



LIFT UP YOUR HEARTS

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Hymns in Christian Worship



Overview

- Short history of Christian hymnody
- Analyzing hymn texts
- Analyzing hymn tunes
- Ritual use of hymns in the Roman Rite



Short History of Christian Hymnody



Non-metrical hymns

- Syriac: *Odes of Solomon*
- Greek: *Doxa en hypistois theo* [morning hymn] / *Aineite, paides, Kyrion, aineite to onoma Kyriou* [evening hymn] / *Eulogetos ei, Kyrie* [grace at meals] / *Phos hilaron* [lucernarium]
- Latin: *Benedictus* / *Magnificat* / *Nunc dimittis* / *Gloria in excelsis*



Metrical Hymns

- Syriac (sprung rhythm/acrostic)
 - Ephrem the Syrian
 - James of Serug
 - Madrashe (hymns)
 - Mimre (homilies)



- Greek (quantitative)
 - Romanos the Melodist
 - Andrew of Crete
 - John of Damascus
 - Joseph the Hymnographer
 - Kontakion (preface + multiple strophes with refrain)
 - Kanon (hymn verses as commentary on 8-9 OT canticles)



- Latin (quantitative → accentual/rhymed)
 - First Period to Carolingian Era: e.g., Ambrose of Milan and the Ambrosian hymn
 - Second Period from the Carolingians to the Crusades: e.g., Notker Balbulus and the sequence hymn
 - Third Period from the Crusades to the rise of Humanism: e.g., Thomas Aquinas



- Vernacular Hymnody
 - Martin Luther
 - Isaac Watts
 - John and Charles Wesley
 - J. M. Neale



Analyzing Hymn Texts



Identify the Metrical Pattern

- Short Meter [S.M.] = 66.86. ["Rise Up, O Men of God"]
- Common Meter [C.M.] = 86.86. ["Amazing Grace"]
- Long Meter [L.M.] = 88.88. ["Creator of the Stars of Night"]
- Others [e.g. 87.87.D. = "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"; 6.6.11.D. = "Come Down, O Love Divine"]
- "Irregular" / "with Refrain" [e.g., "For All The Saints" / "I Am the Bread of Life"]



Identify the [End-] Rhyme Scheme

- aabb = Creator of the stars of night / Your people's everlasting light, / Jesus, redeemer, hear us all, / And save your people when they call.
- abab = Amazing grace, how sweet the sound / That saved a wretch like me / I once was lost, but now am found / Was blind, but now I see.



- xaxa = This day God gives me strength of high heaven, / Sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth, / Flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness, / Deep of the ocean, firmness of earth.
- xxxx = Blessed be the God of Israel, / The ever-living Lord, / Who comes in pow'r to save his own, / His people, Israel.



Identify the rhymes used

- **Masculine/single rhyme** = When I survey the wondrous cross / On which the Prince of glory died, / My richest gain I count but loss / And pour contempt on all my pride.
- **Feminine/double rhyme** = Wake, awake, for night is flying; / The watchmen on the heights are crying: / Awake, Jerusalem, at last! / Midnight hears the welcome voices / And at the thrilling cry rejoices; / Come forth, ye virgins, night is past; The Bridegroom comes, awake; / Your lamps with gladness take; / Alleluia! / And for His marriage feast prepare / For ye must go and meet Him there.



- **Exact Rhyme** = Hail, gladdening Light, of His pure glory poured, / Who is immortal Father, heavenly blest; / Highest and holiest—Jesus Christ our Lord! / Now are we come to the sun's hour of rest; / All times are ordered in Thy Word alone, / Therefore the day and night Thy glories own.
- **Slant Rhyme** = Ah, holy Jesus, how hast Thou offended, / That man to judge Thee hath in hate pretended? / By foes derided, by Thine own rejected, / O most afflicted.



Analyze the poetic and theological content

- What scriptures are cited or alluded to?
- What images and metaphors are employed?
- What is the progress of thought?



M. Joncas: “When Jesus Comes to Jordan’s Stream”

- 1. When Jesus comes to Jordan’s stream
- A voice from heaven calls,
- “This is my well-beloved Son,
- On whom my favor falls”;
- God’s Spirit hovers in the air
- Above the Chosen One:
- The Triune God made manifest
- In Voice and Dove and Son.



