes from our nations and cities must be met with confessional statements about the mission of the church as listed here.

Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 41-43 are explicit and pointed about the mission of the church: “In a world estranged from God, where happiness and peace are offered in many names and millions face confusing choices, we witness—with respect for followers of other ways—to the only one in whose name salvation is found: Jesus Christ.”

Later, Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 52-54 point to the task of the church in seeking public justice and functioning as a peacemaker: “We call on our governments to work for peace and to restore just relationships. We deplore the spread of weapons in our world and on our streets with the risks they bring and the horrors they threaten…”

The Belhar Confession, section 3 calls the church to be a peacemaker, and section 4 calls the church “to bring about justice and true peace.”

Our Song of Hope, stanza 10 calls the church to seek “the welfare of the people” and to work “against inhuman oppression of humanity.”

Songs that follow this theme:

278. The City Is Alive, O God
282. O God of Every Nation
283. O God of Love, Forever Blest
285. Blest Be God
288. Shalom/Bring Peace
289. For the Healing of the Nations
290. Hear Us, O Lord, As We Voice Our Laments
291. How Long, O Lord, How Long
292. There Where the Judges Gather
293. O Great God and Lord of the Earth
294. When Asked, Who Is My Neighbor
295. Let Justice Flow
296. We Are Called
297. Open Our Eyes
298. Salaam/Peace
299. Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
301. How Blest Are Those Who Fear the LORD
303. Healer of Our Every Ill
Joining in the Spirit’s Work

IN FAMILY AND RELATIONSHIPS

Theme: Home, Family and Marriage
This theme focuses on the home, family, and marriage, a topic with helpful references in the confessions. *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 46, testifies to the implications of living as “the family of God.”

*Our Song of Hope*, stanza 13 calls God’s children to be “stewards of marriage with its lifelong commitment to love...”

Songs that follow this theme:
311. Unless the LORD Builds the House
312. In Our Households, Heavenly Father
313. Whoever Fears the Lord
314. Tell Your Children
315. Where Love Is, God Abides
316. When Love Is Found
317. God, Who Created Hearts to Love
318. Help Us Accept Each Other
Joining in the Spirit’s Work

IN OUR WALK WITH GOD

342. Affirmation: True Faith
Through the words of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 7, Question and Answer 21, this affirmation provides a rich means for worshipers to affirm the nature of the faith by which they live.

Theme: The Holy Spirit Renews Our Hearts
The plea of this song is reflected by the testimony of Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 29. Here it is made clear that it is uniquely the Holy Spirit who “renews our hearts and moves us to faith, leads us into truth, and helps us to pray, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant.” No wonder the Christian pleads for the Spirit to come and do this work!

Songs that follow this theme:
320. Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
321. We Need the Power of the Holy Spirit

Theme: Prayer for God’s Leading and Care
This song includes a plea and a prayer seeking God’s leading and care. Those who seek this leading can know that the Holy Spirit always aims to provide just such care for the believer. He not only renews our hearts, but also “leads us into truth, and helps us to pray, stands by us in our need, and makes our obedience fresh and vibrant” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 29).

Songs that follow this theme:
329. Lead Me, Guide Me
330. Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
331. To the Hills I Lift My Eyes
332. As the Deer Pants for the Water
341. We’ve Come This Far by Faith

Other songs in this section:

323. With All My Heart I Thank You, LORD
We do not walk with God to gain his attention and favor, but rather to exhibit our profound thankfulness to him. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1 makes it clear
that “because I belong to him, Christ...makes we heartily willing and ready from now on to live for him.”

In addition, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86 gives us a beautiful and moving testimony of why God’s children are called to live obediently: Christ has redeemed us by his blood. Therefore, God’s children are called to “show that we are thankful to God for his benefits.”

324. O For a Closer Walk with God
This song reminds us of the reality that we, though being children of God, do still wander from him, lose the sense of his presence, and need to return. Stanzas 2-4 are the prayer of a believer who has lost the sense of a one-time close walk with God. The Canons of Dort V, 4 teaches us that even true believers are led astray by the desires of the flesh, of the world and of Satan, and therefore are called to watch and pray that they may be restored to a “closer walk with God.”

325. O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee
Stanza 3 is a petition that we may be taught the patience of Christ. Similarly, Our Song of Hope, stanza 10 points out the need for God’s children to be filled “with the patience of Christ.”

327. When We Walk with the Lord
The theme of this song centers on happiness, joy and delight, found in the Christian life when God’s children walk consistently with the Lord. Similarly, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86 professes that as God’s children do good works, i.e. grateful and obedient living, they will be “assured of [their] faith by its fruits.”

328. Lead On, O King Eternal
The confessions of the Reformed Faith are rich in references to the Kingship of Christ. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 18 and 19, Questions and Answers 46-52 reflect on the phrase from the Apostles’ Creed: “He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 19, Question and Answer 50 professes that “he is head of the church, (and) the one through whom the Father rules all things.”

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 27 professes that “all authority, glory, and sovereign power are given to him. There he hears our prayers and pleads our cause before the Father.”

333. All My Life
When he wrote this song, Ken Medema was reflecting the confused cry of the Psalmist in Psalm 73. Yet notice how the Psalm (and song) is not totally a cry of confusion, but also moves toward an expression of faith, “For God has changed my vision...” (stanza 5). When Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 28 reflects on God’s providence, it provides the
same changed vision and in a beautiful testimony claims we can not only be “thankful when things go well” but can also be “patient when things go against us” and “we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.”

334. May the Mind of Christ, My Savior
Developing the mind of Christ is a key element in the believer’s sanctification. Therefore the church, as the fellowship of those who confess Jesus as Lord, “is the bride of Christ, his chosen partner, loved by Jesus and loving him; delight in his presence, seeking him I pray—silent before the mystery of his love” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 35).

In addition, Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 47 points to the fact that God’s truth should shine forth in all learning: “All students, without regard to abilities, race, or wealth, bear God’s image and deserve an education that helps them use their gifts fully.”

335. Like a Child Rests
The confessions of the church at times refer to the fact that child-like silence, resting and trusting, are all part of a believer’s walk with God. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 35 testifies that believers are called to be “silent before the mystery of his love.” Belgic Confession, Article 13 testifies that “we do not wish to inquire with undue curiosity into what God does that surpasses human understanding and is beyond our ability to comprehend.”

337. LORD, You Have Searched Me
Stanzas 3 and 4 of this song express the wonder of knowing the creator God. In a similar way, Belgic Confession, Article 12 says in a spirit of awe: “God has given all creatures their being, form and appearance and their various functions for serving their Creator.”

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 10 testifies that we are “made in God’s image to live in loving communion with our Maker…”

Later, Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 44 confesses: “…life is a gift from God…” that we receive “thankfully with reverence for the Creator.”

343. Blessed Be Your Name
Some may find it difficult to sing this song; it expresses the call of God’s people to bless God’s name even when the road leads through a desert (stanza 2) or suffering (stanza 4). Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 28 claims that believing in the providence of God calls us to be not only “thankful when things go well,” but also “patient when things go against us” and to have “good confidence in our God and Father that nothing will separate us from his love.”
Belgic Confession, Article 13 testifies that “we rest” in the thought that “nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father, who watches over us with fatherly care.”

349. I Will Sing a Song of Triumph
“I Will Sing a Song of Triumph” speaks of victory even though “unnumbered troubles” (stanza 1) surround us, a topic that some may find difficult to sing. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 28 claims that believing in the providence of God calls us to be not only “thankful when things go well,” but also “patient when things go against us” and to have “good confidence in our God and Father that nothing will separate us from his love.”

Belgic Confession, Article 13 testifies that “we rest” in the thought that “nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father, who watches over us with fatherly care.”

351. Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Full of praise, this song reaches a crescendo of hope in stanza 4 when it prays that Christ will come and “finish, then, thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be...” This hope of final perfection is expressed beautifully in a number of confessions. Belgic Confession, Article 37 says that when Christ returns, “The faithful and elect will be crowned with glory and honor” and “the Lord will make them possess a glory such as the human heart could never imagine... So we look forward to that great day with longing in order to fully enjoy the promises of God in Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Even more pointedly, Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 56 professes, “We long for that day when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light.”
IN GRATEFUL LIVING

Theme: Voicing Our Thankfulness
Voicing our thankfulness is the theme of these songs and the theme of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 2, which professes that God’s children can “live and die in the joy of this comfort,” when we know our sin and misery, know how we are set free in Christ, and especially know “how I am to thank God for such deliverance.”

Similarly, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86 leads us to confess that our whole lives will “show that we are thankful to God for his benefits.”

This spirit is reinforced by Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 6 with its personal profession, “We rejoice in the goodness of God…”

Songs that follow this theme:
357. In the Lord I’ll Be Ever Thankful
358. Give Thanks
359. Give Thanks to God, Who Hears Our Cries
362. I’m So Glad

Theme: The Benefits of Christ’s Resurrection
In order to sing these songs with greater depth, consider reading Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 17, Question and Answer 45, a reminder of the benefits of Christ’s resurrection: “…by his resurrection he has overcome death, so that he might make us share in the righteousness he obtained for us by his death…we too are already raised to a new life…”

These songs speaks of a “risen Savior” and “I can face tomorrow” and “life is worth the living” because of the certainty of the resurrection of Christ. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 25 testifies: “God raised him from the dead: he walked out of the grave, conqueror of sin and death—Lord of Life! We are set right with God, given new life, and called to walk with him in freedom from sin’s dominion.”

Songs that follow this theme:
361. Because He Lives
365. I Serve a Risen Savior
Theme: Expressing Trust in God’s Faithfulness

Each of these songs expresses trust in the faithfulness of God who will care for us as a shepherd faithfully cares for his sheep. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1 says, “He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact all things must work together for my salvation.”

Additionally, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 28 says that the providence of God leads me to trust him fully, being “patient when things go against us, thankful when things go well, and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.”

Belgic Confession, Article 13 is clear to testify that he “watches over us with fatherly care,” and “in this thought we rest, knowing that God holds in check the devils and all our enemies, who cannot hurt us, without divine permission and will.”

Songs that follow this theme:
368. El Señor es mi pastor/My Shepherd Is the LORD
369. My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
370. My Soul Finds Rest
371. Tu fidelidad/I Depend upon Your Faithfulness

Other songs in this section:

354. L ORD, I Gladly Trust
The beautiful expressions of trust that we find in especially stanzas 1 and 2 can only come from someone who knows the deep comfort of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1: “…I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful savior Jesus Christ.” Only such a person can profess in stanza 4, “Lord, I gladly trust in you.”

355. Be Gracious to Me, Lord
Only when God’s children know that “…he watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1) can they sing “sleep in peace…” for they know that “…God’s love shall never cease” (stanza 2).

356. Fill Thou My Life, O Lord, My God
The comprehensiveness of this prayer (“my whole being,” stanza 1) arises from a heart that knows the full power of the grace of God that has restored us, “so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits…” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86).
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 47, Question and Answer 122 professes that believers can aim to “direct all our living—what we think, say, and do—so that your name will never be blasphemed because of us but always honored and praised.”

360. You Are My King (Amazing Love)
Consistent with the spirit of exclamation in this song is the testimony of Belgic Confession, Article 21, after citing all that was involved in the atonement of Christ, it exclaims, “And he endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.”

363. Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine
This is the testimony of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1 in song! “I belong, body and soul, in life and death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ” and “because I belong to him, Christ, by His Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.”

364. Tell Out, My Soul
Mary could not keep the good news within! Neither should we. So, “men and women, impelled by the Spirit, go next door and far away into science and art, media and marketplace—every area of life, pointing to the reign of God with what they do and say” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 30).

366. My Jesus, I Love Thee
When Christians gather in worship, they are quick to testify of their love for the Lord who loved them. First, Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 36 claims that “our new life in Christ is celebrated and nourished in the fellowship of congregations, where we praise Gods name...”

And we know that we are safe in Christ’s love for we will experience “endless delight” in “heaven so bright” (stanza 3). Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Question and Answer 58 claims that “after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.”

367. O God, You Are My God Alone
When Christians gather in worship, they are quick to testify of their love for the Lord who loved them. First, Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 36 claims that “Our new life in Christ is celebrated and nourished in the fellowship of congregations, where we praise Gods name...”

And we know that we are safe in Christ’s love: “Beneath the shadow of your wing, I live and feel secure” (stanza 3). Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Question and Answer 58 claims that “after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever.”
# Trusting in the Triune God

## IN MARKING TIME

### Theme: A Perfect Love and Comfort

What can possibly be so important that it is our first cry in the morning and our last thought at night? Belgic Confession, Article 20 testifies that God gave us “…his Son to die by a most perfect love” and then raised him to life “for our justification in order that by him we might have immortality and eternal life.”

Because of such perfect love, comfort can be found in the words of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1: “I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.” This is our cry—first thing in the morning and last thought at night!

Songs that follow this theme:
- 372. When Morning Gilds the Sky
- 375. Your Name
- 386. Christ, Mighty Savior

### Theme: God’s Appointments to Serve in this World

Prayers and praise for the constant care of God are necessary for those who understand that God has appointed them to serve this world and one another: “Made in God’s image to live in loving communion with our Maker, we are appointed earth keepers and caretakers to tend the earth, enjoy it, and love our neighbors. God uses our skills for the unfolding and well-being of his world so that creation and all who live in it may flourish” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 10).

Songs that follow this theme:
- 377. Lord, as the Day Begins
- 378. Lord of All Hopefulness

### Theme: Life Is a Gift from God

The spirit of this song can come only from those who thankfully receive each day as a gift from God’s hand. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 44 teaches, “Life is a gift from God’s hand” which we receive thankfully “with reverence for the Creator…” (paragraph 44).

The call for God’s help in our daily living arises from those who are confident of his fatherly care; consider reading Belgic Confession, Article 13 and Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26.
Songs that follow this theme:

379. Let the Giving of Thanks
382. You, O Lord, Are a Shield About Me
384. O LORD, Come Quickly; Hear Me Pray
388. Every Heart Its Tribute Pays
389. Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory
390. Night Has Fallen
391. Awit sa Dapit-Hapon/When Twilight Comes
392. O Joyous Light of Glory
393. O Gladsome Light, O Grace

**Theme: Trusting in God’s Fatherly Care**

At the end of the day, the child of God who trusts in his fatherly care (see Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26 and Belgic Confession, Article 13) can ask for forgiveness, be at rest, and expect new strength.

Because of this, the child of God who trust in God’s fatherly care can give praise to all three members of the Trinity (Belgic Confession, Article 8).

