

Heritage Hymn of the Month

SEPTEMBER

“Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior Blest”

ELH 258

This is a good hymn to learn and sing as Sunday School children and catechism students begin their school year. Throughout the hymn, we are directed to God’s Word as our comfort, support, and guide; yet we are simultaneously directed to Christ our Savior. In this hymn, Christ and His Word are never separated. This is a heritage of the Lutheran emphasis that Christ is given by means of His Word. To lose the Word is to lose Jesus, and to have and to hear the Word is to have Jesus and hear His very voice.

The melody is happy. It sings with a childlike spirit of joy and optimism. Embedded within this cheerful melody are words about life under the cross: “I trust in Thee;/Deliver me/From misery;/Thy Word’s my consolation,” and: “When sorrows rise,/My refuge lies/In Thy compassion tender,” and: “... This will I plead/In time of need./O help with speed,/When troubles overtake me!”

Secondary Hymn for the Month

“Praise to Thee and Adoration”

ELH 596

This hymn by Thomas Kingo is a good hymn for the beginning of catechism and Sunday School instruction for the year; the events of Jesus’ life and redeeming work are joined with a prayer to be kept faithful.

Lord Jesus Christ, My Savior Blest

1. Lord Jesus Christ,
My Savior blest,
My Hope and my Salvation!
I trust in Thee;
Deliver me
From misery;
Thy Word’s my consolation.

2. As Thou dost will,
Lead Thou me still
That I may truly serve Thee.
My God, I pray,
Teach me Thy way,
To my last day
In Thy true faith preserve me.

3. Most heartily
I trust in Thee;
Thy mercy fails me never.
Dear Lord, abide;
My Helper tried,
Thou Crucified,
From evil keep me ever.

4. Now henceforth must
I put my trust
In Thee, O dearest Savior.
Thy comfort choice,
Thy Word and voice,
My heart rejoice
Despite my ill behavior.

5. When sorrows rise,
My refuge lies
In Thy compassion tender.
Within Thine arm
Can naught alarm;
Keep me from harm,
Be Thou my strong Defender.

6. I have Thy Word,
Christ Jesus, Lord;
Thou never wilt forsake me.
This will I plead
In time of need.
O help with speed,
When troubles overtake me!

7. Grant, Lord, we pray,
Thy grace each day,
That we, Thy law revering,
May live with Thee,
And happy be
Eternally,
Before Thy throne appearing.