

Hymns

Ephesians 5:18-21 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another in the fear of God.

Colossians 3:16, Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Jesus in Matthew 26 and St. Paul and Silas in Acts 16

Categories by Form or Content

Prayer -Direct address to God

-Repentance

Praise/Thanksgiving

Didactic -Teaches a lesson

Specific Occasions - Anniversary, Funeral, plague, Etc.

Liturgical Purpose -Divine Service, Prayer office, Church year

Thematic - Doctrinal

Scripture Direct Quotation -Retells an account, psalm

Topical (By doctrine)

Structure of a Hymn

In the Christian tradition, hymns usually consist of many **stanzas** with four lines per stanza being common. The stanzas often use simple rhyme schemes such as A-B-A-B or A-A-B-B. In some musical settings, all the stanzas are sung to the same section of music, which is repeated over and over for all the stanzas of the hymn.

Other hymns consist of two parts, **stanzas and a chorus**, and are sung in alternation. This structure provides interest and variety.