- 2. When Jesus comes to Jordan's stream
- He mediates God's grace,
- The Righteous One with sinners stands,
- With them he takes his place.
- The bruised reed he will not break,
- Nor quench the smold'ring wick.
- He will not crush the broken heart,
- But helps and heals the sick.



- 3. When Jesus comes to Jordan's stream
- He feels the Spirit's breath,
- Abiding presence in his life,
- A love that conquers death.
- That very Spirit speaks in us
- That Jesus Christ is Lord,
- Who does not shout mere human truths
- But incarnates God's word.



- 4. Now, Jesus, come to us today
- And give your Spirit's fire
- To all who live baptismal life
- Through font, blood or desire.
- Befriend us, grasp us by the hand,
- Send us forth from this hour,
- As covenant and nations' light
- And liberating power.



Analyzing Hymn Tunes



Identify the Hymn Tune Melody

- Latin titles = e.g., JESU, DULCIS MEMORIA
- German titles = e.g., ERHALT UNS, HERR
- English titles = e.g., KINGSFOLD
- Welsh titles = e.g., LLANGLOFFEN
- Irish titles = e.g., DURROW
- American titles = e.g., MORNING SONG



Identify the Meter

- Duple
- Triple
- Mixed
- Irregular



Identify the Melodic Structure/Curve

- High → low = e.g., JOY TO THE WORLD
- Low → high = e.g., BROTHER JAMES' AIR
- High → low → high = e.g., DURROW
- Low → high → low = e.g., ELLACOMBE
- N.B. "Bar" Form: AAB [EIN FESTE BURG]



Identify the Mode

- Major Diatonic
- Minor Diatonic
- Ecclesiastical Modes
- Major/Minor Chromatic



Identify Harmonizations

- Unison
- SATB
- Round/Canon



Ritual Use of Hymns in the Roman Rite

- Eucharist: Non-Metrical Hymnody
 - *Gloria in excelsis*
 - 1. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.
 - 2. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.



- 3. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.
- 4. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



- Eucharist: Semi-Metrical Hymnody
 - Sequence: Victimae paschali laudes [Easter]
 - Sequence: Veni Sancte Spiritus [Pentecost]
 - Sequence: Lauda Sion Salvatorem [Corpus Christi]
 - Sequence: Stabat Mater [Our Lady of Sorrows]
 - [Sequence: Dies Irae [Requiem]]



Victimae paschali laudes

- Victimae paschali laudes
immolent Christiani.
- *Let Christians offer sacrifice of praises to
the paschal victim.*



- Agnus redemit oves:
Christus innocens Patri
reconciliavit peccatores.
- *A Lamb has redeemed the sheep; the innocent Christ
has reconciled sinners to the Father.*
- Mors et vita duello
confluxere mirando:
dux vitae mortuus, regnat vivus.
- *Death and life have contended in a wondrous duel; the
deceased prince of life, reigned living.*



- Dic nobis Maria, / quid vidisti in via?
- Sepulcrum Christi viventis, / et gloriam vidi resurgentis:
- *Say to us, Mary, what did you see on the road?*
- *I saw the tomb of Christ the Living One, and the glory of the Rising One:*
- Angelicos testes, / sudarium, et vestes.
Surrexit Christus spes mea: / praecedet suos [vos] in Galilaeam.
- *Angelic witnesses, the shroud, and clothing.*
- *Christ, my hope, has arisen: he will go before his own into Galilee.*



- [Credendum est magis soli / Mariae veraci
Quam Judaeorum Turbae fallaci.]
- *[Mary alone is more to be believed than the entire
lying tribe of the Jews.]*
- Scimus Christum surrexisse /a mortuis vere: / tu nobis,
victor Rex, miserere.
[Amen.] [Alleluia.]
- *We know that Christ has truly risen from the dead:
you, victor King, have mercy on us. [Amen.] [Alleluia.]*



- Eucharist: Metrical Hymnody
- Holy Thursday Procession with the Consecrated Elements: “Pange lingua gloriosi corporis mysterium”



- Liturgy of the Hours:
 - Time of Day: e.g., “Te Lucis Ante Terminum”/”To You Before The Close of Day”
 - Seasonal: e.g., “Creator Alme Siderum”/”Creator of the Stars of Night”
 - Particular Festival: e.g.,



Pastoral Adaptation of Hymns for Roman Rite Eucharist

- Processional/Opening
- Preparation of the Offerings
- Communion Processional
- Post-Communion Thanksgiving
- Recessional/Sending Forth



Hymn of the Day

