

Naomi Karin Timmermann



William Arns Johnston



*"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!
Alleluia! For our Lord God Almighty reigns."*

Revelation 19:6, 9

The marriage of the Lamb and his bride, Schnorr von Carlsfeld, 1860

*Saturday, January 4th, 2014, 1:00 p.m.
Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church, U.A.C.
Stillwater, MN*

Since marriage is a civil matter instituted by God, Christian marriages historically include two elements: a marriage ceremony similar to the civil ceremony but recognizing God's institution; and a Christian worship service to sanctify the marriage with the Word of God and prayer. William and Naomi's Christian marriage today includes that marriage ceremony and the Christian service "Morning Praise" – an adaptation of Matins, one of the historic Christian orders of worship.

Processional

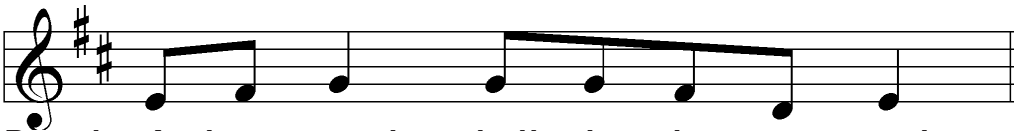
Aria on "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" – John Behnke

The Call to Worship

The minister calls the people to gather before the Lord, the God who revealed himself to the Israelites and redeemed us all in Christ Jesus. As we receive his gifts, we respond in gratitude and praise.



Pastor: O Lord, o - pen my lips



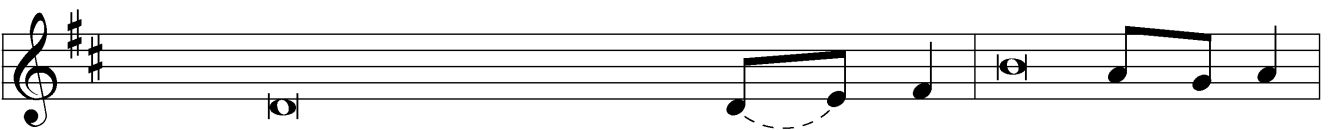
People: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



Pastor: Has - ten to save me, O God



People: O Lord, come qui - ckly to help me.



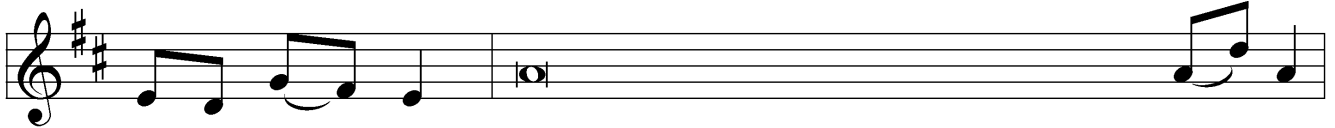
Pastor: Unto us the Christ is born: let us wor - ship him.

O Come Let us Sing

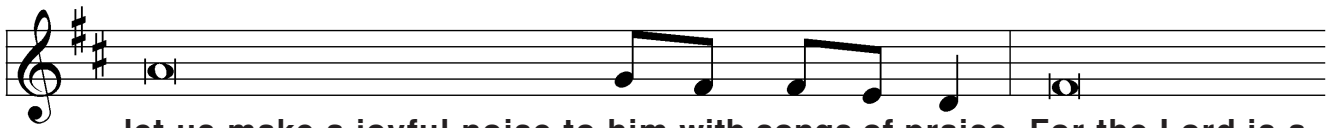
Historically titled "Venite", every individual gathered for worship calls all the others to worship God. There are many reasons to ascribe worth to God.