Songs that follow this theme:

394. All Praise to You, My God, This Night
395. When Evening Falls and Labors Cease

**Theme: God as Provider**

For the source of the harvest, God’s children are called to look to God who with his powerful hand upholds all things, even “…leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and lean years, food and drink…” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 27). As a response for the harvest, God’s people are called to give him thanks.

The fourth petition of the Lord’s Prayer also expresses this dependence on God as provider (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 50, Question and Answer 125).

Songs that follow this theme:

396. For the Fruit of All Creation
397. Praise God for the Harvest of Orchard and Field
398. Sing to the Lord of Harvest
399. Bless the LORD, O Saints and Servants

**Theme: The Passage of Time**

In the passage of time, the child of God lives with expectancy—for God to renew them and for God to lead them in obedience (*Our Song of Hope*, stanza 9).
Even though time passes and years end swiftly, God is eternally faithful. And so God’s children testify using the words of Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 1: “As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—which some seek to control, and others view with despair—we declare with joy and trust: Our world belongs to God!”

Songs that follow this theme:

400. Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year
401. Hours and Days and Years and Ages
402. Lord, Show Me How to Count My Days
403. Wildflowers Bloom and Fade
404. God of Our Life
405. O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Other songs in this section:

374. O Splendor of God’s Glory Bright
This song heralds the Son as the light of God and calls for the Spirit’s ray to shine on all we do. It concludes with a Trinitarian doxology in stanza 4. For a clear expression of the Trinity, consider reading Belgic Confession, Article 8 and the Belhar Confession, Section 1.

376. Hear, O LORD, My Urgent Prayer
The believer’s urgent prayer rises first thing in the morning (stanza 1) as an expression of the fact that “Jesus Christ rules over all. To follow this Lord is to serve him wherever we are without fitting in, light in darkness, salt in a spoiling world” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 43).

383. My Spirit Glorifies the Lord
Mary sang these thoughts first, with the awareness that God had chosen to use her as an instrument in the arrival of his Son in the world. This event is mentioned in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 14, Question and Answer 35 and Belgic Confession, Article 18.

387. The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended
The beautiful contrast in this song is that while our day is ending and we soon rest in sleep, the church of Christ continues through each time zone, with no stopping for rest. And so the voice of prayer and praise continues. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54 teaches that the holy catholic church is found among the entire human race, “dispersed throughout the entire world” (Belgic Confession, Article 27).
T R U S T I N G  i n  t h e  T r i u n e  G o d

I N  D I F F I C U L T  T I M E S

The songs in this section are sung prayers which rise to the surface in times of pain, stress, uncertainty and anguish. In all of them, to one degree or another, we find the presence of pain, a cry to God for help, and a spirit of trust.

The following are confessional linkages to nearly all of these sung prayers (#406-454).

Difficult times occur in the lives and communities of God’s people because this is a fallen world. The confessions demonstrate this perspective:

- Belgic Confession, Article 15 teaches that “…by the disobedience of Adam original sin has been spread through the whole human race...a corruption of the whole human nature...” As a result, God’s people are “guilty and subject to physical and spiritual death, having become wicked, perverse, and corrupt in all [our] ways” (Article 14). In addition, “The devils and evil spirits are so corrupt that they are enemies of God and of everything good. They lie in wait for the church and every member of it like thieves, with all their power, to destroy and spoil everything by their deceptions” (Article 12).

- Our World Belongs to God continues to affirm that “God has not abandoned the work of his hands,” nevertheless “our world, fallen into sin, has lost its first goodness...” (paragraph 4). And now “all spheres of life—family and friendship, work and worship school and state, play and art—bear the wounds of our rebellion” (paragraph 16).

Yet, in a fallen world, God’s providential care is the source of great assurance, comfort and strength. Through these thoughts, our trust in God is inspired.

- Belgic Confession, Article 13 is a reminder that God’s providence reassures us that God leads and governs all in this world “according to his holy will...nothing happens in this world without his orderly arrangement.” Further, this Confession identifies that this “gives us unspeakable comfort since it teaches us that nothing can happen to us by chance but only by the arrangement of our gracious heavenly Father, who watches over us with fatherly care...in this thought we rest.”

- Belgic Confession, Article 13, is a reminder that much is beyond human understanding and so “we do not wish to inquire with undue curiosity into what God does that surpasses human understanding and is beyond our ability to comprehend.”
• In Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26 we testify that we “trust God so much that [we] do not doubt that he will provide whatever [we] need for body and soul and will turn to [our] good whatever adversity he sends upon [us] in this sad world.”

• In Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Question and Answer 28, we are assured that through our trust in the providence of God we can have “good confidence in our faithful God and Father that nothing in creation will separate us from his love.”

• When we pray the Lord’s Prayer we ask not to be brought into the time of trial but rescued from evil. In doing so we ask that the Lord will “uphold us and make us strong with the strength of your Holy Spirit so that we may not go down to defeat in this spiritual struggle...” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 52, Question and Answer 127)

Belgic Confession, Article 26 speaks about the intercession of Christ as the ascended Lord. “We have no access to God except through the one and only Mediator and Intercessor, Jesus Christ the Righteous.” We, therefore, do not offer our prayers as though saints could be our intercessor, nor do we offer them on the “basis of our own dignity but only on the basis of the excellence and dignity of Jesus Christ, whose righteousness is ours by faith.” Because Jesus Christ is our sympathetic High Priest, we approach the throne “in full assurance of faith.”

No greater assurance can be found than that expressed in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1: “I am not my own by I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.”

In all difficult times, we eagerly await the final day when God “will set all things right, judge evil, and condemn the wicked” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 57).

434. Affirmation: My Only Comfort
No statement of faith brings greater hope and peace to the Christian than these precious and familiar words of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1.
All the songs in this section are related to the experience of death and dying. Some are sung prayers through which we express our faith when we come to realize the fragility of life; some are prayers expressing our comfort and hope to be sung while we are dying; and some are prayers we may sing vicariously on behalf of others who are dying and unable to sing at the time.

No hope is stronger than that expressed in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1: we “…belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ…because I belong to him, Christ by His Holy Spirit assures me of eternal life…”

The basic perspective of hope is expressed in Belgic Confession, Article 37 “…the Lord will make them (us) possess a glory such as the human heart could never imagine. So we look forward to that day (of Christ’s return) with longing in order to enjoy fully the promises of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 15, Question and Answer 42 clarifies what may be misunderstood when it says that even though Christ died for us, we still have to die, but “our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather it puts an end to our sinning and is our entrance into eternal life.” Additionally, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 17, Question and Answer 45 explains that Christ’s resurrection “is a sure pledge to us of our blessed resurrection.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Questions and Answers 57 and 58 speak reassurances about the actual event of dying: “Not only will my soul be taken immediately after this life to Christ its head, but also my very flesh will be raised by the power of Christ, reunited with my soul, and made like Christ’s glorious body,” and “even as I already now experience in my heart the beginning of eternal joy, after this life I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined: a blessedness in which to praise God forever” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Question and Answer 58).

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 56 summarizes our hope by testifying, “We long for that day when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation, where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, and the Lord will be our light. Come, Lord Jesus, come.”
463. Affirmation: The Resurrection of the Body
These words of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Questions and Answers 57 and 58 expand on the statements of the Apostles’ Creed by asking what comfort we receive from the profession concerning the “resurrection of the body” and the “life everlasting.”
Hope for Things to Come

CHRIST’S SECOND COMING

All the songs in this section express the hope and expectation of the promised return of Jesus Christ. While each has its own style and manner, all have a few central themes from the confessions within them: Christ as King, the anticipation of the believer, and the comfort and hope for the believer.

Theme: Christ as King
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Question and Answer 31 is a reminder that Christ promised to return and will do so as King. He has ascended to heaven “to show there that he is the head of his church, the one through whom the Father rules all things.” He was anointed as “our eternal king who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who guards us and keeps us in the freedom he has won for us.”

Songs that follow this theme:
474. Sing to the King
475. When the King Shall Come Again
476. The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Theme: Anticipation of the Believer
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 19, Question and Answer 52 professes that “in all distress and persecution, with uplifted head, I confidently await the very judge who has already offered himself to the judgment of God in my place and removed the whole curse from me. Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven.”

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 57 describes what believers can expect to experience: “…We will see our Savior face to face...he will set all things right...we face that day without fear for the Judge is our Savior whose shed blood declares us righteous. We live confidently, anticipating his coming…”

Songs that follow this theme:
470. View the Present Through the Promise
472. O Morning Star, O Radiant Sun
473. Come, You Thankful People, Come
477. Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
478. Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
Theme: Comfort and Hope for the Believer

Belgic Confession, Article 37, perhaps more than any, spells out what believers anticipate and how this fills us with hope and comfort:

“All human creatures will appear in person before the great judge...summoned there ‘with the archangel’s call and the sound of God’s trumpet’.”

“And as for those who are still alive, they will not die like the others but will be changed ‘in the twinkling of an eye’ from perishable to imperishable.”

“Therefore, with good reason the thought of this judgment is horrible and dreadful to wicked and evil people. But it is very pleasant and a great comfort to the righteous and elect, since their total redemption will then be accomplished...”

“The faithful and elect will be crowned with glory and honor. And as a gracious reward the Lord will make them possess a glory such as the human heart could never imagine.”

“So we look forward to that great day with longing in order to enjoy fully the promises of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.”

Songs that follow this theme:

471. Jesus Christ Is the Way
479. Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending
481. My Lord, What a Morning
Hope for Things to Come

THE NEW HEAVEN AND EARTH

484. Affirmation: Come, Lord Jesus
In this affirmation, the cry from Revelation 22 shapes the spirit of a powerful affirmation from Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 56-58.

As in the previous section, the songs here eagerly give expression to the hopes that believers have for the new heaven and earth which Christ will bring. There are three themes found in the links to this entire section: our glimpse of the new heaven and new earth, the gathered church, and expressions of joy and praise.

Theme: Our Glimpse of the New Heaven and Earth
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 22, Questions and Answers 57 and 58 say that believers’ resurrected bodies will be “raised by the power of Christ, reunited with my soul, [will be] made like Christ’s glorious body.” And then “I will have perfect blessedness such as no eye has seen, no ear has heard, no human heart has ever imagined; a blessedness in which to praise God forever.”

Additionally, “Christ will cast all his enemies and mine into everlasting condemnation, but will take me and all his chosen ones to himself into the joy and glory of heaven” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 19, Question and Answer 52).

Our Song of Hope, stanza 21 expresses it this way: “God will renew the world through Jesus, who will put all unrighteousness out, purify the works of human hands, and perfect their fellowship in divine love. Christ will wipe away every tear; death shall be no more. There will be a new heaven and a new earth, and all creation will be filled with God’s glory.”

“We long for that day when our bodies are raised, the Lord wipes away our tears, and we dwell forever in the presence of God. We will take our place in the new creation...” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 56)

Songs that follow this theme:
485. In the Day of the Lord
486. A New Heaven and Earth
487. O Day of Peace
488. Jerusalem the Golden
**Theme: The Gathered Church**

Finally, believers will experience the church of all peoples gathered before God. When singing “Here from all nations, all tongues and all peoples, countless the crowd, but their voices are one,” consider the words of *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 30: “The Spirit gathers people from every tongue, tribe and nation into the unity of the body of Christ.” This diversified unity will become obvious when he brings the new heaven and earth.

Songs that follow this theme:

490. Here From All Nations

**Theme: Expressions of Joy and Praise**

“With the whole creation we join the song: ‘Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!’” (*Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 58)

Songs that follow this theme:

483. Come, We that Love the Lord
489. By the Sea of Crystal
491. Hallelujah, Salvation, and Glory
Opening of Worship

Called and Gathered

The songs which call and gather us for worship are similar in nature and content, with a few basic themes woven through them. It will be helpful for worship planning and leading to identify those themes and recognize the links in the confessions of the church. And then each theme will be accompanied by a listing of the songs in which the theme is found, some directly and some indirectly.

Theme: We Gather to Worship by God’s Action.

Our coming together is not first of all an action of our own initiative, but is of God’s initiative. He does the gathering. The Confessions are careful to use terminology that identifies God’s gathering action. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54 says, “The Son of God through his Spirit and Word...gathers...” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 30 testifies “The Spirit gathers people...into the unity of the body of Christ.” The Belhar Confession, Section 1 refers to the Trinity. “…The triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit...gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit.”

Songs that follow this theme:
508. I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say
525. For Your Gift of God the Spirit
529. Gather Us In
531. God, You Call Us to This Place

Theme: We Gather to Worship God as Trinity

God’s children are called to and gathered to give worship to all three members of the Trinity. Some songs include a clear reference to all three; in others it is more indirect. Therefore, we are well-served when we have a clear recognition of the Confessions’ teachings on the Trinity. Belgic Confession, Article 8, gives the clearest explanation of the three persons of the Trinity, including not only their identity, but also their nature and tasks: “The Father is the cause, origin, and source of all things, visible and invisible. The Son is the Word, the Wisdom, and the image of the Father. The Holy Spirit is the eternal power and might, proceeding from the Father and the Son.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 8, Questions and Answers 24 and 25 does so in much briefer form. As does the Belhar Confession, Section 1: “We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and
Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end.”

Songs that follow this theme:
492. Come, Thou Almighty King
496. Uyai mose/Come, All You People
520. Jesu, tawa pano/Jesus, We Are Here
523. Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid
524. Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
535. The Lord Be with You
538. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Theme: We Gather to Worship God as Our Redeemer
We celebrate with joy that Christ has come to rescue us from sin and evil through the work of his son, Jesus Christ. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 35 identifies the church as “the fellowship of those who confess Jesus as Lord…the bride of Christ…”

Belgic Confession, Article 21 professes how Jesus Christ is a high priest forever and provided for the cleansing of our sins; Article 10 proclaims him as the “true eternal God, the Almighty, whom we invoke, worship and serve.” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 2 calls us to “live and die in the joy of this comfort” and “to thank God for such deliverance.”

