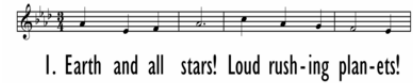


December 19, 2023  
17<sup>th</sup> Day of Advent



Read [Psalm 96](#)

When I was looking at the verses available for this year’s Advent Devotions, Psalm 96 spoke to me. It starts off: “Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.<sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day.”

From my earliest memories, I recall signing. Singing in the car to Beatles, Beach Boys, Elvis, etc. or in my friend’s bedroom to Cher with a “hairbrush microphone” and trying to “turn back time” or my childhood bedroom to the stereo my parents gifted me for my 13<sup>th</sup> birthday and blaring the local radio station or Michael Jackson’s Thriller album.

Maybe it’s my name – Melody = a sequence of single notes that is musically satisfying.

Whatever it is, I have also enjoyed signing in church. The individuals who wrote the beautiful music and lyrics to the hymns we sing to praise God; remember our loved ones at funerals or our beautiful country; gave us much to rejoice about with our voices.

We should always sing our praises to God – the good, bad or sad. He stands with us through it all. He is our sovereign God and reigns high above all else.

I hope the next time you sing one of your favorite hymns or a hymn you don’t know that well, you will sing with your loudest voice for all to hear including our God in Heaven. And – don’t be afraid to tap your foot or groove in your pew as you sing!

May the peace of Christ be with you during this Advent and Christmas season and always and forever.

Melody Costello  
St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church