

## Holy, Holy, Holy

st. 1

What does holy mean? *Infinitely higher than us / without sin / set apart*

What does merciful mean? *full of mercy / God shows us kindness when we deserve punishment*

st. 2

Who are the saints? *All the believers in Christ (saint = holy one)*

Why is it significant that rulers are "casting down their golden crowns"?

*They are proclaiming that God is King of Kings and Lord of Lords*

What are cherubim and seraphim? *angels*

What does "which wert and art" mean? *"who was and is"*

What does it mean to say that God was, is and evermore shall be? *God is eternal, He lives outside of time and not dependent on anything*

st. 3

Can you see God? *No (Ex 33:20)*

How does your sin separate you from God? *We cannot bear to look at God except through Christ (Ex. 33:20, Is. 59:2)*

st. 4

What does Trinity mean? *Three persons in one God.*

*from [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org)*

Scripture References:

st.1 = Isa. 6:3, Rev. 4:8

st.2 = Isa. 6:2-3, Rev. 4:6-10

st.3 = Isa. 6:3-4, Rev. 4:11, Rev. 15:4

st.4 = Rev. 4:8, Rev. 5:13

Using reverent and apocalyptic language, "Holy, Holy, Holy!" alludes to Revelation 4:6-11; 5:13; 15:2-4; and Isaiah 6:1-3 to sing the great majesty of the triune God. Note the cosmic scope of the text: human beings (st. 1), saints and angels in glory (st. 2), and all creation (st. 4) praise the name of the Lord! Though God's holiness, love, and purity are cloaked in mystery, we can still experience God's mercy and mighty power, and we can participate in praising God. The text is trinitarian in theme, but not in structure.

Suggested Reading:

Hymns for a Kid's Heart, Vol. 1 by Wolgemuth and Tada, p.15 & 17

Then Sings My Soul by Morgan, p. 99

## A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

st. 1

What is a bulwark? *fortified defense* "In times of war, a fortified defense was set up to shield the soldiers from enemy attacks. When spears or flaming arrows were shot by the enemies, the soldiers could hide behind the bulwark for safety."

What does it mean that God is our "helper amid the flood of the mortal ills prevailing"? *God protects us from enemy attacks (Ps. 54:3-5)*

Who is "our ancient foe"? *Satan*

What does it mean that Satan "seeks to work us woe"? *Satan wants us to suffer not only in this life, but also the pains of everlasting damnation.*

st. 2

What does it mean that "in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing"? *No matter how we try or work, without God we will be defeated.*

What does "LORD Sabaoth" mean? *God of the Armies - all powerful*

What does it mean that Jesus is "age to age the same"? *Jesus is unchangeable.*

st. 3

Who is the "Prince of Darkness"? *Satan*

What does it mean that we tremble not for Satan? *We don't fear Satan*

st. 4

Who is the "little word" that will take down Satan? *Jesus!*

The first half of the 4th stanza proclaims that God's Word will prevail, not because of earthly powers, but because of the power of the Holy Spirit and spiritually gifted ones, called by God, to proclaim it.

What does let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also? *All our earthly possessions, family, and life itself should not hold us back from following Christ.*

How does it comfort us that "God's truth abideth still; His kingdom is forever"? *Even if the devil and all his minions, we will not have lived and worked in vain.*

from [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org)

*Scripture References:*

*all st. = Ps.46*

*st. 3 = 1 Pet. 5:8*

This hymn is often referred to as “the battle hymn” of the Reformation. Many stories have been relayed about its use. Albert Bailey writes, “It was, as Heine said, the Marseillaise of the Reformation...It was sung in the streets...It was sung by poor Protestant emigres on their way to exile, and by martyrs at their death...Gustavus Adolphus ordered it sung by his army before the battle of Leipzig in 1631...Again it was the battle hymn of his army at Lutzen in 1632...It has had a part in countless celebrations commemorating the men and events of the Reformation; and its first line is engraved on the base of Luther’s monument at Wittenberg...An imperishable hymn! Not polished and artistically wrought but rugged and strong like Luther himself, whose very words seem like deeds” (*The Gospel in Hymns*, 316). As you can see, this is a hymn close to the hearts of Protestants and Lutherans, a source of assurance in times of duress and persecution. The text is not restricted, however, to times of actual physical battles. In any time of need, when we do battle with the forces of evil, God is our fortress to hide us and protect us, and the Word that endures forever will fight for us.

Suggested Reading:

*The Weak Man Behind a Mighty Fortress* by Galli (*A short article that makes a great introduction*)

*Hymns for a Kid’s Heart, Vol. 1* by Wolgemuth and Tada, p.21-23

*Then Sings My Soul* by Morgan, p. 14