

48th Ps. 1st Part }
563^d Hymn.
559th " }

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"Strength & Beauty are in the Sanctuary." Ps. 96: 6.

"In the Name of our God, we will set up our banners." Ps. 20: 5.

The ceremonial act here announced, has been often performed by Nations, and by communities small and great. It is indeed one of those customs which originated at a very early period of our world's history, and which survives still unchanged in form and design. It derives its significance entirely from the purpose in view in its adoption. For example: A victorious General, in token of ^{the} conquest and reduction of a fortress of the enemy plants the banner of his Country upon the battlements of the conquered foe, & asserts ~~the~~ ^{his own} ~~in token~~ of the supremacy of his ^{own} Govt. Or, the adventurous mariner having in the progress of his voyages reached parts of the earth hitherto unknown, lands upon some desolate shore, or island, and plants the standard of his own Govt. upon the first suitable spot, & thus claims the country ~~as~~ by right of discovery. Or, yet again when, some grand Military Expedition having been inaugurated the Rulers and chief leaders of the Enterprise, realizing the im-

portance of auspicious beginnings, and of inspiring public confidence, unfurl the banners under which they propose to wage the warfare, proclaim the purpose to do or die, and inscribe upon their broad folds the mottoes of Union, Hope, & Courage, ~~and~~ in the cause of Country & Home.

We may adopt the comment rec^d in regard to the occasion upon which this sacred Ode was penned by David, as a grand dramatic scene in which the entire congregation of Israel, and David their anointed King were the chief actors. There is no reason to ^{the occasion referred to was that upon which} doubt that the Armies of Israel were about to march to the conquest of the Ammonites and Syrians as is recorded in the sacred history. ~~There were~~ set in battle line and marching order, the shining ranks of the warriors of Israel, and conspicuous above all appeared their warrior King. Around were gathered the vast congregation of the Israelites - it may be of men women children, to witness the departure of the mighty host. Here begins the chant of the choral prayer of the vast assembly, and with

myriads of voices their words go up to Heaven that the God of Israel will accept, defend, & prosper their anointed King. (Read ~~4~~ ¹ ~~pr.~~) Then comes their spontaneous ^{out} burst of united and devoted attachment to David: "we will rejoice in thy salvation" - preservation, followed immediately by the declaration of their supreme loyalty to the Great God, and their entire dependence upon Him as elevating on high the emblem of their station. ~~they~~ they cry out "In the name of our God we will set up our banners;" - ^{turning their thoughts to David again} and thus, they assure themselves that the Great King in Zion will ~~hear~~ ^{fulfill} all David's petitions.

The beloved and admired Warrior King now comes forth with the utterance of his joyful and triumphant confidence based upon the devout sentiments of his people; ~~showing such implicit trust in God;~~ "Now" since I have listened to your pious prayers and your unshaken trust in God! "Now know I;" all doubts & hesitancy are utterly dissipated - "Now know I that the Lord saveth His

anointed" &c. thro the 8th. At the King closed his declaration of joyful trust, we may suppose that all parties wound up this beautiful Ode of anticipated victory with the grand finale in the form of one united prayer; Save Sord; let the King hear us when we call."

Happily for us, my brethren, we are not gathered here today to witness the departure of embattled hosts to the field of stern conflict, and to cheer the gallant warriors on a mission of blood, and pronounce upon them our enthusiastic benedictions, and to ask of the God of Truth & Justice to crown with His blessing their heroic efforts. Let us hope that we have reached the blessed era of peace at last, when our land shall no more be cursed with the "battle of the warrior with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood," ^{it is the era} but when the prophetic promise of the Sord of ~~war~~ ^{Glory} "Behold, I will extend ^{Peace} to her like a river" shall be verified in all the Land, and the natal song of the Prince of Peace, "Glory to God, in the Highest, On Earth Peace, Good will to men" shall become a beautiful & blessed History.

