

WHEN FLOODING STREAMS AND RAINS CONSUME

1. When flooding streams and rains consume
Crop, house and hope in silted gloom,
O gracious Lord, your help is near
For all who call in times of fear.
2. When purple storm clouds race and churn
and nightly lightnings flash and burn
while water climbs and drowns each field,
you are, O Lord, our rock and shield
3. All dikes we build are far too weak
To hold the swell of brook and creek,
Unless you, Lord, with gracious hand
Uphold their task for life and land
4. Guide and protect us, make us brave
That water may not be our grave.
Defend from fears both false and real
That we in vain with smiles conceal.
5. Your presence holds like dam and dike
Protecting poor and rich alike.
By sign once traced in wat'ry dew,*
Join us together, trusting you.
6. See not the evil we have spun
And all that we have left undone.
On tears and fears in drenched ordeal
Let Jesus shine to dry and heal.
7. The power of water's crushing surge
Hem in – and save us, Lord, we urge.
Then we, our children and all earth
Will praise you, Lord of second birth.

*Sign of the cross at baptism

Original tune: When in the Hour of Deepest Need (LBW but not ELW)
Other tune options in ELW: 320, 527 or other LM tunes (8-8-8-8)

Original: Wenn wir in Wassersnoeten sein (Christian Stoecken, 1680)
Trans: Curt Schneider (1993; revised 2008)