

# Our Rock and Refuge



Lenten Hymn Devotions A.D. 2022

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# Preface

This Lent, we are providing another set of hymn devotions. This time, the theme is hymns of hope, comfort, and trust. Again, each hymn has an uploaded recording, which you may use to listen to or sing along with (instructions for accessing these are provided below). Scripture passages and prayers drawn from various liturgical resources have also been provided for each devotion.

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## Accessing Hymn Recordings

1. Go to: [www.redeemer-church.ca](http://www.redeemer-church.ca)
2. Click on “View Services”
3. Click on the button labeled “Devotional Music”
4. Click play on the hymn you are looking for

# Ash Wednesday

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
– Psalm 51:10-11**

The first hymn we will be looking at was written by Salomo Franck, who was the court poet in Weimar, Germany at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Franck is most well known for writing the libretti (texts) for a large number of Johann Sebastian Bach's Cantatas. However, he also wrote roughly 330 hymns, including this one, which was first published in 1714.

The opening refrain "O God, forsake me not" most notably references Psalms 38 and 71. In both instances, this prayer, made amid times of trouble, is founded upon trust in God's abundant grace and mercy. In Psalm 38, we hear that the Lord's "*hand has come down on [David]*" (v.2) in rebuke and discipline. However, David holds on to God's promises and still addresses the Lord as his "*salvation*" (v. 22). Similarly, in Psalm 71, we hear: "*You who have made me see many troubles and calamities will revive me again.*" (v.20) Later, the Lord is referred to as the psalmist's refuge, rock, and fortress. Although he confesses that he suffers troubles that come from the Lord, he nevertheless believes that the Lord is "*a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness.*" (Ex. 34:6)

Today's hymn displays this same confidence in the Lord's mercy. We pray that amid our troubles and afflictions (both bodily and spiritual), He would not forsake us, but be our refuge and strength. We confess, that we are the Lord's helpless children, who need His aid. We pray for God to continue to send us His Holy Spirit to work faith in us. The hymn hearkens back to Psalm 51 as we ask God to "*Take not [His] spirit from [us]*". It is the Holy Spirit's work in us, that brings us deliverance from our spiritual enemies: Sin, death and the Devil. We pray that He would increase our faith, so that we may resist the temptation of sin, shun the devil's accusations, and, at our life's end, die a blessed death. With this aid, we shall be delivered from eternal death and brought to the bliss of everlasting life with God. Trusting in His mercy, we continue to pray "O God, forsake me not!"

**Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

# LSB 731 - O God, Forsake Me Not



1 O God, for-sake me not! Your gra-cious pres-ence lend me;  
 2 O God, for-sake me not! Take not Your Spir - it from me;  
 3 O God, for-sake me not! Lord, hear my sup - pli - ca - tion!  
 4 O God, for-sake me not! Lord, I am Yours for - ev - er.



Lord, lead Your help-less child; Your Ho - ly Spir - it send me  
 Do not per - mit the might Of sin to o - ver - come me.  
 In ev - 'ry e - vil hour Help me re - sist temp - ta - tion;  
 O keep me strong in faith That I may leave You nev - er.



That I my course may run. O be my light, my lot,  
 In - crease my fee - ble faith, Which You a - lone have wrought.  
 And when the prince of hell My con - science seeks to blot,  
 Grant me a bless - ed end When my good fight is fought;



My staff, my rock, my shield— O God, for-sake me not!  
 O be my strength and pow'r— O God, for-sake me not!  
 Be then not far from me— O God, for-sake me not!  
 Help me in life and death— O God, for-sake me not!



# Lent 1

**The LORD is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. – Psalm 9:9**

Today's hymn comes from the evangelical branch of the Anglican tradition. It was written by Frances Havergal while on vacation in Switzerland in 1874. In the earlier part of her life, Havergal questioned the certainty of her salvation due to a lack of "feeling" that she was receiving God's blessings. However, she later came to find the certainty of her salvation was not to be found in any feelings of religious experience, but rather in God's sure word. She had the words "*The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin*" (1 Jn. 1:7) written on her tombstone.

As we sing this hymn, we begin by confessing that we trust in Christ as our only source of salvation. By His death on the cross, He has opened for us the door to everlasting life. By this sure sign, we can trust in Him to be merciful and grant us pardon from all our sins as He cleanses us in the crimson flood of His holy, precious blood. He makes us holy and able to stand before the presence of Almighty God without fear.

We also trust in Christ to be our Guide, who supplies all our needs of both body and soul. Our God provides for all our temporal needs, giving us our "daily bread," as we pray in the Lord's Prayer. However, most importantly, He comes to us in His word and sacraments and sends us His Holy Spirit to work faith in our hearts, so that we believe and trust in Christ's word. In times of temptation, the Holy Spirit strengthens us, so that we may resist. In times of trouble, He comforts us as we take refuge in God's unchanging word. All this Christ does for us, in order to bring us to join in eternal life with Himself.

Finally, we make a small but profound request, that Christ would "never let [us] fall." It is ultimately the Lord who sustains us through all things, both in life, and in our death. Our faith and the eternal salvation we receive through it is entirely our Lord's doing. We "cannot by [our] own reason or strength believe in [our] Lord Jesus Christ," and so we must trust that he is certainly able to keep us from falling, that on the Last Day, he may "*present [us] blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy*" (Jude 24).

**O Lord Jesus Christ, who carried upon Your cross the burden of our sin and sorrow, enable us by Your Holy Spirit to comfort ourselves at all times with Your perfect satisfaction for our sins, to praise and glorify You for Your unspeakable love, and to bear our cross with patience and humility, that we may also by Your mercy be raised to everlasting glory. Amen.**

# LSB 729 - I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus



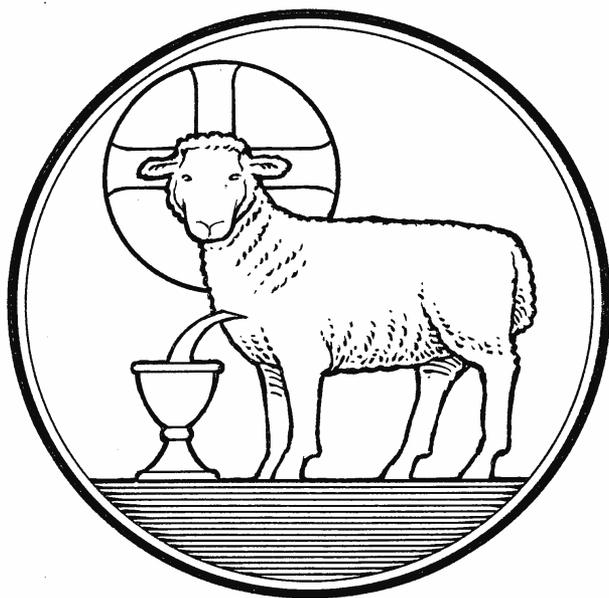
1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;  
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,  
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;  
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.  
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.  
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.  
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;  
Thine can never fail.  
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me  
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;  
Never let me fall.  
I am trusting Thee forever  
And for all.



