



# HYMN OF THE MONTH

## AUGUST 2025

### CHILDREN OF THE HEAVENLY FATHER | LSB 725

#### Stanza 1

*Children of the heav'nly Father  
Safely in His bosom gather;  
Nestling bird nor star in heaven  
Such a refuge e'er was given.*

This hymn gives a comforting promise to the children of God. It places us in the safe and secure arms of the Father. We are more secure than nestling birds and the stars in Heaven. We might think that no trials will come our way. But they will. As the hymn progresses, we are promised something even better than unending ease. We are as secure as Jesus in the arms of the Father.

“But you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs — heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ” (Romans 8:15-17).

#### Stanza 2

*God His own doth tend and nourish;  
In His holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things He spares them;  
In His mighty arms He bears them.*

Our Father tends to us, He nourishes us, and He brings us to His heavenly court, and here to St. Paul's, where we flourish. Yet on this side of eternity we are not spared from evil. Evil is a reality; it surrounds us, it hurts us, and it bewilders us. But we have this promise from the Father: “No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us” (Romans 8:37).

#### Stanza 3

*Neither life nor death shall ever  
From the Lord His children sever;  
Unto them His grace He showeth,  
And their sorrows all He knoweth.*

*Continued, next column*

The truth is out; our lives are in the balance between life and death. And until our Lord returns, death will claim us all. This hymn is not a simplistic children's rhyme. It faces the reality of life and death, and assures us of the greater power of God's love for us in Christ Jesus.

“No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:37-39).

#### Stanza 4

*Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.*

We suffer because our world is broken. And He is there for us. We suffer for following Jesus. And He is there for us. But there is another suffering that comes from the hand of our Father Himself. “I [Jesus] am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser ... and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit” (John 15:1, 2b).

Pruning hurts. Our Father, in wisdom and love, cuts away living branches from our lives in order that we bear even greater fruit. Our Lord gives, and yes, He takes away — to preserve you pure and holy.

*Though He giveth or He taketh,  
God His children ne'er forsaketh;  
His the loving purpose solely  
To preserve them pure and holy.*

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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.