Songs that follow this theme:
493. Cantai ao Senhor/O Sing to the Lord
502. O Give the Lord Wholehearted Praise
508. I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say
509. Come, Worship God
510. Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down
512. Now with Joyful Exultation
515. Sing to the LORD, Sing His Praise
516. Bless the Lord, O My Soul
519. God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises
521. Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
525. For Your Gift of God the Spirit
526. Come, Now Is the Time to Worship
527. Come Away from Rush and Hurry
528. Come and Fill Our Hearts
531. God, You Call Us to This Place
532. Be Still, for the Presence
533. I Come with Joy
536. The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
537. Open the Eyes of My Heart
Theme: We Gather to Worship God as the Creator

God’s creative power, on display all around us, both obligates us and motivates us to give him worship. His work of creating all, and his constant care for all of it, stirs us in thanksgiving. Belgic Confession, Articles 12 and 13 spell these truths out beautifully: “We believe that the Father, when it seemed good to him, created heaven and earth and all other creatures from nothing, by the Word—that is to say, by the Son...”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9 and 10, Questions and Answers 26-28 do the same: “...the eternal Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who out of nothing created heaven and earth...”

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 1 identifies the exclamation that gives us joy: “Our World Belongs to God!” and then in paragraph 8 testifies that “In the beginning, God—Father, Word, Spirit—called this world into being out of nothing, and gave it shape and order.”

Songs that follow this theme:
499. The Earth, with All That Dwell Therein
500. LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name
501. LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name

Theme: We come to Worship God as our Protector

In a world with many threats and enemies, we find hope and security in his fatherly care. Both Belgic Confession and Heidelberg Catechism put significant focus on the Providence of God and the care God provides for us. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26 professes that he “will provide whatever I need for body and soul” and that we are “completely in his hand.” In Belgic Confession, Article 13 professes that he “watches over us with fatherly care.”

Songs that follow this theme:
495. Come, All You People, Praise Our God
498. Our Help Is in the Name of God the LORD
503. As the Deer
504. Como el ciervo/Like a Deer
506. Better Is One Day
507. How Lovely Is Your Dwelling
509. Come, Worship God
511. Amid the Thronging Worshipers
512. Now with Joyful Exultation
515. Sing to the LORD, Sing His Praise
518. Praise the LORD! Sing Hallelujah
525. For Your Gift of God the Spirit

Theme: The Church which Gathers to Worship is a Diverse Body
God calls his children from many sources, languages, nations, and from a variety of social standings and personal needs. The Confessions are very clear on this. Belgic Confession teaches in Article 27, “This holy church is not confined, bound, or limited to a certain place or certain people.” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 30 reminds us, “The Spirit gathers people from every tongue, tribe and nation...” and in paragraph 34 teaches that “all are welcome...the homeless...the broken...the sinner...the despised...the least...and the last...”

Songs that follow this theme:

505. Out of Need and Out of Custom  
511. Amid the Thronging Worshipers  
522. Dios está aquí/God Is Here Today  
529. Gather Us In  
530. Welcome Into this Place  
531. God, You Call Us to This Place  
534. All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
Opening of Worship

PRAYER AND ADORATION

The songs in this section are designed to express praise and adoration at the opening of worship; they contain several major themes. Though they all focus on praise and adoration, there are a variety of reasons behind such expressions. There are four main themes woven throughout.

569. Affirmation: The Benefits of Christ’s Death and Resurrection
This affirmation, from Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 16 and 17, Questions and Answers 43 and 45 sets the basic foundation for all our praise and adoration at the opening of worship.

Theme: Acclamations of Praise
Sometimes the soul of the Christian needs to cry out exuberantly with joy, thanks, and adoration, even without identifying the reasons for such praise and adoration. Moreover, Christians who gather corporately find it fitting to do so as the grateful body of Christ. The Confessions of the church recognize this natural expression. Belgic Confession, Article 1 sees God as the “overflowing source of all good,” and such a realization deserves an “Alleluia!” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 2 is a reminder that living in the joy of our comfort involves a spirit of thanks for his deliverance. In the same spirit, Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 2 exclaims, “God is King: Let the earth be glad! Christ is victor: his rule has begun! The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!” and then as a natural response cries: “Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!”

Songs that follow this theme:
552. Alleluia
563. Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah
564. Alleluia, Alleluia
565. God Himself Is with Us
566. Give Praise to Our God
570. From All That Dwell Below the Skies
576. Bless the Lord, Bless the Lord
584. Je louerai l’Eternel/Praise, I Will Praise You, Lord
587. Praise Him! Jesus, Blessed Savior
588. Bān-bīn ah/Let All Nations Praise the Lord
591. Laudate Dominum/Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord
592. Laudate omnes gentes/Sing Praises, All You Peoples
593. Lord Most High
599. Come, Christians, Join to Sing
600. Yesu azali awa/Jesus Christ Is with Us
603. Shout to the Lord
605. Digno es Jesús/Worthy is Christ
606. In the Sanctuary
609. Shukuru, Yesu/Thanking You, Jesus

Theme: Praise and Adoration to God for Who He Is
What we know as the attributes of God reveal his character and being. For these, he is worthy of praise and adoration. Even before he says or does anything, he is praise-worthy. The opening words of Belgic Confession, Article 1 declare that God is “eternal, incomprehensible, invisible, unchangeable, infinite, almighty; completely wise, just, and good, and the overflowing source of all good.”

The Lord’s Prayer ends with a doxology, and Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 52, Question and Answer 128 extrapolates: “Your holy name...should receive all the praise, forever.” After expressing our trust in the total care of God for all things, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26 declares, “God is able to do this because he is Almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father.” And so we express our praise and adoration to God for who he is.

Songs that follow this theme:
540. Holy God, We Praise Your Name
546. Robed in Majesty
561. I Will Extol You, O My God
573. Not unto Us, O Lord of Heaven
574. How Great Is Our God
577. You Are Good
578. Forever
579. Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
580. Our God
581. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
582. You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim
589. Psalm 117
595. Santo, santo, santo mi corazón/Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart
596. Santo, santo, santo/Holy, Holy
597. Holy Is the Lord
598. You are Holy
602. Jesus Is Our King
607. Beautiful One
Theme: Praise and Adoration for God’s Work of Redemption

The best-loved expressions of praise for God’s care-taking work of his children comes from the familiar words of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1: “My only comfort in life and death [is] that I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil...Because I belong to him, Christ by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes we wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.”

This great truth is explained more completely by Belgic Confession, Article 20. God has given his Son to die for us “…by a most perfect love, and raising him to life for our justification, in order that by him, we might have immortality and eternal life.” And in Article 21, “…He endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins.” For this redemptive work we give praise and adoration.

Songs that follow this theme:
541. We Praise You, O God (Te Deum)
542. All Glory Be to God on High
547. Sing, Sing a New Song to the LORD God
548. My God, How Wonderful You Are
553. How Great Thou Art
557. O God Beyond All Praising
560. We Praise You, O God
567. Here I Am to Worship
568. I Will Sing of My Redeemer
571. Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
583. O Love of God, How Strong and True
586. I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art
590. Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
601. All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name
604. To God Be the Glory
608. Salvation Belongs to Our God
610. Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
611. Mighty to Save

Theme: Praise and Adoration for God’s Work in Lives and in History

The God who was active in providing his Son for our redemption, has also been active in the course of history and in the lives of his people. His activity in the course of history began when he created all things. Belgic Confession, Article 12 teaches that God, “when it seemed good to him, created heaven and earth and all other creatures from nothing, by the Word—that is to say, by the Son.” In addition, “God created human beings from the dust of the earth and made and formed them in his image and likeness.”
His activity also includes his constant care for all he has created. “...He watches over us with fatherly care, sustaining all creatures under his lordship” (Belgic Confession, Article 13). Additionally, God reveals himself by this “creation, preservation and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book...” (Belgic Confession, Article 2).

We also believe that God’s mighty acts are revealed “in the unfolding of covenant history...witnessing to the news that Our World Belongs to God and he loves it deeply” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 33). Primary among these actions in the unfolding of covenant history is “the long road of redemption to reclaim the lost as his people and the world as his kingdom” (paragraph 18). As God’s people observe his work in their lives and in history they respond with praise and adoration.

Songs that follow this theme:
539. A Call to Worship and Greeting
543. Now Thank We All Our God
544. Cantemos al Señor/O Sing unto the Lord
545. Praise Is Your Right, O God, in Zion
549. O Praise the LORD, for It Is Good
550. Nyanyikanlah/Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator
551. All Creatures of Our God and King
554. We Gather in Your Presence
555. Let All Creation’s Wonders
556. A Song of Creation (Benedicite)
558. O Praise God’s Name Together
562. We Will Extol You, God and King
572. Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
575. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
585. With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring
594. The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear
Called to be Holy

This section of *Lift Up Your Hearts* has four sub-sections: Confession and Lament, Forgiveness and Grace, God’s Gift of the Law, and Dedication to Holy Living. For all of these, there are certain key confessional foundations that need to be spelled out. After that we can identify a number of song themes that occur in each sub-section.

**Confessional Foundations**

**A Corrupted Creation:** Though God created all things perfect, including humans, everything has fallen into sin and lost the perfection in which God created it all. Belgic Confession, Article 14 teaches that human beings “subjected themselves willingly to sin and consequently to death and the curse...having become wicked, perverse, and corrupt in all their ways.” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 2, Question and Answer 5 claims that we now “have a natural tendency to hate God and our neighbor.”

Our World Belongs to God, paragraphs 16 and 17 testify that “all spheres of life...bear the wounds of our rebellion...In all our striving to excuse or save ourselves, we stand condemned before the God of truth.”

And the Canons of Dort V, 1 teaches what our own experience confirms, that even those who are regenerate are not entirely free “from the flesh and from the body of sin as long as they are in this life.” Furthermore, Canons of Dort V, 4 teaches that “those who are converted are not always so activated and motivated by God that in certain specific actions they cannot by their own fault depart from the leading of grace, be led astray by the desires of the flesh, and give in to them.”

**God’s Gracious Provision:** But, “while justly angry, God did not turn away from a world bent on destruction but turned to face it in love. With patience and tender care the Lord set out on the long road of redemption to reclaim the lost as his people and the world as his kingdom” (*Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 18).

And so God has provided his son as mediator to satisfy his justice, provide his mercy, and through his crucifixion to “shoulder the curse which lay on me” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 15, Question and Answer 39). Christ, as an atonement, “endured all this for the forgiveness of our sins” (Belgic Confession, Article 21) and God, “by a most perfect love [raised] him to life for our justification, in order that by him we might have immortality and eternal life” (Belgic Confession, Article 20).
The Need for Repentance and Faith: Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 23, Question and Answer 60 says that sinners can become righteous and can become heirs to everlasting life “only by a true faith in Jesus Christ.” The good news is that “God’s grace is free to save sinners who offer nothing but their need for mercy” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 26).

But to bring our “need for mercy,” says Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 33, Question and Answer 88, means to come in genuine repentance which involves “…the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.”

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 33, Question and Answer 89 then explains that the dying-away of the old self is “to be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate it and run away from it.” Belgic Confession explains further that “the Holy Spirit kindles in our hearts a true faith that embraces Jesus Christ, with all his merits, and makes him its own, and no longer looks for anything apart from him...When those benefits are made ours, they are more than enough to absolve us of our sins.” These acts of repentance and turning-away engage us in what we call “confession of our sin.”

The Renewing Power of Mercy and Grace: Though God is just, our confessions remind us that his mercy and grace move him to provide redemption. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 18 says: “With patience and tender care the Lord set out on the long road of redemption to reclaim the lost as his people and the world as his kingdom.” Then in paragraph 26, it powerfully reminds us, “God’s grace is free to save sinners who offer nothing but their need for mercy.”

The Canons of Dort II-IV, 15 is a reminder that “God does not owe this grace to anyone. For what could God owe to those who have nothing to give that can be paid back? Indeed, what could God owe to those who have nothing of their own to give but sin and falsehood? Therefore, those who receive this grace owe and give eternal thanks to God alone...” All his benefits are, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 7, Question and Answer 21 says, “…gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ’s merits.”

We Are Called to Grateful Living: Those who, though sinful, are made righteous through faith in Jesus Christ are called to live in a manner that portrays thankfulness in holy living. Their assurance of perseverance, says the Canons of Dort V, 12 “…so far from making true believers proud and carnally self-assured, is rather the true root of humility, of childlike respect, of genuine godliness, of endurance in every conflict, of fervent prayer, of steadfastness in crossbearing and confessing the truth, and of well-founded joy in God.” Belgic Confession, Article 24 claims, “…It is impossible for this holy faith to be unfruitful in a human being.” So it can be expected that those who are renewed in Christ are moved to holy living.
First, it is our calling from God. “We are set right with God, given new life, and called to walk with him in freedom from sin’s dominion” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 25).

Second, it is the work and passion of the Holy Spirit, who is “our Sanctifier by living in our hearts” (Belgic Confession, Article 9) and “by the work of the Holy Spirit [God] regenerates us and makes us new creatures, causing us to live new life and freeing us from the slavery of sin” (Belgic Confession, Article 24). The Holy Spirit restores us into God’s image “so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us...” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86).

And, third, our own spirit, understanding the great debt we owe to God for his grace involves living and dying in the joy of this comfort, is also learning “how I am to thank God for such deliverance” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 2).
Called to be Holy

CONFESSION AND LAMENT

Theme: Hearing and Proclaiming the Call of the Gospel
The gospel calls sinners to forsake their sin and turn to Jesus Christ in repentance that they may be forgiven. *Our Song of Hope*, stanza 16 says, “The Holy Spirit sends the church to call sinners to repentance, to proclaim the good news that Jesus is personal Savior and Lord.” The Canons of Dort, III-IV, 8 assures: “All who are called by the gospel are called earnestly. For urgently and most genuinely God makes known in the Word what is pleasing to him: that those who are called should come to God.”

Songs that follow this theme:
612. Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House
613. Come to the Savior Now
614. Come, You Disconsolate
615. Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
655. Out of the Depths I Cry to You on High

Theme: Expressing Our Pain and Lament
Our songs and prayers include honesty before God in which we express the pain we experience over our own sins and failures, the difficulties in both our lives and others’ lives, and our laments at the suffering and brokenness that marks our world and our lives. We have assurance, says Belgic Confession, Article 26, that Christ, our intercessor, will hear us, “since he suffered, being tempted, he is also able to help those who are tempted.”

We are encouraged to approach the throne with boldness so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need” (Belgic Confession, Article 26, based on Hebrews 4). “We grieve that the church...has become a broken communion in a broken world” (*Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 40).

We also “lament that our abuse of creation has brought lasting damage to the world we have been given...” (*Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 51). And we cry to God for those who suffer in our world, knowing “that God...is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged...” (*Belhar Confession*, Section 4).

