

Study Guide to Hymn Study #31 February 18, 2021
The Hymns of Martin Luther (1483-1546) in Evangelical Lutheran Worship

#263	<i>Savior of the Nations, Come</i> Text: attr. Ambrose of Milan (340-397); Martin Luther	NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND
#268	<i>From Heaven Above</i> Text: Martin Luther Tune: attr. Martin Luther	VOM HIMMEL HOCH
#370	<i>Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands</i> Text: Martin Luther	CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN
#395	<i>Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord</i> Text: German hymn; st. 1 Martin Luther; st. 2-3, composite	KOMM, HEILIGER GEIST, HERRE GOTT
#411	<i>We All Believe in One True God</i> Text: Martin Luther	WIR GLAUBEN ALL
#440	<i>In Peace and Joy I Now Depart</i> Text: Martin Luther, BASED ON THE Nunc dimittis Tune: attr. Martin Luther	MIT FRIED UND FREUD
#499	<i>O Lord, We Praise You</i> Text: German hymn; st. 1, Martin Luther, st. 2-3 composite	GOTT SEI GELOBET UND BEBENEDEIET
#503/504	<i>A Mighty Fortress Is Our God</i> Text: Martin Luther Tune: Martin Luther	EIN FESTE BURG
#517	<i>Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word</i> Text: Martin Luther	ERHALT UNS, HERR
#594	<i>Dear Christians, One an All, Rejoice</i> Text: Martin Luther	NUN FREUT EUCH
#600	<i>Out of the Depths I Cry to You</i> Text: Martin Luther Tune: attr. Martin Luther	AUS TIEFER NOT
#743	<i>Now to the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray</i> Text: Medieval German song; st. 1, Martin Luther; st. 2-4 composite	NUN BITTEN WIR
#746/747	<i>Our Father, God in Heaven Above</i> Text: Martin Luther	VATER UNSER
#784	<i>Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord</i> Text: Medieval antiphon, adapted by Martin Luther	VERLEIH UNS FRIEDEN
#868	<i>Isaiah in a Vision Did of Old</i> Text: Martin Luther Tune: attr. Martin Luther	JESAIA, DEM PROPHETEN

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Use the hymn texts as Lenten reflections during the season of Lent.
- Sometime this month, listen to these Martin Luther hymns

ELW #503/504 *A Mighty Fortress*

[ELW 503 and 504, "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" - YouTube](#)

ELW #268 *From Heaven Above*

[From Heaven Above to Earth I Come, by the Lutheran Quartet - YouTube](#)

ELW #370 *Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands*

[Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands - YouTube](#)

ELW #517 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

[ELW 517, "Lord Keep us Steadfast in Your Word" - YouTube](#)

ELW #600 *Out of the Depths I Cry to You*

[From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee - YouTube](#) (Different English translation than ELW)

From Heaven Above



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your

Insert additional stanzas as desired.

12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
 13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
 14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
 sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
 long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
 us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 be and from all sin will set you free."

heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
 tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
 mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

4 "The blessing that the Father planned
 the Son holds in his infant hand,
 that in his kingdom, bright and fair,
 you may with us his glory share."

8 Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
 through whom this sinful world is blest!
 You turned not from our needs away;
 how can our thanks such live repay?

5 "These are the signs that you will see
 to let you know that it is he:
 in manger-bed, in swaddling clothes
 the child who all the earth upholds."

9 O Lord, you have created all!
 How did you come to be so small,
 to sweetly sleep in manger-bed
 where lowing cattle lately fed?

6 Now let us all with joyful cheer
 go with the shepherds and draw near
 to see this wondrous gift of God,
 the blessed child to us bestowed.

10 Were earth a thousand times as fair
 and set with gold and jewels rare,
 still such a cradle would not do
 to rock a prince so great as you.

7 Look, look, dear friends, look over there!
 What lies within that manger bare?
 Who is that lovely little one?
 The baby Jesus, God's dear Son.

11 For velvets soft and silken stuff
 you have but hay and straw so rough
 on which as king so rich and great
 to be enthroned in humble state.

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands



1 Christ Je - sus lay in death's strong bands for our of - fens - es giv - en;
 2 Our Sav - ior Je - sus, God's own Son, here in our stead de - scend - ed;
 3 Here the true Pas - chal Lamb we see, whom God so free - ly gave us,
 4 So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;
 5 Then let us feast this Eas - ter day on Christ the bread of heav - en;



but now at God's right hand he stands and brings us life from heav - en.
 the knot of sin has been un - done, the claim of death is end - ed.
 who died on the ac - curs - ed tree— so strong God's love!—to save us.
 Christ is the ver - y joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us.
 the Word of grace has purged a - way the old and e - vil leav - en.



There - fore let us joy - ful be and sing to God right thank - ful - ly
 Christ has crushed the pow'r of hell; now there is naught but death's gray shell—
 See, his blood now marks our door; faith points to it; death pas - ses o'er,
 Now his grace to us im - parts e - ter - nal sun - shine to our hearts;
 Christ a - lone, our ho - ly meal, the hun - gry soul will feed and heal;



loud songs of	hal - le - lu - jah!	Hal - le - lu - jah!
its sting is	lost for - ev - er.	Hal - le - lu - jah!
and Sa - tan	can - not harm us.	Hal - le - lu - jah!
the night of	sin is end - ed.	Hal - le - lu - jah!
faith lives up - on	no oth - er!	Hal - le - lu - jah!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite

Music: CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN, J. Walter, *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein*, 1524

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A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God,
 2 No strength of ours can match his might!
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide,

a sword and shield vic - to - rious;
 We would be lost, re - ject ed.
 all threat - 'ning to de - vour us,
 no thanks to foes, who fear it;

he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod
 But now a cham - pion comes to fight,
 we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand;
 for God him - self fights by our side

and wins sal - va - tion glo - rious.
 whom God him - self e - lect ed.
 they can - not o - ver - pow'r us.
 with weap - ons of the Spir - it.

The old e - vil foe, sworn to work us woe,
 Ask who this may be: Lord of hosts is he!
 This world's prince may rage, in fierce war en - gage.
 If they take our house, goods, fame, child, or spouse,

with dread craft and might he arms him - self to fight.
 Christ Je - sus our Lord, God's on - ly Son, a - dored.
 He is doomed to fail; God's judg - ment must pre - vail!
 wrench our life a - way, they can - not win the day.

On earth he has no e - qual.
 He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who

to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with

wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,

has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,

he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
 3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son
 Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we
 u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife

and bring to naught all he has done.
 may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
 and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Out of the Depths I Cry to You



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.
2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.
3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.
4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!