

The Hymn of the Day for the Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost is “Lord of All Hopefulness” (LSB 738)

Today’s hymn speaks to the changes that take place in each believer’s day as well as one’s whole life. God is changeless and he is there for us throughout the diversity of each day. This is true as we go through all of life’s stages.

This hymn uses the pattern of Christian collect prayers to present four stanzas, each of which is a prayer for a period of the day — morning, noon, evening and end of day. While the words speak about an actual day, the imagery also speaks to the believer’s journey through life — as a child, a young adult, an adult and at life’s end — and the presence of God throughout those different periods (LCMS Worship Resources)

Stanza 1 begins with addressing God as the *Lord of all hopefulness*. Everything afterwards reinforces that confession.

Stanza 2 describes God as being *skilled at the plane and the lathe*. It is a reminder to Jesus being the son of the carpenter Joseph.

Stanza 3 speaks of a greeting that a person receives upon returning home after a day’s labor.

The hymn concludes with an emphasis on “mildness,” “serenity,” and a prayer for peace at the day’s end and life’s end as an curative to the unhealthiness at life’s end. As Christians, we can be sure of the certain hope Even with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection. However, even we as can still struggle with death because of the fear of the unknown, the fear of frailty and loneliness.

This hymn prays for the gifts that God provides to His people. Luther describes it this way in his explanation to the First Article of the Creed in the Small Catechism: “He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life” (LSB, p. 322) (LCMS Worship Resources)

Pray either the Morning Prayer or the Evening Prayer

Luther’s Morning Prayer: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen

Luther’s Evening Prayer: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong and graciously keep me this night. For into your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe have no power over me. Amen