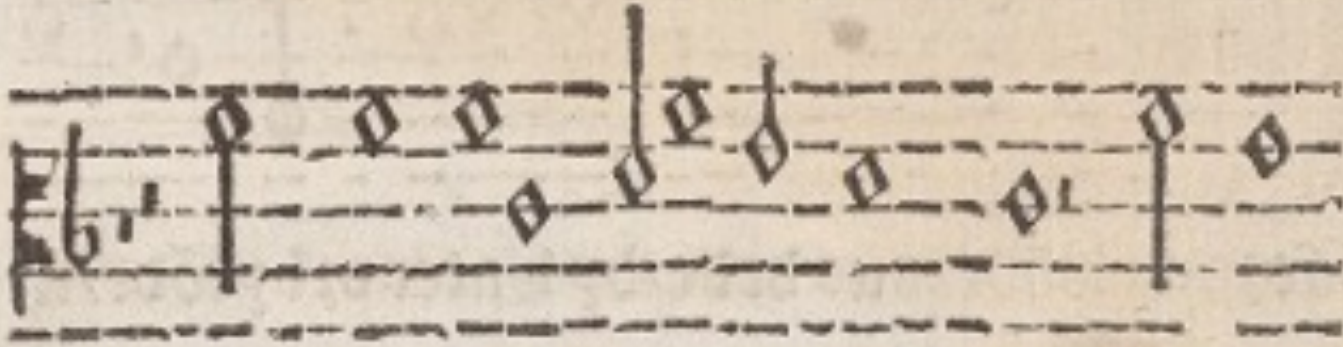


and spirituall songes. Fo.rrrb.  
The.xlv. Psalm of David.  
Deus noster refugium.



Our God is a defence and to wye / a good

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## Psalm 46

### Singing in Hope and Defiance

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International Interfaith  
Reading Group  
'Psalms in Interfaith Contexts'  
15 August 2022, 6-7pm BST

Henrike Lähnemann

Image: Miles Coverdale, *Goostly psalmes and spirituall songes*  
*drawing out of the holy Scripture, for the comfort and*  
*consolacyon of such as loue to reioyse in God and his woꝛde*  
Copy: Oxford, The Queen's College Library, Sel.d.81, fol. 35r

# Psalm 46: God is our refuge 46

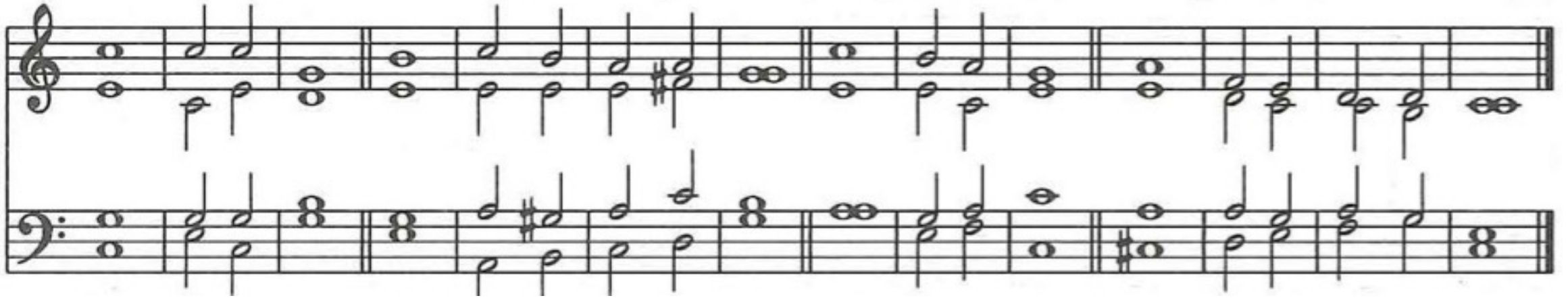
Psalm 46 *Deus noster refugium*

- 1 God is our refuge and strength, \*  
a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, \*  
and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;
- 3 Though its waters rage and foam, \*  
and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.
- 4 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 5 There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, \*  
the holy habitation of the Most High.
- 6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; \*  
God shall help her at the break of day.
- 7 The nations make much ado, and the kingdoms are shaken; \*  
God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.
- 8 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- 9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, \*  
what awesome things he has done on earth.
- 10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; \*  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,  
and burns the shields with fire.
- 11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; \*  
I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."
- 12 The LORD of hosts is with us; \*  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

- 1 לַמְּנַצֵּחַ לְבְנֵי־קֶרַח עַל־עֲלָמוֹת שִׁיר:
- 2 אֱלֹהִים לָנוּ מַחְסֵה וְעֹז עֲזָרָה בְּצָרוֹת נִמְצָא מֵאֲד:
- 3 עַל־כֵּן לֹא־נִירָא בְּהַמִּיר אֶרֶץ וּבְמוֹט הָרִים בְּלֵב יַמִּים:
- 4 יְהוָה יַחְמְרוּ מִימּוֹ יִרְעֲשׂוּ־הָרִים בְּגֹאֲוֹתָו סֵלָה:
- 5 נְהַר פָּלְגָיו יִשְׁמְחוּ עִיר־אֱלֹהִים קָדֵשׁ מִשְׁכְּנֵי עֲלִיּוֹן:
- 6 אֱלֹהִים בְּקִרְבָּה בַל־תִּמּוֹט יַעֲזֶרֶה אֱלֹהִים לַפְּנוֹת בְּקָר:
- 7 הָמוּ גוֹיִם מָטוּ מִמְּלָכוֹת נָתַן בְּקוֹלוֹ תִּמּוֹג אֶרֶץ:
- 8 יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת עִמָּנוּ מִשְׁגַּב־לָנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה:
- 9 לְכוּ־חֲזוּ מַפְעָלוֹת יְהוָה אֲשֶׁר־שָׁם שִׁמוֹת בְּאֶרֶץ:
- 10 מִשְׁבִּית מַלְחָמוֹת עַד־קֶצֶה הָאֶרֶץ קִשְׁת יִשְׁבֵר וְקַצֵּץ חֲנִית עֲגָלוֹת יִשְׂרָף בְּאֵשׁ:
- 11 הִרְפוּ וְדַעוּ כִּי־אֲנֹכִי אֱלֹהִים אַרוֹם בַּגּוֹיִם אַרוֹם בְּאֶרֶץ:
- 12 יְהוָה צְבָאוֹת עִמָּנוּ מִשְׁגַּב־לָנוּ אֱלֹהֵי יַעֲקֹב סֵלָה:

# Psalm 46: God is our refuge

Adpt. from MARTIN LUTHER (1483–1546)



1 God is our | refuge • and | strength,  
a very | present | help in | trouble.

**Therefore we will not fear though the | earth be | moved,  
and though the mountains be | toppled • into the |  
depths of • the | sea;**

2 though its waters | rage and | foam,  
and though the mountains | tremble | at its | tumult.

*Unison* **The Lord of | hosts is | with us;  
the God of | Jacob | is our | stronghold.**



# Psalm 46: God is our refuge

Adpt. from MARTIN LUTHER (1483–1546)



3 There is a river whose streams make glad the | city · of | God,  
the holy habi-|tation · of the | Most — | High.  
**God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be · over-|thrown;**  
**God shall | help her · at the | break of | day.**

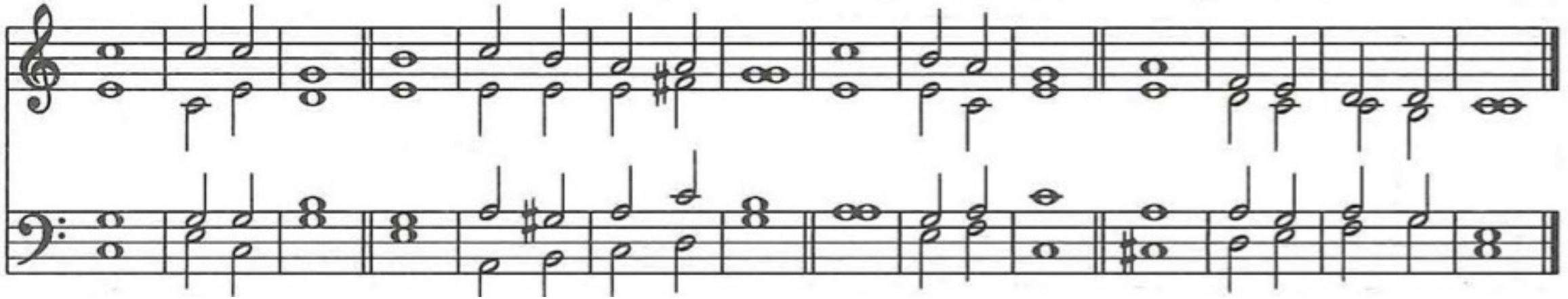
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# Psalm 46: God is our refuge

