



Date: November 14, 2021

Anthem: The Lord Is My Strength

Words/Music by Joel Raney

Based on Psalm 27 with Hymn Stanza 1 of "I Sing the Almighty Power of God" Words by Isaac Watts

As we sing: Composer Joel Raney conveys the strong feeling of confidence in God's presence by pairing the words and images from Psalm 27 with a strong, energetic melody. Even in the midst of trouble, the Psalmist confidently declares God's mercy, salvation, strength, and stability, and he proclaims God's power of creation and His reign over all. Unexpectedly, Raney emphasizes the majesty and wisdom of God's power as seen in creation by inserting Stanza 1 of Isaac Watts' hymn "I Sing the Almighty Power of God." The chorus repeats the Psalmist's claim on the Lord's salvation and a desire to live all of his days close to God.

As we meditate: Our confidence in God's presence is the "basic weapon against fear."* When we stop to identify and acknowledge God's presence, we draw closer to Him and seek a way of living that honors Him one day at a time and in all circumstances.

*Disciple's Study Bible footnote: Ps. 27:1-14

Prayer: Father, it is our prayer that with the music and words of this anthem You are glorified. Let the music and words move us to replace our fear with the confidence of Your presence so that our living points to You. Thank you for Your presence, mercy, and salvation. Amen.

Anthem Lyrics:

Sing praise to God who reigns above.
The God of all creation, the Lord of love.
Sing praise to God, my strength and salvation,
I'm lifted high up on a rock.

The Lord is my refuge in times of trouble,
My strength, my shelter from the storm.
My head is lifted up above my enemies,
I will sing and make melodies to the Lord of love!

Chorus: The Lord is my light and my salvation.
Whom, then, shall I fear?
I will dwell in the house of the Lord forevermore.
I will dwell in the house of God all the days of my life.

*I sing the almighty power of God that made the mountains rise,
That spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
The moon shines full at God's command and all the stars obey. (Watts)*

Chorus: The Lord is my light and my salvation.
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