

# O God Beyond All Praising Lyrics

## 71 O God Beyond All Praising

*Unison*

1. O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day  
\* [2. The flower of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,  
3. Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;  
its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our king;

for we can on-ly won-der at ev-ery gift you send,  
but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown—  
and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:  
though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:  
we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:

\*Verse 2, based on 1 Corinthians 15 is seasonal and would normally be omitted.

WORDS: Michael Perry  
MUSIC: Austin C. Lovelace  
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BEYOND PRAISE  
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**O God Beyond All Praising lyrics** is a powerful hymn that resonates deeply with many believers around the world. Written by Gustav Holst and set to the text by Michael Perry, the hymn captures the essence of worship and reverence toward God. It encompasses themes of gratitude, praise, and the profound mysteries of faith. In this article, we will explore the lyrics, the background of the hymn, its theological significance, and how it is used in various worship settings.

## Understanding the Lyrics

The lyrics of "O God Beyond All Praising" are a beautiful expression of adoration and reverence. The hymn begins with an acknowledgment of God's greatness and the incomprehensible nature of His majesty. The verses reflect themes such as:

- The sovereignty of God
- The wonder of creation
- The call to worship and praise
- The Christian's response to God's gifts

Each stanza builds upon the previous one, culminating in a rich tapestry of worship that invites congregants to reflect on their relationship with the divine.

## Chorus and Structure

The hymn often features a repetitive structure that allows for congregational participation. The chorus serves as a refrain that reinforces the central themes of praise and worship. This repetition not only aids in memorization but also enhances the collective experience of worship, allowing the congregation to join together in a unified expression of faith.

## The Background of "O God Beyond All Praising"

The hymn was born out of a collaboration between two influential figures in the world of sacred music. Gustav Holst, a renowned composer, is best known for his orchestral suite "The Planets." However, it is his work in hymnody that has left a lasting impact on church music. Michael Perry, the lyricist, was known for his ability to create texts that resonate with contemporary worship while remaining rooted in traditional theology.

## Historical Context

"O God Beyond All Praising" was written in the late 20th century, a time when many churches were seeking fresh expressions of worship that could engage congregants in meaningful ways. The hymn quickly gained popularity due to its rich theological content and the beautiful melody composed by Holst. The text emphasizes God's eternal nature and the importance of worship, making it an ideal choice for various worship settings.

## Theological Significance

The lyrics of "O God Beyond All Praising" are steeped in deep theological meaning. They remind us of several key doctrines within the Christian faith:

- **God's Sovereignty:** The hymn emphasizes that God is above all creation and holds ultimate

authority over all things.

- **Creation's Response:** It acknowledges the beauty of creation as a reflection of God's glory and invites believers to respond in praise.
- **Grace and Salvation:** The hymn speaks to God's goodness and grace, highlighting the gifts He has bestowed upon humanity, particularly the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ.
- **Community of Believers:** The communal aspect of worship is central to the hymn, illustrating the importance of gathering together as a body of Christ to worship.

These themes contribute to a deeper understanding of God's nature and encourage believers to engage in meaningful worship.

## Usage in Worship Settings

"O God Beyond All Praising" is a versatile hymn that can be used in various worship contexts. Its rich lyrics and beautiful melody make it suitable for:

### 1. Sunday Worship Services

Many congregations incorporate this hymn into their Sunday services, often during moments of praise and worship. Its uplifting message encourages congregants to reflect on God's greatness and grace.

### 2. Special Occasions

This hymn is frequently chosen for special occasions such as:

- Baptisms and Confirmations
- Church Anniversaries
- Weddings
- Funerals and Memorial Services

Its themes of gratitude and hope make it appropriate for both celebratory and solemn occasions.

### **3. Personal Devotion**

Many individuals find comfort and inspiration in the lyrics of "O God Beyond All Praising" during personal times of prayer and reflection. The hymn can serve as a powerful reminder of God's presence and faithfulness in one's life.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the hymn "O God Beyond All Praising" holds a significant place in contemporary Christian worship. Its profound lyrics, rooted in theology, invite believers to engage in heartfelt praise and thanksgiving. Whether sung in a grand church setting or in the quiet of personal devotion, this hymn continues to inspire and uplift those who seek to worship God in spirit and truth. Its timeless message of God's greatness and grace serves as a reminder of the beauty and mystery of faith, encouraging all to join in a chorus of praise that transcends time and space.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the main theme of 'O God Beyond All Praising'?**

The main theme of 'O God Beyond All Praising' is a deep expression of worship and gratitude towards God, highlighting His majesty, power, and the beauty of creation.

### **Who wrote the lyrics to 'O God Beyond All Praising'?**

The lyrics to 'O God Beyond All Praising' were written by Gustav Holst, and the text was penned by the English hymn writer Michael Perry.

### **In which musical context is 'O God Beyond All Praising' often used?**

'O God Beyond All Praising' is often used in church services, especially during worship and praise segments, as well as in choral and orchestral settings.

### **What biblical themes are reflected in the lyrics of 'O God Beyond All Praising'?**

The lyrics reflect themes of divine sovereignty, the beauty of creation, and the call to worship, drawing on biblical references to God's greatness and love.

### **How do the lyrics of 'O God Beyond All Praising' inspire personal reflection?**

The lyrics inspire personal reflection by encouraging individuals to contemplate their relationship with God, His blessings, and the importance of gratitude and worship in their lives.

## **What musical style is 'O God Beyond All Praising' composed in?**

The hymn 'O God Beyond All Praising' is composed in a lyrical and melodic style, often featuring orchestral accompaniment that enhances its worshipful nature.

## **Are there any well-known recordings of 'O God Beyond All Praising'?**

Yes, there are numerous well-known recordings of 'O God Beyond All Praising' by various choirs and worship groups, capturing its majestic and uplifting qualities.

## **How can 'O God Beyond All Praising' be used in liturgical settings?**

In liturgical settings, 'O God Beyond All Praising' can be used as a hymn of praise during services, as part of the worship music repertoire, or in special occasions such as celebrations and memorials.

## **What is the significance of the phrase 'beyond all praising' in the hymn?**

The phrase 'beyond all praising' signifies the incomprehensible nature of God, suggesting that His greatness and majesty surpass all human understanding and expression.

## **Can 'O God Beyond All Praising' be adapted for different worship styles?**

Yes, 'O God Beyond All Praising' can be adapted for various worship styles, including contemporary arrangements, instrumental renditions, and choral adaptations to suit different congregational preferences.

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