

Creator of the Stars of Night - verse 4

*Come in your holy might, we pray,
redeem us for eternal day;
defend us while we dwell below
from all assaults of our dread foe.*

One of the things I cherish about growing up in the Lutheran faith tradition is that we are a singing church. I know I must have heard my mother's voice while I was still in the womb, and my attendance at a Lutheran elementary school guaranteed that I would be robed in my white gown and burgundy bow whenever the choir sang in Sunday worship services. It has only been recently that I cashed in my chips as an alto in any choir due to my aging voice.

How surprised I was when I discovered that I was not familiar with this lovely hymn, *Creator of the Stars of Night*. Grabbing my copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, I turned to number 245 to sight read the melody and get more information: *Latin hymn, Plainsong, CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM*. My curiosity continued as I "Googled" the hymn title, harvesting additional details. But the real discovery was listening to the Compline Choir of St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder, CO. I encourage you to check it out because it has an immediate effect of quieting one down, which is much needed at this point of our Advent journey when we wonder if we have enough time to finish shopping, baking, wrapping, decorating, travel, etc.

In verse 4 we prayerfully ask the Lord "to come in your holy might," to "redeem," and "defend" us "from all assaults..." For me the joy of these words is that we can live every day knowing that God continues to redeem and defend us because of the gift of the Christ Child whose birthday we celebrate. I don't know about you, but the older I get the less I mind waiting. I challenge you to slow down, get quiet, listen, look at the stars on a clear night, breathe deeply, wait and then immerse yourself in the joy of this amazing gift. Happy Birthday, Jesus!

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