People: O come let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to the rock of



our sal - va - tion. Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving,



let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise. For the Lord is a



great God and a great king a - bove all gods. The deep places of the earth are



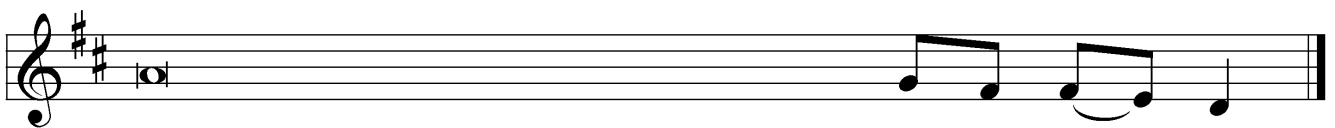
in his hand; the heights of the hills are al - so his. The sea is his, for he



made it, and his hand formed the dry land. Oh, come let us worship and



bow down, let us kneel before the Lord our mak - er. For he is our God,



and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

The Word

Gathered together, God's people – today especially represented by the couple – hear the living, life-giving Word of God. This follows the pattern of the Christian life. God's people gather before him to praise him and hear what he says. The Lord's promises create their new life together; the Lord's instructions guide that life.

Genesis 2:18-24

At the very beginning, God institutes marriage.

¹⁸ The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

¹⁹ Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the beasts of the field and all the birds of the air. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds of the air and all the beasts of the field.

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. ²¹ So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and closed up the place with flesh. ²² Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

²³ The man said,

*“This is now bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called ‘woman’,
for she was taken out of man.”*

²⁴ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh.

Ephesians 5:22-33

Husbands and wives are both responsible for different activities within the marriage union with the result that, from the outside, they work in harmony. The Lord directs the husband to die to himself in love for his wife and the wife to continually become her husband's helper.

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰ for we are members of his body.

³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Genesis 3:16-19

As is obvious to all, this sacred union is not always well. Due to the disobedience of the first man, marriage is corrupted by sin. Christian marriage now brings a cross – a burden that comes because of Christ.

¹⁶ To the woman he said,

“I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

¹⁷ To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat of it,’

“Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat of it all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

Matthew 19:4-6

Jesus confirms the institution of marriage that had been given at the beginning and limits human prerogative regarding that institution.

⁴ “Haven’t you read,” he replied, “that at the beginning the Creator ‘made them male and female,’ ⁵ and said, ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh’? ⁶ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.”

How Firm a Foundation

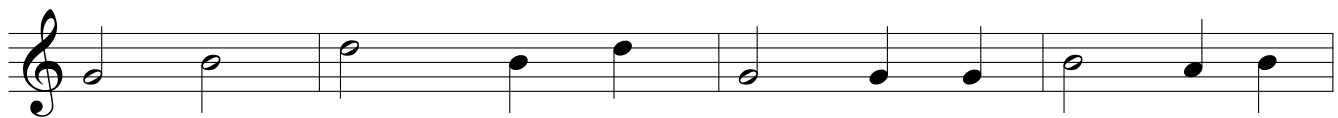
The beloved words of this hymn are wed to its traditional American melody. This hymn not only proclaims the foundation Christians have in the Word of God, but applies that foundation to different stages of life.



1. How _____ firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the
2. “Fear _____ not! I am with you. Oh, be not dis -
3. “The _____ soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re -
4. “When _____ through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall
5. “Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall



Lord, Is _____ laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent
maged; For _____ I am your God and will still give you
pose I _____ will not, I will not, de - sert to his
lie, My _____ grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup -
prove My _____ sov' - reign, e - ter - nal, un - chang - e - able



Word! What more can he say than to you he has
aid; I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to
foes. That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to
ply. The flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de -
love, And then, when gray hair shall their tem - ples a -



said Who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
stand, Up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
shake, I'll _____ nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!
sign Your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
dorn, Like lambs they shall still on my shoul - ders be borne.”

Sermon: Revelation 19:6-9

The sermon is the living voice of God to his people. Even though a wedding homily often directly addresses the couple, it speaks to all God's people since the primary union effected in the message is the eternal union of Christ and the believer.

⁶ Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting:

“Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns.

⁷ Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory!

For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

⁸ Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.”

(Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)

⁹ Then the angel said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!’ ” And he added, “These are the true words of God.”



Every Soul that Seeks to Marry

This text from the 17th century celebrates the earthly nature of the spousal union, confessing that God intends that two hearts should truly find pleasure in this union.



