

Wash, O God, our sons and daughters ELW 445

1-20

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters
in your clean transforming flow,
drown their wishes in the waters
of repentance you bestow.
Weave them garments with a brightness,
robe them round in sparkling white,
with your Spirit of contriteness
as the dove of their delight.

2. From our sleep are we awaking,
by your nurture are we fed,
at your wedding feast, partaking
of the cup and of the bread.
Guide our feet as they are flying
from our sin and all its snares,
one in Christ with whom we're dying,
as your children's future heirs.

3. As we contemplate our story
and the wisdom of your ways,
to your name be all the glory
in our prayer and in our praise!
We your people would be living
water-washed and Spirit-born
by the grace that you are giving
on that bright and shining morn.

8787D alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Wash, O God, our sons and daughters,
where your cleansing waters flow.
Number them among your people;
bless as Christ blessed long ago.
Weave them garments bright and sparkling;
compass them with love and light.
Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit,
holy dove and heart's delight.

2. We who bring them long for nurture;
by your milk may we be fed.
Let us join your feast, partaking
cup of blessing, living bread.
God, renew us, guide our footsteps;
free from sin and all its snares,
one with Christ in living, dying,
by your Spirit, children, heirs.

3. Oh, how deep your holy wisdom!
Unimagined, all your ways!
To your name be glory, honor!
With our lives we worship, praise!
We your people stand before you,
water-washed and Spirit-born.
By your grace, our lives we offer.
Recreate us; God, transform!

Ruth Duck 1989

O blessed spring
ELW 447

6-19

1. O bless-ed spring where word and sign
embrace us into Christ the Vine,
the way that members come to be
the branches of this living Tree!
2. Through summer heat of yesteryears,
uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by penetrating rain,
the boughs will join the glad refrain.
3. When autumn cools and youth is cold,
when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then every vessel seeks to prove
that gifts of love are on the move.
4. As winter comes, as winters must,
we breathe our last, return to dust.
Still holding fast, our souls take wing
and glory in the promised spring.
5. This holy Vine, this living Tree,
this blessing of the mystery
that word and water drown our strife
and graft us into verdant life!

LM alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. O bless-ed spring where word and sign
embrace us into Christ the Vine:
here Christ enjoins each one to be
a branch of this life-giving Tree.
2. Through summer heat of youthful years,
uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
sustained by Christ's infusing rain,
the boughs will shout for joy again.
3. When autumn cools and youth is cold,
when limbs their heavy harvest hold,
then through us, warm, the Christ will move
with gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.
4. As winter comes, as winters must,
we breaths our last, return to dust;
still held in Christ, our souls take wing
and trust the promise of the spring.
5. Christ, holy Vine, Christ, living Tree,
be praised for this blest mystery:
that word and water thus revive
and join us to your Tree of Life.

Susan Palo Cherwien 1993

We are baptized in Christ Jesus ELW 451

1-20

1. We are baptized in Christ Jesus,
in the mystery of death,
who from dull existence frees us
with the Holy Spirit's breath.
And if we have been united
in a passion that redeems
we will ever be delighted
with our dreams.

2. In the witness and the water
in the breaking of the bread,
with the sons of every daughter
now alive, no longer dead,
God has made a new beginning
from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning
hold we fast.

3. To the Father be all glory,
and to Christ the favored Son,
with the Spirit in the story
of our God the three-in-one:
as the dove began descending
on the head, so now again
in a song that has no ending
. Amen.

87 87 87 83 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. We are baptized in Christ Jesus,
we are baptized in his death;
that as Christ is raised victorious,
we might live a brand new life.
And if we have been united
in a dreadful death like his,
we will all be reunited,
for he lives.

2. In the water and the witness,
in the breaking of the bread,
in the waiting arms of Jesus
who is risen from the dead,
God has made a new beginning
from the ashes of our past;
in the losing and the winning
we hold fast.

3. Glory be to God the Father,
glory be to Christ the Son,
glory to the Holy Spirit,
ever three and ever one;
as it was in the beginning,
glory now resounds again
in a song that has no ending
. Amen.

John C. Ylvisaker 1985

We are people created
ELW 453

1-20

1. We are people created,
called from above,
by our God as we've waited
for mercy and love.
Having been there before,
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain that is rated
for healing and more.

2. We're relieved of our yearning,
filled and at rest,
every time we're returning
to eat what is blessed.
As the sower of seed,
God is greater indeed
than a counselor discerning
the depths of our need.