Adpt. from MARTIN LUTHER (1483–1546)



5 Come now and look upon the | works · of the | Lord,  
what awesome | things · he has | done on | earth.  
It is he who makes war to cease in | all the | world;  
**he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear,**  
**and | burns the | shields with | fire.**

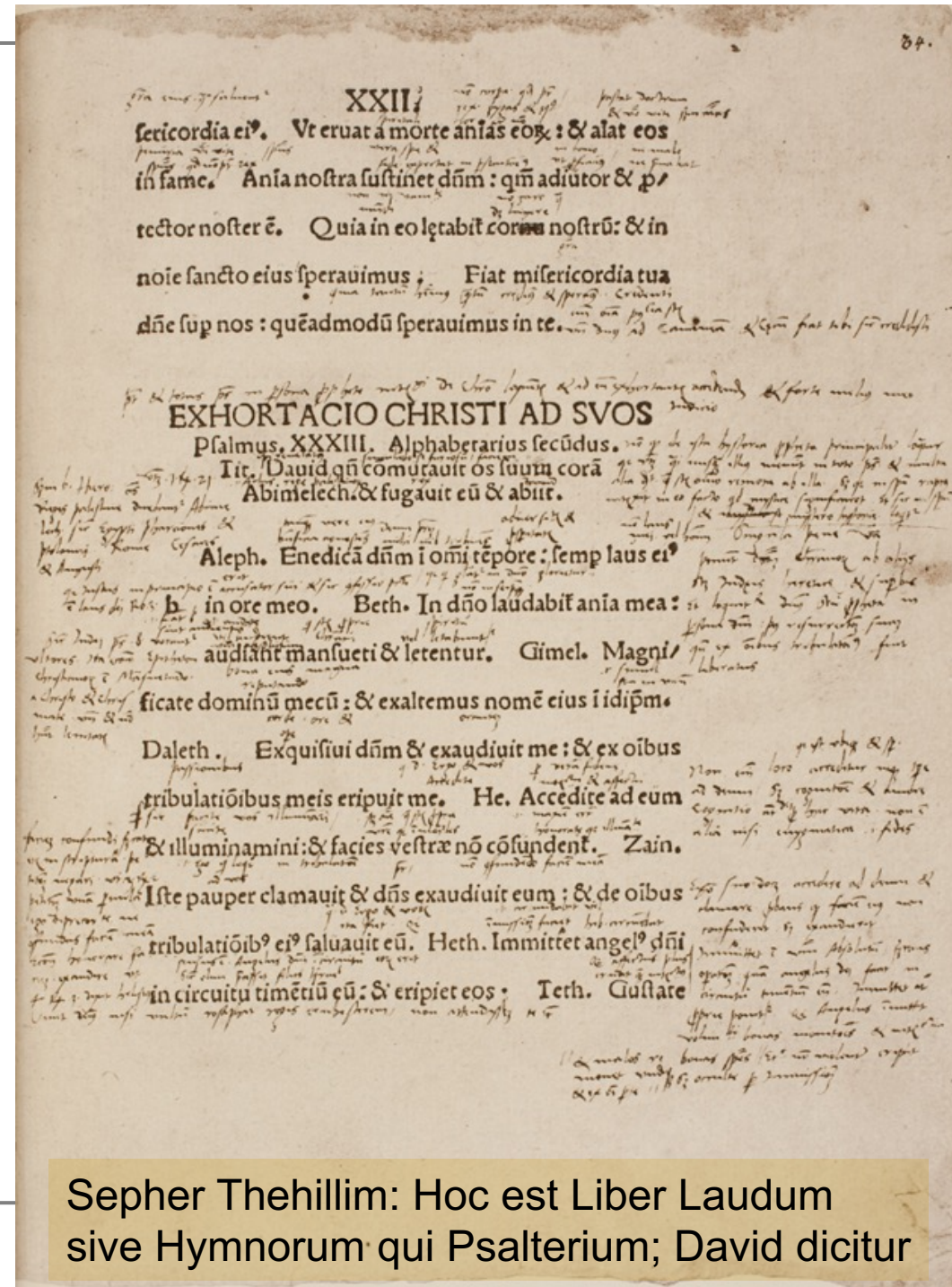
6 ‘Be still then, and know that | I am | God.  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be ex-|alted | in the | earth.’

*Unison* **The Lord of | hosts is | with us;**  
**the God of | Jacob | is our | stronghold.**

# Timeline Reformation Hymns

- 1513 Luther's Lecture Series on the Psalms
- 1517 95 Theses
- 1522 New Testament & Call to Hymn Writing
- 1523 *Aus tiefer Not* (Psalm 130)
- 1524 *Achtliederbuch & Enchiridion... geystlicher gesenge und psalmen*
- 1524/8 Luther's *Psalter Deutsch* ed. 1 & 2
- 1529 Enlarged Hymnbook with *Ein feste Burg*
- 1530 Open Letter on Translation (Sendbrief)
- c.1533 Coverdale: *Goostly Psalmes & Spirituall Songes*
- 1534 Luther's 'Biblia' (full Bible incl. Apocrypha)
- 1535 Coverdale's 'Biblia', including Book of Psalms

Wittenberg, 1513 (Herzog August Bibliothek, 71.4 Theol. 4°)



Sepher Thehillim: Hoc est Liber Laudum sive Hymnorum qui Psalterium; David dicitur



# 1522/23 Luther's Psalm 130

Ps 130:1 OUT of the deep have I called unto thee,

O Lord: Lord, hear my voice.

O let thine ears consider well:

the voice of my complaint.

If thou, Lord, wilt be extreme to mark

what is done amiss:

O Lord, who may abide it? (Coverdale 1535) \*\*\*

A1) Aus tieffer **not schrey** ich zu dir/

*From deep **pain cry** I to you*

herr Gott **erhör** mein ruffen.

*Lord God, hear favourably my call*

A2) Dein **gnedig** oren ker zu mir /

*Your **gracious** ears turn to me*

vnd meyner bit sye offen.

*and to my plea they may be open.*

B) Den so du wilt das sehen an /

*For if you will to that see*

wie manche sund ich hab gethan.

*how many sins I have done*

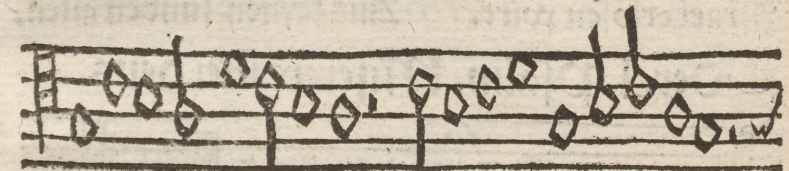
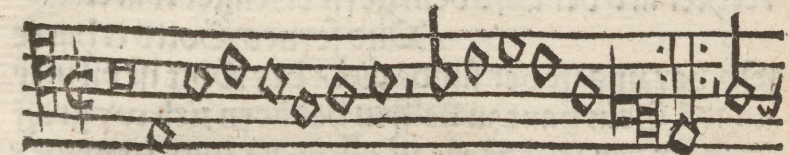
Wer kan herr fur dir bleiben

*Who can, Lord, before you remain.* (Luther 1522/3)

line = musical emphasis  
**bold** = textual emphasis  
**red** = literal translation of  
Luther's hymn text

Es dancke Got vnd lohe dich/das volck yn gutte  
thatten. Das landt bringt frucht vnd bessert sych  
deyn wort yst wol geratten. Vns segen vater vnd  
der son/vns segen Gott der heylig geyst. Dem alle  
welt die ehre thun/fur yhm sych furcht allermeist  
Nu sprecht von hertzen Amen.

Der. cxxix. Psalm De profundis.



Aus tieffer not schrey ich zu dir/herr Gott erhör  
mein ruffen. Dein gnedig oren ker zu mir/vnd mey  
ner bit sye offen. Den so du wilt das sehen an/wie  
manche sund ich hab gethan.