Songs that follow this theme:
626. Cast Down, O God, the Idols
642. Perdón, Señor/Forgive Us, Lord
643. Plaintive Is the Song I Sing
644. Lying Lips
645. Litany for the Slandered
647. Come, Sing to God with All Your Heart
648. Why Stand So Far Away, My God
649. I Call to You, My Rock
650. O When Will We See Justice Done
651. By the Babylonian Rivers
654. Do Not Keep Silent, O God
657. Hear My Cry and Supplication
658. Bring Peace to Earth Again
660. Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer
662. In An Age of Twisted Values
663. Pelas dores deste mundo/For the Troubles
664. I Need Your Help, O LORD My God

Theme: Pleading for God’s Mercy

God’s children are not called to come before God’s throne with a list of accomplishments, or merits or goodness; they are called, says Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 26, to come with the humility that “...offers nothing but our need for mercy.” Such a cry for mercy comes from our “dying-away of the old self” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 33, Question and Answer 88) which expresses that we are “genuinely sorry for our sin and more and more...hate and run away from it” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 33, Question and Answer 89).

The gifts of renewal and pardon come only “through true faith” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 7, Question and Answer 20) and are “gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ’s merits” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 7, Question and Answer 21). The very act of faith is to plead for his mercy.

Songs that follow this theme:

616. As a Deer in Want of Water
619. Tama ngakau marie/Son of God, Whose Heart is Peace
620. Good to Me
621. Give Me a Clean Heart
622. God, Be Merciful to Me
623. God, Be Merciful to Me
624. Not What My Hands Have Done
625. LORD, to You My Soul Is Lifted
627. Just As I Am, Without One Plea
628. Give Us Clean Hands
629. Ishwor/Father in Heaven, Have Mercy
630. O Christ, the Lamb of God
631. Holy God
632. Remember Not, O God
633. Kyrie/Lord, Have Mercy
634. A Prayer for God’s Mercy (Trisagion)
635. Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy
636. A Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon
637. Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy
638. Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
639. Lord, Have Mercy
640. A Prayer of Confession
652. I Lift My Eyes
653. A Prayer: Confession of Idolatry
656. Deliver Me from Evil

Theme: Pleading for the Holy Spirit’s Continued Renewing Work
Since it is uniquely the work and passion of the Holy Spirit, who is “our Sanctifier by living in our hearts” (Belgic Confession, Article 9) and “by the work of the Holy Spirit [God] regenerates us and makes us new creatures, causing us to live new life and freeing us from the slavery of sin” (Belgic Confession, Article 24), we plead for his power to continue this work. The Holy Spirit restores us into God’s image “so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us...” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86). We come to know, therefore, that our growth in holy living will not occur without the Holy Spirit’s ministry.

Songs that follow this theme:
612. Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House
617. Spirit Divine, Inspire Our Prayer
618. Spirit of God, Who Dwells Within My Heart
641. Eternal Spirit, God of Truth
646. O God, My Faithful God
659. Nearer, Still Nearer
661. Just a Closer Walk with Thee
Called to be Holy

FORGIVENESS AND GRACE

678. Affirmation: The Forgiveness of Sins
This affirmation, from Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 56, expresses the theme of this entire section of the hymnal: “By grace, God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.”

697. Affirmation: Righteous Before God
Grace is a gift from God, that we, according to Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 23, Question and Answer 60, are called to accept.

705. Washed with Christ’s Blood and Spirit
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 26, Questions and Answers 69 and 70 speak to what it means that God’s children are washed with Christ’s blood and the Holy Spirit.

Theme: Expressions of Rest and Pardon
When we receive God’s pardon, we find ourselves at peace with him and at rest again. When the benefits of Christ are made ours, “They are more than enough to absolve us of our sins” and we need no longer look “for anything apart from him” (Belgic Confession, Article 22). We have “freedom from sin’s dominion” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 25) and we understand that we are “set free from all [our] sins and misery…” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 2). We are “righteous before God and heir to everlasting life” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 23, Question and Answer 59).

Songs that follow this theme:
665. I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
666. I Will Give You Rest
669. How Blest Are They Whose Trespass
679. For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free
681. A Great High Priest
703. Assurance: Surely He Took Up Our Pain
704. The Blood That Jesus Shed for Me
706. There Is a Balm in Gilead
707. Goodness Is Stronger than Evil
710. Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

Theme: Testimonies of Thanks
The Catechism says that those who know Christ’s forgiveness are “to thank God for such deliverance” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 2). As a result, “With our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, and that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86).

Songs that follow this theme:

667. Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies
670. I Waited Patiently for God
671. The Lord Is Compassionate and Gracious
677. For the Glories of God’s Grace
682. Before the Throne of God Above
685. I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew
688. How Vast the Benefits Divine
690. I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous Grace
692. Amazing Grace Chant
702. Depth of Mercy
703. Assurance: Surely He Took Up Our Pain
708. Kwake Yesu nasimama/Here on Jesus Christ I Will Stand
709. Jesus Loves Me

**Theme: Praise to God for His Gracious Benefits**

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86 instructs us that the Holy Spirit’s desire is that God “may be praised through us.” This goal is consistent with Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 2, which is a reminder that to live and die in the joy of our comfort we must know “how I am to thank God for such deliverance.”

The church, therefore, is “the fellowship of those who confess Jesus as Lord...the bride of Christ, his chosen partner, loved by Jesus and loving him: delighting in his presence, seeking him in prayer—silent before the mystery of his love” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 35).

Songs that follow this theme:

668. I Worship You, O LORD
672. O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God
673. How Precious Is Your Unfailing Love
674. As Moses Raised the Serpent Up
675. By Grace We Have Been Saved
676. Oh, How I Love Jesus
680. O God, We Kneel Before Your Throne
683. How Great Is the Love of the Father
684. There in God’s Garden
686. A Prayer of Praise
687. Father, Long Before Creation
689. There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy
691. Amazing Grace
693. Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)
695. And Can It Be
696. Marvelous Grace
698. Your Grace Is Enough
699. Like a River Glorious
700. Your Mercy Flows
701. Assurance: Who Is a God Like You
Called to be Holy

God’s Gift of the Law

It is vitally important that worshipers understand the role of God’s law among us. God gives his law to us, not so that we can earn his favor by full obedience, for even those converted to God cannot obey this law perfectly. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 44, Question and Answer 114 says, “In this life even the holiest have only a small beginning of this obedience.” Instead, says Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 2, Question and Answer 3, through this law “we come to know [our] misery.”

Yet in their new life of gratitude, God’s children “with all seriousness of purpose, do begin to live according to all, not only some, of God’s commandments” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 44, Question and Answer 114). They measure their good works of gratitude as “those which are done out of true faith, conform to God’s law, and are done for God’s glory” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 33, Question and Answer 91).

In other words, though Christ has fulfilled the law for us, “The truth and substance of these things remain for us in Jesus Christ...[and] we continue to use the witnesses drawn from the law and prophets to confirm us in the gospel and to regulate our lives with full integrity for the glory of God according to the will of God” (Belgic Confession, Article 25). Therefore, the Ten Commandments with explanation are included in the third section, “gratitude,” (Lord’s Days 34-44) of Heidelberg Catechism.

Songs in this section:

711. The Lord is God, the One and True God
712. Happy Is the One
713. What Does the Lord Require of You
714. The One Is Blest
716. Love God with All Your Soul and Strength
717. Sing a Psalm of Joy
719. God’s Glory Fills the Heavens
720. How Shall the Young Direct Their Way
721. Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way of Truth
723. Deep Within
724. You Shall Love the Lord
725. Charge: A Living Sacrifice
726. The Lord is King, Enthroned in Might
727. Christian Hearts in Love United
728. People of the Lord
Called to be Holy

DEDICATION TO HOLY LIVING

731. Affirmation: Why We Do Good Works
An affirmation from Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86 expresses the motivation of the believer for living in obedience to God.

Theme: Dedication to Holy Living
The Canons of Dort V, 13 explain that our assurance of eternal security and perseverance cannot “produce immorality or lack of concern for godliness in those put back on their feet after a fall, but it produces a much greater concern to observe carefully the way which the Lord prepared in advance” and it is “an incentive to a serious and continuous practice of thanksgiving and good works...” (Canons of Dort V, 12) Therefore, this sub-section contains songs which express both the desire and the commitment of the believer to walk in obedience for holy living. Woven throughout these songs are expressions of fervent desire for holy living, a dedication to follow God’s will, a surrender of one’s will, and prayers for the Holy Spirit to continue his sanctifying work.

Songs that follow this theme:
729. Let This Be My Supreme Desire
730. I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
732. The LORD, My Shepherd, Rules My Life
733. Humbly in Your Sight
734. My Heart Is Firmly Fixed
735. I Love You, LORD, For You Have Heard My Voice
736. God, Who Touches Earth With Beauty
737. Have Thine Own Way, Lord
738. Jesus, All for Jesus
739. I Surrender All
740. Here I Am
741. Take, O Take Me as I Am
742. Will You Come and Follow Me
743. O God, You Are My God
744. In Great Thanksgiving
745. Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit
746. Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God
Hearing the Word

HEARING THE WORD

This section of songs is built on the confessional foundations which speak about the nature, authority, and role of God’s word in the church.

Belgic Confession speaks more completely than other confessions, telling us that “God makes himself known to us...by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for God’s glory and for our salvation” (Belgic Confession, Article 2). Article 3 speaks of the divine origin of the Word and article 5 speaks of its authority claiming that “we believe without doubt all things contained in them [the canonical books]...” Additionally, Belgic Confession, Article 7 teaches that these scriptures are sufficient, for they contain the will of God completely and “everything one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it.” Later, in Article 24, we are taught that true faith is “produced in us by the hearing of God’s Word and by the work of the Holy Spirit, (and) regenerates us and makes us new creatures, causing us to live a new life and freeing us from the slavery of sin.” And one of the marks of the true church is the “pure preaching of the gospel” (Article 29).

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 25, Question and Answer 65 shows us that the Holy Spirit produces faith in our hearts “by the preaching of the holy gospel.” In Lord’s Day 35, Question and Answer 98, the Catechism teaches that “God wants the Christian community instructed by the living preaching of his Word...”

Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 32 reminds us, “The Bible is the Word of God, the record and tool of his redeeming work. It is the Word of truth, breath of God, fully reliable in leading us to know God and to walk with Jesus Christ in new life.”

In light of these convictions about the Word of God, the songs of this section meaningfully focus on the hearing of the word of God.

Theme: Action of the Christian

Some emphasize the action of the Christian and the church to call on God to renew our hearts through the word. These requests are based on the truths taught in Belgic Confession, Article 24: True faith is “produced in us by the hearing of God’s Word and by the work of the Holy Spirit, (and) regenerates us and makes us new creatures, causing us to live a new life and freeing us from the slavery of sin.”
Songs that follow this theme:
747. Breathe on Me, Breath of God
749. Spirit of the Living God
755. Speak, O Lord
758. Order My Steps
760. O Let My Supplicating Cry
764. Break Now the Bread of Life
767. 御言葉をください/Send Your Word, O Lord

**Theme: The Necessity of Listening**
Some songs emphasize our need to listen well, and include a call to ourselves and others to receive it as God’s truth. Such prayers and exhortations implement the convictions of Belgic Confession, Article 24 and *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 32: “The Bible is the Word of God, the record and tool of his redeeming work. It is the Word of truth, breath of God, fully reliable in leading us to know God and to walk with Jesus Christ in new life.”

Songs that follow this theme:
751. Open Your Ears, O Faithful People
752. Dawk'yah towgyah/Take the Saving Word of God
753. Listen, God Is Calling
754. Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak
756. A Prayer: Make Us Hungry for Your Word
761. I Will Hide Your Word Inside My Heart
763. Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
766. Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness

**Theme: The Word is True and Powerful**
And some songs express our confidence in the truth and power of the word, as taught in *Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 32 and Belgic Confession, 7: These scriptures are sufficient for they contain the will of God completely and “everything one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it.”

Songs that follow this theme:
748. Lord, to Whom Shall We Go
750. The Word Will Accomplish Its Purpose
757. O Word of God Incarnate
759. Your Word Sheds Light upon My Path
762. Ancient Words
765. God of the Word
768. Halle, Halle, Halle
Confessing Our Faith

CREEDS AND CONFESSIONS

769. Keep What You Have Believed
While this text is based on Paul’s instructional testimony in II Timothy 3, it also carefully reflects Belgic Confession, Article 7, which expresses, “This Holy Scripture contains the will of God completely and that everything one must believe to be saved is sufficiently taught in it.” Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 32 says, “It is the Word of truth, breath of God, fully reliable in leading us to know God and to walk with Jesus Christ in new life.”

775. Across the Lands
This song reflects the Christology expressed in several confessional statements. Belgic Confession, Article 12 teaches, “That the Father, when it seemed good to him, created heaven and earth and all other creatures from nothing, by the Word—that is to say, by the Son.”

When stanza 2 of “Across the Lands” speaks of the incarnation, we hear the words of Belgic Confession, Article 18: “The Son took the ‘form of a slave’ and was made in ‘human form, truly assuming a real human nature’ with all its weaknesses, except for sin...”

The account of Christ’s resurrection, ascension, and session at God’s right hand (see stanza 3) is declared in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Days 17-19, Questions and Answers 45-52. And now he is in the process of gathering “out of the whole human race, from the beginning of the world to its end...a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 54).

778. Affirmation: What Do You Believe About God
Here’s a succinct, straightforward affirmation based on Belgic Confession, Article 1, which can meaningfully be set forth at the beginning of worship or in conjunction with a time of prayer.

781. My Only Comfort
This song leads God’s people to affirm their faith through a paraphrase of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1.

782. In God the Father I Believe
This song is a paraphrase of the Apostles’ Creed for singing, leading the singer to affirm their faith in the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

783. The Apostles’ Creed
This creed is presented in three different formulations with the same content, but slightly revised form.

**Theme: Building Lives on Christ Alone**

The Christology of the song, “In Christ Alone” is carefully based on the content of the Apostles’ Creed, and the firmness of the convictions here echo the words of Belgic Confession, Article 20, that God gave “his Son to die, by a most perfect love, and [raised] him to life for our justification, in order that by him we might have immortality and eternal life.” “When [his] benefits are made ours, they are more than enough to absolve us of our sins... (Additionally, the Holy Spirit kindles in our hearts a true faith that embraces Jesus Christ, with all his merits, and makes him its own, and no longer looks for anything apart from him” (Belgic Confession, Article 22).

Songs that follow this theme:

770. In Christ Alone
772. My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
773. O LORD, You Are My Light
776. A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
777. God Is So Good
Receiving the Sacraments

BAPTISM

35. You Are Our God; We Are Your People
The unity of Old Testament and New Testament covenant promises is highlighted in this song. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 27, Question and Answer 74 also speaks to this by explaining that what “was done in the Old Testament by circumcision...was replaced in the New Testament by baptism.”

