



HYMN PREVIEW

What God Ordains Is Always Good

Note to Worship Planners:

Hymn 845, with a new tune for “What God Ordains Is Always Good,” is suggested in the Year C Planner (available at [The Foundation](#)) for Holy Trinity Sunday. Since it’s a new tune, it’s good to have a soloist sing stanza 1 (or 1,2 or 1,3). A choral setting is available: online.nph.net/what-god-ordains.html. While most churches do not have a SATB choir that can handle this, select stanzas work well for a unison choir or soloist while the congregation is accompanied by the standard hymnal setting. (Lower the choral score setting by a half step if using a transposing keyboard to match the hymnal’s key.) Note also that the CW21 hymns accompaniment edition includes a pianistic option. With two accompanists, the piano setting could be used for the soloist and the organ setting for the congregation.

The following message may be included in the worship folder for Holy Trinity Sunday or shared by email in advance of that weekend. If included in the worship folder, edit the last paragraph.

Message:

For fifteen hymns in the new hymnal two tunes are provided. Some of these are simply rhythmic variations. Examples: “A Mighty Fortress” 863, 864; “Now Thank We All Our God” 597, 598; “O Sacred Head, Now Wounded” 428, 429.

Some are pairs of tunes that have been used for many years, even centuries. In some cases, one tune is widely familiar among Lutherans and the other in other denominations (and thus familiar to some “new Lutherans” in our churches). Examples: “All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night” 788, 789; “Away in a Manger” 340, 341; “Jerusalem the Golden” 889, 890; “Lift Up Your Heads, You Mighty Gates” 305, 306; “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” 563, 564; “My Song Is Love Unknown” 397, 399; “O Sons and Daughters of the King” 456, 457.

Others offer the option of a second tune recently composed. Examples: “Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Bands” 439, 440; “Draw Near (and Take the Body of Your Lord)” 661, 662; “Take My Life and Let It Be” 695, 696; “What God Ordains Is Always Good” 844, 845.

845 is an example of the “modern hymn movement” finding great value in older texts and giving them a fresh musical treatment. Here’s a rendition: www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyoIPjE6dMM with the composer, Josh Bauder (born in 1987) at the piano. Listening to this new hymn before Sunday will make it easier to comfortably join in when we sing it. Of course, the primary value of a hymn is its text. Perhaps this new tune will help worshipers to reflect in a new way on a powerfully comforting text.