# Lent 2

**For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. – Psalm 91:11**

This is the hymn of the day for the second Sunday in Lent. However, it is also fitting for other occasions. Its earliest known use comes from an Easter Sunday Vespers in 1569, when the hymn's author, Martin Schalling, was preaching at the residence of Count Richard of the Palatinate. Schalling lived during a theologically turbulent time in which the rediscovered gospel teachings of the Lutheran reformation were under assault from other protestant factions, eventually leading to the emergence of the Book of Concord. Although Schalling refused to sign the Book of Concord, he remained faithful to the word of God among the many heresies of his day.

The hymn is underpinned by many scripture references, beginning with Psalm 18:1: *"I love you, O Lord, my strength"*. We pray that God, being our only true strength would not depart from us. Amid the passing turmoil and struggles of this life, it is only Him and His eternal promises that we can safely trust in. For *"All flesh is like grass...but the word of the Lord remains forever"* (1 Pt. 1:24-25) Even if our "heart for sorrow break," we will continue to trust in our Lord, who redeemed us by His precious blood and has secured for us an eternal inheritance.

Amid the sufferings of this life, our Lord continues to provide us with everything we need, he has given us our "body, soul, and all [we] have". We are given these gifts, not only for our own use, but also for service of our neighbour, through which we glorify God. Most importantly, He continues to keep us steadfast in faith. We pray that if and when we suffer for the sake of the gospel, we would not take the easy path and be defiled by the false doctrines of Satan, but being comforted by our hope of eternal blessings, remain steadfast in the pure doctrine found in God's word.

The final stanza of this hymn is one of the greatest treasures of Lutheran hymnody. Amid all sufferings and pain, this is what we have to look forward to. On the Last Day, the Lord will awaken us from death and we will see Him with our own eyes in complete uncorrupted joy, praising Him forever. Thus, this stanza begins with a beautiful prayer for a blessed death. We pray that when we die, the Lord would send His angels to bring us home to Abraham's side (Lk. 16:22), that we may die without fear, trusting in our Lord's promise of eternal life. We pray that He would keep our bodies as "in peaceful sleep" until He comes again to awaken us to the eternal joy and bliss that He secured for us by His death and resurrection.

**Almighty, everlasting God, Your Son has assured forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit that our faith in Christ may increase daily and that we may hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we shall be raised in glory to eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# LSB 708 - Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from  
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun-ty gave My bod - y, soul, and  
3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om



me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth  
all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,  
bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And



has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were  
grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy  
in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in



void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my  
lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false  
peace - ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.  
doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.  
death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious  
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my  
O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and  
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.  
Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy com - fort still af - ford.  
tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

# Lent 3

**And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. – Deuteronomy 8:3**

Today's hymn was written by Stephen Starke, a retired pastor who served in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. He is the author, at least in part, of 25 hymns in *Lutheran Service Book* and also served as the chairman of the Hymnody Committee for that hymnal.

This hymn is a very close paraphrase of Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:25-34 and Luke 12:24-31. In these near identical passages, Jesus instructs us not to worry about lacking the needs of the body (food, clothing, etc...). We are reminded that we are made in God's image, and worth more to Him than all else in creation to the point that God Himself took on human flesh and died for us.

We are first reminded that the birds "*neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them, Of how much more value are you than the birds!*" (v.24) Likewise, God clothes the lillies without them having to "*toil nor spin*" (v. 27). We confess in Luther's Small Catechism that "God gives daily bread, even without our prayer, to all wicked men" (SC III:14). We need not and ought not worry about these things. As our hymn states, it is "about such things [that] the godless think". We are to be careful that we don't succumb to the temptations of greed, remembering that our heavenly Father knows what we truly need and will give us all things in accordance with His good will.

The fifth stanza reminds us that our will, very often differs from God's will. Often, our Lord will deny us the things we pray for, even if they seem good and righteous. Our Lord's kingdom is no earthly kingdom, rather it is a heavenly one. Our Lord does not seek to make us rich and comfortable, where we can feel secure in our works. Instead, He often humbles us, in order that we may learn to rely more and more on His grace and mercy, which though we may not see it, He showers upon us abundantly. We are to seek Him and His kingdom all times, for He will gladly "*give good things to those who ask him*" (Mt. 7:11). Most especially, He will continue to give us the one thing that is necessary: Jesus Christ, as He comes to us in word and sacrament to give us the eternal life He won for us on the cross (Lk. 10:42).

**Lord God, heavenly Father, visit us with Your blessing, and preserve us from the covetousness and cares of the body, that we may seek first Your kingdom and righteousness and that we may experience Your fatherly goodness in all things needful for soul and body; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

# LSB 736 - Consider How the Birds Above



1 Con - sid - er how the birds a - bove            Feed day by  
2 The lil - ies grow, they do not toil;            How fair is  
3 Set not your heart on food or drink,            Nor be weighed  
4 Be on your guard a - gainst all greed,            For life is



day with care - free ease—            Does God not keep them  
their fra - gil - i - ty—            If God clothes these, which  
down by world - ly care;            A - bout such things the  
more than what we own.            Our Fa - ther knows our



in His love?            Are we not worth much more than these?  
quick - ly spoil,            Will He not clothe both you and me?  
god - less think,            Yet nev - er thank the Lord in prayer.  
ev - 'ry need            Be - fore our needs to us are known.

5 Be not afraid to suffer loss  
Of all the things for which you pray,  
For He who faced for you the cross  
Will give you strength to live each day.