3. We are nourished by going
under the tide
of the Spirit bestowing
horizons so wide.
On our journey alone
may your presence be known,
precious river ever-flowing
right up to the throne.

4. With a will that is wringing
praise from our song,
we are grateful we're singing
to show we belong.
Given life by the tree,
from now on will we be
one in Jesus who is bringing
the water that's free!

7475 6685 Chris Nelson 2019

1. We are people created,
chosen by God.
Then we're washed, ever gently,
in mercy and love.
Sin has power no more.
Jesus opened the door
to a fountain bringing healing,
and wholeness and more.

2. We are fed and we're nourished,
filled and refreshed.
Then our hunger returns and
again we are blessed.
For whatever the need,
God is greater indeed:
endless ocean, always deeper
than all of our need.

3. We are nourished by water,
all living things,
and by life that the Spirit
abundantly brings.
As we journey toward home,
may your presence be known:
precious river, ever-flowing,
now carry us home.

4. Now with praise and thanksgiving,
we join the song.
All are welcome! We gather
to sing loud and strong.
Not enslaved, but set free!
From now on, all will be
one in Jesus, one in water,
baptized and set free!

7475 6685 Cathy Skogen-Soldner 1999

A mighty fortress is our God
ELW 504

6-19

1. Our God's an everlasting flow
of goodness for the proving,
a presence in our lives below
though continents be moving.
Though mountains rise and fall,
you counter with a call.
Though waters roar and foam,
you bring us safely home,
to trust you us behooving.
2. Our strength cannot begin to be
relied on for erasing
the challenges of tyranny,
the troubles we are facing.
But God conceived a plan
to enter as a man,
to struggle by our side,
resolved to turn the tide
of evils we're embracing.
3. There is a river streaming out
to make our habitation
a holy city round about
a wholly new creation.
Our efforts totter on
as God reveals the dawn
when darkness is subdued
and workers have reviewed
the future restoration.
4. The Word of God will stand above
the ruses we're inventing
to by-pass all-consuming love
with warfare unrelenting.
"Be still and you will know
'tis I who breaks the bow.
My kingdom will be born
upon that final morn
when you are done repenting".
1. A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight.
On earth he has no equal.
2. No strength of ours can match his might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God himself elected.
You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord,
God's only Son, adored.
He holds the field victorious.
3. Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us,
we tremble not, unmoved we stand;
they cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage;
in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail;
God's judgment must prevail!
One little word subdues him.
4. God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes, who fear it;
for God himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our house,
goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
they cannot win the day.
The kingdom's our forever!

Oceans rise
ELW next revision

1. Oceans rise, the coastland trembles,
mountains melt when earth assembles,
all the world in want is found.
God reveals, where we are hiding,
love and grace and hope abiding
on the rock of solid ground.
2. Nations rage as people ponder,
seeking refuge where they wander,
walls and weapons, terror, fear.
Through this wilderness is flowing
such a healing river showing
God the crucified dwells here.
3. Come and see that mercy matters
over all that Satan shatters.
Life from fields of death is raised.
Peace, be still, let prideful thunder
yield to songs of joy and wonder.
God and God alone be praised.

887 887 Chris Nelson 2018

1. Oceans rise, the coastland trembles;
mountains melt, the dry earth crumbles.
All the world with longing groans.
Love abides; this gracious promise
is our help, our hope and solace.
God's strong word is solid ground.
2. Nations rage, the empire falters,
seeking refuge, exiles wander.
Walls and weapons rise from fear.
Through this wilderness a river
flows to heal and bless us ever.
God the crucified dwells here.
3. Come and see; God's mercy gathers
all that sin and grief have shattered.
Life from fields of death is raised.
Peace, be still; let prideful thunder
yield to songs of joy and wonder.
God and God alone be praised.

Psalm 46 Susan Briehl 2017

The Word of God is source and seed
ELW 506

6-19

1. The Word of God is source and seed,
it comes to die and sprout and grow.
So make your welcome warm indeed
for those who come more grain to sow.

Refrain:

In the Lord rejoice and sing,
in the Lord rejoice and sing,
in the Lord rejoice and sing!

2. The Word of God is life and death,
it comes to speak and laugh and cry.
So let the Spirit lend its breath
to rouse you when the bones are dry.

3. The Word of God is flesh and blood,
it comes to work and play and be,
as Jesus did upon the flood
of faith and hope and charity.

8888 alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. The Word of God is source and seed;
it comes to die and sprout and grow.
So make your dark earth welcome warm;
root deep the grain God bent to sow.

Refrain:

Gaudeamus Domino,
gaudeamus Domino,
gaudeamus Domino!

