

Christ, your footprints through the desert
Led to Jordan's flowing stream.
There you heard the herald crying
Israel's old prophetic dream:
He is coming! He is coming!
He will cleanse the earth with flame!
Sinners, plunge beneath the waters!
Wash away your guilt and shame!"

Christ, you heard the stirring summons
As by Jordan's bank you stood;
Bathed, though sinless, with your people
In the river's cleansing flood.
High above, the heavens opened;
Came the Spirit as a dove;
Spoke a voice beyond all hearing;
"See my son, the one I love!"

Son of God, the road from Jordan
Led at last to Calv'ry's hill.
There upon the cross forsaken,
You fulfilled the Father's will.
Lamb of God, we see you dying,
Sinless, yet for sinners slain.
But where death rose up to triumph,
You began your glorious reign!

God, in Baptism you have made us
One with Christ, our risen Lord;
Freed us, claimed us, cleansed, forgiven
Through the water and the Word.
Help us hear your urgent summons,
Calling us to serve you now.
Send us forth, your sons and daughters,
With the cross upon our brow.

679 | *God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It*

God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free, lasting to eternity!

Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me, since my baptism did release me
in a dear forgiving flood, sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?

Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, all your might has come unraveled,
and, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!

Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness to inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine to make life immortal mine.

There is nothing worth comparing to this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

685 Through Simple Water, Drawn and Poured

Through simple water, drawn and poured,
united with his pow'rful Word,
in baptism Jesus sets us free
from sin's dread pow'r and slavery

There at the font with promise true
God brings his saving grace anew –
the sin infected sould he heals
and all his pard'ning love reveals!

My sinful self was crucified
with Christ, as if I too, had died;
and as he rose, I also rise
to live with strength that he supplies.

From that day on God helps me drown
the sinful self and hold it down.
I am made new; I'm born again,
repenting, trusting, serving him.

When doubts arise, when sin assails,
The power of baptism never fails,
"I am baptized! What should I fear?
God's love for me is always near!"