

Music for the Second Sunday After the Epiphany

The Only Son from Heaven The CHIEF HYMN (insert) has its roots in the medieval hymn *Of the Father's Love Begotten*: Christ comes forth from the heart of the Father (*Corde natus ex parentis*).

This hymn is by the first female hymn writer of the Reformation era, Elizabeth Cruciger (1500-1535). Her family fled religious persecution in Poland, and settled in Wittenberg. There, Elizabeth met her husband Casper Cruciger, one of Luther's most promising students. He eventually became pastor in Magdeburg and professor in Wittenberg.



The Cruciger family and the Luther family were friends. Luther's hymns were a regular part of their family life and influenced Elizabeth's hymn writing. It is supposed that she wrote other hymns, although she died at a young age and "The Only Son From Heaven" has alone survived.

This strong Epiphany text reinforces Christ's fulfillment of prophesy, to be the Light in the darkness, to open heaven for sinners and give life to the dead. Christians journey through life with Christ before us, allowing us a foretaste of heaven until we "may reap its fullness there." The tune was an existing tune chosen by Cruciger for her text.

The PRELUDE is a partita (multi-movement composition with variations on a common theme) on "The Only Son From Heaven" by Donald Rotermund (b. 1932).

The POSTLUDE is J.S. Bach's setting of the hymn from the *Orgelbüchlein* ("Little Organ Book"), a collection of chorale preludes for the liturgical year designed to teach organ playing technique.

A musical score for the organ, showing the Manual and Pedal parts. The Manual part is in the right hand and the Pedal part is in the left hand. The score is in G major and common time.

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Third Sunday After the Epiphany
19 January 2014

"Lord, I Am Not Worthy"



2 Kings 5.1-15; Romans 12.16b-21; St. Matthew
8.1-13

Hymns: 28, "From God the Father, Virgin-
Born" (insert), 129, 313, 498, 512

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