



LWML CNH CHRISTIAN LIFE LINE

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LIFT HIGH THE CROSS

Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod, our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God.

Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim till all the world adore his sacred name.

Led on their way by this triumphant sign, The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. **Refrain**

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. **Refrain**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree, As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **Refrain**

LSB 837; Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947; Publishing Co. 1974

When Adam and Eve were tempted by Satan and ate of the forbidden fruit, we all became sinners.

*Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin,
and so death spread to men because all sinned ... Romans 5:12*

Even before God sent them out of the garden, He spoke of His defeat of Satan, and therefore sin and death.

*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15*

At the time, it was not clear how that would happen, but the prophets foretold Jesus' birth, suffering, and promise of salvation.

For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end ... Isaiah 9:6-7a

*But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was crushed for our iniquities;
upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
and with His stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5*

... yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. Habakkuk 3:18

Jesus told His disciples what kind of death was necessary for our salvation.

*Now is the judgment of this world; now will the ruler of this world be cast out.
And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself. John 12:31-32*

We view the cross as a sign of victory as it is laid upon us. To mark us as His, we are born from above through Holy Baptism. We receive the sign of the holy cross both upon our foreheads and upon our hearts to mark us as ones redeemed by Christ the crucified.

*The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God,
who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 15:56-57*

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. Titus 3:4-7

Believers in Christ are saved through His death on the cross. Though Paul spoke of himself in the following passage, we may paraphrase it as follows because we are baptized into Christ.

We have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer we who live, but Christ who lives in us And the life we now live in the flesh we live by faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us. Galatians 2:20

The call to the baptized is thus a daily call to death, by contrition and repentance.

Then Jesus told His disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me. Matthew 16:24

This victory over sin and death is received by all who believe.

It will be counted to us who believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Romans 3:24, 25

...God our Savior, Who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 1 Timothy 2:3b-4

God calls us to use our gifts and abilities to share the message of the cross with all people.

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. Luke 10:2

Scripture references are from the ESV.
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LUTHERAN WOMEN, ONE AND ALL

Lutheran women, one and all, We have heard the Gospel call.
We by faith have seen our Lord Crucified and then restored.
We have seen Him pay the price, For our sins a sacrifice.
Him we Lord and Christ acclaim And unite to praise His name.

Lutheran women, young and old, Well we know His challenge bold:
Help to take the Gospel light To a world in darkest night,
By example in the home, By inviting those who roam,
By our prayers for sinners lost, By our gifts for missions' cost.

Lutheran women, coast to coast, In the Lord a mighty host,
Let us all united be In the Holy Trinity, One in faith, in hope, and love,
Working for the Lord above, Till, our earthly labors done,
We in heaven shall all be one.

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