Wer kan herr fur dir bleiben

157



# 1524 'Achtliederbuch' (collection of hymn sheets)



## Several Christian Songs,

Hymns and Psalms, based on the pure word of God, made from Holy Scripture by several highly learned people, to be sung in church as it is partly already practised in Wittenberg

1. Nun freut euch, lieben Christen g'mein (Luther)
2. Es ist das Heil uns kommen her (Speratus)
3. In Gott glaub ich, das er hat (Speratus)
4. Hilf Gott, wie ist der Menschen Not (Speratus)
5. **Ach Gott, vom Himmel sieh darein (Luther) on Psalm 11**
6. **Es spricht der Unweisen Mund wohl (Luther) on Psalm 13**
7. **Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir (Luther) on Psalm 130**
8. In Jesu Namen wir heben an

# 1524: The First German Hymnbook

**Eyn Enchiridion oder  
Handbüchlein. eynem ytz**

- lichen Christen fast nutzlich bey sich  
zuhaben/ zur stetter vbung vnd  
2. trachtung geystlicher gesenge  
vnd Psalmen/ Recht-  
schaffen vnd kunst-  
lich verteutschet.

M. CCCC. xxxij

Am ende dieses Büchleins wirst  
du fynden eyn Register/ yn wil-  
chem klerlich angezeigt ist/ was  
vnd wie vill Gesenge hieryn be-  
gryffen synd.

3. Mit dyfen vnd der gleichen Gesenge solet man bil-  
byllich die yungen yugendt auffzuehen.

4.

*An Enchiridion or  
Handbook, for ev-  
ery Christian very useful to have  
at hand, for constant practice and  
contemplation of spiritual songs  
and Psalms, honest-  
ly and artful-  
ly translated into German*

- Typos: 1. yeg= → ytz=  
2. betrachtung → trachtung  
3. byllich → bil=/byllich  
4. yugendt → yungen yugendt

*At the end of this book you will find an index which shows  
clearly which and how many songs are contained herein  
With these and similar songs young people should be properly  
educated.*



# 1524 Psalms: Cry for Mercy & Help

Prologue: A Letter to the Reader

1: Catechism & Programmatic Songs (No. 1-11)

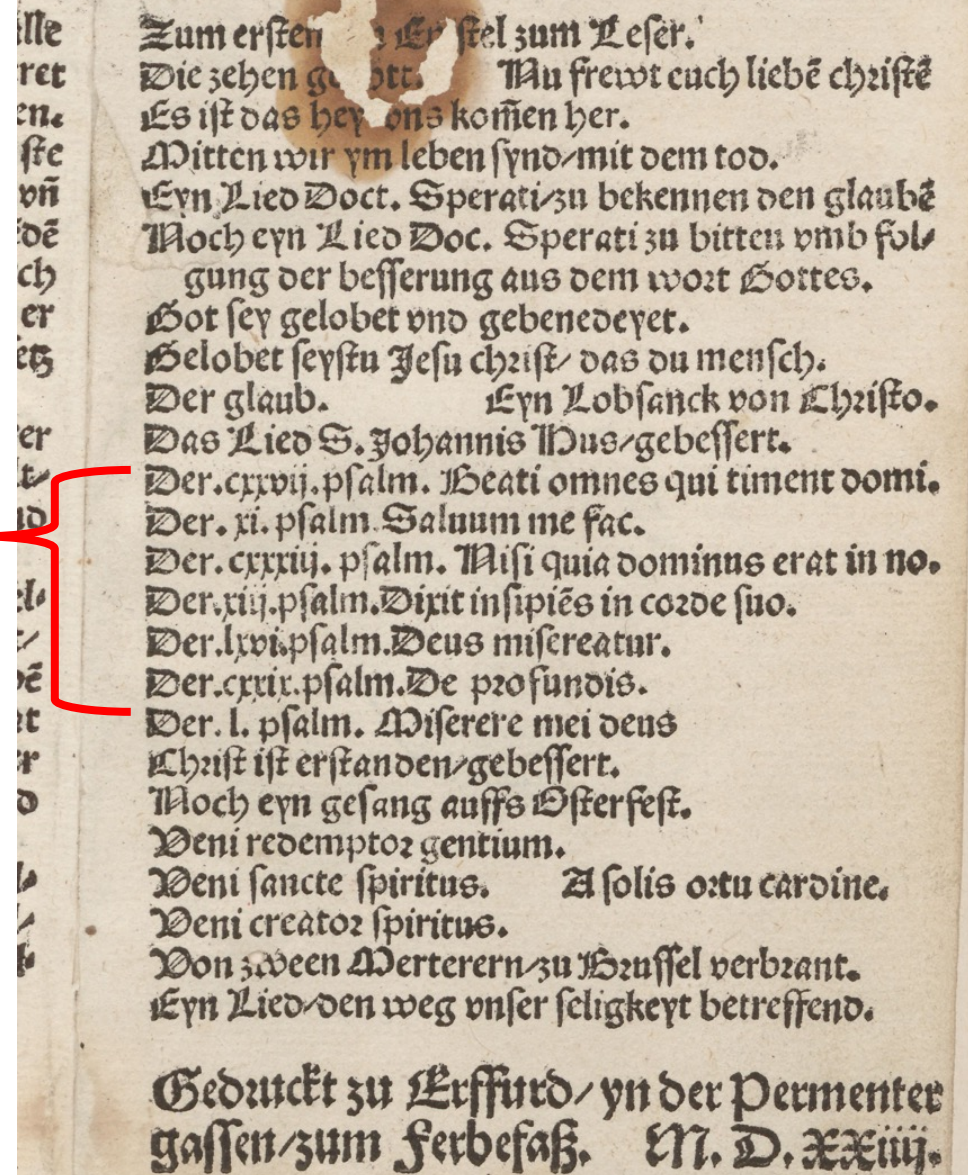
- 1) The Ten Commandments.
- 2) Good Christians, rejoice...
- 9) The Creed. 10) A Song in Praise of Christ.
- 11) A Song by Jan Hus, „bettered“.

2: Psalm Paraphrases (No. 12-18)

- 12) Ps 127 [128] Blessed are all [Wohl dem, der in Gottes Furcht]
- 13) Ps 11 [12] Help me, Lord [Ach Gott, vom Himmel]
- 14) Ps 123 [124] If the Lord himself [Wo Gott der Herr]
- 15) Ps 13 [14] The fool hath said [Es spricht der Unweisen Mund]
- 16) Ps 66 [67] God be merciful unto us [Es wolle Gott]
- 17) Ps 129 [130] Out of the deep [Aus tiefer Not]
- 18) Ps 50 [51] Have mercy upon me [Erbarm dich mein]

3: Church Year & Christian Life (No. 19-26)

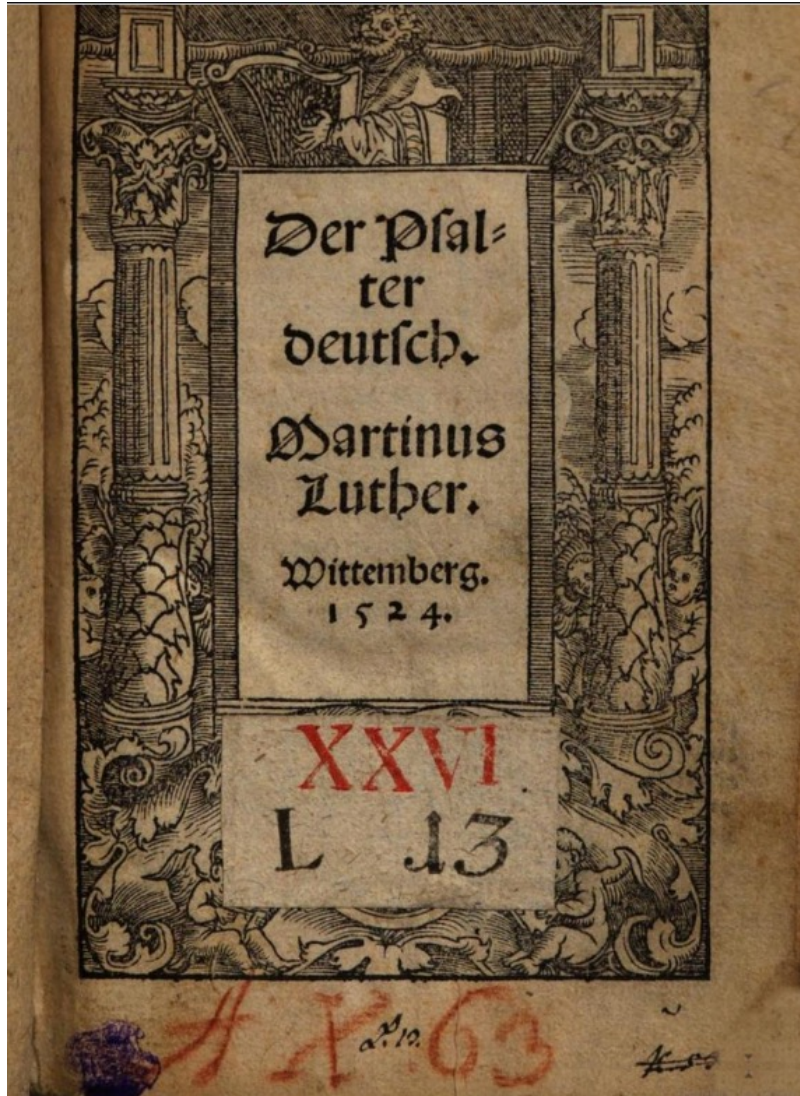
- 19) Christ is risen, „bettered“....
- 26) About two martyrs burnt at Brussels, a song related to our salvation