6 Seek first God's reign, His boundless grace,  
His holy name in all you do:  
Christ first and last in ev'ry place;  
All else will then be given you.

# Lent 4

**Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. – Psalm 23:4**

This hymn was written by the English Priest, Henry Baker, and first appeared in 1868 in the appendix to *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, of which Baker was influential in creating. It is a paraphrase of Psalm 23.

The hymn makes it very clear that Christ is at the center of this Psalm. It begins by addressing Christ as “the King of love.” In His death on the cross, Christ showed the greatest love possible, for “*Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends*” (John 15:13). We proclaim that this King of Love is our true Good Shepherd, in whom we abide.

Two sacramental connections are made in the second stanza of the hymn. Expanding upon Psalm 23:2, our ransomed souls are lead to the “living water” of Baptism, where we receive washing and regeneration by the Holy Spirit. As baptized children of God, we continue to be refreshed through celestial food as we receive the living Bread from Heaven in the Sacrament of the Altar (Jn. 6:51).

As the hymn continues, our redemption through the cross remains the focus. We, who were dead in our trespasses and unable to save ourselves, have been sought by God and brought home rejoicing. Being redeemed by Jesus’ death, we now have no fear when the hour of our death approaches. His sufferings and death on the cross will be our comfort and guide. We shall have true peace which passes all our understanding, knowing that we will be coming into the eternal joy that our God has prepared for us.

We shall then join in the never-ending feast. However, by God’s great mercy, we get to have a foretaste of that feast now, as he “spreadst a table in [our] sight”. The Sacrament of the Altar is the “transport of delight” which connects us to heaven. As the very body of Christ is placed on our tongues and we drink the very blood of Christ from the chalice, heaven descends to earth as our true, living God comes to us! As we are strengthened in both body and soul by this sacrament, we look forward to the eternal feast on the Last Day, when we shall sing our Good Shepherd’s praise within His house forever!

**Shepherd us, O Lord, with the rod and staff of Your Word, that we may obtain a place in Your eternal habitation, and be filled with the abundance of the celestial banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

# LSB 709 - The King of Love, My Shepherd Is



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, Whose good - ness  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, My ran - somed  
 3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, But yet in  
 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill With Thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
 soul He lead - eth And, where the ver - dant  
 love He sought me And on His shoul - der  
 Lord, be - side me, Thy rod and staff my



I am His And He is mine for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow, With food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
 gent - ly laid And home re - joic - ing brought me.  
 com - fort still, Thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;  
 Thine unction grace bestoweth;  
 And, oh, what transport of delight  
 From Thy pure chalice floweth!

6 And so through all the length of days  
 Thy goodness faileth never;  
 Good Shepherd, may I sing Thy praise  
 Within Thy house forever!



# Lent 5

**For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:38-39**

Today's hymn was written by Paul Gerhardt and was first published in 1653. It is based on Romans 8, specifically verses 31-39. *Lutheran Service Book* retains 10 of the original 15 stanzas.

The hymn begins by meditating on the words of St. Paul: "*If God is for us, who can be against us?*" (Rm. 8:31). It answers this rhetorical question by declaring a firm trust in God. If He is for us, we can defy a host of our foes, who will fly away confounded when we call upon the Lord. No "foe or...disaster can drive [us] from His love!" This trust is built on the foundation of Jesus' shed blood for the forgiveness of our sins. He alone is our salvation and our defender against the righteous judgement of God. Without Him, we would stand unrighteous before the judgment seat, leaving us to be "be destroyed forever As darkness by the light." However, by His death on the cross He has "cancelled [our] offenses, [and] delivered [us] from death." There is no need for us to be "fearful of God's great Judgement Day." Christ is our defence, in whom we can be cheerful and courageous. The devil's accusations lie dead, as we are given sure hope in our resurrection to eternal life, won for us by our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We are reminded in the sixth stanza that as we cling to Christ, we will come to face persecution in some shape or form. In John's Gospel, we hear Jesus telling His disciples "*If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you*" (Jn 15:20). Despite all manner of sufferings (which we hear listed in the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> stanzas) we shall not be separated from our Lord. Even in times when we feel our faith is weak, we can recall that "*a bruised reed he will not break, and a smouldering wick he will not quench*" (Mt. 12:20). We can pray the words of the father who's son was assailed by an unclean spirit: "*I believe, help my unbelief!*" (Mk. 9:24) Our Lord has promised us an eternal inheritance which we receive by faith. Amid all the troubles we face here on earth, we can continue to rejoice as we look forward to our Lord's coming again. Confessing Jesus Christ as our King, "the heav'n [we] shall inherit Makes [us] rejoice and sing."

**O Father and God of all comfort, grant us by Your Holy Word and Spirit a firm, cheerful, and grateful faith, that we may blessedly overcome every distress and finally taste and see that it is true when Christ, Your beloved Son, Himself says, "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." Amen.**

# LSB 724 - If God Himself Be for Me



1 If God Him - self be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
2 I build on this foun - da - tion, That Je - sus and His blood  
3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, My sun, my light, a - lone;  
4 He can - celed my of - fens - es, De - liv - ered me from death;



For when I pray, be - fore me My foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
A - lone are my sal - va - tion, My true, e - ter - nal good.  
Were He not my de - fend - er Be - fore God's judg - ment throne,  
He is the Lord who cleans - es My soul from sin through faith.



If Christ, my head and mas - ter, Be - friend me from a - bove,  
With - out Him all that pleas - es Is val - ue - less on earth;  
I nev - er should find fa - vor And mer - cy in His sight,  
In Him I can be cheer - ful, Cou - ra - geous on my way;



What foe or what dis - as - ter Can drive me from His love?  
The gifts I have from Je - sus A - lone have price - less worth.  
But be de - stroyed for - ev - er As dark - ness by the light.  
In Him I am not fear - ful Of God's great Judg - ment Day.

5 For no one can condemn me  
Or set my hope aside;  
Now hell no more can claim me:  
Its fury I deride.  
No sentence now reproves me,  
No guilt destroys my peace;  
For Christ, my Savior, loves me  
And shields me with His grace.

6 Who clings with resolution  
To Him whom Satan hates  
Must look for persecution;  
For him the burden waits  
Of mock'ry, shame, and losses  
Heaped on his blameless head;  
A thousand plagues and crosses  
Will be his daily bread.

