

DEACONESS HYMNS OF OLD
Compiled by Deaconess Kristin Wassilak

Consecration Hymn for Deaconesses

By Sister Helen Gulstad

Tune: LW 286 Love Divine, All Love Excelling

1. Lord, I know that thou hast called me,
And I would Thy servant be;
Through this ministry of mercy,
I would lead lost souls to Thee.
As I kneel before Thine altar
To be set apart for Thee,
Help me, Lord to be surrendered
To Thy gracious will for me.
2. For the love of Christ constrains me,
Sister of the weak to be,
All around me souls are dying;
Help me, Lord, their plight to see.
As I wear this cross of silver,
May I ever faithful be.
As a deaconess, O keep me
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
3. As I travel down life's highway,
Help me, Lord, my cross to bear.
May my footsteps never wander
From my loving Father's care.
May I live each day for others,
Someone's joys and sorrows share;
As I kneel before Thine altar,
Hear my consecration prayer.
4. When my servant days are ended,
And my cross I must lay down;
When I go to meet my Savior,
Will mine be a star-gemmed crown?
May the service I shall render,
Ever, Lord, unselfish be;
May my light shine forth so others
See the love of Christ in me.

Our Deaconesses

By Joseph A. Seiss, D.D., L.L.D.

Tune: LW 256 "Yours Forever, God of Love"

1. Jesus, Master, Son of God,
Rich in gifts for human good,
Given Thyself for us, for all,
Thou dost many servants call.
2. By Thy mercy and Thy love,
Through Thy Spirit from above,
Plenteous grace to each is given—
Grace to serve the Lord of Heaven.
3. Thanks for these devoted bands,
Who, with earnest hearts and hands,
Wait and work the sick to cheer,
Spreading mercies far and near.
4. Thou hast called them, they have come,
Left behind their friends and home,
Thy pure handmaids here to be,
Moved and drawn by love to Thee.
5. While the sacred cross they bear,
Grant them Thy rewards to share;
Be their Help where'er they go,
Bearing balm for human woe.
6. Guide and bless them on their way,
Let Thy Spirit be their stay;
May their numbers, Lord, increase,
Bring them to Thy heavenly peace.

Kaiserswerth Deaconess Hymn

Tune: LW 101 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

1. Blessed Fount of heavenly gladness,
Jesus, whose are all our powers;
Thee in sickness, want and sadness,
To behold and serve is ours.
2. If we bear the sick man's burden,
Lord, in thankful love to Thee,
Thou wilt say to us in guerdon;
Come, ye blessed, come to Me.
3. Where the child with love is tended;
Where the tears of want are dried;
Where the prisoner is befriended,
Thou are Shield, Reward and Guide.
4. Lord, increase in us the fire
Of Thy Love that longs to bless;
Be Thy service our desire
Till it grows pure happiness.

Deaconess Hymn of Baltimore Motherhouse

By Miss W.L. Copenhaver

Tune: LW 114 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

1. O Thou from whom the worlds have sprung
At word of Thy all-wise command,
Who holdest all the gifts of love
Within the hollow of Thy hand.
2. Endow me in the name of Christ
For service of my brother's need!
Touch Thou my eyes that I may see;
Touch Thou my feet that I may speed!
3. Not might to rule, but strength I ask,
To minister to Want and Pain;
To follow where Thy chastening hand
Doth conquer loss and make it gain.
4. Give me the love that gives itself,
Nor recompense, nor honor, asks;
That sees Thee in the least of Thine,
And serves Thee in the humblest tasks.
5. Wilt Thou, Lord Christ, with me still serve,
Or else my toil unblest will be:
A slave is he who works alone;
The friend of God, who works with Thee.