

Celebrating Lutheran Hymnody

From its beginning the Lutheran Church has always known the sound of music. From Luther, Vulpius, and Hassler to Crüger, Ebeling, and Schütz, music has borne the texts of poets, such as Rinckart, Gerhardt, Franck, and countless others. Lutheran composers of the 1500s and 1600s were at the forefront of musical development, often taking the treasures of the past and combining them with styles that were bold and new. Yet common to all of these musicians was the conviction that the liturgy and worship of God's people was the most natural and appropriate context for most of their music.

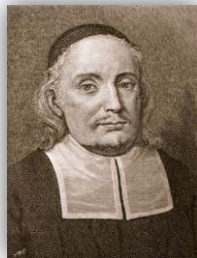
Building on this foundation of faith in Christ, God gives treasures to the Church to continue the song through the ages. Composers, poets, hymns, and songs are all treasures of the Church, for they sing the faith into our hearts and lives and thus help to make Christ's "Church strong, bold, unified in act and song." Through the years and even in our day, these musical treasures help the singing church sing and confess Christ.



Philipp Nicolai
1556-1608

O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

Despite what movies, songs, and other media suggest, life cannot be fixed by wishing on a star. The only star offering true hope is the Morning Star, Jesus Christ, who brings us God's gracious love. We have Lutheran pastor Philipp Nicolai to thank for providing us the "Queen of Chorales" with which to sing of this great Morning Star.



Paul Gerhardt
1607-76

Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

At the end of a long day, Pastor Paul Gerhardt tucks us in for the night not only with a prayer for restful sleep, but also for protection from Satan and his attending dangers. The tune and choral setting by Heinrich Isaac support the text and us as we pray to our guardian Savior, Jesus Christ.

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

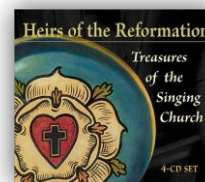
It has never been easy to be a pastor—not in the early days of the Reformation, nor in our day. Martin Schalling (1532-1608) was such a pastor who faced loss of job, banishment, and blindness, while striving to be a faithful Lutheran pastor. In writing this hymn as a way for Christians to prepare for death, Schalling also helped prepare them to live out their daily vocations in faithfulness to God.

Concordia Publishing House has produced a four-CD set featuring forty-five classic Lutheran hymns like these from the generations immediately following Luther's time. Using choir, soloists, modern instruments, and period instruments, this collection includes such favorite hymns as "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus," "Soul, Adorn Thyself with Gladness," "Now Thank We All Our God," "In Thee Is Gladness," "Praise to the Lord," "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded," "Now Sing We, Now Rejoice," and many others.

The three hymn narratives above come directly from the booklet included with *Heirs of the Reformation*. The booklet also offers the full text and descriptive historical notes for every hymn. Visit cph.org/heirs to read more of the booklet, listen to audio samples, and see the complete list of hymns.

Regularly priced at \$44.95, *Heirs of the Reformation* can be purchased for \$30.00 if ordered through the church before March 31, 2009.

Heirs of the Reformation



- ♦ 4 CDs
- ♦ 45 Tracks
- ♦ 3 hrs, 47 mins
- ♦ 64-page booklet

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