7 From me this is not hidden,  
Yet I am not afraid;  
I leave my cares, as bidden,  
To whom my vows were paid.  
Though life from me be taken  
And ev'rything I own,  
I trust in You unshaken  
And cleave to You alone.

8 No danger, thirst, or hunger,  
No pain or poverty,  
No earthly tyrant's anger  
Shall ever vanquish me.  
Though earth should break asunder,  
My fortress You shall be;  
No fire or sword or thunder  
Shall sever You from me.

*(Remaining stanzas on next page)*

9 No angel and no gladness,  
No throne, no pomp, no show,  
No love, no hate, no sadness,  
No pain, no depth of woe,  
No scheming, no contrivance,  
No subtle thing or great  
Shall draw me from Your guidance  
Nor from You separate.

10 My heart with joy is springing;  
I am no longer sad.  
My soul is filled with singing;  
Your sunshine makes me glad.  
The sun that cheers my spirit  
Is Jesus Christ, my King;  
The heav'n I shall inherit  
Makes me rejoice and sing.

## Palm Sunday

**The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. – Psalm 98:2**

This hymn was written by Swedish poet, Lina Sandell, and although written in her late teens, was published a few years later in 1855. It is commonly used for both baptisms and funerals among Scandinavian Lutherans.

It begins by emphasizing the father-child relationship that we have with God the Father, when we are baptized into the name of our Triune God and are adopted as His children (Rom. 8:15). This is no insignificant action. Indeed, it is very special and deliberate. As the hymn proclaims, nothing else in creation, be it as small as a bird or a star in heaven, has been given a refuge like we have in our baptism. This gift has been given to sinful mankind to save us (1 Pt. 3:21). In baptism, we have been united to Christ's death and resurrection, that we too, though corrupted by sin, may rise to eternal life on the Last Day. We also receive the gift of the Holy Spirit to kindle and preserve faith that we may hold onto the promise of eternal life and, being clothed in Christ's righteousness, flourish in the courts of the Lord on the Last Day (Ps. 92:13).

With the opening line, "Children of the Heavenly Father" and a strong baptismal emphasis, it is very easy for the image of youth to come to mind. However, our baptism is not a one-time event that only applies to us at the moment of our baptism. Yes, our baptism did take place at a specific day and time, but we continue to live in our baptisms and, more importantly, die in them. No matter what would try to come between us and God, whether it be something in this life, or even our very death, baptism always connects us to Christ and His atoning sacrifice. When our last hour comes, we can recall that we have been united to Christ in our baptism. We have nothing to fear, for God has put His name upon us and washed away all our sin. Even though at times "He taketh, God His children ne'er forsaketh." God may at times, choose to take things away from us, whether they be worldly possessions, friends, family, or even our own life. However, it is always for His "loving purpose", that He may "preserve [us] pure and holy" to join in the joy of eternal life in His kingdom forever.

O God, our heavenly Father, whose voice was heard at the Baptism of Your only-begotten Son, declaring Him to be the One with whom You are well-pleased: pour down Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, that we may rejoice in this same sonship that we have received from You through our Baptism into Christ; who lives and reigns with You and the same Holy Spirit: one God, now and forever. Amen.

## LSB 725 - Children of the Heavenly Father



1 Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly Fa - ther Safe - ly  
 2 God His own doth tend and nour - ish; In His  
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er From the  
 4 Though He giv - eth or He tak - eth, God His



in His bos - om gath - er; Nest - ling bird nor star in  
 ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things He  
 Lord His chil - dren sev - er; Un - to them His grace He  
 chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; His the lov - ing pur - pose



heav - en Such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.  
 spares them; In His might - y arms He bears them.  
 show - eth, And their sor - rows all He know - eth.  
 sole - ly To pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.



# Holy Monday

**Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. – 1 Peter 5:6-7**

Today, we have another hymn by Paul Gerhardt. It is one of his most well-known hymns, being used in works such as J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* (although with a different tune). *Lutheran Service Book* retains 6 of the original 12 stanzas.

The hymn begins by quoting Psalm 37:5: "*Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.*" We are exhorted to entrust ourselves to the Lord's care. As the creator and ruler of all, He is in control, despite what we may perceive with our senses.

Approaching Good Friday, we see this exemplified in Christ's Passion. Being true God as well as true Man, He had every ability and right to avoid the sufferings He endured. But for our sake, He submitted Himself to be "*stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*" (Is. 53:4) He "*opened not his mouth*" (Is.53:7) but was obedient to His Father's will to save us, praying "*nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will*" (Mt. 26:39). He followed His Father's will to death on a cross in what seemed like defeat. However, what the world sees as defeat, we can take refuge in. In His death on the cross, Christ made atonement for all our sins. On the third day He rose again and, having defeated death for us, came to His disciples to announce to them God's peace (Jn 20:19).

Standing on the foundation of Christ's death and resurrection, we can entrust all things unto "God's most loving hand." There is no need for us to be anxious about the things of this life. Our heavenly Father knows what we need and gives "*good things to those who ask him*" (Mt. 7:11). When we come to Him in prayer, He hears us. However, we may not always receive that which we pray for or receive it as soon as we would like. We must be patient and pray "*your will be done*" (Mt. 6:10), trusting in the "*Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom*" (Lk. 12:32). He keeps His promises and, at the appointed time, will remove our troubles from us.

As we near the end of the hymn, we are reminded of our hope in the promise we have been given in Christ. We are heirs of heaven, who on the Last Day will be crowned with eternal life. On that Last Day, we will render unceasing thanks and praise to our Lord. Fittingly, the hymn closes with a prayer that we may be strengthened, given joy, and kept in our Lord's care until He brings us "to heaven to praise [Him] there."