Zum ersten... Er stel zum Leser.  
Die zehen gebote. Man frewt euch liebe christe  
Es ist das heyl ons kommen her.  
Mitten wir ym leben synd mit dem tod.  
Eyn Lied Doct. Sperati zu bekennen den glaubē  
Moch eyn Lied Doc. Sperati zu bitten vmb fol-  
gung der besserung aus dem wort Gottes.  
Got sey gelobet vnd gebenedeyet.  
Gelobet seystu Jesu christ das du mensch.  
Der glaub. Eyn Lobsanck von Christo.  
Das Lied S. Johannis Hus gebessert.  
Der. cxxvij. psalm. Beati omnes qui timent domi.  
Der. xi. psalm. Saluum me fac.  
Der. cxxij. psalm. Nisi quia dominus erat in no.  
Der. xij. psalm. Dixit insipies in corde suo.  
Der. lxxvi. psalm. Deus misereatur.  
Der. cxxix. psalm. De profundis.  
Der. l. psalm. Miserere mei deus  
Christ ist erstanden gebessert.  
Moch eyn gesang auffs Osterfest.  
Veni redemptor gentium.  
Veni sancte spiritus. A solis ortu cardine.  
Veni creator spiritus.  
Von zween Werterern zu Brussel verbrant.  
Eyn Lied den weg vnser seligkeyt betreffend.  
  
Geduckt zu Erfurd yn der Permenter  
gassen zum ferbefaß. M. D. XXiiij.



# 1524/8 Luther / 1535 Miles Coverdale's Psalm 46



Ps 46 Ein Lied der kinder Korah / von der Jugent / vor **hoch** zu singen.

2 GOtt ist vnser Zuuersicht vnd Stercke / Eine Hülffe in den grossen Nöten / die vns troffen haben.

3 Darumb fürchten wir vns nicht / wenn gleich die Welt vntergienge **erden einfielen** / Vnd die Berge mitten ins Meer süncken **füren**.

4 Wenn gleich das Meer wütet vnd wallet **tobete und auf einen hauffen füre** / Vnd von seinem vngestüm die Berge einfielen **die berg bebeten vor desselben ungestüm** / Sela.

Red = 1524 Black = 1545

1In oure troubles and aduersite, we haue founde, that God is oure refuge, oure strength and helpe.

2Therefore wil we not feare, though the earth fell, and though the hilles were caried in to the myddest of the see.

3Though the waters of the see raged & were neuer so troublous, & though the mountaynes shoke at the tepest of the same. 4Sela.

# 1528/9 Luther's Psalm 46

A1) Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott,  
*A firm stronghold is our God,*  
Ein gute Wehr und Waffen.

*A good defence and weapon.*

A2) Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not,  
*He helps to free us from all pain,*  
Die uns jetzt hat betroffen.

*Which now has afflicted us.*

B) Der alt böse Feind,

*The old evil enemy,*

Mit Ernst er's jetzt meint.

*now means to assail seriously,*

Groß Macht und viel List

*Mighty power and much cunning*

Sein grausam Rüstung ist.

*is his cruel armour.*

Auf Erd ist nicht seinsgleichen.

*On earth is nothing like him.*

Miles Coverdale's version of Psalm 46 as used in the current BCP:

**1 God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.**

**2 Therefore we will not fear,** though the earth be moved, and though the mountains be toppled into the depths of the sea;

3 Though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble at its tumult.

4 The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

5 There is a river whose streams make glad **the city of God, the holy habitation** of the Most High.

6 God is in the midst of her; she shall not be overthrown; **God shall help** her at the break of day.

7 The nations **make much ado**, and the kingdoms are shaken; God has spoken, and the earth shall melt away.

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9 Come now and look upon the works of the LORD, what awesome things he has done on earth.

10 It is he who makes war to cease in all the world; he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.

11 "Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth."

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# Luther's Psalm 46

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*A firm stronghold is our God,*  
Ein gute Wehr und Waffen.

*A good defence and weapon.*

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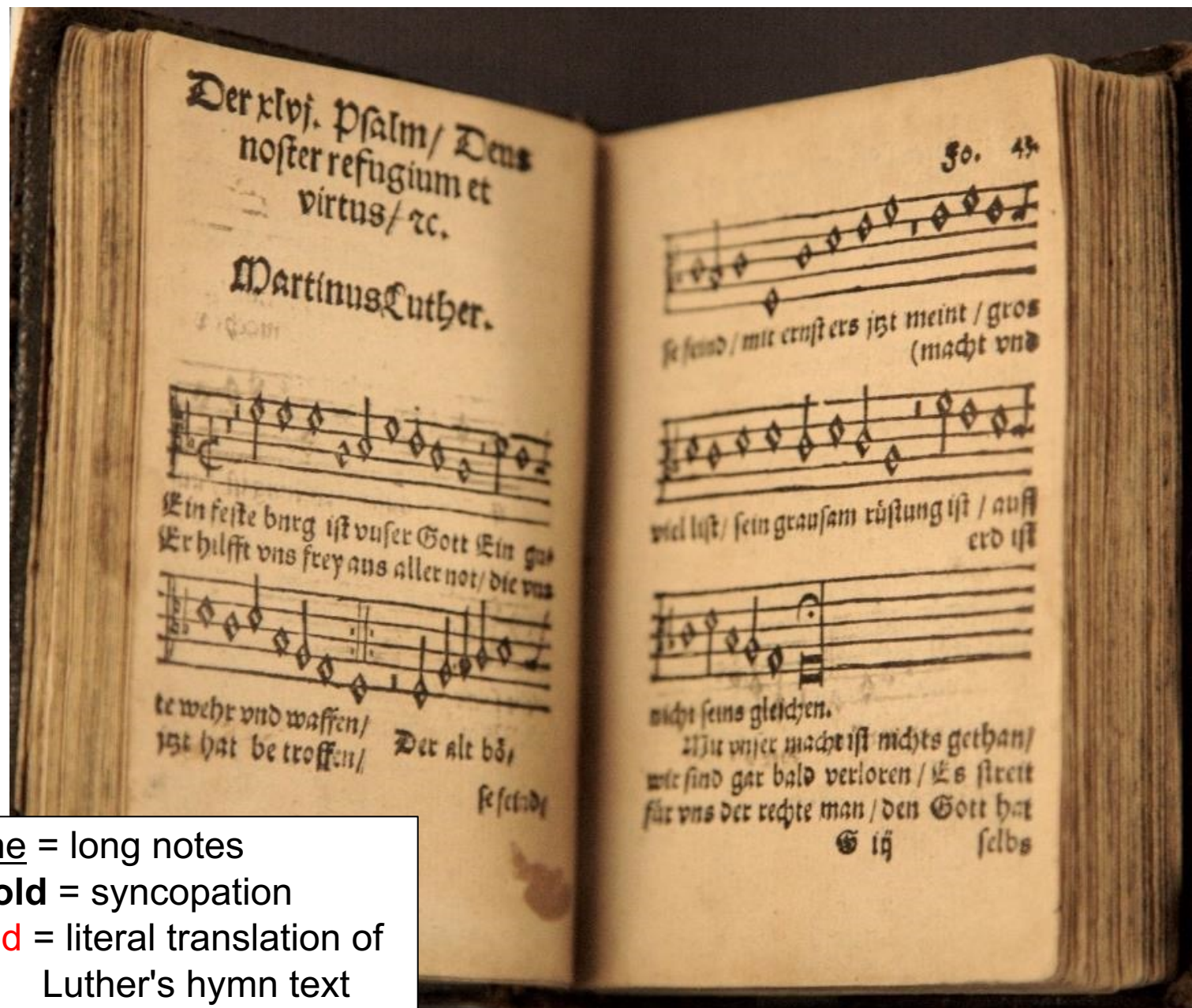
*Mighty power and much cunning*

**Sein grausam Rüstung ist.**

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Auf Erd ist nicht seinsgleichen.