1. Eve - ry soul that seeks to mar-ry Should be - gin with ear - nest pray'r,
2. All is right - ly un - der - tak - en When both pray'r and coun - sel wise
3. With God's grace and peace sus - tain - ing, Hon - or, joy, and good en - sue;



And to God the mat - ter car - ry, So that, free from grief and care,
By the two are not for - sak - en: They will see with their own eyes,
And up - on His path re - main - ing, They will find sal - va - tion true.



It may pros - p'rous - ly be done, And the two in peace made one;
God hath wrought their wed - ding band And pre - serves it by His hand,
Hap - pi - ly they shall pro - ceed When they say, "It is God's deed."



God Him - self will u - ni - fy them And with ev - ry joy sup - ply them.
Bless - ing both and free - ly giv - ing Man and wife a peace - ful liv - ing.
Yea, 'twas God who u - ni - fied them And with ev - ery joy sup - plied them.

The Marriage

Before God and those gathered, the man and woman commit to one another for life. They assure all who hear that they want to be united. Christ unites them by his sacrificial death in time through his effective blessing.

Pastor: Dear friends, when God in love created the world, he made man and woman in his own image and bonded them together in marriage. Through this blessed union of husband and wife, God established the family, provided for the physical and spiritual welfare of children, and fostered the peace and stability of society.

God intended marriage to bring loving companionship to the people of his world. But because of sin, the joy of marriage was soon overcast with sorrow, and the harmony of family life was shattered by strife. Out of love God sent his Son, Jesus, to die on the cross to take away the sins of all people. Everyone who believes in Jesus receives forgiveness and is enabled by the Holy Spirit to live in peace and joy.

God's love for you is boundless. He commands you, in response to his love, to love each other. Love is forgiving and enduring. Love shows itself in truth and faithfulness, in thoughtfulness and understanding, in patience and kindness. Marriage furnishes a unique opportunity to put this love into practice.

The pattern for Christian marriage is the intimate union of Christ and his Church, which the apostle Paul depicts in Ephesians 5. After urging believers to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ," he makes this application for Christian spouses: "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself for her."

It is reverence for Christ on the part of husband and wife that lays the foundation for Christian marriage.

You have come here to be united in marriage, which consists in your mutual consent, sincerely and freely given. You are now invited to declare this intent in the presence of God and these witnesses.

As the Lord's promises describe his relationship with his people, the bride and groom make promises which describe their relationship to one another.

Pastor: William, will you take Naomi to be your wife? Will you be guided by the counsel and direction God has given in his Word and love your wife as Christ loved the Church? Will you be faithful to her, cherish her, support her, and help her in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live? If so, answer: I will.

Groom: I will.

Pastor: Naomi, will you take William to be your husband? Will you be guided by the counsel and direction God has given in his Word and submit to your husband as the Church submits to Christ? Will you be faithful to him, cherish him, support him, and help him in sickness and in health as long as you both shall live? If so, answer: I will.

Bride: I will.

Pastor: Join your right hands and make your promises to each other:

Groom: I, William, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, Naomi, to be my wife. I promise to be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

Bride: I, Naomi, in the presence of God and these witnesses, take you, William, to be my husband. I promise to be faithful to you as long as we both shall live.

Although wedding rings have been used for nearly 3,000 years with various meanings, in a Christian marriage the couple exchanges rings to symbolize their complete union and unending faithfulness.

Pastor: Exchange rings as a symbol of the lifelong commitment and abiding love which you as husband and wife have promised each other.

Groom: Naomi, receive this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.

Bride: William, receive this ring as a symbol of my love and faithfulness.

The couple is declared to be married before God and society.

Pastor: By their promises, William and Naomi have bound themselves together in marriage before God and these witnesses. Therefore, I declare that they are husband and wife, in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Those whom God has joined together, let no one separate.

The pastor, in the place of Christ, bestows divine blessing on the union. It is this blessing and promise of the Triune God which effects and sustains this union. Only the promises of God are sure.