Nevertheless, we may not bless ourselves with the thought, that the career of "the Sacramental Host of God's Elect" ^{on Earth,} shall be one of Peace and uninterrupted triumph. We cannot be permitted to indulge the hope that the Church of God shall be privileged to march over the long wilderness pilgrimage without encountering a single foe. ^{So trust in} This day dream of easy triumph would be to ignore the warnings of the Great Captain of ^{our} Salvation, who gave us to understand that in the world we "sh^d have tribulation"; that it was a great mistake in those who thought that He "came to send peace on Earth; for He assures us that he "came ^{not} to send peace, but a sword;" and when we meet such declarations in His word, as that "He came to send fire upon earth;" we must be careful to remember two important facts:

1. That it is no part of the nature of the Church of X^t. to be the cause of strife and conflict; but it is made by men the occasion of all the variances & violations of Peace, which

curse The Earth. 2. The warfare & conflictⁱⁿ which the
 Church of X^t is engaged, are purely spiritual.
 No human blood is shed, yet its foundation
~~was~~ laid, its superstructure is erected, its joints
 are cemented by the blood of the Son of God.
 No hatred, or vengeful wrath accompanies, or origi-
 nates the contest; but the ~~general~~ object of this grand
 invasion by God's people is the conquest of the
 world to God. ~~No~~ No material implements of war,
~~no~~ no roar of artillery, or flashing blade of steel, are
 given to this army of the Living God; ~~but~~ (the weapons
 of their warfare are ^{not carnal but} spiritual; yet mighty ^{through God} to
 the pulling down of strong-holds) "For though they walk
 in the flesh they do not war after the flesh; ~~seeing~~ ^{seeing}
 they wrestle not with flesh and blood, but with principalities & Powers,
~~use the whole armour of God~~ against the Rulers of the
 darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in
 high places," therefore, they "take unto them the whole
 armour of God;" — "having their loins girt about with
 truth, and having on the breast-plate of righteousness,
 and their feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel
 of peace, and above all, taking the shield of faith,

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wherewith they shall be able to quench all the fiery
darts of the wicked; and the helmet of salvation, &
the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;
praying always with all prayer & supplication in the
Spirit:—

Never was there such a warfare! The Great Leader
is Divine! The warriors partakers of His nature.
The enemy against whom the war is waged is
an immortal Spiritual, mighty, wise, crafty
Demon, a rebel condemned to eternal tor-
ment and striving to mass against His right-
ful Master all the powers of Earth & Hell,
and to draw into cooperation with Himself
all man's nobler faculties & powers of soul
& of body, and ^{presumptuous enough to believe that} ultimately he may conquer

in this hopeless conflict.

Among the ordained methods ~~of organization~~ where
by God has decreed to carry on this contest, we
find His visible organized Church. These organiza-
tions of His believing Children scattered over the
earth must needs be divided into smaller de-
tachments in compliance with the convenience
of assembly. Wherever there may be found a
devout body of believers of one faith & order, a-
mong the first & most obvious instinctive sug-
gestions is the necessity of a Temple of worship,
as the common external symbol of their
oneness in spirit. In all ages it has been
a felt necessity ^{of God's people} that God's House should be
erected on Earth as the sacred spot wherein they

should meet from time to time in social wor-
 ship, to offer their common praises & their common
 prayers, and hear from accredited teachers what God
 the Lord should say unto them from his living
 oracles. Let it not be forgotten that in this place
 consecrated to God's worship men & women are
 to be trained for God's service ^{in this great warfare} and that all
 the parts of the Divine worship are but so many
~~designed~~ means ^{designed} ~~adapted~~ to enlighten the mind
 in the knowledge of truth, to elevate the affections
 and to enkindle love, to purify the taste, to
 strengthen the faith, to stimulate the courage,
 to confirm the allegiance, and sanctify the
 soul, so that armed & equipped with this
 Heavenly armor, and leaning upon the Great Leader

they march fearlessly on to victory & Glory.
 Whenever therefore God's people would erect a
 temple for God's worship, a reflection upon its avowed
 design as the Tabernacle of God among the chil-
 dren of men, at once it would seem, should sug-
 gest the two attributes or elements claimed for it
 by the Psalmist — "Strength & Beauty," — and these
 circumstances are attributed to it, ^{only} because they
 are the material tangible visible emblems
 of those real characteristics of the Spiritual
 Temple, which is Jesus & His Salvation. So we are
 careful that in its foundation, its walls, its timbers,
 corner-posts, & rafters, special reference should be had
 to strength, solidity, and durability. On the other
 hand its Columns, its towers, its steeples, pointing heaven-

