

GOD

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Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - joyce— or - gan and
sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.
Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665
Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

O God, How We Have Wandered

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Kevin Nichols, 1980; alt.

Luke 15:11-32; 2 Cor. 5:16-20

1 O God, how we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
 2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
 3 O God of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

In fool - ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
 By faith we are re - turn - ing with hope and trust in you.
 Com - pas - sion-ate, for - giv - ing, our peace and hope as - sured.

But how, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we turn with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us, and home re - joic - ing bring,
 Grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith-less-ness may cease.

As dis - tant but com - pell - ing, you call us each by name.
 In glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

The tune for this contemporary text appears five times in J. S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion, and first appeared as a hymn setting in the early 1800s. It has an ecumenical history reaching back many centuries. Originally it was a German love song.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE 7.6.7.6.D.
 (HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN)
 Melody by Hans Leo Hassler, 1601
 Harm. J. S. Bach, 1729
 For another harmonization, see 179

How Firm a Foundation

*Isa. 43:2-5; 2 Tim. 2:19; Heb. 13:5**"K" in John Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; alt.*

1 How firm a foundation for you has been laid,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
 3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fiery trials your path-way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,

by God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!
 for I am your God, I will still give you aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;

What more can God say than to you has been said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed
 That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,

to you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
 de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."
 your soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

In 1787, John Rippon, English Baptist clergyman, identified the author of this hymn as "K"; no one has yet verified a complete name. The pentatonic melody has been known by several names since it first appeared in Funk's Genuine Church Music (1832).

Tune: FOUNDATION 11.11.11.11.
 Early United States melody
 from Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832
 Alternate tune: ADESTE FIDELES