

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God  
Martin Luther, 1529.

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;  
Our helper He, amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing;  
For still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;  
His craft and power are great, and, armed with cruel hate,  
On earth is not his equal.

Did we in our own strength confide, our striving would be losing;  
Were not the right Man on our side, the Man of God's own choosing;  
Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He;  
Lord Sabaoth, His name, from age to age the same,  
And He must win the battle.

And though this world, with devils filled, should threaten to undo us,  
We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us:  
The Prince of Darkness grim, we tremble not for him;  
His rage we can endure, for lo, his doom is sure,  
One little word shall fell him.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours through Him who with us sideth:  
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;  
The body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,  
His kingdom is forever.

Alternate translation:

A mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon;  
He helps us free from every need that hath us now overtaken.  
The old evil foe now means deadly woe; deep guile and great might  
Are his dread arms in fight; on Earth is not his equal.

With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss effected;  
But for us fights the Valiant One, whom God Himself elected.  
Ask ye, who is this? Jesus Christ it is.  
Of Sabbath Lord, and there's none other God;  
He holds the field forever.

Though devils all the world should fill, all eager to devour us.  
We tremble not, we fear no ill, they shall not overpower us.  
This world's prince may still scowl fierce as he will,  
He can harm us none, he's judged; the deed is done;  
One little word can fell him.

The Word they still shall let remain nor any thanks have for it;  
He's by our side upon the plain with His good gifts and Spirit.  
And take they our life, goods, fame, child and wife,  
Let these all be gone, they yet have nothing won;  
The kingdom ours remaineth.