

Liberābō tē
I will set you free
excerpted from the Confession and Epistle of
PATRICK OF IRELAND (c. 385 – c. 461)

Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. ...If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed. *John 8:34, 36*

Call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you. *Psalms 50:15*

Haec est cōfessiō: ego peccātor.
Quī facit peccātum servus est.
In suā misericordiā
Dominus liberāvit mē.

We confess that we are sinners.
God has saved us—hear and see!
Though we had been enslaved to sin,
His mercy set us free!

Dixit, “Liberābō tē;
Invocā mē in diē
Tribulātiōnis tuae.”
Dominus liberāvit mē.

God said, “I will set you free.
When you’re in trouble, call on me.”
We all were in captivity
Until God set us free.

The Latin text above can be more literally translated:

This is my confession: (*Conf.* 62) I am a sinner. (*Conf.* 1) “Whoever commits sin is a slave.” (*Epist.* 4, quoting John 8:34) In his mercy, (*Conf.* 12) the Lord set me free. (*Conf.* 21) He said, “I will set you free; call on me in the day of your trouble.” (*Conf.* 5, quoting Psalm 50:15) The Lord set me free. (*Conf.* 21)

Latin: Patrick of Ireland, *Confession* 1, 5, 12, 21, 62, and *Epistle* 4; excerpted, rearranged, and with orthographic changes (macrons, *v* for consonantal *u*, and punctuation) by Adam F McCune.

English translation by Adam F McCune. The English translation draws on additional material from Patrick of Ireland, *Confession* 33, and *Epistle* 20.

Both the Latin and the English can be sung to the folk tune *Wellerman*.

*The text of the song “I will set you free” (Liberābō tē) is drawn from the following passages in the Confession and Epistle of Patrick of Ireland, sometimes with a change in word order. The words in bold are used in the Latin text of the song, and the words in italics are additionally adapted in the English text of the song. The passages below do not have macrons added and use *u* for both the vowel and consonant.*

Haec est confessio mea. (*Conf.* 62)

This is my confession. (*Conf.* 62)

Ego... peccator. (*Conf.* 1)

I am a sinner. (*Conf.* 1)

“**Qui facit peccatum servus est.**” (*Epist.* 4)

“**Whoever commits sin is a slave**” (John 8:34). (*Epist.* 4)

Qui potens est... **in sua misericordia**... adleuavit... me. (*Conf.* 12)

In his mercy, he who is mighty raised me up. (*Conf.* 12)

Liberauit me Dominus. (*Conf.* 21)

The Lord set me free. (*Conf.* 21)

Verba ... Dei ... sunt: “**Qui crediderit saluus erit.**”
(*Epist.* 20)

These are the words of God: “Whoever believes *will be saved*”
(Mark 16:16). (*Epist.* 20)

Ipse enim **dixit** per prophetam: “**Inuoca me in die tribulationis tuae et liberabo te.**” (*Conf.* 5)

He said through his prophet, “**Call on me in the day of your trouble, and I will set you free**” (Psalm 50:15). (*Conf.* 5)

Donum Dei... largitus est nobis in terra *captiuitatis* meae. (*Conf.* 33)

The gift of God has been lavished on us in the land of my *captivity*. (*Conf.* 33)

Liberauit me Dominus. (*Conf.* 21)

The Lord set me free. (*Conf.* 21)