

Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We

1. Thy little ones, dear Lord, are we,
And come Thy lowly bed to see;
Enlighten every soul and mind,
That we the way to Thee may find.
2. With songs we hasten Thee to greet
And kiss the dust before Thy feet;
O blessed hour, O sweetest night,
That gave Thee birth, our soul's delight.
3. Now welcome! From Thy heav'nly home
Thou to our vale of tears art come;
Man hath no offering for Thee save
The stable, manger, cross, and grave.
4. Jesus, alas! how can it be
So few bestow a thought on Thee
Or on the love, so wondrous great,
That drew Thee down to our estate?
5. O draw us wholly to Thee, Lord,
Do Thou to us Thy grace accord,
True faith and love to us impart,
That we may hold Thee in our heart.
6. Keep us, howe'er the world may lure,
In our baptismal cov'nant pure;
That ev'ry yearning thought may be
Directed only unto Thee
7. Until at last we, too, proclaim,
With all Thy saints, Thy glorious name;
In Paradise our songs renew,
And praise Thee as the angels do.
8. We gather round Thee, Jesus dear,
So happy in Thy presence here;
Grant us, our Savior, ev'ry one,
To stand in heav'n before Thy throne.

Heritage Hymns of the Month

December

“On Mary, Virgin undefiled”

ELH 268

This is actually a revision of a Roman Catholic hymn to Mary. The hymn we sing has no problem saying God bestowed His favor on Mary, but clearly gives all the glory to Christ: “To *Him* be praise forever!” This hymn teaches the Gospel very clearly: “He hath us all from sin set free ... For full of grace and truth is He ... All shall be saved/Who trust in Him, believing ... Grant me Thy grace, I pray Thee!” It works very well in Advent, especially verse 3 which says not only that the Old Testament prophets were inspired by God, but that they were speaking of Christ’s saving work; “and faithful proved their saying.”

“Thy Little Ones, Dear Lord, Are We”

ELH 144

Hans Brorson originally titled this “A Little Hymn for Children.” Not only does it tell little children of Christ’s birth, but it teaches them about their baptism. How are we His little ones? Through baptism! We cannot “come His lowly bed to see” by our own reason and strength, but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel. This is why we learn to say, “O *draw us wholly* to Thee, Lord” – He must draw us, and “wholly.” How does He “true faith and love ... impart?” The first way: in baptism. The great prayer in this hymn is: “Keep us, howe'er the world may lure,/In our baptismal cov'nant pure,” until He brings us to heaven. “Grant us, our Savior, ev'ry one,/To stand in heav'n before Thy throne.”

Secondary Hymns for the Month

“I Am So Glad When Christmas Comes”

ELH 127

This Christmas hymn by Marie Wexelsen has a great baptism connection.

“In This Our Happy Christmastide”

ELH 150

This hymn by H. A. Brorson speaks of the crosses we bear even at Christmastime (for Christmas Day or Christmas 1).

On Mary, Virgin undefiled

1. On Mary, Virgin undefiled,
Did God bestow His favor;
She bore a Son, the spotless Child,
To Him be praise forever!
He hath us all from sin set free;
Our stay be He,
And rest eternal give us!

2. Were all the sages here below
All human wisdom showing,
The mystery of Christ to know
Were far beyond their knowing;
For full of grace and truth is He;
O may He be
Our comfort in our dying!

3. Inspired of God the prophets spake,
And faithful proved their saying,
That Christ the bonds of sin doth break,
Deliverance conveying
To all by Satan's wiles enslaved;
All shall be saved
Who trust in Him, believing.

4. O Root of Jesse, David's Son,
And Jacob's Star of Heaven!
Thou art the Christ, the blessed One;
Thy name all praise be given:
By grace Thou hast redeemed us all
From Adam's fall,
And Thou wilt guide and tend us.

5. O could I speak in ev'ry tongue,
The Scripture's deep expounding,
Were in my mouth the angels' song
That through high heav'n is sounding,
I on my knees would humbly fall,
On Jesus call,
And worship Him forever!

6. My sins are countless as the sands,
My crimes, O God, are crying,
Deliver me from sin's dread bands
And save me, Lord, when dying;
O let me not, for evil past,
Be lost at last,
Grant me Thy grace, I pray Thee!