**O dearest Saviour, we thank You for the sorrow, anguish, and heaviness which You, the Creator and Preserver of all things, suffered to come upon Yourself to redeem and save us from everlasting fear and torment; and we beseech You, let us enjoy the benefits of Your sorrow and anguish all the days of our life, especially in the hour of death, that we may depart in peace and without fear by steadfast faith in You. Amen.**

# LSB 754 - Entrust Your Days and Burdens



1 En - trust your days and bur - dens To God's most lov - ing  
2 Re - ly on God your Sav - ior And find your life se -  
3 Take heart, have hope, my spir - it, And do not be dis -  
4 Leave all to His di - rec - tion; His wis - dom rules for



hand; He cares for you while rul - ing The  
cure. Make His work your foun - da - tion That  
mayed; God helps in ev - 'ry tri - al And  
you In ways to rouse your won - der At



sky, the sea, the land. For He who guides the  
your work may en - dure. No anx - ious thought, no  
makes you un - a - fraid. A - wait His time with  
all His love can do. Soon He, His prom - ise



tem - pests A - long their thun - d'rous ways Will  
wor - ry, No self - tor - ment - ing care Can  
pa - tience Through dark - est hours of night Un -  
keep - ing, With won - der - work - ing pow'rs Will



find for you a path - way And guide you all your days.  
win your Fa - ther's fa - vor; His heart is moved by prayer.  
til the sun you hoped for De - lights your ea - ger sight.  
ban - ish from your spir - it What gave you trou - bled hours.

5 O blessèd heir of heaven,  
You'll hear the song resound  
Of endless jubilation  
When you with life are crowned.  
In your right hand your maker  
Will place the victor's palm,  
And you will thank Him gladly  
With heaven's joyful psalm.

6 Our hands and feet, Lord, strengthen;  
With joy our spirits bless  
Until we see the ending  
Of all our life's distress.  
And so throughout our lifetime  
Keep us within Your care  
And at our end then bring us  
To heav'n to praise You there.

# Holy Tuesday

**Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster. – Joel 2:13**

Today's hymn was written by the German poet and lawyer, Johann Franck, and was first published in 1653. Its popularity led it to be translated into Estonian in 1667, followed by Russian and Latin in the 1720s, and English in 1857.

It focuses on the sure and eternal treasure we have in our Lord, Jesus Christ. He is the "truest friend" that will we, as Christians, yearn for. Under His protection, our foes cannot reach us. The devil's accusations against us are empty and have been brought to naught, as our Lord has secured our salvation by His death and resurrection. We boldly defy the devil, as we know we will be judged righteous by our Lord, despite our sins. Christ has paid for them all, and they are counted against us no longer. As heirs of eternal life, we "dread the grave as little as [our] bed", to use the words of another hymn (LSB 883).

Should we suffer loss in this life, even the loss of our own life, it is not true loss. The glory of the earth's treasures is empty, it will all pass away (Mt. 24:35). The true treasure is Jesus Christ and Him crucified for our sins. He is our "*portion in the land of the living*" (Ps. 142:5). However, being corrupted by original sin, we cannot choose Him by our own strength. Rather, "*he chose us in him before the foundation of the world.*" (Eph. 1:4) It is important to address this, so as not to become confused by the words "Jesus is my choice" in the fourth stanza. It is only by the work of the Holy Spirit that we can, by faith, cling to Christ. He is the one who "calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith." (SC II:6) Without His work in us, we can only reject Christ.

Clinging to the promise of eternal life in Christ, we are no longer of this evil world. We have been given membership in the kingdom of heaven; it is our true home. As sojourners in this world, we are called to sever the bonds with a sinful life (1 Pt. 2:11). However, when we stumble, as we are wont to do, the Lord calls us to return to Him in repentance, for He is gracious and merciful (Joel 2:13). Resting in His mercy, we can "have peace within" even "though the storms may gather". We have Jesus, and He is our priceless treasure!

**Almighty and everlasting God, the Consolation of the sorrowful and the Strength of the weak, may the prayers of them that cry unto You in any tribulation or distress graciously come before You, so that in all their necessities they may receive Your manifold help and comfort; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.**

# LSB 743 - Jesus, Priceless Treasure



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, Fount of pur - est plea - sure,  
2 In Thine arms I rest me; Foes who would mo - lest me  
3 Sa - tan, I de - fy thee; Death, I now de - cry thee;  
4 Hence, all earth - ly trea - sure! Je - sus is my plea - sure,



Tru - est friend to me, Ah, how long in an - guish  
Can - not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing,  
Fear, I bid thee cease. World, thou shalt not harm me  
Je - sus is my choice. Hence, all emp - ty glo - ry!



Shall my spir - it lan - guish, Year - ing, Lord, for Thee?  
Ev - 'ry heart be quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear.  
Nor thy threats a - larm me While I sing of peace.  
Naught to me thy sto - ry Told with tempt - ing voice.



Thou art mine, O Lamb di - vine! I will suf - fer  
Light - nings flash And thun - ders crash; Yet, though sin and  
God's great pow'r Guards ev - 'ry hour; Earth and all its  
Pain or loss, Or shame or cross, Shall not from my



naught to hide Thee; Naught I ask be - side Thee.  
hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
depths a - dore Him, Si - lent bow be - fore Him.  
Sav - ior move me Since He deigns to love me.

5 Evil world, I leave thee;  
Thou canst not deceive me,  
Thine appeal is vain.  
Sin that once did blind me,  
Get thee far behind me,  
Come not forth again.  
Past thy hour,  
O pride and pow'r;  
Sinful life, thy bonds I sever,  
Leave thee now forever.

6 Hence, all fear and sadness!  
For the Lord of gladness,  
Jesus, enters in.  
Those who love the Father,  
Though the storms may gather,  
Still have peace within.  
Yea, whate'er  
I here must bear,  
Thou art still my purest pleasure,  
Jesus, priceless treasure!

# Holy Wednesday

**The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge. – 2 Samuel 22:2-3a**

Today we have yet another hymn written by Paul Gerhardt. The great difficulties Gerhardt faced in his life, led him to write many hymns which reflect a profound trust in God and His goodness. This hymn is a later work, being first published in 1666. The form we have in *Lutheran Service Book* retains 4 stanzas of the original 12 which, interestingly, do not appear in their original order. Instead, we here have stanzas 4, 9, 12, and 3 of the original.

