

Week 5

Oct. 25

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Psalm 46:1, 7, 11; Revelation 19:11–16; Romans 8:31–39; Ephesians 6:10–17
(*Lutheran Service Book* 656, 657)

1. A mighty fortress is our God,
A trusty shield and weapon;
He helps us free from ev'ry need
That hath us now o'ertaken.
The old evil foe
Now means deadly woe;
Deep guile and great might
Are his dread arms in fight;
On earth is not his equal.

2. With might of ours can naught be done,
Soon were our loss effected;
But for us fights the valiant One,
Whom God Himself elected.
Ask ye, Who is this?
Jesus Christ it is,
Of Sabaoth Lord,
And there's none other God;
He holds the field forever.

3. Though devils all the world should fill,
All eager to devour us,
We tremble not, we fear no ill;
They shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
Scowl fierce as he will,
He can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
One little word can fell him.

4. The Word they still shall let remain
Nor any thanks have for it;
He's by our side upon the plain
With His good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
Goods, fame, child, and wife,
Though these all be gone,
Our vict'ry has been won;
The Kingdom ours remaineth.

1. Luther knew Christians are in a great battle against Satan and his forces; he also knew God was with us. What does the psalmist write in Psalm 46:1 and 7?

2. Read Ephesians 6:10–17. What does Paul write concerning the enemy we are fighting (v. 12)?

3. How can we cope with such formidable evil powers (vv. 10–11)?

4. Luther writes “with might of ours can naught be done” (stanza 2). Read Revelation 19:11–16. In the apostle John’s vision of heaven, he sees the One who won the dreadful battle for us (v. 13). Who is the One?

5. Read Romans 8:31–39. Paul rhetorically asks believers, if the Father didn’t spare His own Son, won’t He give us everything we need? Yes! Whatever happens in life, “we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (v. 37). Can anything separate us from God’s loving protection (v. 39)?

Answers:

1. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. . . . The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress”. Our triune God **is** our mighty protector!

2. “We do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places”.

3. “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand”. Paul lists the array of armor God gives; it can be summarized in the Gospel and the blessings which flow from it.

4. “He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which He is called is The Word of God” (v. 13). The living Word, Jesus (John 1:14), shed His blood on Calvary for us and proclaimed victory over Satan, sin, and eternal death with His glorious resurrection. Through faith in Him we have the same victory.

5. Yes! Whatever happens in life, “we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (v. 37). Can anything separate us from God’s loving protection (v. 39)? Nothing can “separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord”. Stanza 4 echoes this truth.