

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

April 2025



There Is a Higher Throne

#119 Hymns of Grace



1

*There is a higher throne
than all this world has known,
where faithful ones from every tongue
will one day come.*

*Before the Son we'll stand,
made faultless through the Lamb;
believing hearts find promised grace;
salvation comes.*

2

*And there we'll find our home,
our life before the throne.
We'll honor Him in perfect song,
where we belong.*

*He'll wipe each tear-stained eye
as thirst and hunger die.
The Lamb becomes our Shepherd King;
we'll reign with Him.*

Chorus:

*Hear heaven's voices sing;
their thund'rous anthem rings
through emerald courts and sapphire skies;
their praises rise.
All glory, wisdom, power, strength, thanks,
and honor are to God, our King,
who reigns on high
forevermore.*

There Is a Higher Throne draws its message from the book of Revelation. The vivid depictions in the two verses and chorus of the hymn are primarily based on Romans 7:9-17. Verses 9 and 10 describe the multitude from every tribe and nation raising praises to God on the throne. Verse 17 is referenced with Christ, the Lamb who becomes our Shepherd King. In the chorus, the expression of praise (doxology) is rooted in verse 12, and the description of “emerald courts and sapphire skies” corresponds with the jewels described in the new Jerusalem (Revelation 21:19-21). In the second verse of the hymn, Revelation 21:4 is referenced as God wipes away every tear and earthly suffering ceases. Every phrase and line of this hymn is rooted in Scripture!

Written in 2003, **the music and text** of this hymn are the first collaborative effort of Keith and Kristyn Getty as a newly married couple. Kristyn penned the lyrics after being encouraged to write a hymn based on Revelation 7 by her father, a pastor. The musical structure of the song differs slightly from typical hymn format -- Keith describes the musical style as a ballad that provides a base for the narrative poem of the text and leads to the soaring chorus.

There Is a Higher Throne is a melodic, theologically rich modern hymn that turns our focus from earthly struggles as we lift our gaze and long for the day we will live before the throne of God. Hallelujah!

Hymn Recording:

Look for “Hymn of the Month” in the Worship menu tab, and click on the “visit the download page” on our new website: www.salemhellers.com