



This is the second week in our sermon series on the hymns and songs of our faith. Following is information about this morning's songs:

Holy, Holy, Holy

This was one of the most requested hymns to sing this summer. Much of the imagery of this hymn comes from Revelation 4:2-11 which the author, an Anglican bishop, knew as a reading appointed for Trinity Sunday. The tune, written specifically for this text, reinforces the Trinitarian theme by strong dependence on the D-major triad.

One of the people who requested this hymn said, "This is one of the first hymns I can remember as a child." Another said, "This is a majestic hymn that reminds me of how big and great God is, worthy of worship and our praise, yet merciful and near to us."

Just As I Am

When illness limited her involvement in a bustling household, the author wrote this hymn that helped her both to achieve and to express a renewed sense of worth grounded in Christ and his love. Its simple, direct and deeply felt language has made it a source of comfort to many. This hymn was used for years at Billy Graham crusades, following his preaching of the gospel, so that people would have the opportunity to acknowledge and confess their need for and dependence upon Jesus Christ.

The person who requested this hymn said: "I remember this from age 4. Now it makes me think about (1) who we welcome at the table, and (2) acceptance.

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

The author of "A Closer Walk" is unknown. Circumstantial evidence strongly suggests it dates back to southern African American churches of the nineteenth century, possibly even prior to the Civil War, as some personal African American histories recall "slaves singing as they worked in the fields a song about walking by the Lord's side."

This hymn is perhaps the most frequently played number in the hymn and dirge section of traditional New Orleans jazz festivals. The title and lyrics of the song allude to the Biblical passage from 2Corinthians 5:7 which states, "We walk by faith, not by sight."

The person who requested this said, "It gives me peace and comfort. My Lord is always with me—what a glorious feeling."

Soon and Very Soon

This spirited African American gospel song draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth (Revelation 21:1-f), with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

The person who requested this one said, "I sing this around the house all the time, for an instant hit of joy 😊."

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy, holy, holy God,

we worship and praise you—

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Today in our worship

we long for a glimpse of your glory,

seen beautifully in Christ, our Lord.

As we worship, may we gain new insight

about the mystery and wonder of your love.

And may we sense new ways

to mirror that love in our world,

through Christ, our Lord.

SONG *Holy, Holy, Holy (#1)*

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.

Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns
around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
Who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.
Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinfulness thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name,
in earth, and sky, and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Triune God, we praise you
as the God of love and life.
Though Jesus prayed that we would be one,
we confess that we fail to live in unity
with each other and with you.
We break our communion
through hostile words and unkind actions.
We long for your Spirit to heal us and to unite us.
We long for you to help us experience communion
with you and with each other
as we gather around your Word
and at your table this morning.
Even now, dependent on your grace,
we commit ourselves to live more fully
in the unity you desire.
Through Christ, our Lord.**

(moment for silent prayers and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE—based on Romans 8:15-17

You did not receive a spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear,
but you have received a spirit of adoption.
When you cry, “Abba! Father!”
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ.
In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN *Just as I Am (#442)*

Just as I am, without one plea
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bid'st me come to thee
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fighting and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!
Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

Just as I am, they love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Romans 8:18-25, and
2 Corinthians 4:16
through 5:7

MESSAGE **Walking by Faith**



Thomas Merton Prayer

*My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I cannot see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But, I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire
in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything
apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this
you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore I will trust you always
though I may seem to be lost and
in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me
and you will never leave me
to face my perils alone.*

—Thomas Merton

SONG **Just a Closer Walk (#835)**

Refrain:

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee:
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

I am weak, but thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. **[Refrain]**

Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. **[Refrain]**

When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. **[Refrain]**

CELEBRATION OF COMMUNION

Come, all you who are loved by God! Christ invites all to trust in him and to dine at his table. Come to receive all the benefits and blessings of his atoning death, his life-giving resurrection, and his ascended lordship.

We come to the table not just as individuals but as a community. By sharing the bread and the cup, Christ makes us one with him and with each other.

Just as we are nourished by the food we eat, Christ nourishes us spiritually at this table with the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation.

At the Lord's Supper we look *back*, remembering the story of our salvation; we look *around*, seeing that we are together members of the body of Christ; we look *forward* to the great banquet in God's coming kingdom; and we look *within* to find our indwelling Lord, who promises to feed us by the Holy Spirit.

This is the joyful feast of the people of God! Let us give thanks:

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**With joy we praise you, gracious Father,
for you have created heaven and earth,
made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—
even when we wandered away from you.**

**We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who by his life, death, and resurrection
opened to us the way of everlasting life.**

**Therefore we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to proclaim the glory of your name. Amen.**

At his last supper, the Lord Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this in remembrance of me." For whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Take, eat! Remember and believe that the body of Christ is the bread of heaven for us.

Take, drink! Remember and believe that the blood of Christ is the cup of our salvation.

[Closing Prayer:]

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.***

***For yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.***

SONG *Soon and Very Soon (#384)*

Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

No more crying there:
we are going to see the King.
No more crying there:
we are going to see the King.
No more crying there:
we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

No more dying there:
we are going to see the King.
No more dying there:
we are going to see the King.
No more dying there:
we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Soon and very soon
we are going to see the King.
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're going to see the King!

BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

POSTLUDE

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21