The phrase “you are my people” recurs in this song to indicate our covenant tie with God, a truth that is underscored by Belgic Confession, Article 34, when it says that by baptism “…we are...set apart...that we may wholly belong to him.”

531. God, You Call Us to This Place
Stanza 3 says “with the water we were born of the Spirit in the Son”; the teachings of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 27, Question and Answer 73 tell us that the water of baptism is “the water of rebirth and the washing away of sins.”

787. Affirmation: For You Jesus Christ Came
The justification for these words of affirmation to an infant is provided in Heidelberg Catechism’s teaching that “infants as well as adults are included in God’s covenant and people, and they, no less than adults, are promised deliverance from sin through Christ’s blood and the Holy Spirit who produces faith” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 27, Question and Answer 74).

790. Baptized in Water
In each stanza of “Baptized in Water,” the phrase “sealed by the Spirit” is paired with “baptized in water” and reflects what Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 26, Question and Answer 70 says: “To be washed with Christ’s Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ...”

792. Through the Red Sea
Historically the passage of the Israelites through the Red Sea has been the metaphor for baptism into new life. Belgic Confession, Article 34, speaks of the Son of God “…who is our Red Sea through which we must pass to escape the tyranny of Pharaoh who is the devil...”

793. Loving Spirit
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 26, Question and Answer 70 explains that we are sanctified (set apart) to be members of Christ, paralleling stanzas 1 and 5 of “Loving Spirit,” which speak of the Holy Spirit who has “chosen me to be.”

795. We Know That Christ Is Raised
When we sing in stanza 2 “We share by water in his saving death,” we find the same truth echoed in the Catechism’s assurance. First, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 25, Question and Answer 66 tells us that the promise of the Gospel comes with a seal and assurance that we are “as truly washed of our sins spiritually as our bodies are washed with water physically” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 27, Question and Answer 73).

798. Todos los que han sido bautizados/All Who Have Been Baptized
The dominant thought in this refrain is that all who have been baptized have been “reclothed with our Lord Jesus Christ.” Notice how Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 26, Question and Answer 70 points to our being “sanctified...to be members of Christ, so that more and more we become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives,” and Belgic Confession, Article 34 speaks in Pauline terms, telling us that God is “clothing us with the new self and stripping off the old self with its practices.”

799. A Prayer at Baptism
The petitions of this prayer point to the work of the Holy Spirit who has “sanctified us to be members of Christ” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 26, Question and Answer 70).

Theme: Children at Baptism
The inclusion of children at baptism is taught in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 27, Question and Answer 74 when it says, “Children as well as adults are included in God’s covenant and people” and Belgic Confession, Article 34 which says, “…our children ought to be baptized and sealed with the sign of the covenant…”

Songs that follow this theme:
801. O God, Great Father, Lord and King
802. Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
804. Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
805. Our Children, Lord, in Faith and Prayer
Receiving the Sacraments

THE LORD’S SUPPER

96. What Feast of Love.
In stanza 1 of “What Feast of Love,” the “food of everlasting life” is a reference to the way in which Christ “nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 75) and that “his crucified body and poured-out blood are the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 76).

141. Somos pueblo que camina/We Are People on a Journey
Stanza 3 speaks not only of nourishment for the body but also of nourishment for our unity. There are similar echoes in Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 38 when it notes that the Holy Spirit not only feeds us but “binds us to each other as we share one loaf and cup.” In addition, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 76 professes that when God’s children eat and drink “we are united more and more to Christ’s blessed body.”

243. One People, Here, We Gather
The reference in stanza 1 of “one people” who “break one loaf together” finds its reference in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 76 when it says, “We are united more and more to Christ’s blessed body” and Question and Answer 77 when it says, “We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”

529. Gather Us In
Stanza 3 of “Gather Us In” uses multiple references to the Lord’s Supper, such as “the bread of new birth,” “the wine of compassion,” “the bread that is you,” and the expectation to be nourished well. All of these references clearly reflect the teaching of Belgic Confession, Article 35 as means of sustaining the spiritual and heavenly new life we have within us through our second birth.

533. I Come with Joy
Stanza 3 clearly imagines us at the Lord’s Table, a new community of love where divisions end and strangers become friends. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Questions and Answers 76 and 77 also reflects this greater health for the church by seeing us “united more and more to Christ’s blessed body” and “because there is one bread, we who are many are one body.”

534. All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly
“Hunger,” “taste,” and “see” in this song point to the experience of being nourished at the table. The theme of the Lord’s Supper throughout the confessions is that of nourishment for our spirits. Belgic Confession, Article 35 speaks of the nourishment of our new “spiritual and heavenly” life within us, and Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 29, Question and Answer 79, speaks of the “true food and drink of our souls for eternal life.”

602. Jesus Is Our King
This song contains a unique phrase in stanza 3 that the Lamb “teaches us by bread and wine the mystery of his body...” referencing the Lord’s Supper. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 29, Question and Answer 79, reflects on the mystery associated with the body and blood of Christ: “...he wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the Holy Spirit’s work, share in his true body and blood as surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his remembrance, and that all of his suffering and obedience are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered and made satisfaction for our sins.”

808. Table of Plenty
Like this song, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 30, Questions and Answers 81 and 82 make it clear that the table welcomes sinners around it; however, they are sinners who are “displeased with themselves...trust that their sins are pardoned...and desire more and more to strengthen their faith and to lead a better life.”

815. Gift of Finest Wheat
The “heavenly food” referenced in stanza 2 reinforces the anticipation of being nurtured and nourished at the Lord’s Table. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 75 is a reminder that Christ “nourishes and refreshes my soul for eternal life,” and Lord’s Day 29, Question and Answer 78 assures us that the bread and wine “are the true food and drink of our souls for eternal life.”

818. Eat This Bread
Just like this song, Belgic Confession, Article 35 is a reassurance that the Lord’s Supper “...nourishes and maintains the spiritual life of believers when eaten—that is, when appropriated and received spiritually by faith.”

826. Affirmation: What God Says Through the Supper
This affirmation comes from Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 75 and 80 and will be helpful in any service of the Lord’s Supper.

829. Affirmation: The Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood
From Belgic Confession, Article 35, this affirmation places strong words of faith in the mouths of all participants.

835. One Bread, One Body
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 77 quotes Paul’s words from I Corinthians 10: “...We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.”

837. Let Us Break Bread Together
In this song, the communal nature of the sacrament (“us...we”) is emphasized. While we sing it, we ought to be aware that, for the most part, the confessions of the church speak in the plural (“we”). This picture of many coming together is matched by the plural “we who are many are one body” in Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 77. In Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 38 Christ offers his body and blood to “his people” as the Holy Spirit “binds us to each other as we share one loaf and cup.” Belgic Confession, Article 35, exhorts us to receive the holy sacrament “in the gathering of God’s people.”

840. Behold the Lamb
The slain Lamb of God “who bears our sins away” is reflected in the dominant idea of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 75: “Christ’s one sacrifice on the cross” and that”...all our sins are completely forgiven through the one sacrifice of Jesus Christ...” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 30, Question and Answer 80).

842. I Am the Bread of Life
The Belgic Confession and Heidelberg Catechism join with the words of Christ from John 6, and point to the nourishment to eternal life. Belgic Confession, Article 35 calls this the “...living bread that came down from heaven.” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 29, Question and Answer 79 says the bread is the sure food “of our souls for eternal life.”

847. This Holy Covenant Was Made
Stanza 2 speaks of the upper room where Christ and the disciples were gathered around the table. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 28, Question and Answer 77 includes these words of institution from this occasion as the foundation for the sacrament.
Living Our Baptism

OFFERING OUR LIVES

865. Affirmation: Sharing Gifts Within the Body
Based on the words of Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 21, Question and Answer 55, this affirmation provides a clear expression of the communion of saints created by our baptism in Christ.

Theme: Union with Christ
In baptism, our identity is established and we are “set apart from all other people and alien religions, that we may wholly belong to [Christ] whose mark and sign we bear” (Belgic Confession, Article 34). Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 26, Question and Answer 70 assures us that “to be washed with Christ’s Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ...” We therefore are called “to join and unite with it [the church of Christ]” (Belgic Confession, Article 28). This union with Christ shapes our personal identity for all time.

Songs that follow this theme:
846. Baptized in Christ
847. This Holy Covenant Was Made
849. We Have Put on Christ
851. I Am the Holy Vine
868. That’s Why We Praise Him

Theme: Receiving a Call and Vocation in Baptism
To be sure, baptism provides the assurance “that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins because of Christ’s blood poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 26, Question and Answer 70). But it also involves the calling that “more and more we become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 26, Question and Answer 70).

“Christ places baptism in the world as a seal of God’s covenant people, placing them in ministry” (Our Song of Hope, stanza 18). Consequently, “The Spirit calls all members to embrace God’s mission” (Our World Belong to God, paragraph 41). Our vocation is broad because Christ is Lord over all: “To follow this Lord is to serve him wherever we are without fitting in, light in darkness, salt in a spoiling world” (Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 43). Our identity thus determines our vocation.
Theme: We Respond with an Act of Commitment

God’s grace grants our baptism, and gives us our identity and our calling; however, it is up to us, with a renewed spirit, to respond to his call. We understand that just as “God reminds and assures us of our union with Christ in covenant love,” he also is “expecting our love and trust in return” (*Our World Belong to God*, paragraph 37).

“We hear the Spirit’s call to love one another...to accept one another and to share at every level...and so fulfill the love of Christ” (*Song of Hope*, stanza 12). As washed and sanctified people, God’s children are called to “more and more [we] become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives,” (*Heidelberg Catechism*, Lord’s Day 26, Question and Answer 70) and this means “the dying away of the old-self, and the rising-to-life of the new” (*Heidelberg Catechism*, Lord’s Day33, Question and Answer 88). And so, as part of our baptism, God’s children are called to offer their lives to Christ.

Songs that follow this theme:

**850. Commit Your Way to God the Lord**
**852. Faith Begins by Letting Go**
**854. I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**
**857. Your Mercy and Your Justice**
**858. God Be in My Head**
**859. Be Thou My Vision**
**861. In Our Lives, Lord, Be Glorified**
**862. Take Us as We Are, O God**
**863. Take My Life and Let It Be**
**866. God, We Give to You Our Offerings**
**869. Here I Am, Lord**
Living Our Baptism

Offering Our Gifts

Overarching Theme
When we sing about the offering of our gifts, we quickly find several thoughts interwoven with each other. The first is the foundational thought that God’s generosity in Christ has brought us salvation and all good things in life. God has “created heaven and earth and all other creatures from nothing” (Belgic Confession, Article 12) and he continues to “provide whatever I need in body and soul” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26). But God’s greatest act of generosity is shown in the gift of his Son “by a most perfect love” (Belgic Confession, Article 20) through whom we find the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. This generosity of God is always in the background of each song in this section.

Theme: Our Thankful Response
God’s children are called to respond thankfully to God’s generosity. Our gifts, therefore, take on the nature of a testimony of thankfulness to our generous God. We aim that “with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86). Indeed, all our living, including our gifts, are intended to show “how I am to thank God for such deliverance” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 2). It is natural, therefore, that our giving of offerings is accompanied with songs that express this gratitude.

Songs that follow this theme:
871. What Shall I Render to the Lord
872. Have We Any Gift Worth Giving
873. Praise and Thanksgiving
874. We Are an Offering
876. God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
878. God, We Honor You
879. Lord of All Good
882. Grant Now Your Blessing

Theme: Healthy and Compassionate Concern for Others
God’s children are called to be compassionately concerned for other humans and their needs, a call which expresses our obedience in living out our baptism. The Belhar Confession, Section 2 points out that the unity of the people of God is manifested as we love one another, know and
share one another’s burdens and suffer with one another. Later, the Belhar Confession, Section 4 says, “God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry...supports the downtrodden...helps widows and orphans...” among other things, and we are to follow him in these actions. Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 11 calls us to “foster the well-being of all the living,” to “feed the hungry, bring water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and free the prisoner” (paragraph 41).

Songs that follow this theme:
877. We Give Thee but Thine Own
880. Take Our Silver and Our Gold
881. Use These Gifts
Offering Our Prayers

Theme: Praying Through Christ
Belgic Confession, Article 26 provides the foundation for all our praying: “We believe that we have no access to God except through the one and only Mediator and Intercessor ‘Jesus Christ the righteous,’ who therefore was made human, uniting together the divine and human natures, so that we human beings might have access to the divine Majesty. Otherwise we would have no access.” We offer our prayers, therefore, “only on the basis of the excellence and dignity of Jesus Christ, whose righteousness is ours by faith.” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 46, Question and Answer 120 verifies this privilege when it says, “Through Christ God has become our Father, and...just as our parents do not refuse us the things of this life, even less will God our Father refuse to give us what we ask in faith.”

Songs that follow this theme:
888. Lord, Listen to My Righteous Plea
889. Lord, My Petition Heed
893. Hear My Cry, O God, and Save Me
895. Hear My Prayer, O God
897. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
898. What a Friend We Have in Jesus
899. Seek Ye First
900. O Holy Spirit, by Whose Breath
901. Lord, I Pray
906. Saranam, Saranam/Jesus, Savior, Lord

Theme: Intercession for the Needy
Our prayers will certainly include the needs of those who suffer. Since the church reflects the unity of the people of God, they “pray together” (Belhar Confession, Section 2). And the church, through their prayer, “supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly...and stands by any people in any form of suffering and need...” (Belhar Confession, Section 4).

Songs that follow this theme:
890. O God, Defender of the Poor
894. May the Lord God Hear You Pray
904. Lord, Make Us Servants
905. 오 소 서/Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Theme: Singing the Lord’s Prayer

God’s children are taught to think of the Lord’s Prayer as the model for prayer. Belgic Confession, Article 26 teaches us that “we call on the heavenly Father through Christ, our only Mediator, as we are taught by the Lords’ Prayer...” Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 45, Question and Answer 118 teaches that we should pray for “everything we need, spiritually and physically, as embraced in the prayer Christ our Lord himself taught us” and then spends seven Lord’s Days expounding on the petitions of the Lord’s Prayer.

Songs that follow this theme:
909. Mayenziwe/Your Will Be Done
911. Abana alathi fi ssama/Abana in Heaven
912. The Lord’s Prayer
914. Our Father in Heaven
917. Our Father in Heaven
919. Our Father, Lord of Heaven and Earth
The concluding section of this hymnal contains song selections centering on three themes, all of which are fitting at the close of a worship service—the charge to go in service, the assurance of blessing, and doxologies.

