

Proper 24/22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost (Series C)

I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name (*Lutheran Service Book* #734)

[See also “In You, Lord, I Have Put My Trust” (*Christian Worship* #448, *Lutheran Worship* #406)]

“In you, O LORD, do I take refuge; let me never be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me!  
Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily!  
Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me!  
For you are my rock and my fortress; and for your name’s sake you lead me and guide  
me;  
you take me out of the net they have hidden for me, for you are my refuge.  
Into your hand I commit my spirit; you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful God.”

[Psalm 31:1-5]

This strong hymn has been a favorite of Lutherans since the very beginning of the Reformation. It was first written in 1533. Martin Luther included it in the 1539 hymnal *Geystliche Lieder*, a lavishly illustrated songbook and the last one he supervised. It was published by Valentin Babst in Leipzig. (The tune we use came about 50 years later.) The hymn is based on Psalm 31:1-5.

The psalm has also long been a favorite one. It is prayer for deliverance which David wrote when confronted with a conspiracy so powerful that all of his friends abandoned him. Jesus cried out verse five as his last word from the cross when he also felt forsaken. (Luke 23:46) The first Christian martyr, St. Stephen, repeated the words at his last hour. (Acts 7:59) as did the pre-Reformation martyr, John Hus and even Martin Luther at his own death in Eisleben.

These are words of strong trust in the Lord, words with powerful images—shield, rock, fortress, sword, and tower. May they continue to comfort all the saints for the next 500 years!

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Barry Bobb  
Carmel IN

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I trust, O Lord, your holy name;  
O let me not be put to shame  
nor let me be confounded.

My faith, O Lord,  
be in your Word  
forever firmly grounded.

Bow down your gracious ear to me  
and hear my cry, my prayer, my plea;  
Make haste for my protection,  
For woes and fear  
surround me here.  
Help me in my affliction.

You are my strength, my shield, my rock,  
my fortress that withstands each shock,  
my help, my life, my tower,  
my battle sword,  
Almighty Lord—  
who can resist your power?

With you, O Lord, I cast my lot;  
O faithful God, forsake me not,  
To you my soul commending.  
Lord, be my stay,  
and lead the way  
now and when life is ending.

All honor, praise, and majesty  
to Father, Son, and Spirit be,  
our God forever glorious,  
In whose rich grace  
we run our race  
till we depart victorious.

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Text: Adam Reusner, 1496-c. 1575. The English translation for stanzas 1-4 was prepared by Catherine Winkworth (1827-78). The English translation for stanza 5 comes from the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book* of 1907.

Tune: IN DICH HAB ICH GEHOFFET is by an unknown composer. It first appeared in 1581.

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[This devotion was prepared for the website of the Center for Church Music. It may be downloaded and duplicated for local use.]