

LSB 591

This is the Spirit's entry now

TEXT BACKGROUND

According to Marilyn Stulken, in writing this hymn, Thomas Herbranson (1933-2009|) “ was partly inspired by the upcoming baptism of (his) first child in 1965” while he served in White Bear Lake, Minnesota.’ Herbranson incorporated the text into master’s thesis *Christ and the Sacraments*, completed in 1970.

TEXT COMMENTARY

Thomas Herbranson has crafted a vivid image of God’s work in Baptism. Perhaps nowhere else in the hymnal is the Sacrament painted with these hues. One sings this text and pictures being at the font. With the sign of the cross being made over the candidate, and the Spirit descending in the water and the Word to bring new life.

Stanzas 2 through 4 emphasize the source of the new baptismal life and recognized the continuing word of God past the day of Baptism. In everyday living, the Christian dies and rises again daily in Baptism’s power, and this very hour a new Christian is cleaned by those same waters.

This text gently proclaims the benefits of Baptism, including the forgiveness of sins. The coming Holy Spirit in the Christian’s life. And the daily dying to self and rising to new life.

TEXT: CHARLES D. PERRY