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line = long notes  
bold = syncopation  
red = literal translation of  
Luther's hymn text

'Ein feste Burg', Klugsches Gesangbuch, Wittenberg 1533



# Hope & Defiance: Luther's Reading of Psalm 46

2) Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan,  
Wir sind gar bald verloren.  
Es streit't für uns der rechte Mann,  
Den Gott hat selbst erkoren.  
Fragst du, wer der ist?  
Er heißt Jesus Christ,  
Der Herr Zebaoth,  
Und ist kein ander Gott.  
Das Feld muß er behalten.

We win no battles through our might,  
we fall at once, dejected;  
the righteous one will lead our fight,  
by God himself directed.  
You ask, 'Who can this be?'  
Christ Jesus, it is he,  
eternal King and Lord,  
God's true and living word,  
no one can stand against him.

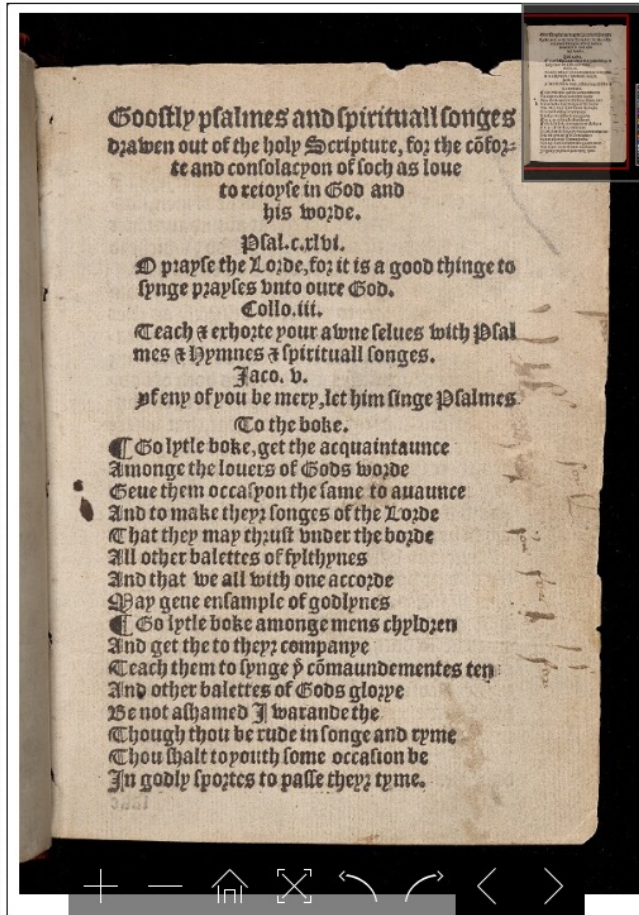
3) Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär  
Und wollt uns gar verschlingen,  
So fürchten wir uns nicht so sehr,  
Es soll uns doch gelingen.  
Der Fürst dieser Welt,  
Wie saur er sich stellt,  
Tut er uns doch nicht.  
Das macht, er ist gericht't.  
Ein Wörtlein kann ihn fällen.

And though the world seems full of ill,  
with hungry devils prowling,  
Christ's victory is with us still,  
we need not fear their howling.  
The tyrants of this age  
strut briefly on the stage:  
their sentence has been passed.  
We stand unharmed at last,  
a word from God destroys them.

4) Das Wort sie sollen lassen stahn  
Und kein' Dank dazu haben.  
Er ist bei uns wohl auf dem Plan  
Mit seinem Geist und Gaben.  
Nehmen sie den Leib,  
Gut, Ehr, Kind und Weib,  
Laß fahren dahin.  
Sie haben's kein Gewinn.  
Das Reich muß uns doch bleiben.

God's word and plan, which they pretend  
is subject to their pleasure,  
will bind their wills to serve God's end,  
which we, who love him, treasure.  
Then let them take our lives,  
goods, children, husbands, wives,  
and carry all away;  
theirs is a short-lived day,  
ours is the lasting kingdom.

# c.1533 Coverdale translating Luther



*Miles Coverdale, Goostly psalms and spirituall songs. Drawen out of the holy Scripture, for the comforte and consolacyon of such as love to rejoyse in God and his Worde*

[Gathering 4]

\*1r

[\[About this text\]](#) [\[About this edition\]](#) [\[Availability\]](#) [\[Source edition\]](#) [\[Editorial principles\]](#)

About this text

Title: *Goostly psalmes and spirituall songes drawen out of the holy*

Goostly psalmes and spirituall songes

Drawen out of the holy Scripture, for the comforte and consolacyon of such as love to rejoyse in God and his Worde.

Psal. c. xlvi. 'O prayse the Lorde, for it is a good thinge to synge prayes unto oure God.'

Collo. iii. 'Teach & exhorte your awne selve with Psalmes & Hymnes & spirituall song

Jaco. v. 'Yfeny of you be mery, let him synge Psalmes.'

To the boke.

¶ Go lytle boke, get the acquaintance  
Amonge the louers of Gods worde  
Geve them occasyon the same to avaunce  
And to make theyr songes of the Lorde  
That they may thrust under the borde  
All other balettes of fylthynes  
And that we all with one accorde  
May geve ensample of godlynes

¶ Go lytle boke amonge mens chyldren  
And get the to theyr companye  
Teach them to synge the commaundementes ten  
And other balettes of Gods glorie  
Be not ashamed I warande the  
Though thou be rude in songe and ryme  
Thou shalt to youth some occasion be  
In godly sportes to passe theyr tyme.

¶ Go lytle boke, get the acquaintance  
Amonge the lovers of Gods worde  
Geve them occasyon the same to avaunce  
And to make theyr songes of the Lorde  
5 That they may thrust under the borde  
All other balettes of fylthynes  
And that we all with one accorde  
May geve ensample of godlynes  
¶ Go lytle boke amonge mens chyldren  
10 And get the to theyr companye  
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And other balettes of Gods glorie  
Be not ashamed I warande the  
Though thou be rude in songe and ryme  
15 Thou shalt to youth some occasion be  
In godly sportes to passe theyr tyme.

# c.1533 Coverdale translating Luther

## ¶ Deus noster refugium.

Oure God is a de-fen - ce and towre/ a good  
arm - oure and good we - a - pen/ he hath ben ev - er  
oure helpe and su - coure/ in all the trou - bles that  
we have ben in/ ther - fo - re wyl we ne - ver drede

I.iii.

I3v ↑

## Goostly psalmes

for an - y won - der - ous dede/ by wat - er or by londes/ in  
hill - es or the see son - de/ our god hath them al in his hon - de

and spirituall songes. Fo. xxxv.  
The. xlv. Psalm of David.  
¶ Deus noster refugium.

