

Hymn Study: Holy, Holy, Holy

The hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" has stood the test of time as a powerful expression of worship and praise in the Christian tradition. Composed by Reginald Heber in the early 19th century, this hymn has become a beloved part of religious services around the world.

Reginald Heber, an Anglican bishop, wrote the lyrics to "Holy, Holy, Holy" during his time as a vicar in the early 1800s, and it was later published in a book of hymns after his death in 1862. Heber was inspired by the biblical passage from the book of Revelation, which describes heavenly beings singing praises to God, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come" (Revelation 4:8).

The hymn's simple yet profound lyrics reflect the awe and reverence that believers feel toward God. The repetition of the word "holy" emphasizes the sacred and pure nature of the Almighty. Each verse explores different aspects of God's character, from His nature as a three-part being ("God in three Persons, blessed Trinity") to His eternal and unchanging existence ("Perfect in power, in love, and purity").

The hymn's musical accompaniment was later composed by John B. Dykes in 1861. Dykes' melody, often known as NICAEA, complements Heber's lyrics beautifully, creating a harmonious blend of words and music that enhances the worship experience.

Over the years, "Holy, Holy, Holy" has become a staple in Christian worship services, used in various denominations and settings. Beyond its use in church services, "Holy, Holy, Holy" has found a place in popular culture and has been recorded by numerous artists across different genres. Its enduring popularity can be attributed to its timeless message and the power it carries. The hymn invites believers to join in the heavenly chorus, acknowledging and celebrating the holiness of God.

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord— God Al - migh - ty!
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord— God Al - migh - ty!

Ear - ly in the mor - ning our song shall rise to thee.
 cas - ting down their gol - den crowns a - round the glas - sy sea;
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and migh - ty!
 che - ru - bim and se - ra - phim fal - ling down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and migh - ty!

God in three Per - sons, bles - sed Tri - ni - ty!
 which wert and art, and e - ver - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three per - sons, bles - sed Tri - ni - ty!