

## HYMN

# KINGO TIMES THREE

*Sally Messner*

This December marks the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Thomas Hansen Kingo's birth. The hymnwriter was born on December 15, 1634 in Slangerup, Denmark. His father, Hans Thomesøn Kingo, a weaver, was the son of a Scottish immigrant. Kingo studied theology at the University of Copenhagen, graduating in 1658. After working as a private tutor, he was ordained in 1661, thereafter serving as a pastor in Kirkehelsing and Drosselbjerg. He returned to his hometown in 1668 and earned a master's degree the following year, when he also married his first wife, Sille (Kingo remarried after the deaths of his first and second wives). In 1677 he was named bishop of Odense, and in 1679 he was knighted. Kingo received his doctorate in 1682. He died in Odense on October 14, 1703.

Kingo's love of the Danish language led him to write poetry, and his relationship with Slangerup pastor Søren Poulsen Gotlænder, who was working on a revision of the current Danish hymnal, nurtured his interest in hymnody. Kingo's first book of hymns, *Aandelig Sjungekors første Part* (Spiritual Choir: First Part), was published in two parts in 1674 and 1681. King Christian v appointed him to prepare

a new Danish hymnal in 1683, and though his hymnal was rejected, the committee that compiled the final version of the new hymnal published in 1699 included eighty-five of Kingo's hymns.

"Skriv dig, Jesu, paa mit hjerte" is the fifteenth stanza from Kingo's twenty-nine-stanza hymn, "Bryder Frem, I Hule Sukke" (Break Forth, You Sobbing Sighs), which contemplates Christ's crucifixion and death. Translated by Peer Olsen Strømme, a graduate of Luther College and professor at St. Olaf, "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" was printed in the 1913 *Lutheran Hymnary*.

On the this and the next page you see Kingo's hymn verse paired with three different tunes. Most Norwegian-Americans pair "Skriv dig Jesu" with *Freu Dich Sehr*, the Genevan Psalter tune associated with Psalm 42. Kingo's text appears with *Der Am Kreuz* in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and the *Lutheran Service Book*. This German tune by Johann König was set with Johann Mentzer's hymn "Der am Kreuz ist meine Liebe" (On the Cross Is My Love). The third tune here is a Norwegian folktune, and so far, nothing more is known about the tune than that simple fact. It was presented with Kingo's Danish text, having been transcribed from a recording.

Each of these tunes gives this text a very different character. Which tune do you think best fits Kingo's text? Write a brief explanation of your preference and send it to the hymn editor, Sally Messner, at [messner@lutheranforum.org](mailto:messner@lutheranforum.org).

## On My Heart Imprint Your Image

*Genevan*



On my heart im-print your i - mage, bles - sed Je - sus, king of grace,



That life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures e - ver may your work e - raise;



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



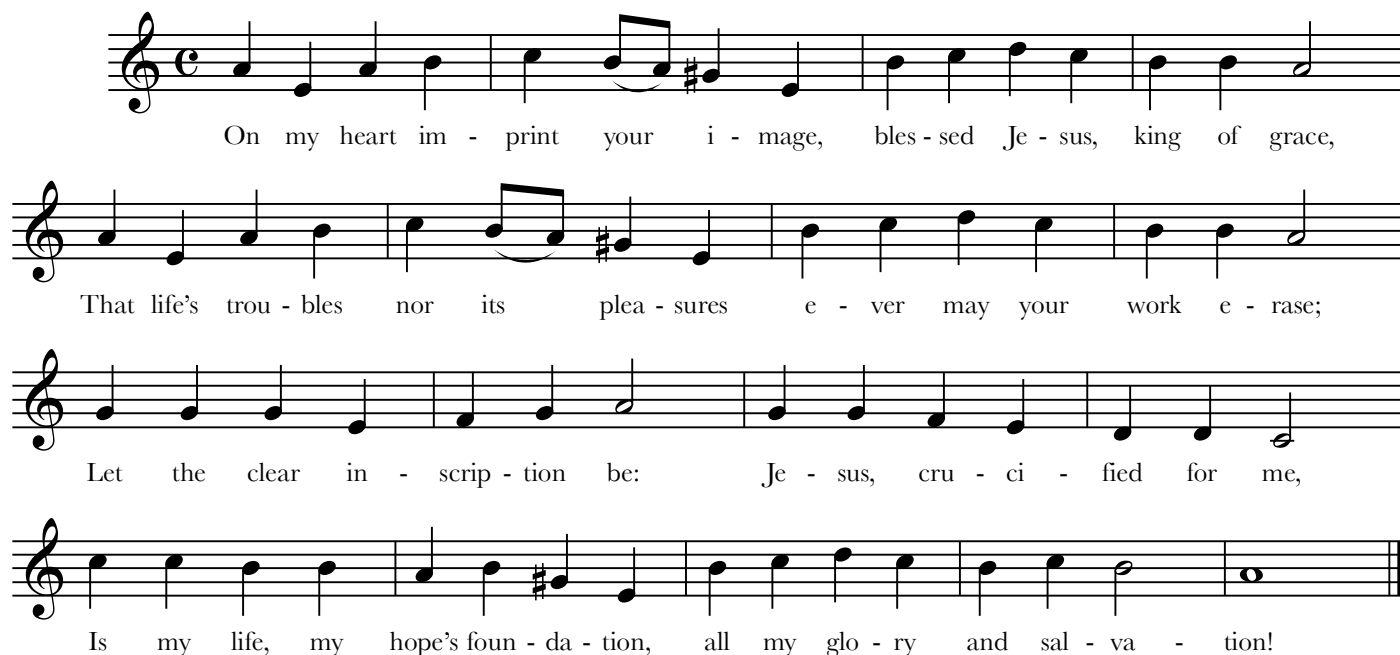
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