2. The Word of God is breath and life;
it comes to heal and wake and save.
So let the Spirit touch and mend
and rouse your dry bones from their grave.

3. The Word of God is flesh and grace,
who comes to sing, to laugh and cry.
So dare to be as Jesus was,
who came to live and love and die.

Delores Dufner 1983

O God of Light ELW 507

1. O God of light,
to clear our apprehensions,
pierce through the dark
and light our earth-bound way.
Show your design
unveiling your intensions,
guiding our foot-steps to the perfect day.
2. Down through the years,
through blind and willful ages,
though we rebelled,
you sought us once again,
speaking through saints,
apostles, prophets, sages,
writing with eager or reluctant pen.
3. Undimmed by time,
those words are still revealing
to sinful hearts
your loving gift of grace;
souls on a quest,
whose longing is for healing,
see your compassion in the Savior's face.
4. To all the world
your summons you are sending,
through all the earth
your messengers are heard,
that myriad tongues,
in one great anthem blending,
praise you and celebrate a lamp, your Word.

4 7 4 6 4 7 10 altered by Chris Nelson 2018
chrisbnelson@hotmail.com

1. O God of light,
your Word, a lamp unfailling,
shall pierce the dark-
ness of our earth-bound way
and show your grace,
your plan for us unveiling,
and guide our foot-steps to the perfect day.
2. From days of old,
through blind and willful ages,
though we rebelled,
you gently sought again,
and spoke through saints,
apostles, prophets, sages,
who wrote with eager or reluctant pen.
3. Undimmed by time,
those words are still revealing
to sinful hearts
your justice and your grace;
and questing spir-
its, longing for your healing,
see your compassion in the Savior's face.
4. To all the world
your summons you are sending,
through all the earth,
to every land and race.
That myriad tongues,
in one great anthem blending,
may praise and celebrate your gift of grace.

11 10 11 10 Sarah Taylor 1930

Lord, let my heart be good soil
ELW 512

Lord, let my heart be ready,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be ready
to nurture it till harvest undeterred.
When my heart is hard, clear away the stone.
When my heart is cold, keep it in the zone.
When my heart is lost, leave me not alone.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be ready.

PM Chris Nelson 2018

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Handt Hanson 1985

Listen, God is calling
ELW 513

1-20

Refrain: Listen, listen to the summons,
messengers believing,
from the Lord receiving
comfort and joy.

1. Hear the great commission,
good news indeed:
strangers are delivered,
captives are freed.
2. Going out to baptize,
pass through the world,
trinity be naming,
banners unfurled.
3. God the Holy Spirit
leads undeterred
onward in the brightness
shed by the Word.

6464 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

Refrain: Listen, listen, God is calling,
through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness,
comfort, and joy.

1. Jesus gave his mandate:
share the good news
that he came to save us,
and set us free.
2. Let none be forgotten
throughout the world.
In the triune name of God
go and baptize.
3. Help us to be faithful,
standing steadfast,
walking in your precepts,
led by your Word.

translated from the Swahili by
Howard S. Olson 1968

Dearest Jesus, at your word
ELW 520

1-20

1. Jesus, let us hear your word
from the heavens now descending,
that our thoughts and hearts be stirred,
growing with a faith we're tending,
spoken for our lost condition,
urging on the great commission.
2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in darkness ever shrouded
till the Spirit sets us right,
ready for a view unclouded.
Every time that we are meeting
be it you that we are greeting.
3. Radiance from the glorious sun,
Light of Light from God proceeding,
Jesus, let your will be done
when the services we're reading,
when become the prayers we offer
items in your treasure coffer.
4. Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
praise to you throughout the ages.
Grant us what we need the most:
solace from the gospel pages,
crowns of life for which we've waited
when the reign of God's instated.

7878 88 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Dearest Jesus, at your word
we have come again to hear you;
let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
and in glowing faith be near you
as the promises here given
draw us wholly up to heaven.
2. All our knowledge, sense, and sight
lie in deepest darkness shrouded
till your Spirit breaks the night,
filling us with light unclouded.
All good thoughts and all good living
come but by your gracious giving.
3. Radiance of God's glory bright,
Light of Light from God proceeding,
Jesus, send your blessed light;
help our hearing, speaking, heeding,
that our prayers and songs may please you,
as with grateful hearts we praise you.
4. Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
praise to you and adoration!
Grant us what we need the most:
all your gospel's consolation
while we here on earth await you,
till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

translated from the German by
Catherine Winkworth 1860