

# “Chief of Sinners Though I Be”

William McComb, 1793-c. 1870

From:

*The Lutheran Hymnal*

(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1941)

1. Chief of sinners though I be,  
Jesus shed His blood for me;  
Died that I might live on high,  
Lived that I might never die,  
As the branch is to the vine,  
I am His, and He is mine.
  
2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love!  
Higher than the heavens above,  
Deeper than the depths of sea,  
Lasting as eternity.  
Love that found me — wondrous thought!  
Found me when I sought Him not.
  
3. Jesus only can impart  
Balm to heal the smitten heart;  
Peace that flows from sin forgiven,  
Joy that lifts the soul to heaven;  
Faith and hope to walk with God  
In the way that Enoch trod.
  
4. Chief of sinner though I be,  
Christ is All in all to me;  
All my wants to Him are known,  
All my sorrows are His own.  
Safe with Him from earthly strife,  
He sustains the hidden life.
  
5. O my Savior, help afford  
By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!  
When my wayward heart would stray,  
Keep me in the narrow way;  
Grace in time of need supply  
While I live and when I die.

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Notes:

Hymn #342 from *The Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal*

Text: Rom. 5:8

Author: William McComb, 1864

Composer: Richard Redhead, 1853

Tune: “Gethsemane”

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