**Theme: The Charge to Go Forth in Service**

According to the confessions, Christian worshipers are called to continue in service. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Question and Answer 32 instructs us to think of ourselves as “a member of Christ...[who] share in his anointing.” So we profess “I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.” We serve him with good works, “...so that with our whole lives we may show that we are thankful to God for his benefits, so that he may be praised through us, so that we may be assured of our faith by its fruits, and so that by our godly living our neighbors may be won over to Christ” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 32, Question and Answer 86). And so we are moved to “…embrace God’s mission in [our] neighborhoods and in the world...” (*Our World Belongs to God*, paragraph 41). Christians, therefore, leave worship believing that “to follow this Lord is to serve him wherever we are without fitting in, light in darkness, salt in a spoiling world” (*Our World Belongs to God* paragraph 43).

Songs that follow this theme:

922. All on Earth and All in Heaven
925. Go to the World
926. God of Grace and God of Glory
927. God, the Father of Your People
928. Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
929. See My Hands and Feet
930. This Little Light of Mine
931. Sizohamba naye/We Will Walk with God
936. Sent Forth by God’s Blessing
937. Live a Life Worthy of the Calling
938. My Friends, May You Grow in Grace
945. Thuma mina/Send Me, Lord

**Theme: The Assurance of God’s Blessing**
To leave the security of worship and enter the world for service requires firm confidence in the faithful promises of God to be with us, to care for us and bless us. Our deepest assurance comes from the comfort we have that “I am not my own, but belong—body and soul, in life and in death—to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Question and Answer 1). Because I belong to him, “he will provide whatever I need for body and soul, and will turn to my good whatever adversity he sends upon me in this sad world. God is able to do this because he is almighty God and desires to do this because he is a faithful Father” (Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Question and Answer 26). We have the assurance that “our Lord speaks to us now through the inspired Scriptures. Christ is with us day by day” (Our Song of Hope, Stanza 1). How rich it is to carry such assurance of his blessing with us as we leave the service of worship!

Songs that follow this theme:

923. Peace Before Us
924. Come, All You Servants of the Lord
932. Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise
933. Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
934. God of Mercy, God of Grace
935. Now May Your Servant, Lord
939. May the Love of the Lord/惟愿神的爱
940. May the Lord, Mighty God
941. Canto de esperanza/Song of Hope
942. God Be with You
943. God Be with You Till We Meet Again
944. God Be with You Till We Meet Again
946. Go, My Children, with My Blessing
947. We Receive Your Blessing
948. The Lord Bless You
949. キリストの平和が/May the Peace of Christ Be with You
950. Go Now in Peace
951. Now Go in Peace

**Theme: Acclamations of Doxology**

How can the worshiper not conclude with such acclamations! When God is the “overflowing source of all good” (Belgic Confession, Article 1) and when he has provided all the benefits of Christ’s atonement and makes them ours so that “they are more than enough to absolve us from our sins,” (Belgic Confession, Article 22) our hearts cry out to him with praise and adoration. Therefore, Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 52, Question and Answer 128 includes the ending doxology of the Lord’s Prayer and teaches that “your holy name, and not we ourselves, should receive all the praise, forever.” And so consistent with these thoughts, Our World Belongs to God, paragraph 2 exclaims, “Our World Belongs to God! God is King: Let the
earth be glad! Christ is victor: His rule has begun! The Spirit is at work: Creation is renewed!
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!” And the Belhar Confession, Section 5 concludes: “Jesus is Lord. To
the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory forever and
ever.”

Songs that follow this theme:
952. Praise God! Earth and Heaven Rejoice
953. Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God
954. Blessing: The Same Voice Speaks
955. Mungu ni mwema/Know that God Is Good
956. To God Be the Glory
957. Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona/Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
958. Alleluia, Alleluia
959. Glory Be to the Father
960. Alle, Alle, Alleluia
961. Glory Be to the Father
962. Alleluia
963. Heleluyana/Hallelujah, We are Singing
964. Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
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516  Bless the Lord, O My Soul
519  God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises
521  Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
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527  Come Away from Rush and Hurry
527  Come Away from Rush and Hurry
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Cantemos al Señor/O Sing unto the Lord
Praise Is Your Right, O God, in Zion
O Praise the LORD, for It Is Good
Nyanyikanlah/Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator
All Creatures of Our God and King
We Gather in Your Presence
Let All Creation's Wonders
A Song of Creation (Benedicite)
O Praise God's Name Together
We Will Extoll You, God and King
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength
Grant Now Your Blessing
We Give Thee but Thine Own
We Are an Offering
We Will Extol You, God and King
SING PRAISE TO GOD WHO REIGNS ABOVE
O LORD, CHASTEN NOT IN ANGER
PROTECT ME, GOD: I TRUST IN YOU
YOU ARE MY HIDING PLACE
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LISTEN TO MY CRY, LORD
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GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND OUR STRENGTH
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PROTECT ME, GOD: I TRUST IN YOU
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LORD, YOU ARE MY STRENGTH
ALL WILL BE WELL
LISTEN TO MY CRY, LORD
IN MY DAY OF FEAR
DANS NOS OBSCURITÉS/WITHIN OUR DARKEST NIGHT
IF YOU LOVE ME
COME QUICKLY, LORD, TO RESCUE ME
DON'T BE AFRAID
YOU ARE MINE
THE LORD IS MY LIGHT
GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND OUR STRENGTH
IN GOD ALONE
MY SOUL FINDS REST IN GOD ALONE
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GIVE TO THE WINDS YOUR FEARS
I LOVE THE LORD; HE HEARD MY CRY
HE LEADETH ME
HIS EYE IS ON THE SPARROW
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NADA TE TURBE/NOTHING CAN TROUBLE
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WE CANNOT MEASURE HOW YOU HEAL
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For Your Gift of God the Spirit
A Call to Worship and Greeting
Now Thank We All Our God
Cantemos al Señor/O Sing unto the Lord
Praise Is Your Right, O God, in Zion
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Nyanyikanlah/Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator
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669 How Blest Are They Whose Trespass
679 For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free
681 A Great High Priest
703 Assurance: Surely He took Up Our Pain
704 The Blood That Jesus Shed for Me
706 There Is a Balm in Gilead
707 Goodness Is Stronger than Evil
710 Glory, Glory, Hallelujah
770 In Christ Alone
772 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less
773 O LORD, You Are My Light
776 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
777 God Is So Good
952 Praise God! Earth and Heaven Rejoice
953 Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God
954 Blessing: The Same Voice Speaks
955 Mungu ni mwema/Know that God Is Good
956 To God Be the Glory
957 Hallelujah! Pelo tsa rona

Belgic Confession, Article 24

612 Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House
617 Spirit Divine, Inspire Our Prayer
618 Spirit of God, Who Dwells Within My Heart
641 Eternal Spirit, God of Truth
646 O God, My Faithful God
659 Nearer, Still Nearer
661 Just a Closer Walk with Thee
747 Breathe on Me, Breath of God
749 Spirit of the Living God
755 Speak, O Lord
758 Order My Steps
760 O Let My Supplicating Cry
764 Break Now the Bread of Life
767 御言葉をください/Send Your Word, O LORD
751 Open Your Ears, O Faithful People
752 Dawk’yah towgyah/Take the Saving Word of God
Belgic Confession, Article 25

711  The Lord Is God, the One and True God
712  Happy Is the One
713  What Does the Lord Require of You
714  The One Is Blest
715  Love God With All Your Soul and Strength
716  Sing a Psalm of Joy
717  God's Glory Fills the Heavens
718  How Shall the Young Direct Their Way
719  Teach Me, O LORD, Your Way of Truth
720  Deep Within
721  You Shall Love the Lord
722  Charge: A Living Sacrifice
723  The LORD is King, Enthroned in Might
724  Christian Hearts in Love United
725  People of the Lord

Belgic Confession, Article 26

406  LORD, I Bring My Songs to You
407  If You But Trust in God to Guide You
408  What a Privilege to Carry
409  LORD, Chasten Not in Anger
410  How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord
411  Protect Me, God: I Trust in You
412  You Are My Hiding Place
413  Lord, You Are My Strength
414  All Will Be Well
415  Listen to My Cry, LORD
416  In My Day of Fear
417  Dans nos obscurités/Within Our Darkest Night
418  If You Love Me
419  Come Quickly, LORD, to Rescue Me
420  Total Praise
421  Up to You I Lift My Eyes
422  Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
423  Give Me Jesus
424  Jesus, Lover of My Soul
425  Jesus, Priceless Treasure
426  My Faith Looks Up to Thee
427  How Firm a Foundation
428  O Lord, Be Our Refuge
429  Don't Be Afraid
430  You Are Mine
431  The Lord Is My Light
432  God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength

Belgic Confession, Article 27

109  Hail to the Lord’s Anointed
243  One People, Here, We Gather
387  The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended
Out of Need and Out of Custom
Amid the Thronging Worshipers
Dios está aquí/God Is Here Today
Gather Us In
Welcome into this Place
God, You Call Us to This Place
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Belgic Confession, Article 28
Baptized in Christ
This Holy Covenant Was Made
We Have Put on Christ
I Am the Holy Vine
That's Why We Praise Him

Belgic Confession, Article 34
Soplo de Dios/O Living Breath
You Are Our God; We Are Your People
Through the Red Sea
Todos los que han sido bautizados
/All Who Have Been Baptized
O God, Great Father, Lord and King
Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters
Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
Our Children, Lord, in Faith and Prayer

Belgic Confession, Article 35
What Feast of Love
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Calling
Somos pueblo que camina
/We Are People on a Journey
We Are People on a Journey

Belgic Confession, Article 37
To My Precious Lord
The Church's One Foundation
For All the Saints
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
Shepherd Me, O God
O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
My Times Are in Your Hands
Within the Shelter of the Lord
Our Eyes Are Turned
O Lord, Hear My Prayer
We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace
Precious Lord, Take My Hand
Abide with Me
O Christ, You Wept When Grief Was Raw
I Will Rise
Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
Jesus Christ Is the Way
Lo! He Comes, with Clouds Descending
My Lord, What a Morning
Belhar Confession

Belhar Confession, Article 1
374  O Splendor of God's Glory Bright
492  Come, Thou Almighty King
496  Uyai mose/Come, All You People
520  Jesu, tawa pano/Jesus, We Are Here
523  Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid
524  Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
535  The Lord Be with You
538  Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
508  I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say

Belhar Confession, Article 2
256  They'll Know We Are Christians
257  Blest Be the Tie That Binds
260  Miren qué bueno/Oh, Look and Wonder
877  We Give Thee but Thine Own
880  Take Our Silver and Our Gold
881  Use These Gifts
890  O God, Defender of the Poor
894  May the Lord God Hear You Pray
904  Lord, Make Us Servants
905  오 소 서/Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Belhar Confession, Article 3
117  Blest Are They
278  The City Is Alive, O God
282  O God of Every Nation
283  O God of Love, Forever Blest
285  Blest Be God
288  Shalom/Bring Peace
289  For the Healing of the Nations
290  Hear Us, O Lord, As We Voice Our Laments
291  How Long, O Lord, How Long
292  There Where the Judges Gather
293  O Great God and Lord of the Earth
294  When Asked, Who Is My Neighbor
295  Let Justice Flow
296  We Are Called
297  Open Our Eyes
298  Salaam/Peace
299  Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love
301  How Blest Are Those Who Fear the LORD
303  Healer of Our Every Ill

Belhar Confession, Article 4
129  Somlandela/We Will Follow
141  Somos pueblo que camina
141  /We Are People on a Journey
248  We Are Your People
626  Cast Down, O God, the Idols
642  Perdón, Señor/Forgive Us, Lord
643  Plaintive Is the Song I Sing
644  Lying Lips
645  Litany for the Slandered
647  Come, Sing to God with All Your Heart
648  Why Stand So Far Away, My God
649  I Call to You, My Rock
650  O When Will We See Justice Done
651  By the Babylonian Rivers
654  Do Not Keep Silent, O God
657  Hear My Cry and Supplication
658  Bring Peace to Earth Again
660  Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer
662  In an Age of Twisted Values
663  Pelas dores deste mundo/For the Troubles
664  I Need Your Help, O LORD My God
877  We Give Thee but Thine Own
880  Take Our Silver and Our Gold
881  Use These Gifts
890  O God, Defender of the Poor
894  May the Lord God Hear You Pray
904  Lord, Make Us Servants
905  오 소 서/Come Now, O Prince of Peace

Belhar Confession, Article 5
117  Blest Are They
251  The Church's One Foundation
952  Praise God! Earth and Heaven Rejoice
953  Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God
954  Blessing: The Same Voice Speaks
955  Mungu ni mwema/Know that God Is Good
956  To God Be the Glory
957  Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona
957  /Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises
958  Alleluia, Alleluia
959  Glory Be to the Father
960  Alle, Alle, Alleluia
961  Glory Be to the Father
962  Alleluia
963  Heleluyan/Hallelujah, We Are Singing
964  Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
965  Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
Canons of Dort

Canons of Dort I, 7
38 In a Deep, Unbounded Darkness
251 The Church’s One Foundation
252 Church of God, Elect and Glorious

Canons of Dort III-IV, 8
612 Lord, Who May Dwell Within Your House
613 Come to the Savior Now
614 Come, You Disconsolate
615 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling
655 Out of the Depths I Cry to You on High

Canons of Dort V, 3
254 For All the Saints

Canons of Dort V, 4
324 O For a Closer Walk with God

Canons of Dort V, 12
729 Let This Be My Supreme Desire
730 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
732 The LORD, My Shepherd, Rules My Life
733 Humbly in Your Sight
734 My Heart Is Firmly Fixed
735 I Love You, LORD, For You Have Heard My Voice
736 God, Who Touches Earth With Beauty
737 Have Thine Own Way, Lord
738 Jesus, All for Jesus
739 I Surrender All

Canons of Dort V, 13
729 Let This Be My Supreme Desire
730 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
732 The LORD, My Shepherd, Rules My Life
733 Humbly in Your Sight
734 My Heart Is Firmly Fixed
735 I Love You, LORD, For You Have Heard My Voice
736 God, Who Touches Earth With Beauty
737 Have Thine Own Way, Lord
738 Jesus, All for Jesus
739 I Surrender All
740 Here I Am
741 Take, O Take Me as I Am
742 Will You Come and Follow Me
743 O God, You Are My God
744 In Great Thanksgiving
745 Dwell in Me, O Blessed Spirit
746 Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God
Heidelberg Catechism