ward, glittering in sunlight, and all the furniture & arrangements for the worship of God should be characterized by a refined & faultless beauty commending itself to the taste & judgment of the most spiritual worshipper. Now while the ^{most excellent} ~~loftiest sub-~~ ~~stille~~ ~~city~~ and the most exquisite taste in architecture may always be demanded for the Sanctuary, it is only because it is supposed to have its counterpart in the higher characteristics of the Spiritual Temple, & because here are symbolized the Divine Power & Glory of "the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace." Here dwells in very deed God with men. Here He imparts to them as, in ancient promise, out of his infiniteness, a renewal of strength, & here they become strong in the Word and in the power of His might, strong in

faith giving the glory to God," and thus upon the wings
of faith in the storm & gloom of care & trouble they mount
and while ~~in the~~ ^{on Earth &} clouds ^{are} ~~are far below~~ ^{feet} they bask in divine sunlight,
up with wings as eagles, ~~They run without weariness,~~
and when the path of Life is
~~and walk without fainting.~~ "rough & thorny they are so
invigorated by the strength of the Sanctuary that they
run without weariness & walk without fainting." So
much for the element of Strength in the Sanctuary. But
when we "enter into His gates with thanksgiving and
into His courts with praise" when we "worship the
Lord in the Beauty of Holiness," then "out of Zion the
perfection of beauty God hath shined;" then the Beauty
of the Lord our God comes upon us; on our renovated
nature the image of the Savior is stamped; the very face
of the true worshipper shines, as did the face of the Patriarch,
with the reflected glory of the Sanctuary; and "beholding as

in a glass the Glory of the Lord, he is changed into
 the same image from Glory to Glory, even as by the
 Spirit of the Lord. While therefore it is true that the
 effectual waging of this spiritual warfare
 calls for the erection of a Rallying point
 and a training Central School
 for the Sacramental Host of God's Elect, and
 that Rallying point is the Temple of God—the
 Sanctuary in which He condescends to dwell
 with men upon Earth,—we should devoutly
 Remember that all the grand architectural
 beauty & strength which are laboriously lavished
 upon the material structure, are only to be
 prized in so far as they adumbrate and typify
 the Omnipotence of God's Grace, and the Beauty
 of His Holiness. It is too no slight evidence of the

Divine origin of the Sanctuary, that it combines in itself these two elements, so rarely found in the same person ~~or~~ thing.

You observe as you traverse the streets of your City the beautiful flower gardens which adorn the homes of its Citizens with tints & hues of unrivalled beauty, and call for your admiration and enjoyment. But with that beauty no strength is combined, for the slightest touch will suffice to scatter the rose leaf, and the lightest step will crush the violet. Near by stands the gnarled oak, the emblem of strength, & endurance, & age; but in its rugged bark, and among its crooked limbs, you look in vain for beauty. True, it is sublime in its vigor; but men do not seek in the ancient oak for the ^{more delicate} element of beauty. So when the gentle

breeze of summer wafts to the senses the perfume of a
 thousand flowers, all it suggests is of the pleasant & beautiful,
 but when the hurricane rushes by in the fierceness of
 its strength, there is no thought of beauty; only of terror.
 In the Sanctuary alone, — the blessed dwelling place
 of God, — are found combined the strength of Omnipotence,
 and the Beauty of Holiness. Beloved, he has
 studied to little purpose, the nature of human life, who has
 not learned that man is sadly in need of both these
 precious gifts; — strength to turn away his heart, his words
 and deeds, from the love and bondage, & pollution of sin
 as well as to be freed of its guilt, — and the beauty of
 Holiness, — the Omnipotent influence of God's N. S. to fit him
 not only for Heaven's pure atmosphere, & God's Holy presence, — but
 for the most exalted spiritual & personal joy & usefulness in this

Life. I repeat, it is here - in the Sanctuary, where God meets His people, - here where by the eye of faith, you can behold the King in His beauty, where to the yearning soul, He repeats that vision so divine, as often as we draw near with a true heart in full assurance of Faith, and Hope, in Jesus' name; - ~~there~~ where all the wants & necessities of the soul of man, are fully & eternally met & satisfied, because in this place alone we survey the visible type & emblem of the sweet glories of His salvation.

Let us therefore for a moment bring into view those departments of man's spiritual nature which are dependent for their conservation and full development upon the strength & Beauty found ~~only~~ ⁱⁿ the Sanctuary. Under two grand divisions may all these elements be comprehended. There