



HYMN OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

ON MY HEART IMPRINT YOUR IMAGE | LSB 422

Stanza 1

*On my heart imprint Your image,
Blessèd Jesus, King of grace,
That life's riches, cares, and pleasures
Never may Your work erase;
Let the clear inscription be:
Jesus, crucified for me,
Is my life, my hope's foundation,
And my glory and salvation!*

This is a hymn to be cherished and held tightly. In this hymn we ask Jesus to shape our lives, to imprint Himself on our personalities. We pray that our friends and families will see Jesus in us. All this because we ask Jesus to imprint Himself on our hearts. When we make the sign of the cross, we say, "In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit." We are also saying, "I belong to Jesus." Making the sign of the cross reminds us who we are and to whom we belong.

Our life in Christ invites people to look and see Jesus in us. As we sing this hymn, we are asking Jesus to imprint us with *His image*. We are asking Him to rescue and protect us from the many loves we would give ourselves to — the riches, cares, and pleasures of life. These riches, cares, and pleasures sing love songs to us every day. They fill our eyes every waking hour. When we sing their songs and pursue them, we are soon fruitless.

We sing and pray to Jesus, "Don't let these idols erase Your artistry in my life." So we sing, "Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me."

We sing, "I belong to Jesus!" We sing:
Let all who see me see the love of Christ.
Let all who see me see Jesus, my glory and salvation.
Let all who see me see the love of Christ for them.

"And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:18).

MARCH 2026

SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE | LSB 419

This hymn calls us to kneel in the dust and cry for God's mercy and forgiveness. But really? In the dust? Our floors at St. Paul's are beautifully clean and too hard for kneeling anyway! What could this hymn have in mind?

When David, King of Israel, was confronted for his sin of adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband, he lay on the ground for six days and nights, fasting and pleading for God's forgiveness and mercy.

He prayed, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow" (Ps. 51:1–3, 7).

Continued on reverse

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At St. Paul's, the Hymn of the Month is sung in our worship each week. May these reflections, written by congregation member and retired LCMS pastor Rev. Tim Wilkins, enrich your worship and devotional focus. In our school, children sing the Hymn of the Month in Chapel, learn stanzas as memory work, and study the hymn in music classes.

MARCH 2026 CONTINUED

SAVIOR, WHEN IN DUST TO THEE | LSB 419



As we come before God, we don't measure our sins against David's. We measure ourselves according to God's righteousness. So now we bend our hearts before our loving Father and sing.

Stanza 1

*Savior, when in dust to Thee
Low we bow the adoring knee;
When, repentant, to the skies
Scarce we lift our weeping eyes;
O, by all Thy pains and woe
Suffered once for us below,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!*

Jesus bent low from the joy of Heaven to a life of suffering. He bent low and suffered pain and woe in order to reach us, to join us, to be one with us, and to rescue and redeem us. Suffering was the price He gladly paid for us. So now, taking full account of His love — and our debt to Him, we bow our knees and hearts and raise our voices and sing, “Hear our penitential cry!”

Stanza 2

*By Thy helpless infant years,
By Thy life of want and tears,
By Thy days of deep distress
In the savage wilderness,
By the dread, mysterious hour
Of the insulting tempter's pow'r,
Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye;
Hear our penitential cry!*

What exactly did Jesus suffer for us? A helpless infancy, growing up in a community of poverty and tears. After His Baptism, He suffered the savagery and despair of the wilderness. There Satan insulted Him with invitations to abandon us, but Jesus would not. He loved us. We are the reason He endured it all. So we pray, “Turn, O turn a fav'ring eye. Hear our penitential cry!”

Stanza 3

*By Thine hour of dire despair,
By Thine agony of prayer,
By the cross, the nail, the thorn,
Piercing spear, and torturing scorn,
By the gloom that veiled the skies
O'er the dreadful sacrifice,
Listen to our humble sigh;
Hear our penitential cry!*

Stanza three takes us to the crucifixion. We see Jesus in despair. We hear Jesus agonizing in prayer. We see the cross, the nails, the thorns, and the spear. We hear torturing scorn. We see the skies go black. But we also know that this is the day for which Jesus came. This is the hour He would not be denied. All because He loves us. He took our place under the judgment of God. He is the Lamb of God who became sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God. So now we sing, “Listen to our humble sigh; hear our penitential cry!”

Stanza 4

*By Thy deep expiring groan,
By the sad sepulchral stone,
By the vault whose dark abode
Held in vain the rising God,
O, from earth to heav'n restored,
Mighty, reascended Lord,
Bending from Thy throne on high,
Hear our penitential cry!*

In this stanza we hear the last breath of Jesus, and we see a stone rolled over His dark tomb. But the tomb failed! It “held in vain the rising God”! The Gospel burst out of the tomb! Jesus achieved what He came to do. He died in our place; He rose from the grave with life for us, “that we may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity” (*Luther's Small Catechism*, Explanation of the Second Article).

Now we sing, “Mighty reascended Lord, bending from Thy throne on high, hear our penitential cry!”