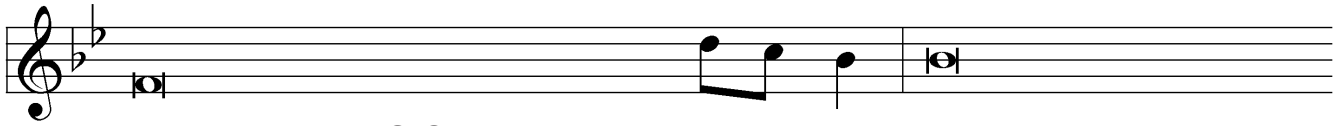
Pastor: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit preserve you in faithfulness, strengthen you in love, and guide you to life's end.



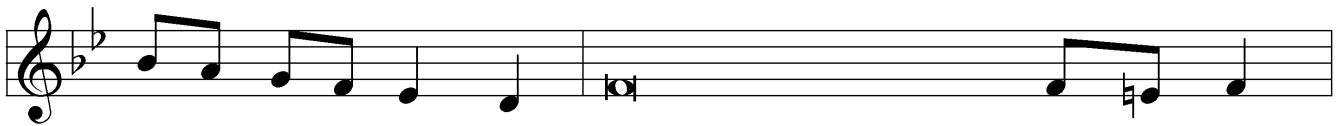
The marriage of Joseph and Mary, Albrecht Dürer, c. 1505

We Praise You, O God

The couple and the congregation raise a song of praise and thanksgiving to God, historically titled "Te Deum Laudamus". With rich language it pictures the Triune God and the holy catholic Church of all times and places.



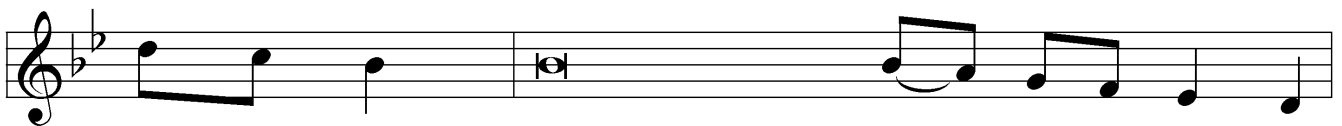
People: We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you



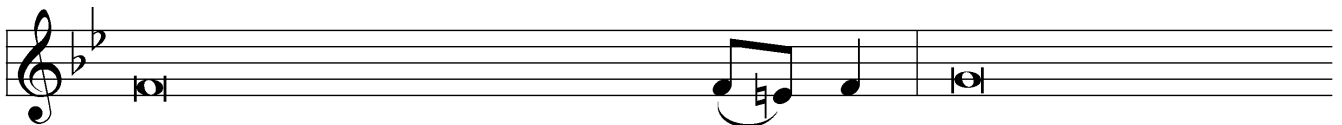
Fa-ther ev - er - last - ing. To you all angels, all the pow'rs of heaven,



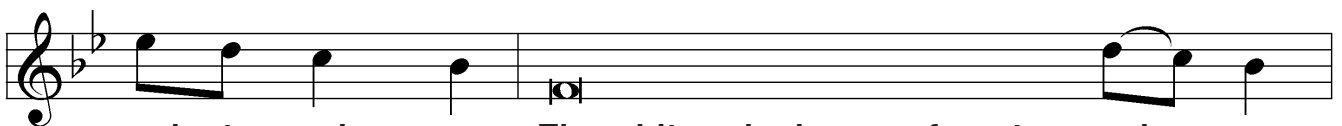
cherubim and seraphim, sing in end-less praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of



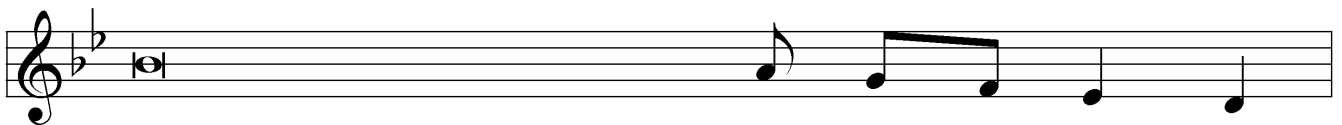
heav'n - ly hosts, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry.



