



# *A Translator Gave Us Many Beloved Hymns*

*by Barb Jurgens, Christian Growth, Ontario District*

Catharine Winkworth is renowned as a translator of nearly 400 German hymns. In fact, 51 of her translations appear in the Lutheran Service Book (LSB). Lutheranism in America relied heavily on her work!

Born in London, England, in 1829, she later moved with her family to Manchester, England. She was a frail, delicate child, and prone to frequent diseases. Brought up in an Anglican home, she grew up to become a literary spinster. In time, she became interested in educational and social problems, and traveled abroad, promoting advocacy for women's education.

The time she spent in Germany awakened in her an interest in the German language, and she became a great writer and translator of Bach's music and that of others.

In fact, upon returning to England, she actively translated and promoted German hymns in England, to the extent that many were translated today and appear in our hymnbooks.

Questioning of Christ's divinity by scholars occurred during the nineteenth century, both within and outside Christianity. Nevertheless, her translations verify her belief in and defense of Christ, as being the Son of God.



Some of our favourites are her translations.

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| • Praise to the Lord, The Almighty       | LSB 790 |
| • Now Thank We All Our God               | LSB 895 |
| • All My Heart Again Rejoices            | LSB 360 |
| • If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee | LSB 750 |
| • In Thee is Gladness                    | LSB 818 |

We are indeed thankful for her words, like the following:

*Since He is ours, we fear no powers, not of earth, nor sin nor death.  
He sees and blesses in worst distresses; He can change them with a breath.  
Wherefore the story tells of His glory  
With hearts and voices; All heaven rejoices in Him forever. Alleluia!  
We shout for gladness, Triumph o'er sadness, love Him and praise Him  
And still shall raise Him glad hymns forever. Alleluia!*

LSB 818 v2

*Prepared by the Christian Growth Committee, LWML-Canada, Inc*