

The Great Hymn of Revelation

It begins with the *Sanctus* (Holy, Holy, Holy- 4:8) at the ascension and enthronement of the Lamb.

It concludes with the *Hallelujah Chorus* (19:1-10) in the scene of the Bride of Christ. These stanzas, scattered throughout Revelation give a liturgical context to the prophetic message. Actions such as bowing and incense accompany these cries, responses to God's actions on behalf of His people and His Bride.

*Brighton: This great hymn can be understood to have an opening refrain, after which three parts follow: the hymn of the heavenly choirs; the hymn of the church; and the hymn of the bride. In addition, in several other places another voice serves as a cantor to explain or affirm the *Te Deum*." (p527, underlining mine)*

Opening Refrain (4:8) ceaselessly sung by the four living creatures

Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!

The Hymn of the Heavenly Choirs (4:11; 5:9-10, 12-13)

(sung by the 24 Elders)

Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
To receive glory and honor and power,
For you created all things,
And by your will they existed and were created

(the four living creatures join in at 5:9-10 when the Lamb is enthroned)

Worthy are you to take the scroll
And to open its seals,
For you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
From every tribe and language and people and nation,
And you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
And they shall reign on the earth.

(and the angels of heaven join at 5:12)

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
To receive power and wealth and wisdom
and might and honor and glory and blessing

(all creation joins in at 5:13)

To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! (4 living creatures say "AMEN")

The Hymn of the Church (7:10, 12; 11:17-18; 15:3-4)

(the Church Triumphant sings at 7:10)

Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!

(the angels chime in at 7:12)

Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
And thanksgiving and honor and power and might
Be to our God forever and ever! Amen!

(the 24 Elders celebrate God's judgment in 11:17-18)

We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty,
Who is and who was,
For you have taken your great power

And begun to reign.
The nations raged,
But your wrath came,
And the time for the dead to be judged,
And for rewarding your servants,
The prophets and saints,
And those who fear your name,
Both small and great,
And for destroying the destroyers of the earth.

(The Church Militant joins the song at 15:3-4 as she wars with the Beast)

Great and amazing are your deeds,
O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways,
O King of the nations!
Who will not fear, O Lord,
And glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
All nations will come
And worship you
For your righteous acts have been revealed.

The Hymn of the Bride (19:1-4, 6-8)

(The loud voice of a great multitude begins the hymn in 19:1-3)

Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God
For his judgments are true and just;
For he has judged the great prostitute
Who corrupted the earth with her immorality,
And has avenged on her the blood of his servants.

(Once more they cry out in 19:3)

Hallelujah!
The smoke from her goes up forever and ever

(The 24 Elders and Four Living Creatures add the third Hallelujah in 19:4)

Amen, Hallelujah!

(The voice of a great multitude concludes with a stanza honouring the Bride in 19:6-8)

Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
Let us rejoice and exult
And give him the glory,
For the marriage of the Lamb has come,
And his Bride has made herself ready;
It was given to her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure
For the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.

The individual “cantors” chime in throughout with explanatory solos:

7:14-17; 11:15; 12:10-12; 16:5-7