

Prelude

Prelude on LASST UNS ERFREUEN

Russel Schulz-Widmar (b. 1979)

Dr. Dave Faber, organ

LASST UNS ERFREUEN is one of the most commonly-sung hymn tunes in most Protestant traditions, and one of the most joyful, with its repetitions of “Alleluia!” at the end. You’ll recognize it as being the tune usually associated with hymns, such as “All Creatures of Our God and King” and “Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones,” as well as one of the tunes we use for Thomas Ken’s doxology (“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow,” *Glory to God* 609).

Hymn of Praise 12

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

This well-loved hymn was written by Scottish pastor Walter Chalmer Smith, born in Aberdeen, and later Pastor of the Scottish Church in London. The incipit (opening line) of the text is based on I Timothy 1:17: "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever," while nearly every other line in the original 6 stanzas features other vivid biblical imagery for the Most High God.

It’s the final line of the hymn that never fails to slay me: “’tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.” What does light do? It illumines, it warms, it demystifies. Yet it is the only thing that can mask the brightness of the glory of God, which no human eyes can see.

Response of Praise 581

Glory Be to the Father

GLORIA PATRI

Anthem

Amazing Grace

arr. Susan Eithun

Gene Coburn, piano

Hymn of Preparation 694

Great God of Every Blessing

AURELIA

From *Glory to God*:

Written for the 500th anniversary of John Calvin’s birth, this text sums up his liturgical theology, ending each stanza with his motto: *Cor meum tibi offero, Domine, prompte et sincere*. [My heart I offer to you, O Lord, promptly and sincerely] By moving from plural to singular the stanzas show how corporate faith becomes personal piety. The church also has a much older Latin saying that encapsulates this sentiment. *Lex orandi, lex credendi* [“the rule of prayer is the rule of faith,” or “as we worship, so we believe.”]

David Gambrell, who wrote this hymn in 2009, is associate for worship in the Office of Theology and Worship of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and is an authority of liturgical theology in the Reformed tradition.

You might recognize the tune, AURELIA, from its most common pairing, “The Church’s One Foundation.” It was written by English composer and organist Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876), grandson of hymn writer Charles Wesley, and grandnephew of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

Offertory
Deep River
arr. Susan Eithun
Gene Coburn, piano

Doxology 606
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
OLD HUNDREDTH

Hymn of Commitment 819
Be Still, My Soul
FINLANDIA

The tune, FINLANDIA, was originally an excerpt from a longer composition by Finnish composer Jean Sibelius, who later edited it into a single work. The hymn text is taken from an 18th-century poem by Kathrina von Schlegel.

Benediction Response 12
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (stanza 4)
ST. DENIO

Postlude
Variant on “Everytime I Hear the Spirit”
Dennis Janzer (b. 1954)
Dave Faber, organ