

Hymn of the Month is a worship-focused initiative of the Salem Hellers Music Ministry. 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 a less familiar or more recently composed song or hymn that we hope will become 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

Salem Hellers Music Ministry

Christ Our Hope in Life and Death

April 2026

1

*What is our hope in life and death?
Christ alone, Christ alone.
What is our only confidence?
That our souls to Him belong.
Who holds our days within His hand?
What comes, apart from His command?
And what will keep us to the end?
The love of Christ, in which we stand.*

2

*What truth can calm the troubled soul?
God is good, God is good.
Where is His grace and goodness known?
In our great Redeemer's blood.
Who holds our faith when fears arise?
Who stands above the stormy trial?
Who sends the waves that bring us nigh unto the shore,
the rock of Christ?*

3

*Unto the grave, what shall we sing?
"Christ, He lives; Christ, He lives!"
And what reward will heaven bring?
Everlasting life with Him.
There we will rise to meet the Lord,
then sin and death will be destroyed,
and we will feast in endless joy,
when Christ is ours forevermore.*

Refrain

*O sing hallelujah!
Our hope springs eternal;
O sing hallelujah!
Now and ever we confess Christ
our hope in life and death.*

The Story Behind the Hymn: As Keith and Kristyn Getty's music ministry has expanded over the last 20 years, their team of collaborators has grown to include other well-known modern hymn writers. As part of the Getty songwriting and publishing collective, five of these musicians combined their efforts and wrote *Christ Our Hope in Life and Death*. Songwriter Jordan Kauflin approached Matt Merker with some initial ideas for a hymn about hope. Next, they brought in Keith Getty, who added the chorus. Matt Papa and Matt Boswell helped to solidify the text and refine the melodies, based on their experience in writing for congregations. The result of their collaboration is a solidly biblical text set to a glorious musical arrangement.

The meaning: The text is based on the first question of the Heidelberg Catechism: "What is your only comfort in life and death?" The three verses of the hymn follow a unique question and answer format which is bound together by the joyful chorus – "O sing hallelujah!"

Keith Getty describes the song as "a declaration that Christ's resurrection guarantees our hope every moment of every day, even as we face death. The message is that no matter what a believer is going through, no matter how dire the circumstances may seem, the reality of the resurrection transforms every aspect of our lives. We can sing 'hallelujah' even when the waves are crashing over our lives, because we know and trust the One who conquered death...so we wrote this song for our churches and our children, because we want them to find their 'only confidence' in the reality that Christ is risen."

Heidelberg Catechism (1563)

Q: What is your only comfort in life and death?

A: That I am not my own, but belong with body and soul, both in life and in death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with His precious blood and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by His Holy Spirit He also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from now on to live for Him.