*Text:* Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; *tr.* Peer Olsen Strømme, 1856–1921, *alt.*  
*Tune:* Trente quatre pseumes de David, Geneva, 1551

FREU DICH SEHR  
8 7 8 7 7 8 8

# On My Heart Imprint Your Image

German



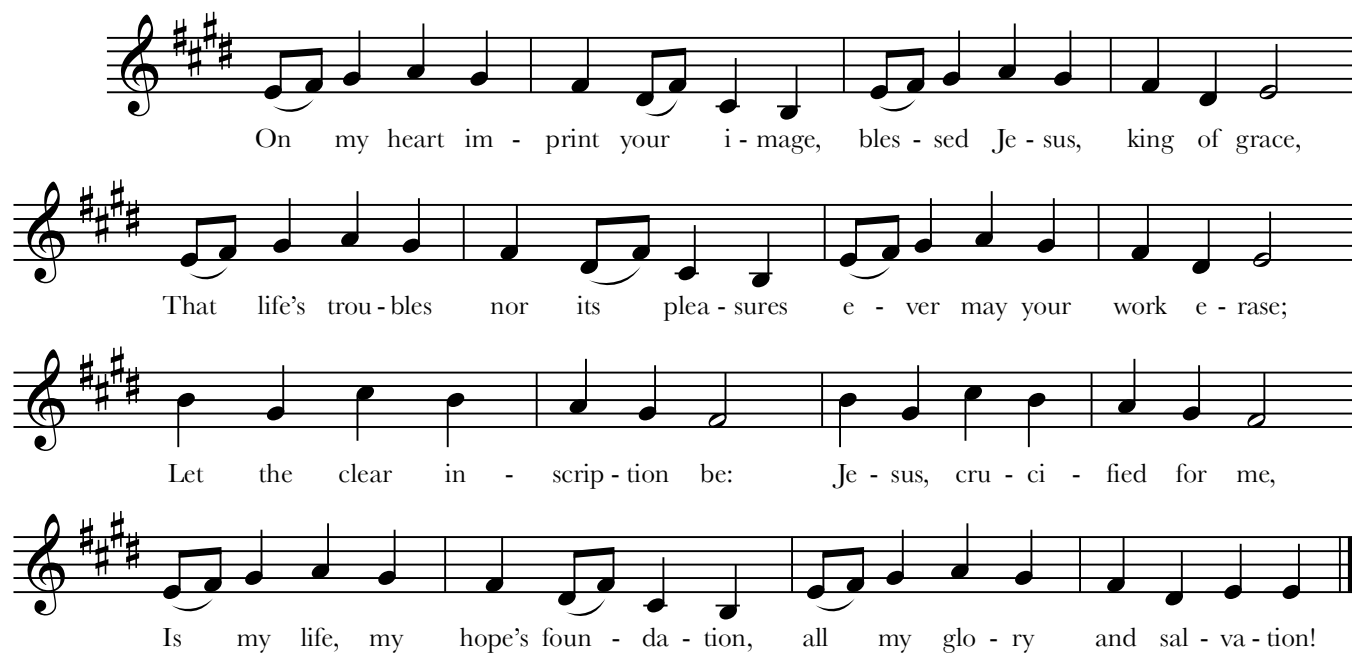
On my heart im - print your i - mage, bles - sed Je - sus, king of grace,  
That life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures e - ver may your work e - rase;  
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

*Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer Olsen Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758*

DER AM KREUZ  
8 7 8 7 7 8 8

# On My Heart Imprint Your Image

Norwegian



On my heart im - print your i - mage, bles - sed Je - sus, king of grace,  
That life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures e - ver may your work e - rase;  
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,  
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

*Text: Thomas Hansen Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer Olsen Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.  
Tune: Norwegian folk tune*

8 7 8 7 7 8 8