Oure God is a defence and towre / a good

Oure God is a defence and towre / a good

armoure and good weapē / he hath ben euer

armoure and good weapē / he hath ben euer

oure helpe and sucoure / in all the troubles ¶

oure helpe and sucoure / in all the troubles ¶

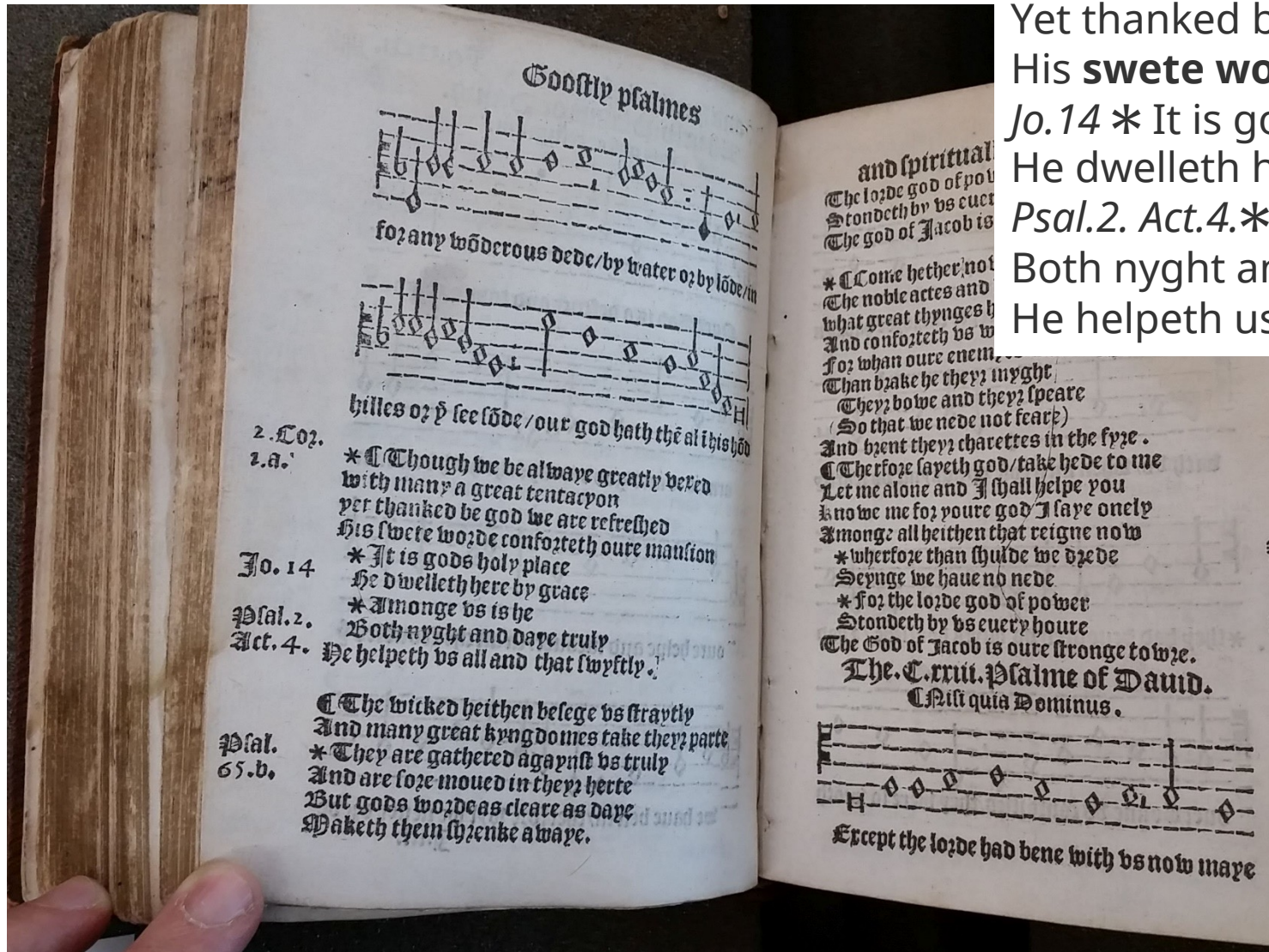
we haue ben in / therfoze wyl we neuer drede

we haue ben in / therfoze wyl we neuer drede

I.iii.



# Coverdale: Ein feste Burg



2. Cor. 1. a. \* ¶ Though we be alwaye greatly vexed  
With many a great tentacyon  
Yet thanked be **god** we are refreshed  
His **swete worde** conforteth oure mansion

Jo. 14 \* It is gods holy place  
He dwelleth here by grace

Psal. 2. Act. 4. \* Amonge us is he  
Both nyght and daye truly  
He helpeth us all and that swyftly.

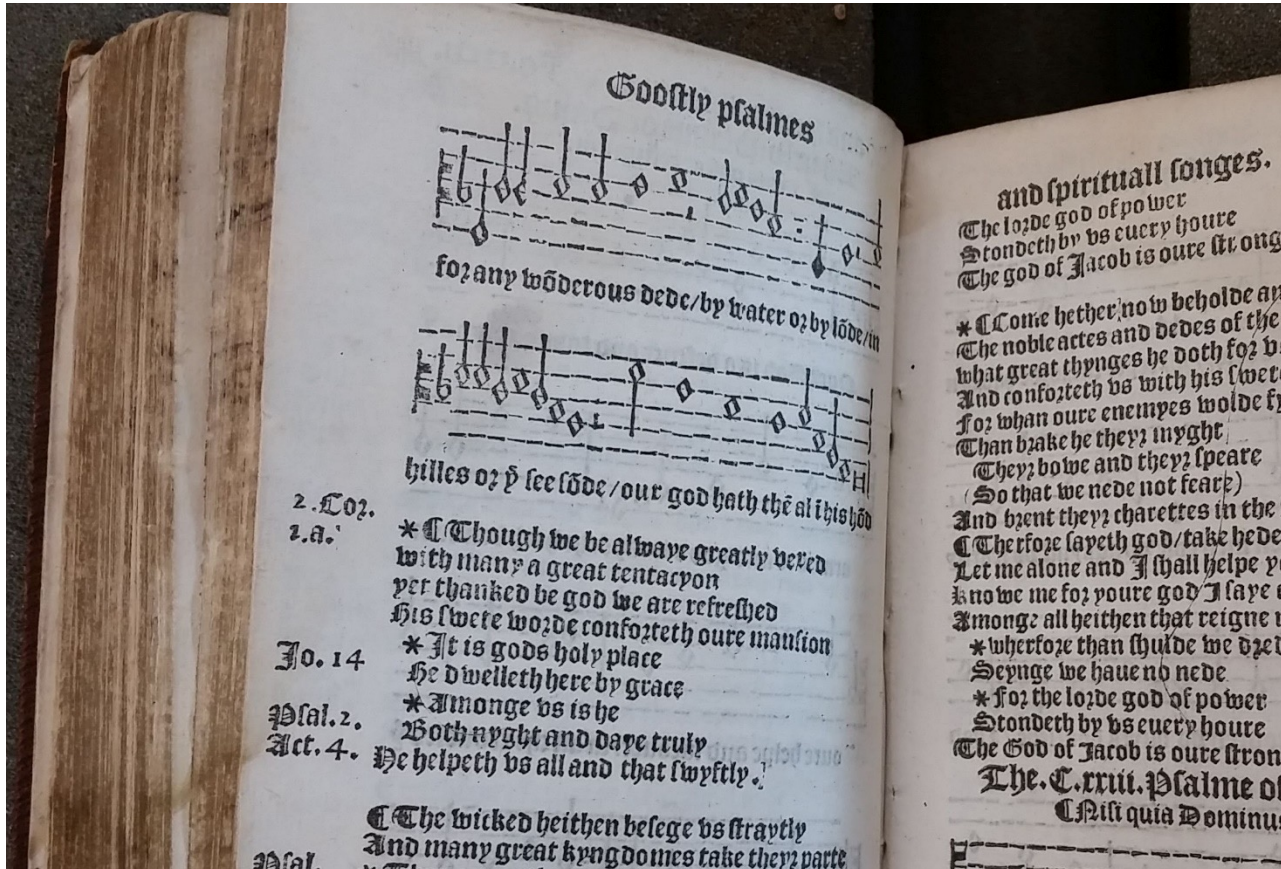
*For comparison: Stephen Orchard's translation of Martin Luther's second verse:*

2 We win no battles through our might,  
we fall at once, dejected;  
the righteous one will lead our fight,  
by God himself directed.  
You ask, 'Who can this be?'  
Christ Jesus, it is he,  
eternal King and Lord,  
**God's true and living word,**  
no one can stand against him.

Coverdale, Goostly psalmes and spirituall songs c.1533



# Coverdale: Ein feste Burg

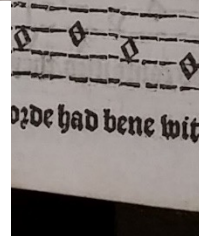


3) ¶ The wicked heithen besege us straytly  
And many great kyngdomes take theyr parte  
*Psal.65.b.\** They are gathered agaynst us truly  
And are sore moved in theyr herte  
But gods worde as cleare as daye  
Maketh them shrenke awaye.

