

# A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD

arr. Hal H. Hopson



SATB, organ, with opt. brass, assembly, timpani



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# A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther, 1483-1546  
tr. Lutheran Book of Worship\*  
alternate version: tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1805-1890

*Ein feste Burg*  
Martin Luther, 1483-1546  
setting by Hal H. Hopson

INTRODUCTION: ORGAN (with optional brass quartet)

The first system of the organ introduction is in 4/4 time. The right hand (treble clef) begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a quarter note G4, an eighth note A4, a quarter note B4, and a quarter note C5. The left hand (bass clef) plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment: G2, A2, B2, C3, D3, E3, F3, G3. A dynamic marking of *f* and a bracketed instruction **\*\* (brass)** are placed above the first few notes of the right hand. The system concludes with a whole rest in the right hand and a quarter note G2 in the left hand. The instruction "No ped." is written at the end of the system.

The second system continues the organ introduction in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a sixteenth-note pattern: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The system ends with a 2/4 time signature change and a quarter note G4 in the right hand, followed by a quarter rest in the left hand.

The third system continues in 4/4 time. The right hand has a whole rest for the first two measures, then plays a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, and a quarter note B4. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The system ends with a 3/4 time signature change and a quarter note G4 in the right hand, followed by a quarter note G2 in the left hand.

The fourth system continues in 3/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The system ends with a 4/4 time signature change and a quarter note G4 in the right hand, followed by a quarter note G2 in the left hand. The instruction "Ped." is written at the end of the system.

The fifth system continues in 4/4 time. The right hand plays a series of chords: G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5, G4, A4, B4, C5. The left hand continues with the eighth-note accompaniment. The system ends with a quarter note G4 in the right hand and a quarter note G2 in the left hand.

\*Text translation copyright © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship.

\*\*When brass instruments are used, the organ should not play the sections within brackets.  
Separate instrumental parts are available, code 11-2220.

A

Voices in unison

1. A might - y for - tress is — our God, A  
*1. A might - y for - tress is — our God, A*

Organ (brass tacet)

Ped.

sword and shield vic - to - rious; He breaks the cruel — op -  
*bul - wark nev - er fail - ing; Our help - er he — a -*

pres - sor's rod And wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The  
*mid - the flood Of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For*

B

old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to work us woe! With  
*still our an - cient foe Doth seek to work us woe; His*

The alternate, italicized text is used in some hymnals.

craft and dread - ful might He arms him - self to  
*craft and power are great, And, armed with cru - el*

fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
*hate, On earth is not his e - qual.*

**C** STANZA 2: CHOIR, CONGREGATION AND BRASS (or organ)

2. No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
 2. *Did we in our\_ own strength con - fide Our striv - ing would be*

ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom  
*los - ing; Were not the right\_ Man on\_ our side, The*

D

God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may  
 man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may

be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ  
 be? Christ Je - sus, it is he; Lord

Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's on - ly Son, a -  
 Sab - a - oth his name, From age to age the

dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
 same, And he must win the bat - tle.