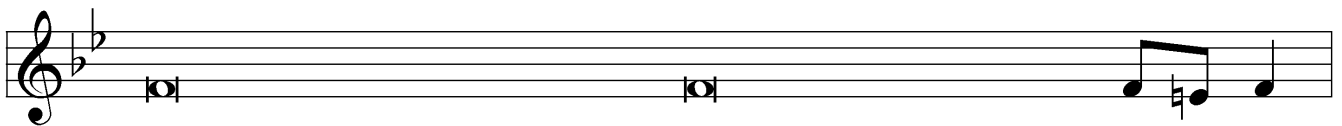
The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of



proph-ets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.



Throughout the world the ho - ly Church ac - claims you:



Father of majesty unbounded, your glorious, true, and on - ly Son,

Prayer

After imploring God's mercy (the "Kyrie"), God's people lift up the couple and marriage unions worldwide before the throne of God with the Lord's Prayer and a general prayer.



Pastor: In the morning, O Lord, I call to you; be merciful to me and hear my prayer.



People: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**People: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Eternal God, source of love, help William and Naomi to fulfill the promises they have made here today and to reflect your steadfast love in their love for each other. Give them kindness and patience, affection and understanding, happiness and contentment. Use their family and friends to support them in difficult days, that their love for each other may continue to grow as long as they live.

Gracious Father, in your goodness you bring people together into families and enrich their lives with abundant blessings. Renew the love of husbands and wives, parents and children, that they may strengthen and support each other on the way that leads to our heavenly home, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

Blessing

The Lord's servant bestows divine blessing on those gathered. They receive it with believing hearts and thus continue in the union that the Lord established during this time of rest.



Pastor: Let us praise the Lord.



People: Thanks be to God.



Pastor: The grace of our Lord † Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



People: A - men.

Recessional

Tocatta on "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" – Michael Burkhardt

Thank you for coming to our wedding! We are incredibly blessed to have your support, encouragement, and prayers as we enter holy matrimony according to the Lord's word. We pray you have safe travels and a blessed year in the Lord!
In Christ Alone,

~William and Naomi

We are so grateful to our parents and grandparents for many years of loving care, especially for raising us in the fear and wisdom of the Lord!

Tom and Karin Timmermann *parents of the bride*

Ted and Natalie Johnston *parents of the groom*

Arnold and Dorothy Crass *grandparents of the bride*

Donald and Helen Timmermann *grandparents of the bride*

Richard and Ali Johnston *grandparents of the groom*

Joe and Katie Ramfield *grandparents of the groom*

Dennis † and Marilyn Newland *grandparents of the groom*

Thank you to today's servants

The ministers function as representatives of the civil government and the Lord to confirm the marital union. Witnesses affirm the validity of the marriage. They affirm that the couple is actually able to marry (not already united to someone else) and they serve in the place of society to confirm that the couple is publicly united before the world. This public confirmation is vital to the marital union.

Reverend Matthew Crass *uncle and godfather of the bride*

Reverend Nathaniel Timmermann *brother of the bride*

Emily Grunwald *sister of the bride*

Abbie Krueger *sister of the bride*

Jessica Johnston *sister of the groom*

Pierce Johnston *brother of the groom*

Nathan Grunwald *brother-in-law of the bride*

Nick Krueger *brother-in-law of the bride*

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How Firm a Foundation (Christian Worship Supplement 768), Text: A Selection of Hymns, London, 1787 alt. Tune: FOUNDATION (11 11 11 11) Traditional American melody; Caldwell's Union Harmony, 1837.

Every Soul That Seeks to Marry (Wer den Eh'stand will erwählen), Text: Johann Olearius, Tune: Johann Schop

Cover graphic: Schnorr von Carlsfeld, Bibel in Bildern, 1860, https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/36/Schnorr_von_Carlsfeld_Bibel_in_Bildern_1860_240.png