

When we sing that great hymn, A Mighty Fortress is Our God, may He enable us to have the spirit Luther had of standing for God no matter what happens, and when we sing that lovely Christmas song, Away in a manger, no crib for his head," May we remember Luther's tenderness, Luther's love of people, Luther's desire to make the Christ child primary the Christ of the cross central, the grace of God, the vital thing in his life. Let us pray:

Our Father, we thank you for M. Luther, for his realization of the terrible nature of sin. O our God how easily we can see the sin of others. But help us to see our own, and to bring our sins to the foot of the cross and to look for forgiveness, yes more to look for power to overcome it power to go on in sanctification as you would have us. We thank you for Luther's understanding of the free grace of God. Help us to avail ourselves of that grace, first for salvation, and then day to day, moment by moment. And Oh our God we thank you for his realization of the great fundamental nature of God's Word which he translated, and did so much to spread. Help us our God to make the Bible foundational in our lives. Help us to see the sovereignty of God, and rejoice in whatever God says, and know that if we are true to Him whatever He sends is best. Be with us through this year and may it be a time for each of us of accomplishment for Christ. We ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.