

Fall 2016 Prose & Poetry Recitation

For each season of the year we commit some verse or a prose selection to memory. There's no better way to relish the beauty and power of our native tongue or reflect with delight on the truth that makes us free. Our fall selection is *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* by German monk-theologian-pastor Martin Luther (1483-1546).

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther, 1529 — Translated by Frederick H. Hedge, 1853

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.**