

## **Prelude**

### **Processional on "Lift High the Cross"**

**Alice Jordan (1916-2012)**

**Dr. Dave Faber, organ**

Iowa native Alice Jordan spent the majority of her life contributing to the cultural life of Des Moines, Iowa. She was educated in composition at Drake University, Columbia University, and Union Theological Seminary, and composed hundreds of organ and choral works.

Hymn of Praise 645

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Full disclosure: this is one of my favorite hymns. While my job responsibility and philosophy of church music does not include picking my favorites, there is always some temptation to choose this one when it pops up in the text or lectionary hymn suggestions.

Johann Jakob Schütz worked in the legal profession, and was known as a man of deep integrity and personal piety. A Lutheran for most of his life, Schütz eventually became a Separatist. This 1675 German poem originally contained eight stanzas, while most modern hymnals include four.

Sing praise to God who reigns above,  
The God of all creation;

The God of power, the God of love,  
The God of our salvation.

With healing balm my soul He fills,  
And every pain and sorrow stills:  
To God all praise and glory!

The angel host, O King of kings,  
Thy praise forever telling,  
In earth and sky and living things  
Beneath thy shadow dwelling,  
Adore the wisdom which could span,  
And power which formed creation's plan:  
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made,  
His gracious mercy keepeth;  
By morning dawn or evening shade,  
His watchful eye ne'er sleepeth,  
Within the kingdom of His might,  
Lo! All is just and all is right:  
To God all praise and glory!

I cried to God in my distress,  
His mercy heard me calling;  
My Savior saw my helplessness  
And kept my feet from falling;

For this, Lord, praise and thanks to Thee!  
Praise God most high, praise God with me!  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,  
Forsakes his people never;  
He is their refuge and their stay,  
Their peace and trust forever;  
And with a mother's watchful love  
He guides them wheresoe'er they rove;  
To God all praise and glory!

When every earthly hope has flown  
From sorrow's sons and daughters,  
Our Father from His heavenly throne  
Beholds the troubled waters;  
And at His word the storm is stayed  
Which made His children's heart afraid:  
To God all praise and glory.

Thus all my pilgrimage along  
I'll sing aloud Thy praises,  
That men may hear the grateful song  
My voice unwearied raises:  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart!  
Both soul and body, bear your part!  
To God all praise and glory!

O ye who bear Christ's holy name,  
Give God all praise and glory!  
All ye who own His power, proclaim  
Aloud the wondrous story;  
Cast each false idol from His throne,  
The Lord is God, and He alone:  
To God all praise and glory!

The joyful tune, MIT FREUDEN ZART is an anonymous 16<sup>th</sup>-century German hymn tune.

Response of Praise 581  
Glory Be to the Father  
GLORIA PATRI

Hymn of Preparation 450  
Be Thou My Vision  
SLANE

According to Laura de Jong from the [hymnary.com](http://hymnary.com) website:

“Eleanor Hull’s versification consists of five verses. Today, most hymnals include four of those verses: 1, 2, 4, and 5, leaving out verse 3: “Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight; be thou my dignity, though my delight, thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tower: raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.”

This hymn acts as a prayer to our God that He would be the first that we seek after, and continually refocus the direction of our life. This hymn can be sung throughout the liturgical year, and is a particularly powerful prayer of response to God’s call for our lives, whether heard in a sermon or a Scripture passage. It is most often used as a hymn of dedication, and fits well during a time of profession of faith or baptism.”

#### Offertory

12 Variations on a Theme from Handel's *Judas Maccabeus*

Theme, Variations I, II, VI, and X

Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827)

Jen Conner, cello

Andrew White, piano

The technique of theme-and-variations is a classical compositional technique in which a composer begins with either an existing or newly-composed piece of music, generally brief, and then creates variations based on the melodic material in the original theme. Classical composers, including the great Ludwig van Beethoven, commonly applied the theme-and-variations technique to the existing material of other composers. Such is the case in this piece. The theme is from George Frideric Handel’s (1685-1750) enduring oratorio, *Judas Maccabeus*, specifically the chorus “See the conqu’ring hero comes.” You may also recognize it as the hymn tune JUDAS MACCABEUS, commonly paired with the Easter hymn “Thine is the glory.”

#### Doxology 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDDTH

#### Hymn of Commitment 65

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

CWM RHONDDA

William Williams, a Welsh circuit-riding preacher, wrote this hymn in his native language, and translated it into English himself. His original title was “A prayer for strength to go through the wilderness of the world.” Another English translation was later done by Peter Williams, and most modern hymnals use the first stanza from Peter Williams’ translation, and the second and third stanzas from William Williams’ own translation.

Hymnals in the UK generally use “Redeemer” instead of “Jehovah.” “Jehovah” is an early transliteration of the Tetragrammaton, the unspoken Hebrew name for God, and it is inaccurate according to the consensus of modern scholarship.

#### Benediction Response 645

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (stanza 4)

MIT FREUDEN ZART

Postlude

Toccata Fiocosa

Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)

Dave Faber, organ

Gil Martin is a graduate of Westminster Choir College, and a composer for organ and choir. Probably his most famous work, an arrangement of Isaac Watts' hymn "When I survey the wondrous cross," is sung periodically by the WCPC Sanctuary Choir.