

**Hymn of the Month** is a new worship-focused series at Salem Hellers. Worship is the most important thing we do; as part of our efforts to enrich and deepen our worship, each month we will focus on one of the less familiar or more recently composed songs from *Hymns of Grace* that we hope will be appreciated and loved by our congregation. We will explore different ways to introduce and incorporate these songs throughout the month; we want to help you become comfortable with them. May we grow together in faith as we learn these theologically rich hymns and join our voices in corporate worship.

# Hymn of the Month

January 2025



*He Will Hold Me Fast*  
#388 *Hymns of Grace*



**1**

When I fear my faith will fail,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
When the tempter would prevail,  
He will hold me fast.  
I could never keep my hold  
through life's fearful path;  
For my love is often cold;  
He must hold me fast.

**2**

Those He saves are His delight,  
Christ will hold me fast.  
Precious in His holy sight,  
He will hold me fast.  
He'll not let my soul be lost;  
His promises shall last;  
Bought by Him at such a cost,  
He will hold me fast.

**3**

For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied;  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life,  
He will hold me fast  
'till our faith is turned to sight,  
When He comes at last!

**Chorus:**

He will hold me fast. He will hold me fast.  
For my Savior loves me so, He will hold me fast.

**He Will Hold Me Fast** is another worthy example of a hymn that combines old and new. The original words and hymn tune were written more than a century ago; in 2013 composer Matt Merker added a verse and set the text to a new melody.

**The Story Behind the Hymn:** while accompanying an evangelistic tour, Australian pianist Robert Harkness (1880-1961) met a new believer who feared he might not be able to "hold out" through the difficult journey of the Christian life. Harkness mentioned his desire to encourage believers of the power of God's sustaining hand to British writer Ada R. Habershon (1861-1918). In 1907 Habershon penned the words for the hymn, *When I feel My Faith Will Fail* and Harkness composed the tune.

Matt Merker was inspired to write his own version, *He Will Hold Me Fast*, during a time of doubt and uncertainty. He was struck by the realization that "it's not the strength of our faith that ultimately saves and sustains us; Christ is the One who saves us and sustains us to the end."

Jude 24:20-25 - Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy.

Philippians 1:6 – And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

John 10:28-29 – I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand.

His promises shall last: Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.

**Hymn Recording:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=936BapRFHaQ>