The hymn begins by recounting the daily good works of God and glorifying Him for His grace. Daily, He causes His mercy to shine upon us, as He watches over us and preserves us. Trusting in this mercy, we call upon Him in prayer and ask for forgiveness for our sins. We know that because His Son died for us, our sins are paid for, and our heavenly Father will gladly pardon repentant sinners. Adding on to this petition for forgiveness, we pray that our Lord would “order [our] goings, [and] direct all [our] doings.” We know that many trials and temptations will continue to come our way as long as we live on this earth. St. Peter exhorts us: *“Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.”* (1 Pt. 5:8-9). It is only by a firmness of faith, given to us by God the Holy Spirit that we can resist the temptations that we face when troubles arise. We commit all to our heavenly Father, knowing that He is able to deliver us from every earthly trouble in accordance with His will, since He has, through His Son, delivered us from the ultimate eternal trouble of sin and its consequence: eternal death.

Knowing this, we can rejoice. “After the storm the fair sun [will] show its face.” With the promise of eternal life given to us in Christ Jesus, we know that after the storms of this life, we will see the face of our true and only Light (Jn. 1:9). We will rise again on the Last Day and see our Lord with our very own eyes, as He declares us righteous before almighty God and grants us a place in paradise with Him forever. For all this, we come before Him, trusting in His grace, to give Him all praise.

**Lord God, heavenly Father, we beseech You that, whereas the wicked enemy constantly stalks us, and as a roaring lion walks around, seeking whom he may devour, You would for the sake of Christ, Your Son, come to our aid and by Your Word strengthen our hearts, that the foe may not overpower us, but that we may abide in Your grace eternally and at last obtain eternal salvation. Amen.**

# LSB 726 - Evening and Morning



1 Eve - ning and morn - ing, Sun - set and dawn - ing, Wealth, peace, and  
2 Fa - ther, O hear me, Par - don and spare me; Calm all my  
3 Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me; Though bil - lows  
4 To God in heav - en All praise be giv - en! Come, let us



glad - ness, Com - fort in sad - ness: These are Thy works; all the  
ter - rors, Blot out my er - rors That by Thine eyes they may  
tow - er, And winds gain pow - er, Af - ter the storm the fair  
of - fer And glad - ly prof - fer To the Cre - a - tor the



glo - ry be Thine! Times with - out num - ber, A - wake or in  
no more be scanned. Or - der my go - ings, Di - rect all my  
sun shows its face. Joys e'er in - creas - ing And peace nev - er  
gifts He doth prize. He well re - ceiv - eth A heart that be -



slum - ber, Thine eye ob - serves us, From dan - ger pre - serves us,  
do - ings; As it may please Thee, Re - tain or re - lease me;  
ceas - ing: These shall I trea - sure And share in full mea - sure  
liev - eth; Hymns that a - dore Him Are pre - cious be - fore Him



Caus - ing Thy mer - cy up - on us to shine.  
All I com - mit to Thy fa - ther - ly hand.  
When in His man - sions God grants me a place.  
And to His throne like sweet in - cense a - rise.

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# Maundy Thursday

**He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? – Romans 8:32**

This hymn comes from the pen of the German poet, Georg Neumark, who wrote both its text and tune. It was written in 1642, while Neumark was working as a tutor in Kiel, Germany. This was a result of him being left penniless from after being robbed while travelling to study at the University of Königsberg.

In the first stanza of this hymn we are reminded of the strength we have if we put our trust in the Lord. He is “the rock that naught can move.” (Ps. 62:6) If we trust in Him, He will indeed “bear [us] through the evil days,” whatever those may be. His love is unchanging, and His desire is always for our salvation (Ezk. 33:11). Even though we may suffer in this life, He is always working to give us eternal blessedness in the life to come. Therefore, we should not become overly anxious among the struggles we face, but bear our cross and trials patiently, looking forward to our final goal. We are continually reminded that our Lord is in control and, also, that He knows what is best for us better than we do. He knows our wants, even before we bring them to Him in prayer. Yet, “God knows full well when times of gladness shall be the needful thing for [us].” In His wisdom, He will bring us times of joy when He sees fit, not necessarily when we would like it.

When waiting for the Lord to act, it may seem as though He “hath cast [us] off unheard”, and that those of the world who seem to have fewer troubles than us are “of God preferred.” However, “All are alike before the Highest”; our worldly possessions mean nothing to Him. In Luke’s Gospel, we hear Mary sing: *“he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.”* (Lk. 1:52-53) On the Last Day, He will raise all believers to eternal life and make us truly rich with the blessings of heaven.

The hymn concludes with an admonition to continue to trust in the Lord and the promises we receive in His Word. We are called to continue to bring our troubles to Him in prayer and remain steadfast in the faith, keeping His ways as we faithfully perform our duties in our vocations. Finally, we are comforted with the words: “God never yet forsook in need, The soul that trusted Him indeed.”

**O Lord God, heavenly Father, who in Your fatherly grace did not spare Your only Son, but gave Him into death, even to the death of the cross: we beseech You to send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may take heartfelt comfort in this grace, continue to avoid sin, and patiently bear whatever You appoint for our suffering, that through Him we may have eternal salvation. Amen.**

# LSB 750 - If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee And hope in  
2 What can these anx - ious cares a - void thee, These nev - er -  
3 Be pa - tient and a - wait His lei - sure In cheer - ful  
4 God knows full well when times of glad - ness Shall be the



Him through all thy ways, He'll give thee strength, what - e'er be -  
ceas - ing moans and sighs? What can it help if thou be -  
hope, with heart con - tent To take what - e'er thy Fa - ther's  
need - ful thing for thee. When He has tried thy soul with



tide thee, And bear thee through the e - vil days. Who trusts in  
wail thee O'er each dark mo - ment as it flies? Our cross and  
plea - sure And His dis - cern - ing love hath sent, Nor doubt our  
sad - ness And from all guile has found thee free, He comes to



God's un - chang - ing love Builds on the rock that naught can move.  
tri - als do but press The heav - ier for our bit - ter - ness.  
in - most wants are known To Him who chose us for His own.  
thee all un - a - ware And makes thee own His lov - ing care.

- 5 Nor think amid the fiery trial  
That God hath cast thee off unheard,  
That he whose hopes meet no denial  
Must surely be of God preferred.  
Time passes and much change doth bring  
And sets a bound to ev'rything.
- 6 All are alike before the Highest;  
'Tis easy for our God, we know,  
To raise thee up, though low thou liest,  
To make the rich man poor and low.  
True wonders still by Him are wrought  
Who setteth up and brings to naught.
- 7 Sing, pray, and keep His ways unswerving,  
Perform thy duties faithfully,  
And trust His Word; though undeserving,  
Thou yet shalt find it true for thee.  
God never yet forsook in need  
The soul that trusted Him indeed.