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Q&A 1

323 With All My Heart I Thank You, LORD
354 LORD, I Gladly Trust
355 Be Gracious to Me, Lord
363 Blessed Assurance: Jesus Is Mine
368 El Señor es mi pastor/My Shepherd Is the LORD
369 My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
370 My Soul Finds Rest
371 Tu fidelidad/I Depend upon Your Faithfulness
372 When Morning Gilds the Sky
375 Your Name
386 Christ, Mighty Savior
406 LORD, I Bring My Songs to You
407 If You But Trust in God to Guide You
408 What a Privilege to Carry
409 LORD, Chasten Not in Anger
410 How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord
411 Protect Me, God: I Trust in You
412 You Are My Hiding Place
413 Lord, You Are My Strength
414 All Will Be Well
415 Listen to My Cry, LORD
416 In My Day of Fear
417 Dans nos obscurités/Within Our Darkest Night
418 If You Love Me
419 Come Quickly, LORD, to Rescue Me
420 Total Praise
421 Up to You I Lift My Eyes
422 Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
423 Give Me Jesus
424 Jesus, Lover of My Soul
425 Jesus, Priceless Treasure
426 My Faith Looks Up to Thee
427 How Firm a Foundation
428 O Lord, Be Our Refuge
429 Don’t Be Afraid
430 You Are Mine
431 The Lord Is My Light
432 God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength
433 In God Alone
434 Affirmation: My Only Comfort
435 My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone
436 How I Love You, LORD, My God
437 Day by Day
438 Give to the Winds Your Fears
439 I Love the Lord; He Heard My Cry
440 He Leadeth Me
441 His Eye Is on the Sparrow
442 Praise the Lord Who Heals
443 My Life Flows On in Endless Song
444 Nada te turbe/Nothing Can Trouble
445 Stand, Oh, Stand Firm
446 We Cannot Measure How You Heal
449 When Memory Fades
450 Neither Death nor Life
451 When Peace like a River
452 Pues si vivimos/When We Are Living
453 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
454 Beams of Heaven
456 Shepherd Me, O God
457 O Love That Will Not Let Me Go
458 My Times Are in Your Hands
459 Within the Shelter of the Lord
460 Our Eyes Are Turned
462 O Lord, Hear My Prayer
464 We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace
465 Precious Lord, Take My Hand
466 Abide with Me
467 O Christ, You Wept When Grief Was Raw
468 I Will Rise
469 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
470 We Praise You, O God (Te Deum)
471 All Glory Be to God on High
472 Sing, Sing a New Song to the Lord God
474 My God, How Wonderful You Are
479 How Great Thou Art
480 O God Beyond All Praising
481 We Praise You, O God
482 Here I Am to Worship
483 I Will Sing of My Redeemer
484 Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
485 O Love of God, How Strong and True
486 I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art
487 Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing
488 All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name
489 To God Be the Glory
490 Salvation Belongs to Our God
491 Lord, I Lift Your Name on High
492 Mighty to Save
493 My Only Comfort
494 Peace Before Us
495 Come, All You Servants of the Lord
496 Savior, Again to Your Dear Name We Raise
497 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
498 God of Mercy, God of Grace
499 Now May Your Servant, Lord
500 May the Love of the Lord/惟愿神的爱
501 May the Lord, Mighty God
Canto de esperanza/Song of Hope

God Be with You

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

We Receive Your Blessing

The Lord Bless You

キリストの平和が/May the Peace of Christ Be with You

Go Now in Peace

God Be with You

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

God Be with You Till We Meet Again

Go, My Children, With My Blessing

We Receive Your Blessing

The Lord Bless You

キリストの平和が/May the Peace of Christ Be with You

Go Now in Peace

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 1, Q&A 2

In the Lord, I’ll Be Ever Thankful

Give Thanks

Give Thanks to God, Who Hears Our Cries

I’m So Glad

Cantai ao Senhor/O Sing to the Lord

O Give the LORD Wholehearted Praise

I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say

Come, Worship God

Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down

Now with Joyful Exultation

Sing to the LORD, Sing His Praise

Bless the Lord, O My Soul

God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

For Your Gift of God the Spirit

Come Away from Rush and Hurry

Come and Fill Our Hearts

God, You Call Us to This Place

Be Still, for the Presence

I Come with Joy

The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing

Open the Eyes of My Heart

Alleluia

Praise Ye the Lord, Hallelujah

Alleluia, Alleluia

God Himself Is with Us

Give Praise to Our God

From All That Dwell Below the Skies

Bless the Lord, Bless the Lord

Je louerai l’Eternel/Praise, I Will Praise You Lord

Praise Him! Jesus, Blessed Savior

Bān-bin ah/Let All Nations Praise the Lord

Laudate Dominum/Sing, Praise, and Bless the Lord

Laudate omnes gentes/Sing Praises, All You People

Lord Most High

Come, Christians, Join to Sing

Yeu su azali awa/Jesus Christ Is with Us

Shout to the Lord

Digno es Jesús/Worthy Is Christ

In the Sanctuary

Beautiful One

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

I Will Give You Rest

Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies

I Worship You, O LORD

How Blest Are They Whose Trespass

I Waited Patiently for God

The Lord Is Compassionate and Gracious

O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God

How Precious Is Your Unfailing Love

As Moses Raised the Serpent Up

By Grace We Have Been Saved

Oh, How I Love Jesus

For the Glories of God’s Grace

For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free

O God, We Kneel Before Your Throne

A Great High Priest

Before the Throne of God Above

How Great Is the Love of the Father

There in God’s Garden

I Sought the Lord, and Afterward I Knew

A Prayer of Praise

Father, Long Before Creation

How Vast the Benefits Divine

There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy

I Know Not Why God’s Wondrous Grace

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace Chant

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

And Can It Be

Marvelous Grace

Your Grace Is Enough

Like a River Glorious

Your Mercy Flows

Assurance: Who Is a God Like You

Depth of Mercy

Assurance: Surely He took Up Our Pain

Assurance: Surely He took Up Our Pain

The Blood That Jesus Shed for Me

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

Kwake Yesu nasimama /He on Jesus Christ I Will Stand

Jesus Loves Me

Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

What Shall I Render to the LORD

Have We Any Gift Worth Giving

Praise and Thanksgiving

We Are an Offering

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending
God, We Honor You
Lord of All Good
Grant Now Your Blessing

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 2, Q&A 3
711 The Lord Is God, the One and True God
712 Happy Is the One
713 What Does the Lord Require of You
714 The One Is Blest
716 Love God With All Your Soul and Strength
717 Sing a Psalm of Joy
719 God’s Glory Fills the Heavens
720 How Shall the Young Direct Their Way
721 Teach Me, O LORD, Your Way of Truth
723 Deep Within
724 You Shall Love the Lord
725 Charge: A Living Sacrifice
726 The LORD is King, Enthroned in Might
727 Christian Hearts in Love United
728 People of the Lord

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 3, Q&A 7
29 How Sweet Was the Garden, Fertile and Fair
30 God, Let Me Like a Spreading Tree
33 All Have Sinned
34 What Adam’s Disobedience Cost

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 7, Q&A 20
125 Jesus the Lord Said, "I Am the Bread"
616 As a Deer in Want of Water
619 Tama ngaku marie
   /Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace
620 Good to Me
621 Give Me a Clean Heart
622 God, Be Merciful to Me
623 God, Be Merciful to Me
624 Not What My Hands Have Done
625 LORD, to You My Soul Is Lifted
627 Just as I Am, Without One Plea
628 Give Us Clean Hands
629 Ishworo/Father in Heaven, Have Mercy
630 O Christ, the Lamb of God
631 Holy God
632 Remember Not, O God
633 Kyrie/Lord, Have Mercy
634 A Prayer for God’s Mercy (Trisagion)
635 Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy
636 A Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon
637 Kyrie Eleison/Lord, Have Mercy
638 Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive
639 Lord, Have Mercy
640 A Prayer of Confession

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 8, Q&A 24
111 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
250 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
492 Come, Thou Almighty King
496 Uyai mose/Come, All You People
520 Jesu, tawa pano/Jesus, We Are Here
523 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid
524 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
535 The Lord Be with You
538 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 8, Q&A 25
111 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
250 Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation
492 Come, Thou Almighty King
496 Uyai mose/Come, All You People
520 Jesu, tawa pano/Jesus, We Are Here
523 Creator Spirit, by Whose Aid
524 Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 9, Q&A 26

1. All People That on Earth Do Dwell
17. Beautiful Savior
19. For the Beauty of the Earth
20. All Things Bright and Beautiful
21. This Is My Father’s World
24. The Lord Be with You
25. He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands
27. God Moves in a Mysterious Way
28. Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Q&A 28
35. LORD, I Bring My Songs to You
36. If You But Trust in God to Guide You
37. What a Privilege to Carry
38. LORD, Chasten Not in Anger
39. How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord
40. Protect Me, God: I Trust in You
41. LORD, You Are My Strength
42. Go, My Children, With My Blessing
43. We Receive Your Blessing
44. The Lord Bless You
45. May the Love of the Lord
46. May the Lord, Mighty God
47. Canto de esperanza/Song of Hope
48. God Be with You
49. God Be with You Till We Meet Again
50. God Be with You Till We Meet Again
51. Go, Your Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim
52. Santo, santo, santo/Holy, Holy, Holy
53. Holy Is the Lord
54. You are Holy
55. Lord, Jesus Is Our King
56. Beautiful One
57. Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
58. May the Peace of Christ Be with You
59. Go Now in Peace
60. Now Go in Peace
61. Praise the LORD! Sing Hallelujah/惟愿神的爱
62. For Your Gift of God the Spirit
63. Holy God, We Praise Your Name
64. Robed in Majesty
65. I Will Extol You, O My God
66. Not unto Us, O Lord of Heaven
67. How Great Is Our God
68. You Are Good
69. Forever
70. Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
71. Our God
72. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
73. You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim
74. Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón/Holy, Holy, Holy, My Heart
75. LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name
76. LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name
77. As the Deer
78. Como el ciervo/Like a Deer
79. Better Is One Day
80. How Lovely Is Your Dwelling
81. Come, Worship God
82. Amid the Thronging Worshipers
83. Now with Joyful Exultation
84. Sing to the LORD, Sing His Praise
85. Praise the LORD! Sing Hallelujah/惟愿神的爱
86. LORD, I Bring My Songs to You
87. If You But Trust in God to Guide You
88. What a Privilege to Carry
89. LORD, Chasten Not in Anger
90. How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord
91. Protect Me, God: I Trust in You
92. LORD, You Are My Strength
93. Go, Your Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim
94. Santo, santo, santo/Holy, Holy, Holy
95. Holy Is the Lord
96. You are Holy
97. Lord, Jesus Is Our King
98. Beautiful One
99. Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
100. May the Peace of Christ Be with You
101. Go Now in Peace
102. Now Go in Peace
103. LORD, I Bring My Songs to You
104. If You But Trust in God to Guide You
105. What a Privilege to Carry
106. LORD, Chasten Not in Anger
107. How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord
108. Protect Me, God: I Trust in You
109. LORD, You Are My Strength
110. Go, Your Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim
111. Santo, santo, santo/Holy, Holy, Holy
112. Holy Is the Lord
113. You are Holy
114. Lord, Jesus Is Our King
115. Beautiful One
116. Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
117. May the Peace of Christ Be with You
118. Go Now in Peace
119. Now Go in Peace
120. LORD, I Bring My Songs to You
121. If You But Trust in God to Guide You
122. What a Privilege to Carry
123. LORD, Chasten Not in Anger
124. How Long Will You Forget Me, Lord
125. Protect Me, God: I Trust in You
126. LORD, You Are My Strength
127. Go, Your Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim
128. Santo, santo, santo/Holy, Holy, Holy
129. Holy Is the Lord
130. You are Holy
131. Lord, Jesus Is Our King
132. Beautiful One
133. Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing
134. May the Peace of Christ Be with You
135. Go Now in Peace
136. Now Go in Peace
Total Praise
Up to You I Lift My Eyes
Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior
Give Me Jesus
Jesus, Lover of My Soul
Jesus, Priceless Treasure
My Faith Looks Up to Thee
How Firm a Foundation
O Lord, Be Our Refuge
Don't Be Afraid
You Are Mine
The Lord Is My Light
God Is Our Refuge and Our Strength
In God Alone
My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone
How I Love You, LORD, My God
Day by Day
Give to the Winds Your Fears
I Love the Lord; He Heard My Cry
He Leadeth Me
His Eye Is on the Sparrow
Praise the Lord Who Heals
My Life Flows On in Endless Song
Nada te turbe/Nothing Can Trouble
Stand, Oh, Stand Firm
We Cannot Measure How You Heal
When Memory Fades
Neither Death nor Life
When Peace like a River
Pues si vivimos/When We Are Living
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Beams of Heaven

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Q&A 27

2 O Worship the King
5 Let All Things Now Living
24 Affirmation: God as Creator and Provider
120 Look and Learn
396 For the Fruit of All Creation
397 Praise God for the Harvest of Orchard and Field
398 Sing to the Lord of Harvest
399 Bless the LORD, O Saints and Servants
499 The Earth, with All That Dwell Therein
500 LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name
501 LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 10, Q&A 28

2 O Worship the King
5 Let All Things Now Living
23 Children of the Heavenly Father
25 God Moves in a Mysterious Way
25 God Moves in a Mysterious Way

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 11, Q&A 29

57 Toda la tierra/All Earth Is Waiting
61 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 11, Q&A 30

57 Toda la tierra/All Earth Is Waiting
61 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
125 Jesus the Lord Said, "I Am the Bread"

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Q&A 31

57 Toda la tierra/All Earth Is Waiting
61 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
70 On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry
71 Creator of the Stars of Night
74 Savior of the Nations, Come
78 Of the Father's Love Begotten
81 Angels, from the Realms of Glory
104 Songs of Thankfulness and Praise
162 To Mock Your Reign, O Dearest Lord
474 Sing to the King
475 When the King Shall Come Again
476 The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord’s Day 12, Q&A 32