The lorde god of power  
stondeth by us every houre  
**The god of Jacob is oure stronge towre**

*Psal.65.a.\** ¶ Come hether now beholde and se  
The noble actes and dedes of the lorde  
What great thynges he doth for us daylye  
And conforteth us with his swete worde  
For whan oure enemyes wolde fyght  
Than brake he theyr myght  
Theyr bowe and theyr speare  
(so that we nede not feare)  
And brent theyr charettes in the fyre

5) ¶ Therefore sayeth god / take hede to me  
Let me alone and I shall helpe you  
Knowe me for youre god I saye onely  
Amonge all heithen that reigne now  
*Psal.26.a.\** Wherefore than shulde we drede  
Seynge we have no nede  
*Ro.8.\** For the lorde god of power  
Stondeth by us every houre  
**The God of Jacob is oure stronge towre.**





# 1541 Hymn Teaching

Strasbourg Hymnal ed. by Martin Bucer  
 "für Stett- und Dorff-Kirchen, Lateinische  
 und Deudsche Schulen" with 61 hymns,  
 33 x 48,5 cm (illustration from 1559)



sitten. **E**s thät ihr keiner doch kein gut / wiewol  
 gar vil betrog der mit ir thun solt Got gefallen.  
**D**ie lang wöllend vnwissen sein / (III.)  
 die solche müß aufladen \* **U**nd fre-  
 sen dafür das volck mein vnd nern sich  
 mit sein schaden. **E**s steht ihr trawen nicht auff  
 Got sie rüffen ihm nicht in der not / sie wölln sich  
 selb versorgen. Das V.  
Darumb

Der XLVI. Psalm Deus noster refu-  
 gium. D. Mart. Luther.

**D**ie veste burg ist vnser Got /  
 ein güte

XCVIII DER XLVI. PSALM

ein güt te wehr vnd was sen \* **E**r hilfft vns frei  
 aus al ler not die vns tegz hat betrof sen. **D**er  
 alt bö se feind mit ernst ers tegz meint / gros  
 mache vnd vil list / sein grausam rüstung ist /  
 auff erd ist nicht seins gleich en. Das II.  
Die

DEVS NOSTER REFV. XCIX

**D**ie vnser macht ist nichts gethan wir  
 sind gar bald verloren \* **E**s streit für  
 vns der rechte man den Got hat selbs  
 erkoren. **F**ragstu wer der ist? **E**r heist **J**esus  
 Christ der Her: Zebaoth vnd ist kein ander Got /  
 das felt mus er behalten. Das III.

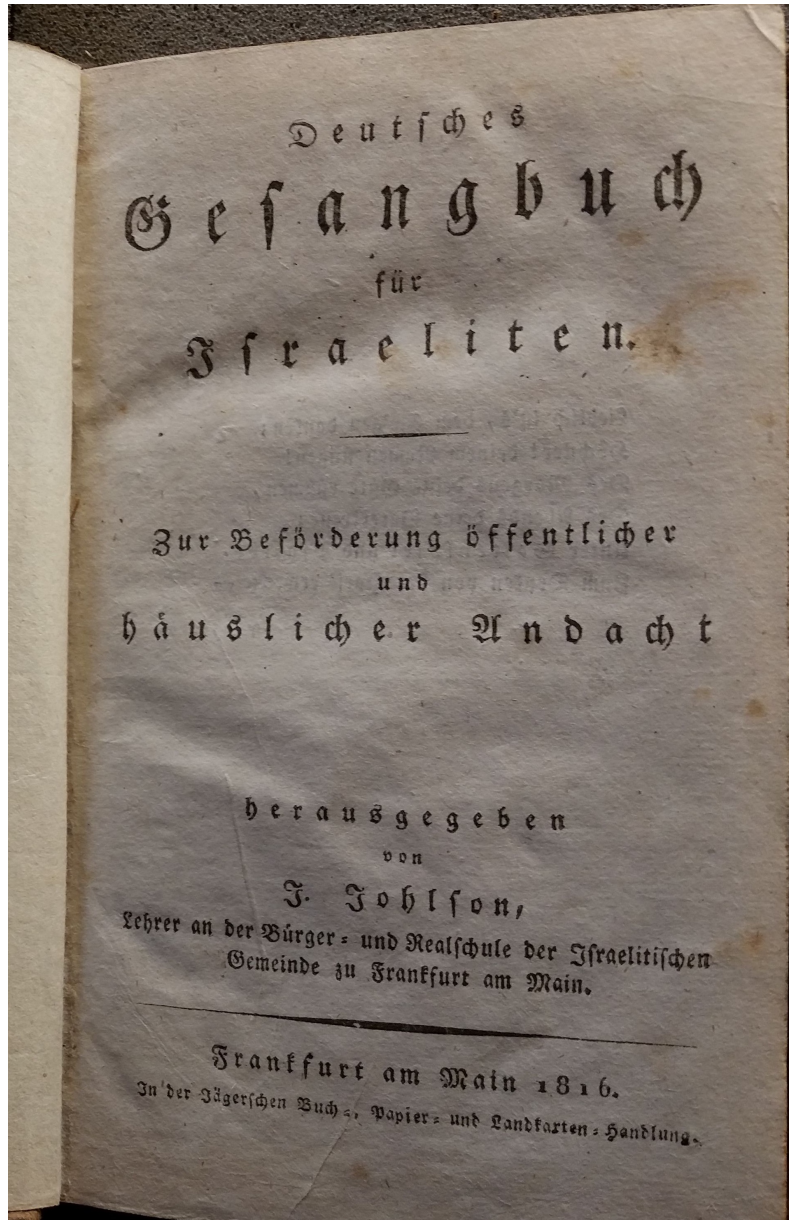
**W**enn die welt voll Teuffel wer /  
 vnd wolt vns gar verschlingen \* **S**o  
 fürchten wir vns nicht so sehr / es soll  
 vns doch gelingen. **D**er fürst diser welt wie saur  
 er sich stelt / thüt er vns doch nicht / das macht er  
 ist gericht ein wörtlein kan ihn fellen. Das III.

**A**S Wort sie sollen lassen stahn / vnd  
 kein danck dazu haben \* **E**r ist bei vns  
 wol auff dem plan / mit seinem Seist  
 vnd gaben. **N**emen sie den leib / güte / ch: kind vnd  
 weib / las faren dahin sie habens kein gewin / das  
 reich mus vns doch bleiben.

