



LUTHER'S FIRST HYMN

The following short questions about the [hymn](#) might help you 'unpack' Luther's message.

The first verse is an invitation; what is it inviting the singers to do?

Verses 2–4 are autobiographical; to what crisis in Luther's life are they referring?

Notice the imagery he uses. What does this convey about his view of human beings?

What comment does Luther make about 'good works'?

What saves him from his sense of sin and guilt?

Who is speaking in verse 5 and who is being spoken to?

Luther resumes the active voice in verse 6. What aspect of Christian belief is he recounting?

Whose voice speaks the words of verses 7–10?

What advice is given in the first line of verse 7?

What crucial event does verse 8 describe?

Where do images for God like 'rock' and 'castle' originate?

Who or what might Luther be thinking of in verse 10 when he refers to 'men with base alloy' destroying the heavenly treasure?

Summarise the meaning of the hymn; can you suggest why it became so popular?

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