

Hymn: Triune God be Thou Our Stay —LGB 505

Rev. Anthony Ahrendt

Martin Luther is sometimes called the father of evangelical hymnody. He restored congregational singing to the benefit of congregations that Christians could confess their faith in song. Luther had always loved music even from his childhood. Music was an integral part of his life and he is credited with writing a good number of hymns in his life along with all his other work.

“Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay” is found in the “Holy Trinity” section of Lutheran Service Book #505 and Lutheran Worship #170. As soon as we are baptized into the Name of The Triune God we are besieged by the devil and his attacks. The hymn begins with a prayer that the Triune God would be our defense against the daily attacks of the devil, the world and our sinful flesh. Our prayer is that we would not die eternally but live with Christ forever through God’s grace and mercy.

Luther bases this hymn in part on Ephesians 6:1-17 drawing from the Sacred Scriptures that gives strength with the whole armor of God that we could stand against the devil and all of his scheming against us.

Luther recognized the importance of congregational singing in worship. He realized that the singing of hymns incorporated the people into the liturgy giving them the truth of God’s Word. Thus in singing the hymns, parishioners were taught a theological understanding of the Word. God offers forgiveness of sins, His gracious gifts in the Divine Service and through singing, worshipers praise His Holy Name in joy and gratitude.

Speaking of singing hymns: If you are interested in singing in our Joint Adult Circuit

Choir at our Circuit Joint Reformation Divine Service on October 29th at Great Bend, email immanuelhankinson@gmail.com Practices will be set according to interest. Joint Sunday School will also sing at that service!



500 Years of the Lutheran Reformation
Southeast Circuit North Dakota District

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*1 God the Father, be our Stay;
O let us perish never!
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,
And grant us life forever.
Keep us from the evil one;
Uphold our faith most holy;
Grant us to trust Thee solely
With humble hearts and lowly.
Let us put God's armor on,
With all true Christian running
Our heav'nly race and shunning
The devil's wiles and cunning
Amen, amen! This be done;
So sing we, Alleluia!*

*2 Jesus Christ, be Thou our stay;
O let us perish never!
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,
And grant us life forever.
Keep us from the evil one;
Uphold our faith most holy;
Grant us to trust Thee solely
With humble hearts and lowly.
Let us put God's armor on,
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The devil's wiles and cunning
Amen, amen! This be done;
So sing we, Alleluia!*

*3 Holy Spirit, be our Stay,
O let us perish never!
Cleanse us from our sins, we pray,
And grant us life forever.
Keep us from the evil one;
Uphold our faith most holy;
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Amen, amen! This be done;
So sing we, Alleluia!*

[Lent: O Lord, have mercy on us.]

Psalm 33:1-3, which is used in part as a basis for this hymn also, speaks of giving thanks to the Lord with the lyre and to make melody to Him with the harp and sing to Him a new song; all of which praise God for His gracious blessings given to us through the life, death and resurrection of His Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. In his great mercy He has rescued us from sin, death and the power of the devil forever and made us His own in the water and Word of Baptism which bestows on us the blessings of the cross of Christ.

“Triune God, Be Thou Our Stay” is a hymn praising The Triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. But certainly it is also a hymn of great comfort to us in our sinful flesh. Each person of the Trinity is depicted as concerned about our eternal welfare not wanting us to perish while cleansing us from all sin, giving life and salvation. While protecting us from the evil one our faith is upheld while we trust in our Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We are made secure in His grace through the merits of Christ our Savior, given to us through Word and Sacrament, God's means of grace, connecting us to the blessings of the cross of Christ.

“Amen, Amen! This be done” the hymn writer says, “Yes, yes, it shall be so.”

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