**E**er sei dem Vatter vnd dem Son / vnd auch  
 dem heiligen Seiste / it. v

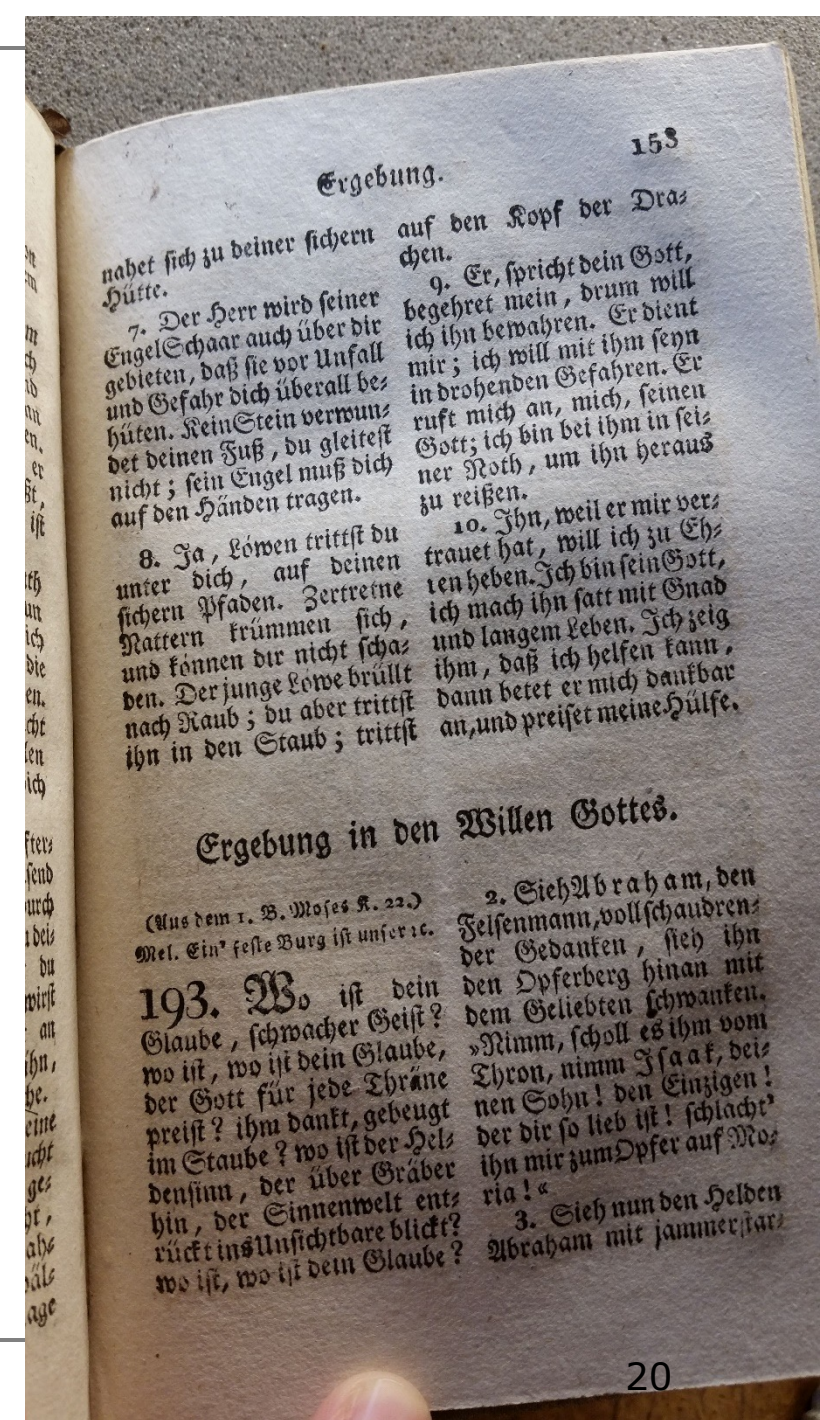


# 1816: Frankfurt Jewish Congregation



German Hymnbook for Israelites.  
To Further Public and Private  
Worship, ed. By J. Johlson,  
Teacher at the Civic School of the  
Jewish Community at Frankfurt,  
1816

„Submitting to the Will of God“  
Text from Genesis 22  
Tune: Ein feste Burg





# From the 16th to the 19th Century – Reception in D & UK



1617 Hymn for Reformationjubilee ---

18th JS Bach Cantata &c. ---

Enlightenment Rewriting ---

Christus der Schutz seiner Kirche.  
1. Ein starker Schutz ist unser Gott!

19th c. Romantic Revival

1806 Des Knaben Wunderhorn

Kriegslied des Glaubens.

1817 Wartburgfest

1834 Heinrich Heine: ‚Marsellaise‘

1848 Revolution Rewriting

Ein' feste Burg ist Mannesmuth  
Für Freiheit, Wahrheit, Tugend!

1870 Soldatenliederbuch

...Den Erbfeind niederzwingen,  
Bis er um Gnade fleht,  
Und Deutschland glänzend steht!

[1830 Mendelssohn  
Reformationssymphonie]

1835 Thomas Carlyle

A safe stronghold our God is still  
...And though they take our life,  
goods, honour, children, wife,  
yet is their profit small;

1855 Catherine Winkworth ‚Lyra  
Germanica‘

God is our stronghold firm and sure,  
Our trusty shield and weapon,  
He shall deliver us, whate'er  
Of ill to us may happen.



# 19th/20th Cent. Nationalist Takeover

World War 1 postcards with quotations from the hymn



Abb. 20: Deutschland gegen Frankreich. Bildpostkarte, gelaufen 14. Januar 1915, Deutsches Volksliedarchiv, Sign.: LP 2529

Michael Fischer: Religion, Nation, Krieg. Der Lutherchoral *Ein feste Burg...* zwischen Be-  
Waxmann 2014

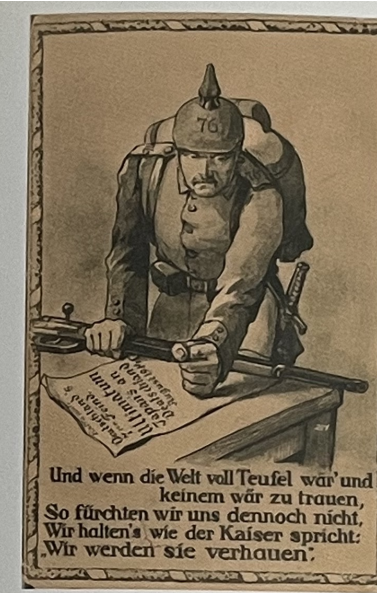


Abb. 24 und 25: „Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär!“ Bildpostkarten, links gelaufen 12. September 1918, rechts nicht gelaufen

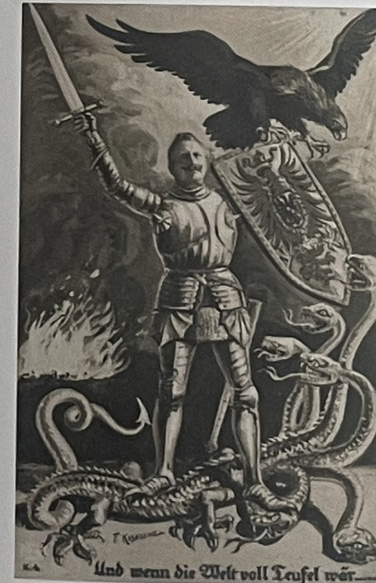


Abb. 26 und 27: Bildpostkarten, links gelaufen (Poststempel unleserlich), rechts Vergleichsbeispiel aus dem Zweiten Weltkrieg, gelaufen 16. Februar 1942



# 20th Cent. A Clash of Two Tunes in the „Kirchenkampf“

Psalm 46  
201  
MARTIN LUTHER 1528

1. Ein fe - ste Burg ist un - ser Gott, ein  
Er hilft uns frei aus al - ler Not, die  
gu - te Wehr und Waf - fen.  
uns jetzt hat be - trof - fen. Der  
alt bö - se Feind mit Ernst ers jetzt meint; groß  
Macht und viel List sein grau - sam Rü - stung  
ist, auf Erd ist nicht seins - glei - - chen.

2. Mit unsrer Macht ist nichts getan, / wir sind gar bald  
verloren; / es streit' für uns der rechte Mann, / den Gott  
hat selbst erkoren. / Fragst du, wer der ist? / Er heißt  
Jesus Christ, / der Herr Zebaoth, / und ist kein anderer  
Gott, / das Feld muß er behalten.

3. Und wenn die Welt voll Teufel wär / und wollt uns gar  
verschlingen, / so fürchten wir uns nicht so sehr, / es soll  
uns doch gelingen. / Der Fürst dieser Welt, / wie saur  
er sich stellt, / tut er uns doch nicht; / das macht, er ist  
gericht'. / Ein Wörtlein kann ihn fällen.

3

And though the world seems full of ill,  
with hungry devils prowling,  
Christ's victory is with us still,  
we need not fear their howling.  
The tyrants of this age  
strut briefly on the stage:  
their sentence has been passed.  
We stand unharmed at last,  
a word from God destroys them.

4

God's word and plan, which they pretend  
is subject to their pleasure,  
will bind their wills to serve God's end,  
which we, who love him, treasure.  
Then let them take our lives,  
goods, children, husbands, wives,  
and carry all away;  
theirs is a short-lived day,  
ours is the lasting kingdom.

# Singing Psalms as Hymns in Hope and Defiance

- as Emotional Theology
- as Communal Worship
- as Protest Songs

mə-’ōd.      nim-šā    bə-šā-rō-wt,    ‘ez-rāh                      wā-’ōz;    ma-ḥā-seh      lā-nū    ‘ē-lō-hīm  
מְאֹד            נִמְצָא            בְּצָרוֹת    עֲזָרָה                      וְעֹז            מַחֲסֵה            לָנוּ    אֱלֹהִים  
very            a present            in trouble            help                      and strength            refuge            our            God [is]

Vulgate Ps 45: Deus noster refugium et virtus;  
adiutor in tribulationibus quae invenerunt nos nimis.

Luther Ps 46: *Gott ist vnser Zuuersicht vnd Stercke /  
Eine Hülffe in den grossen Nöten / die vns treffen haben.*

„Ein feste Burg ist unser Gott / Ein gute Wehr und Waffen/  
Er hilft uns frei aus aller Not/ die uns jetzt hat betroffen“

Coverdale (BCP) Ps 46 (Day 9 Morning Prayer) *Deus noster refugium  
GOD is our hope and strength: a very present help in trouble.*

