

REFORMATION HYMN COMPETITION

Sponsored by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Concordia Publishing House

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and Concordia Publishing House (CPH) invite you to submit a newly written hymn text to be used in connection with the church's celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

We are seeking original hymn texts that are

- theologically strong (grounded in Scripture and Christological),
- poetically sound,
- filled with fresh imagery,
- fitting for liturgical use and congregational singing, and
- centered on themes of the Lutheran Reformation.

Examples of Lutheran Reformation themes may include, but are not limited to,

- the proclamation of Christ and His saving work,
- the primacy of Scripture,
- justification by grace alone,
- salvation through faith alone,
- the Gospel,
- the Sacraments, and
- new life in Christ.

Guidelines and Official Rules

- 1) No purchase is necessary to enter or claim the prize. Anyone meeting the eligibility requirements and submitting an original hymn text is entered to win.
- 2) The newly written hymn text should be in the English language. Texts previously published or currently entered in other competitions or contests may not be submitted.
- 3) There is no limit to the number of entries that may be submitted. This competition is limited to individuals 18 years of age or older. Anyone under 18 years of age wishing to enter the competition must have his or her parent or guardian submit the hymn text.
- 4) If the text is written in a traditional hymnic meter, a suggested tune may be indicated. At the discretion of the judges, the winning text will be paired for publication with an existing tune, a newly composed tune, or both.
- 5) The author of the winning entry will receive a prize of \$500 and may retain the copyright to the text, subject to the grant of a nonexclusive license set forth in paragraph 6 of this Agreement.
- 6) The winning entry will be published online and shared for use by congregations, schools, and other entities of the LCMS in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The winning author will be required to grant permission for the text to be put on the website and reproduced by congregations, schools, and other entities of the LCMS.
- 7) All entries must be received by 5:00 p.m. Central Standard Time on February 29, 2016. Entries received after this time will not be considered. The LCMS and CPH are not responsible for late or lost entries.

8) It is preferred that entrants submit texts by way of the online form found at lutheranreformation.org/competition.

9) Entrants may also submit entries by postal mail. For entries submitted by mail, please do the following:

- a) Provide a cover letter with full name, postal address, email address, telephone number, and the title of the hymn or hymns.
- b) Include a copy of the hymn or hymns. To preserve anonymity, the name of the author should appear only on the cover letter and not on the hymn copy submitted for judging.
- c) Send to

Reformation Hymn Competition
c/o Music Department
Concordia Publishing House
3558 S Jefferson Ave
St. Louis, MO 63118

10) Receipt of all entries will be acknowledged within two weeks of date received.

11) The winner will be notified by email or phone on or about June 3, 2016. The decision of the judges is final. The judges reserve the right not to select any entry as a winner.

12) The winner agrees to grant CPH the right of first refusal to use the text with any choral or instrumental pieces and will work with CPH in the publication of such pieces.

13) Employees of CPH's Music Department, the competition judges, and their immediate family members or members of the same household are ineligible. The Hymn Competition shall be void where prohibited or restricted by law. By entering, you agree to these Official Rules and all decisions of judges, which are final and binding in all respects.

14) The prize is non-transferable. The winner shall be responsible for all taxes. Acceptance of the prize or title of winner constitutes permission to use the winner's name, address, photograph, testimonial or other likeness and/or prize information or personal exposition for promotional, advertising and/or publicity purposes without additional compensation to the winner to the extent permitted by law. If the winner is found not to be in compliance with these Official Rules, or otherwise ineligible, disqualification may result with an alternate winner selected. The LCMS and CPH reserve the right, at their sole discretion, to disqualify any individual found to have tampered with the entry process.

15) In no event will the LCMS or CPH, or their respective officers, directors, employees, representatives, and agents, be responsible or liable for any circumstance related directly or indirectly to the acceptance of the prize or this competition in general. The winner shall be required to execute an affidavit of eligibility and liability/publicity release within a given time period or an alternate winner shall be selected.

Questions? Please contact cphmusic@cph.org.