# Good Friday

**But the Lord is faithful. He will establish you and guard you against the evil one. – 2 Thessalonians 3:3**

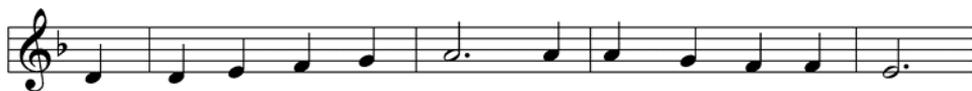
The origins of this hymn are shrouded in a bit of mystery. First, the author is unknown, and second, so is the date of the hymn's composition. Its earliest known instance was in a low German source printed by Johan Balhorn, who operated in Lübeck until 1603. However, it has been estimated this source is likely from around 1590.

The hymn begins by confessing that God is always with us amid sufferings. Even though "great woes may overtake [us]," our Lord is still working all things for our ultimate good (Rm. 8:28). "His hand lets nothing falter" so that we may come to the goal of eternal salvation. When our sins cause us worry, there is no need to despair. We build on the sure foundation of the promise of salvation we have in Jesus' death and resurrection. Since He has died for our sins, we can stand righteous before the throne of Almighty God with confidence. With our faith resting on this immovable rock, we can surrender ourselves to His care in both life and death, rather than fret and worry, seeking comfort in this fallen world.

Should we die, it is not the end, but the beginning of a blessed eternity with our Lord. For us Christians, we do not count death as loss, but as great gain. By no means does this mean that we should seek death, but rather, that "[Death] speeds [our] life's endeavor To live with Christ forever." When we die, our Lord does not leave us, but carries our souls to be with Him in His care until the Last Day when our bodies will be resurrected to eternal life with Him. It is this promise of eternal life that we remind ourselves of in times of trouble. In His great love, our God wills that each of us shall share in this eternal blessing. So strong is this desire, that He sent His only Son to die on the cross to save us from our sins. Trusting in this, our hope, we can patiently bear the trials that come our way, saying, "So be it." Even amid our sufferings, we rejoice, praying that our Lord would guide us in this life "until we praise [Him] yonder."

**Lord Jesus Christ, who in Your dying moment commended Your soul into Your Father's hands, thereby assuring us that You finished the work of our redemption and that Your Father is well pleased in You, grant us by Your Holy Spirit such confidence in Your redemption that, washed of our sin in Your blood, we, too, in our dying hour may confidently commend our soul into the Father's hand, trusting wholly in Your merits. Amen.**

# LSB 745 - In God, My Faithful God



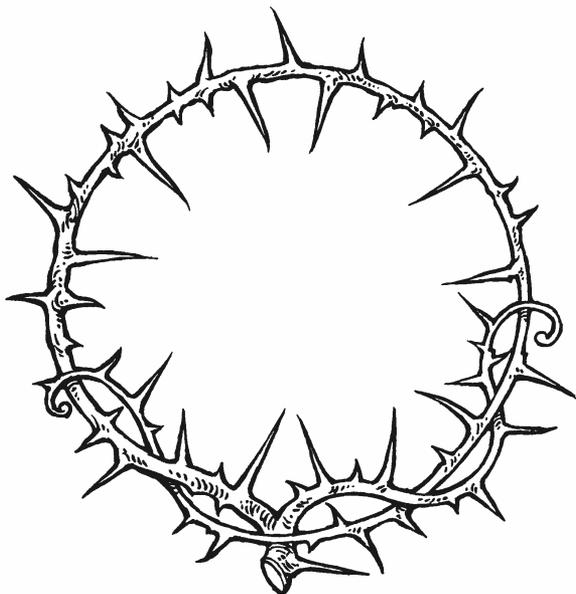
1 In God, my faith - ful God, I trust when dark my road;  
2 My sins fill me with care, Yet I will not de - spair.  
3 If death my por - tion be, It brings great gain to me;  
4 O Je - sus Christ, my Lord, So meek in deed and word,  
5 "So be it," then, I say With all my heart each day.



Great woes may o - ver - take me, Yet He will not for - sake me.  
I build on Christ, who loves me; From this rock noth - ing moves me.  
It speeds my life's en - deav - or To live with Christ for - ev - er.  
You suf - fered death to save us Be - cause Your love would have us  
Dear Lord, we all a - dore You, We sing for joy be - fore You.



My trou - bles He can al - ter; His hand lets noth - ing fal - ter.  
To Him I will sur - ren - der, To Him, my soul's de - fend - er.  
He gives me joy in sor - row, Come death now or to - mor - row.  
Be heirs of heav'n - ly glad - ness When ends this life of sad - ness.  
Guide us while here we wan - der Un - til we praise You yon - der.



# Holy Saturday

**Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life. – John 5:24**

This hymn was first published by Michael Weisse in the first German language hymnal of the *Bohemian Brethren* (the followers of Jan Hus) in 1531. However, by the time it appeared in a Lutheran hymnal in 1540, many changes had been made, and an additional final stanza had been added. These changes have been largely ascribed to Martin Luther, and this is the version that has come down to us. *Lutheran Service Book* includes 7 of the original 8 stanzas. The original sixth stanza (found in *The Lutheran Hymnal*), which was left out due to lack of space on the page, has been provided here.

This hymn is especially fitting at the burial of a Christian. It begins at the graveside, as we commend a believer's body to God's care "there to await that solemn Day When God Himself shall bid it rise." Although God condemned mankind to die and return to dust at the sin of Adam (Gen. 3:19), He sent His Son into our flesh to sanctify our graves by His death and burial, that just as He rose from the dead on the third day, we too may arise from death on the Last Day. As we lay the body in the grave, we look forward to the "resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come" which we confess in the Apostles Creed.

While we wait for the resurrection of the body on the Last Day, we consider the Christian's soul. At death, the soul departs from the body (Gen. 35:18). It "forever lives with God" and will be reunited with the resurrected body on the Last Day. All the "trials and griefs are past, [and] a blessed end has come at last." In death, the Christian is taken from the troubles of this world, never to have to suffer them again.

