

Heritage Hymn of the Month

JULY

“Ye Lands, to the Lord”

ELH 56

One of the Norwegian Synod’s founding fathers, Ulrik Vilhelm Koren, wrote this hymn. He served as president of the synod until 1910. Before he died, he warned against doctrinal compromise on the doctrine of election, and his words helped strengthen those who refused to compromise by joining the merger. As president, Koren exercised pastoral leadership in writing “An Accounting” (a Scripture-based evaluation of the true doctrine of election) and “Can and Ought a Christian Be Certain of His Salvation?” – to which, guided by Scripture passages, he answered a resounding “Yes!”

This hymn sings Psalm 100 verse by verse. In each stanza Koren has us sing the refrain: “Glory be to God! ... Sing praise unto God out of Zion!” This steadily reinforces that God receives all the glory for our salvation. The end of the hymn – “To all generations His truth shall still endure” – has become a theme of our synod, and a reminder to pass on God’s truth to the next generation.

Secondary Hymn for the Month

“In Jesus I Find Rest and Peace”

ELH 437

This hymn by an unknown Scandinavian author expresses trust in God’s providence.

Ye Lands to the Lord

1. Ye lands, to the Lord make a jubilant noise;
Glory be to God!
O serve Him with joy, in His presence now rejoice;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!
2. Not we, but the Lord is our Maker, our God:
Glory be to God!
His people we are, and the sheep led by His rod;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!
3. O enter His gates with thanksgiving and praise;
Glory be to God!
To bless Him and thank Him, our voices we will raise;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!
4. For good is the Lord, and His mercy is sure;
Glory be to God!
To all generations His truth shall still endure;
Sing praise unto God out of Zion!