57 Toda la tierra/All Earth Is Waiting
61 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
113 Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering
922 All on Earth and All in Heaven
925 Go to the World
926 God of Grace and God of Glory
927 God, the Father of Your People
928 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service
929 See My Hands and Feet
930 This Little Light of Mine
931 Sizohamba naye/We Will Walk with God
936 Sent Forth by God's Blessing
937 Live a Life Worthy of the Calling
938 My Friends, May You Grow in Grace
945 Thuma mina/Send Me, Lord
Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 16, Q&A 42
87 Once in Royal David's City
111 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
161 Go to Dark Gethsemane
163 What Grace Is This
164 What Wondrous Love
166 Were You There
167 Beneath the Cross of Jesus
168 O Sacred Head, Now Wounded
170 Man of Sorrows—What a Name
171 Calvary
172 Ah, Holy Jesus, How Have You Offended
173 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed
174 I Stand Amazed
175 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross
177 Oh, to See the Dawn

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 17, Q&A 45
87 Once in Royal David's City
110 Behold the Lamb of God
161 Go to Dark Gethsemane
179 Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven
181 See, What a Morning
182 Christ the Lord Is Risen Today
183 Alleluia
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233 Haleluya, Puji Tuhan/Alleluia, Praise the Lord
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233 Haleluya, Puji Tuhan/Alleluia, Praise the Lord
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233 Haleluya, Puji Tuhan/Alleluia, Praise the Lord
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242 When Our Savior, Yesu, Went Away
251 The Church’s One Foundation

Our Song of Hope, Stanza 21
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485 In the Day of the Lord
486 A New Heaven and Earth
487 O Day of Peace
488 Jerusalem the Golden
# Our World Belongs to God

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<td>960 Alle, Alle, Alleluia</td>
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<td>400 Greet Now the Swiftly Changing Year</td>
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<td>963 Heleluyan/Hallelujah, We Are Singing</td>
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<td>500 LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name</td>
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<td>566 Give Praise to Our God</td>
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<td>588 Bān-bîn ah/Let All Nations Praise the Lord</td>
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<td>592 Laudate omnes gentes/Sing Praises, All You People</td>
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<td>446 We Cannot Measure How You Heal</td>
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Neither Death nor Life
When Peace like a River
Pues si vivimos/When We Are Living
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Beams of Heaven

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 5
When Israel Fled from Egypt Land
When Israel Was in Egypt's Land
LORD, You Have Lavished on Your Land
Blessed Be the God of Israel
Lord, You Were Rich Beyond All Splendor
Of the Father's Love Begotten
How Bright Appears the Morning Star
Far from Home We Run, Rebellious

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 6
In the Lord, I'll Be Ever Thankful
Give Thanks
Give Thanks to God, Who Hears Our Cries
I'm So Glad

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraphs 7-12
For the Beauty of the Earth
All Things Bright and Beautiful
This Is My Father's World

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 8
All People That on Earth Do Dwell
Soplo de Dios/O Living Breath
Many and Great
God Marked a Line and Told the Sea
The Earth, with All That Dwell Therein
LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name
LORD, Our Lord, Your Glorious Name

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 9
Let All Things Now Living

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 10
LORD, You Have Searched Me
Lord, as the Day Begins
Lord of All Hopefulness

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 11
Children of the Heavenly Father
We Give Thee but Thine Own

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 14
How Sweet Was the Garden, Fertile and Fair
God, Let Me Like a Spreading Tree
All Have Sinned
What Adam's Disobedience Cost

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 16
Touch the Earth Lightly
LORD, I Bring My Songs to You
If You But Trust in God to Guide You
What a Privilege to Carry
LORD, Chasten Not in Anger
Protect Me, God: I Trust in You
You Are My Hiding Place
Lord, You Are My Strength
All Will Be Well
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Stand, Oh, Stand Firm
We Cannot Measure How You Heal
When Memory Fades
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Pues si vivimos/When We Are Living
How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds
Beams of Heaven

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 18
Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer
Lift Every Voice and Sing
We Give Thanks unto You
Joy to the World
Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace
A Call to Worship and Greeting
Now Thank We All Our God
Cantemos al Señor/O Sing unto the Lord
Praise Is Your Right, O God, in Zion
O Praise the LORD, for It Is Good
Nyanyikanlah/Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator
All Creatures of Our God and King
We Gather in Your Presence
Let All Creation's Wonders
A Song of Creation (Benedicite)
O Praise God's Name Together
We Will Extol You, God and King
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring
The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 21
You Are Our God; We Are Your People
Litany of Praise: Our Covenanting God
The God of Abraham Praise
I Will Be Your God
When Israel Fleed from Egypt Land
When Israel Was in Egypt's Land
Angels, from the Realms of Glory
Jesus, the Light of the World
Arise, Shine, for Your Light Is Come
Jesus on the Mountain Peak

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 22
O God, We Have Heard

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 23
Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Hark, the Glad Sound! The Savior Comes
Toda la tierra/All Earth Is Waiting
O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Blessed Be the God of Israel
Savior of the Nations, Come
What Child Is This

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 24
O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
Jesus, Tempted in the Desert
The Kingdom of Our God Is Like
Jesus Heard with Deep Compassion

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 25
O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
Mark How the Lamb of God's Self-Offering
Because He Lives
I Serve a Risen Savior
I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
I Will Give You Rest
How Blest Are They Whose Trespass
For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free
A Great High Priest
Assurance: Surely He took Up Our Pain
The Blood That Jesus Shed for Me
There Is a Balm in Gilead
Goodness Is Stronger than Evil
Glory, Glory, Hallelujah

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 26
As a Deer in Want of Water
Tama ngakau marie/Son of God, Whose Heart Is Peace
Good to Me
Give Me a Clean Heart
God, Be Merciful to Me
God, Be Merciful to Me
Not What My Hands Have Done
LORD, to You My Soul Is Lifted
Just as I Am, Without One Plea
Give Us Clean Hands
Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 27
92 Joy to the World
214 Why This Dark Conspiracy
216 Nations, Clap Your Hands
217 The LORD unto My Lord Has Said
218 To Your Unequaled Strength
219 Jesus Shall Reign
220 At the Name of Jesus
221 For the Honor of Our King
222 He Is King of Kings
223 Crown Him with Many Crowns
224 Rejoice, the Lord Is King
225 You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd
226 Jesus Is Lord
227 He Is Lord

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 28
111 O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High
228 Send Us Your Spirit
230 Come, Holy Spirit
231 Come, Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire
232 Come, Holy Ghost
233 Haleluya, Puji Tuhan/Alleluia, Praise the Lord
234 Come Down, O Love Divine
235 Spirit, Working in Creation
236 Praise the Spirit in Creation
237 Spirit of God, Unleashed on Earth
238 Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
239 Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow
240 Fear Not, Rejoice and Be Glad
241 Santo Espíritu, excelsa Paloma

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320 Gracious Spirit, Heed Our Pleading
321 We Need the Power of the Holy Spirit
329 Lead Me, Guide Me
330 Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
331 To the Hills I Lift My Eyes
332 As the Deer Pants for the Water
341 We’ve Come This Far by Faith
228 Send Us Your Spirit
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231 Come, Holy Spirit, Our Souls Inspire
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Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 30
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239 Wind Who Makes All Winds That Blow
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When Our Savior, Yesu, Went Away
One People, Here, We Gather
Here from All Nations
Tell Out, My Soul
I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say
For Your Gift of God the Spirit
Gather Us In
God, You Call Us to This Place
Out of Need and Out of Custom
Amid the Thronging Worshipers
Dios está aquí/God Is Here Today
Gather Us In
Welcome into this Place
God, You Call Us to This Place
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 32
Open Your Ears, O Faithful People
Dawk'yah towgyah/Take the Saving Word of God
Listen, God Is Calling
Lord, Speak to Me that I May Speak
A Prayer: Make Us Hungry for Your Word
I Will Hide Your Word Inside My Heart
Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
Lord, We Hear Your Word with Gladness
Lord, to Whom Shall We Go
The Word Will Accomplish Its Purpose
O Word of God Incarnate
Your Word Sheds Light upon My Path
Ancient Words
God of the Word
Halle, Halle, Halle
Keep What You Have Believed

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 33
Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer
Lift Every Voice and Sing
We Give Thanks unto You
Song of the Prophets
A Call to Worship and Greeting
Now Thank We All Our God
Cantemos al Señor/O Sing unto the Lord
Praise Is Your Right, O God, in Zion
O Praise the LORD, for It Is Good
Nyanyikanlah/Hallelujah! Sing Praise to Your Creator
All Creatures of Our God and King
We Gather in Your Presence
Let All Creation's Wonders

A Song of Creation (Benedicite)
O Praise God's Name Together
We Will Extol You, God and King
Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty
With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring
The Ends of All the Earth Shall Hear

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 34
Out of Need and Out of Custom
Amid the Thronging Worshipers
Dios está aquí/God Is Here Today
Gather Us In
Welcome into this Place
God, You Call Us to This Place
All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 35
May the Mind of Christ, My Savior
Like a Child Rests
Cantai ao Senhor/O Sing to the Lord
O Give the LORD Wholehearted Praise
I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say
Come, Worship God
Come, Let Us Worship and Bow Down
Now with Joyful Exultation
Sing to the LORD, Sing His Praise
Bless the Lord, O My Soul
God, We Sing Your Glorious Praises
Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
For Your Gift of God the Spirit
Come, Now Is the Time to Worship
Come Away from Rush and Hurry
Come and Fill Our Hearts
God, You Call Us to This Place
Be Still, for the Presence
I Come with Joy
The Trumpets Sound, the Angels Sing
Open the Eyes of My Heart
I Worship You, O LORD
O Come, My Soul, Sing Praise to God
How Precious Is Your Unfailing Love
As Moses Raised the Serpent Up
By Grace We Have Been Saved
Oh, How I Love Jesus
O God, We Kneel Before Your Throne
How Great Is the Love of the Father
There in God's Garden
A Prayer of Praise
Father, Long Before Creation

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Amazing Grace

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

And Can It Be

Marvelous Grace

Your Grace Is Enough

Like a River Glorious

Your Mercy Flows

Assurance: Who Is a God Like You

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 36

My Jesus, I Love Thee

O God, You Are My God Alone

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 37

Commit Your Way to God the Lord

Faith Begins by Letting Go

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

Your Mercy and Your Justice

God Be in My Head

Be Thou My Vision

In Our Lives, Lord, Be Glorified

Take Us As We Are, O God

Take My Life and Let It Be

God, We Give to You Our Offerings

Here I Am, Lord

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 38

Somos pueblo que camina/

We Are People on a Journey

Let Us Break Bread Together

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 40

Cast Down, O God, the Idols

Perdón, Señor/Forgive Us, Lord

Plaintive Is the Song I Sing

Lying Lips

Litany for the Slandered

Come, Sing to God with All Your Heart

Why Stand So Far Away, My God

I Call to You, My Rock

O When Will We See Justice Done

By the Babylonian Rivers

Do Not Keep Silent, O God

Hear My Cry and Supplication

Bring Peace to Earth Again

Jesus, Draw Me Ever Nearer

In an Age of Twisted Values

Pelas dores deste mundo/For the Troubles

I Need Your Help, O LORD My God

Our World Belongs to God, Paragraph 41

Somlandela/We Will Follow

Christ, We Climb with You the Mountain

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

We Are Your People

Church of God, Elect and Glorious

Affirmation: Joining the Mission of God

The City Is Alive, O God

O God of Every Nation

O God of Love, Forever Blest

Blest Be God

Shalom/Bring Peace

For the Healing of the Nations

Hear Us, O Lord, As We Voice Our Laments

How Long, O Lord, How Long

There Where the Judges Gather

O Great God and Lord of the Earth

When Asked, Who Is My Neighbor

Let Justice Flow

We Are Called

Open Our Eyes

Salaam/Peace

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

How Blest Are Those Who Fear the LORD

Healer of Our Every Ill

God of the Prophets

How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

For Such a Time as This

Ahead of Us, a Race to Run

We Give Thee but Thine Own

Take Our Silver and Our Gold

Use These Gifts

All on Earth and All in Heaven

Go to the World

God of Grace and God of Glory

God, the Father of Your People

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service

See My Hands and Feet

This Little Light of Mine

Sizohamba naye/We Will Walk with God

Sent Forth by God’s Blessing

Live a Life Worthy of the Calling

My Friends, May You Grow in Grace

Thuma mina/Send Me, Lord
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<td>O God of Love, Forever Blest</td>
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<td>The City Is Alive, O God</td>
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<tr>
<td>282</td>
<td>O God of Every Nation</td>
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<tr>
<td>283</td>
<td>O God of Love, Forever Blest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>285</td>
<td>Blest Be God</td>
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<tr>
<td>288</td>
<td>Shalom/Bring Peace</td>
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<tr>
<td>289</td>
<td>For the Healing of the Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>290</td>
<td>Hear Us, O Lord, As We Voice Our Laments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>291</td>
<td>How Long, O Lord, How Long</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>292</td>
<td>There Where the Judges Gather</td>
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<tr>
<td>293</td>
<td>O Great God and Lord of the Earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>294</td>
<td>When Asked, Who Is My Neighbor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>295</td>
<td>Let Justice Flow</td>
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<tr>
<td>296</td>
<td>We Are Called</td>
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<td>297</td>
<td>Open Our Eyes</td>
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<td>Salaam/Peace</td>
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<td>Jesus, the Light of the World</td>
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<td>103</td>
<td>Arise, Shine, for Your Light Is Come</td>
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<td>The City Is Alive, O God</td>
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<td>282</td>
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<td>Salaam/Peace</td>
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<td>299</td>
<td>Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love</td>
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<td>How Blest Are Those Who Fear the LORD</td>
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<td>Healer of Our Every Ill</td>
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<td>Hail to the Lord's Anointed</td>
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<td>The Church's One Foundation</td>
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<tbody>
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<td>Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days</td>
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<td>134</td>
<td>Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights</td>
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<td>251</td>
<td>The Church's One Foundation</td>
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<td>254</td>
<td>For All the Saints</td>
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<td>351</td>
<td>Love Divine, All Loves Excelling</td>
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<td>456</td>
<td>Shepherd Me, O God</td>
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<td>457</td>
<td>O Love That Will Not Let Me Go</td>
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<td>My Times Are In Your Hands</td>
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<td>Within the Shelter of the Lord</td>
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<td>Our Eyes Are Turned</td>
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<td>O Lord, Hear My Prayer</td>
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<td>464</td>
<td>We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace</td>
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<td>Precious Lord, Take My Hand</td>
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<td>Abide with Me</td>
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<td>467</td>
<td>O Christ, You Wept When Grief Was Raw</td>
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<td>I Will Rise</td>
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<td>469</td>
<td>Swing Low, Sweet Chariot</td>
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487 O Day of Peace
488 Jerusalem the Golden

489 Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning
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491 Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights
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