For this, given by God's grace, "we have no cause to mourn or weep." Christ will "raise the blessed dead to joy." They "shall there be healed from woe and fear" and "shine like glory in the sun." We can "leave this place of rest" having commended them to God's care in the hope of the resurrection. However, as we "homeward turn" we are warned to be prepared for our own death. We call upon our Lord to help us so that death may not find us unaware, but that we may die steadfast in faith, being set free from endless death and being given never-ending life with our Lord.

**Grant, O Lord, that as we are baptized into the death of Your blessed Son, so by continually mortifying our corrupt affections we may be buried with Him; and that through the grave, the gate of death, we may pass to our joyful resurrection; for His merits, who died and was buried and rose again for us, the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

# LSB 759 - This Body in the Grave We Lay



1 This bod - y in the grave we lay There to a -  
2 And so to earth we now en - trust What came from  
3 The soul for - ev - er lives with God, Who free - ly  
4 All tri - als and all griefs are past, A bless - ed

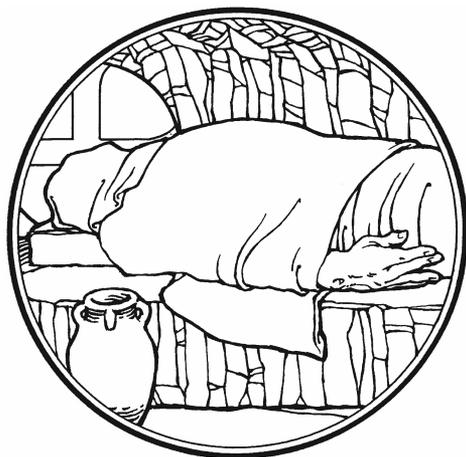


wait that sol - emn day When God Him - self shall  
dust and turns to dust And from the dust shall  
hath His grace be - stowed And through His Son re -  
end has come at last. Christ's yoke was borne with



bid it rise To mount tri - um - phant to the skies.  
rise that day In glo - rious tri - umph o'er de - cay.  
deemed it here From ev - 'ry sin, from ev - 'ry fear.  
read - y will; Who di - eth thus is liv - ing still.

- 5 We have no cause to mourn or weep;  
Securely shall this body sleep  
Till Christ Himself shall death destroy  
And raise the blessèd dead to joy.
- 6 For they who with Him suffered here  
Shall there be healed from woe and fear;  
And when eternal bliss is won,  
They'll shine in glory like the sun.
- 7 Then let us leave this place of rest  
And homeward turn, for they are blest  
Who heed God's warning and prepare  
Lest death should find them unaware.
- 8 So help us, Jesus, ground of faith;  
Thou hast redeemed us by Thy death  
From endless death and set us free.  
We laud and praise and worship Thee.



# The Resurrection of Our Lord

**I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the Lord sustained me. – Psalm 3:5**

Our final hymn was most likely written by Otto von Schwerin, who was the court official in charge of the affairs of Electress Luise Henriette of Brandenburg. It is believed to have first appeared on a broadsheet in 1644. However, the only extant source containing this hymn is from 1653. *Lutheran Service Book* retains 8 of the original 10 stanzas from this source.

This hymn is centered around the truth that “Jesus Christ, [our] sure defence and [our] Saviour now is living!” Christ’s resurrection is where our hope and confidence lies when we must face death. Knowing that He lives, we have confidence that He has certainly defeated death for us. Being baptized into Christ, who is our Head, we, as His members, shall share in His resurrection, being awakened to everlasting life when He comes again on the Last Day. Our faith binds us so closely to Him, that “even death now cannot part From its Lord the trusting heart.”

Although, God’s words to Adam after the fall: “*for you are dust, and to dust you shall return,*” (Gen. 3:19) may seem as though death is the end, by faith in Christ’s redemptive work, we can “discern that from death [we] shall awaken With [our] saviour to abide In His glory, at His side.” Being redeemed by Christ from death, we shall rise to behold our Lord with our very own eyes while sharing in the blessings of heaven. Jesus’ resurrection gives the Christian comfort. Even though we will all have to face death, “dying, [the Christian] will never perish.” We can “laugh to scorn the gloomy grave”, for it is only a facade. By the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have eternal life.

The hymn concludes by exhorting us to strive for the gifts that Christ imparts to believers, echoing the words of St. Paul: “*Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*” (Col. 3:2) The things of this earth shall all pass away, but Christ’s word of promise shall not. In His Word, we have confidence in the hope of everlasting life, as we poor sinners have been made righteous by His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead.

**O God, who through the resurrection of Your Son bestowed life and freedom upon the world, continue to grant these Your gifts unto Your people that they both walk in perfect freedom and attain unto life eternal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# LSB 741 - Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense And my Sav - ior, now is  
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; Like - wise I to life shall  
3 No, too close - ly I am bound By my hope to Christ for -  
4 I am flesh and must re - turn To the dust, whence I am



liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence  
wak - en. He will bring me where He is;  
ev - er; Faith's strong hand the Rock has found,  
tak - en; But by faith I now dis - cern



Rests up - on the hope here giv - en, Though the  
Shall my cour - age then be shak - en? Shall I  
Grasped it, and will leave it nev - er; E - ven  
That from death I shall a - wak - en With my



night of death be fraught Still with man - y an anx - ious thought.  
fear, or could the Head Rise and leave His mem - bers dead?  
death now can - not part From its Lord the trust - ing heart.  
Sav - ior to a - bide In His glo - ry, at His side.

5 Glorified, I shall anew  
With this flesh then be enshrouded;  
In this body I shall view  
God, my Lord, with eyes unclouded;  
In this flesh I then shall see  
Jesus Christ eternally.

6 Then take comfort and rejoice,  
For His members Christ will cherish.  
Fear not, they will hear His voice;  
Dying, they will never perish;  
For the very grave is stirred  
When the trumpet's blast is heard.

7 Laugh to scorn the gloomy grave  
And at death no longer tremble;  
He, the Lord, who came to save  
Will at last His own assemble.  
They will go their Lord to meet,  
Treading death beneath their feet.

8 O, then, draw away your hearts  
From all pleasures base and hollow;  
Strive to share what He imparts  
While you here His footsteps follow.  
As you now still wait to rise,  
Fix your hearts beyond the skies!

