

Built on the Rock

Text: Nicolai F.S. Grundtvig (1783-1872), translated by Carl Doving (1867-1937); tune: KIRKEN DEN ER ET, Ludwig M. Lindeman (1812-1887).

Representative text:

Built on the Rock, the church shall stand
even when steeples are falling;
Christ builds His church in ev'ry land;
bells still are chiming and calling,
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.

Not in a temple made with hands
God the Almighty is dwelling;
high in the heav'ns His temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet He who dwells in heaven above
chooses to live with us in love,
making our body His temple.

We are God's house of living stones,
built for His own habitation;
He fills our hearts, His humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Yet to the place, an earthly frame,
we come with thanks to praise His name;
God grants His people true blessing.

Thro' all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear God's Word
where He the promise is bringing:
"I know My own, My own know Me,
you, not the world, My face shall see;
My peace I leave with you. Amen."