

Heritage Hymn of the Month

JANUARY

In Jesus' Name

“In Jesus' Name”

ELH 4

“And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17, ESV). It is important to begin in the name of Jesus. The Norwegian immigrants used this hymn at the beginning of important endeavors – emigrating to America, building their homes, starting churches and schools. It was in every Norwegian and Danish hymnal from the time it was first published in 1645, and often was the first hymn in the book. This is a good hymn for the New Year, and as we emphasize Christian education and missions.

The three stanzas can be remembered from the first two lines in each. “In Jesus' name/Our work must all be done” – serving in our vocations not for our self-interest, but in Jesus' name. “In Jesus' name/We praise our God on high” – as we “spread abroad His fame” in missions, remembering that it is not our burden but the Lord who does “great things by His Word.” To conclude: “In Jesus' name/We live and we will die” – for to live is Christ and to die is gain. The hymn ends by affirming us in the central Bible teaching of justification by grace: “When at last, saved by His grace,/We shall see Him face to face,/Live with Him in Paradise.”

Secondary Hymn for the Month

“I Pray Thee, Dear Lord Jesus”

ELH 178

This was the final stanza of Thomas Kingo's hymn about Jesus' childhood, which many of our churches remember on the First Sunday after the Epiphany.

1. In Jesus' name

Our work must all be done
If it shall compass our true good and aim,
And not end in shame alone;
For ev'ry deed
Which in it doth proceed,
Success and blessing gains
Till it the goal attains.
Thus we honor God on high
And ourselves are blessed thereby;
Wherein our true good remains.

2. In Jesus' name

We praise our God on high,
He blesses them who spread abroad His fame,
And we do His will thereby.
E'er hath the Lord
Done great things by His Word,
And still doth bare His arm
His wonders to perform;
Hence we should in ev'ry clime
Magnify His name sublime,
Who doth shield us from all harm.

3. In Jesus' name

We live and we will die;
If then we live, His love we will proclaim;
If we die, we gain thereby.
In Jesus' name,
Who from heav'n to us came,
We shall again arise
To meet Him in the skies,
When at last, saved by His grace,
We shall see Him face to face,
Live with Him in Paradise.