

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.

Listen to a recording of this month's hymn on our new website at www.salemhellers.com. Look for *Hymn of the Month* in the Worship tab menu and click on "visit the download page".



Hymn of the Month

June 2025



O Great God
#35 Hymns of Grace

1

O great God, of highest heav'n,
occupy my lowly heart.
Own it all and reign supreme,
conquer ev'ry rebel pow'r.
Let no vice or sin remain
that resists Your holy war.
You have loved and purchased me,
make me Yours forevermore.

2

I was blinded by my sin,
had no ears to hear Your voice,
Did not know Your love within,
had no taste for heaven's joys.
Then Your Spirit gave me life,
opened up Your Word to me,
through the gospel of Your Son,
gave me endless hope and peace.

3

Help me now to live a life
that's dependent on Your grace.
Keep my heart and guard my soul
from the evils that I face.
You are worthy to be praised
with my ev'ry thought and deed.
O great God of highest heav'n,
glorify Your Name through me.

The music: composer Bob Kauflin is a pastor, author and the director of Sovereign Grace Music. In the 1980s he served as a singer, pianist, songwriter and arranger for the contemporary Christian music group GLAD, and he currently hosts the Worship Matters blog, providing resources for music and worship. In addition to *O Great God*, four other Kauflin hymns are included in *Hymns of Grace* (#44, #84, #154 and #186).

Fun Fact: Bob's son, Jordan Kauflin, is also a musician and hymnwriter. His hymn, *All I Have Is Christ*, is #389 in our hymnal.

The Text of *O Great God* is based on "Regeneration", one of the Puritan prayers included in *The Valley of Vision* collection. The main themes of the prayer are summarized across the three verses of the hymn:

Verse one proclaims God's sovereignty, recognizes our sinful and rebellious hearts, and references the substitutionary atonement of Jesus; Christ laid down his life for us.

"O God of the highest heaven, occupy the throne of my heart, take full possession and reign supreme, lay low every rebel lust, let no vile passions resist thy holy war; manifest thy mighty power, and make me thine forever."

Verse two describes our condition of total depravity – we are dead in our sin but are regenerated (reborn) through the work of the Holy Spirit.

"I was dead in iniquities, having no eyes to see thee, no ears to hear thee, no taste to relish thy joys, no intelligence to know thee; but thy Spirit has quickened me, has brought me into a new world as a new creature, has given me spiritual perception, has opened to me thy Word as light, guide, solace, joy."

In the **third verse**, the focus is our sanctification as we grow in Christlikeness, fully reliant on God's grace.

"O help me then to walk worthy of thy love, of my hopes, and my vocation. Keep me, for I cannot keep myself, protect me that no evil befall me; let me lay aside every sin admired of many; help me to walk by thy side, lean on thy arm, hold converse with thee, that I may be salt of the earth and a blessing to all."