



February Hymn DQT

3rd Grade

“A Mighty Fortress”

Day 1

*A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
Our helper He amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
His craft and power are great, and armed with cruel hate,
On earth is not his equal.*

Do you find any new or strange words in your hymn? Martin Luther wrote the words to this hymn nearly 500 years ago, so to you his words may seem strange and difficult today. Luther describes God as a “fortress,” which is a strong, safe place like a castle. He says God is a “bulwark” that never fails. A “bulwark” is a strong shield that protects from enemy attacks. Why do you think Luther used words about battle in his hymn? He was reminding us that Christians are in a constant battle with an “ancient foe.” Who do you think that old enemy is? It is the devil! He is always trying to “work us _____” or cause trouble and sadness in our lives. The hymn says that the “devil’s craft and _____ are great” & he is “armed with cruel _____.” He’s mean and powerful. The devil is a powerful enemy, but he’s also a doomed enemy. God wins the battle in the end! And you can win the battle every day when you remember that God is our “mighty _____” who never fails. God is our helper “amid the _____ of mortal ills prevailing.” These are fancy words to say that God is our constant source for help during trouble—even when bad things seem to be flooding over us. God will always “prevail.”
He will always win the battle!

Pray

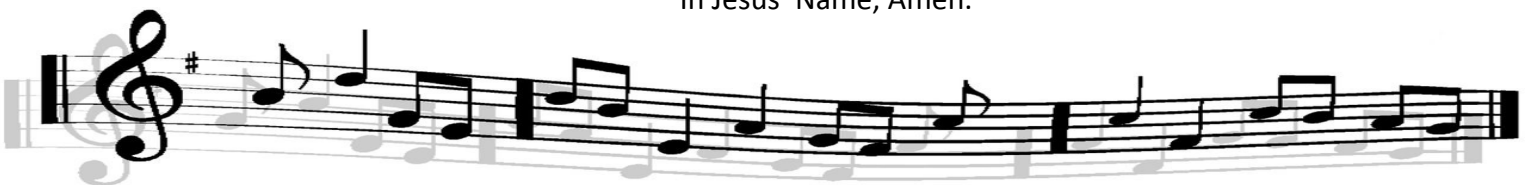
Lord, thank You for being my mighty fortress. Thank You for being my shield.
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

Day 2

Martin Luther based the words to this hymn on Psalm 46. Verse 1 says, “God is our refuge and God is our strength, an ever present help in trouble.” The Message Bible says it like this, “God is a safe place to hide, ready to help when we need him.” Do you ever feel like you’re surrounded by stormy weather even when it’s sunny outside? Maybe you had a bad day at school & came home with tons of homework. Maybe someone you know is sick. Maybe you’re scared or sad. When you are feeling surrounded by storms of life, remember the words to this hymn. Instead of trying to fight the storms alone, ask God for help. Tell him all about your problems. Turn to the “mighty _____” who gives us a safe place to hide from the storm. He is always ready to help us. I like the way the Message Bible states vs. 4-6 of Psalm 46. It says: “God lives here, the streets are safe. God is at your service from crack of dawn.”

Pray

Thank You, Lord, for protecting me from life’s storms. Thank You for being my safe place to hide.
Help me to remember to ask You for help whenever I need it.
In Jesus’ Name, Amen.



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Day 3

If you listen to Christian radio stations like KSBJ, you may have heard a recent worship song by Christy Nockels. Like your hymn, it is also based on Psalm 46. In fact, its title is very similar: "A Mighty Fortress." Over the nearly 500 years since Martin Luther wrote his hymn, over 60 translations have been made. The one you're learning in WoW is the most common.

Here are some of the words to Christy Nockels' version. Maybe you've heard Mrs. Beth sing it in church. "A mighty fortress is our God; a sacred refuge is Your Name. Your kingdom is unshakable. With You forever we will reign."

This newer version has a phrase that is repeated throughout the song. It says, "We will keep our eyes on You." If we want to tap into God's mighty powers, we must keep our eyes on Him.

Pray

Lord, help me to keep my eyes on You and not be afraid. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 4

Martin Luther was born in Germany. His parents wanted to give their son a good education. When Martin was 17, he started college. One afternoon Martin got caught in a storm & was nearly hit by a lightning bolt. As he thought about his close call with death, Martin decided to quit law school & study about God. He became a Catholic Priest. The more he studied the Bible for himself, the more he disagreed with teachings of the Catholic church. One thing he disagreed was that they would allow people to pay the church money to get forgiveness of their sins. He began to tell them he did not agree with their teachings and Luther made the Catholics so mad that they kicked him out & even threatened have him killed. Because of Luther's protests, he is considered the "father" of the Protestant religious movement which led to the creation of many of today's churches –the Lutheran Church, the Baptist Church, the Methodist Church & many more. Do you think it was right to take money in exchange for forgiveness of sins? The Bible teaches that only through faith in Jesus can we get forgiveness of our sins. Have you asked Jesus to come into your life and forgive you from your sin? Your WoW teachers would love to share more about this with you.

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your free gift of salvation. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Day 5

If it weren't for Martin Luther, we might not be singing in our church services today. One of his complaints about the Catholic Church was that only certain people could sing during church. I'm so glad that singing is an important part of our church services today. I hope you are!! Why not thank Mrs. Beth, your WoW teachers and Pastor Dyer for teaching us such great songs about Jesus!

Pray

Lord, thank You for music. Help me to sing with joy, and praise Your name. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

----- Cut here and bring signed portion to WoW next week for a prize -----

Child's Name _____ Grade/Age _____

My child has completed his/her DQT for the week of Feb. 1, 2017.

Parent Signature _____

