

**God Is Our Fortress**

<sup>1</sup>God is our ref- | uge and strength,\*  
a very present help in | trouble.

<sup>2</sup>Therefore we will not fear though the | earth gives way,\*  
though the mountains be moved into the heart | of the sea,

<sup>3</sup>though its waters | roar and foam,\*  
though the mountains tremble at its | swelling.

<sup>4</sup>There is a river whose streams make glad the cit- | y of God,\*  
the holy habitation of the | Most High.

<sup>5</sup>God is in the midst of her; she shall | not be moved;\*  
God will help her when | morning dawns.

<sup>6</sup>The nations rage, the kingdoms | totter;\*  
he utters his voice, the | earth melts.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*  
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

<sup>8</sup>Come, behold the works | of the LORD,\*  
how he has brought desolations | on the earth.

<sup>9</sup>He makes wars cease to the end | of the earth;\*  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the chariots | with fire.

<sup>10</sup>“Be still, and know that | I am God.\*  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted | in the earth!”

<sup>11</sup>The LORD of hosts is | with us;\*  
the God of Jacob is our | fortress.

## First Reading

*Revelation 14:6–7*

### The Messages of the Three Angels

<sup>6</sup>Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. <sup>7</sup>And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.”

## Gradual

*Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a*

Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised\*

in the city | of our God!

Walk about Zion, go around her, number her | towers,\*

consider well her ramparts, go through her | citadels,

that you may tell the next gener- | ation\*

that this is God, our God forever and | ever.

## Epistle

*Romans 3:19–28*

<sup>19</sup>Now we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. <sup>20</sup>For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin.

### The Righteousness of God Through Faith

<sup>21</sup>But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— <sup>22</sup>the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: <sup>23</sup>for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. <sup>26</sup>It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

<sup>27</sup>Then what becomes of our boasting? It is excluded. By what kind of law? By a law of works? No, but by the law of faith. <sup>28</sup>For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.

### The Truth Will Set You Free

<sup>31</sup>So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, <sup>32</sup>and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” <sup>33</sup>They answered him, “We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved to anyone. How is it that you say, ‘You will become free’?”

<sup>34</sup>Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup>The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. <sup>36</sup>So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

### Acknowledgments

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