

Always Room for One More

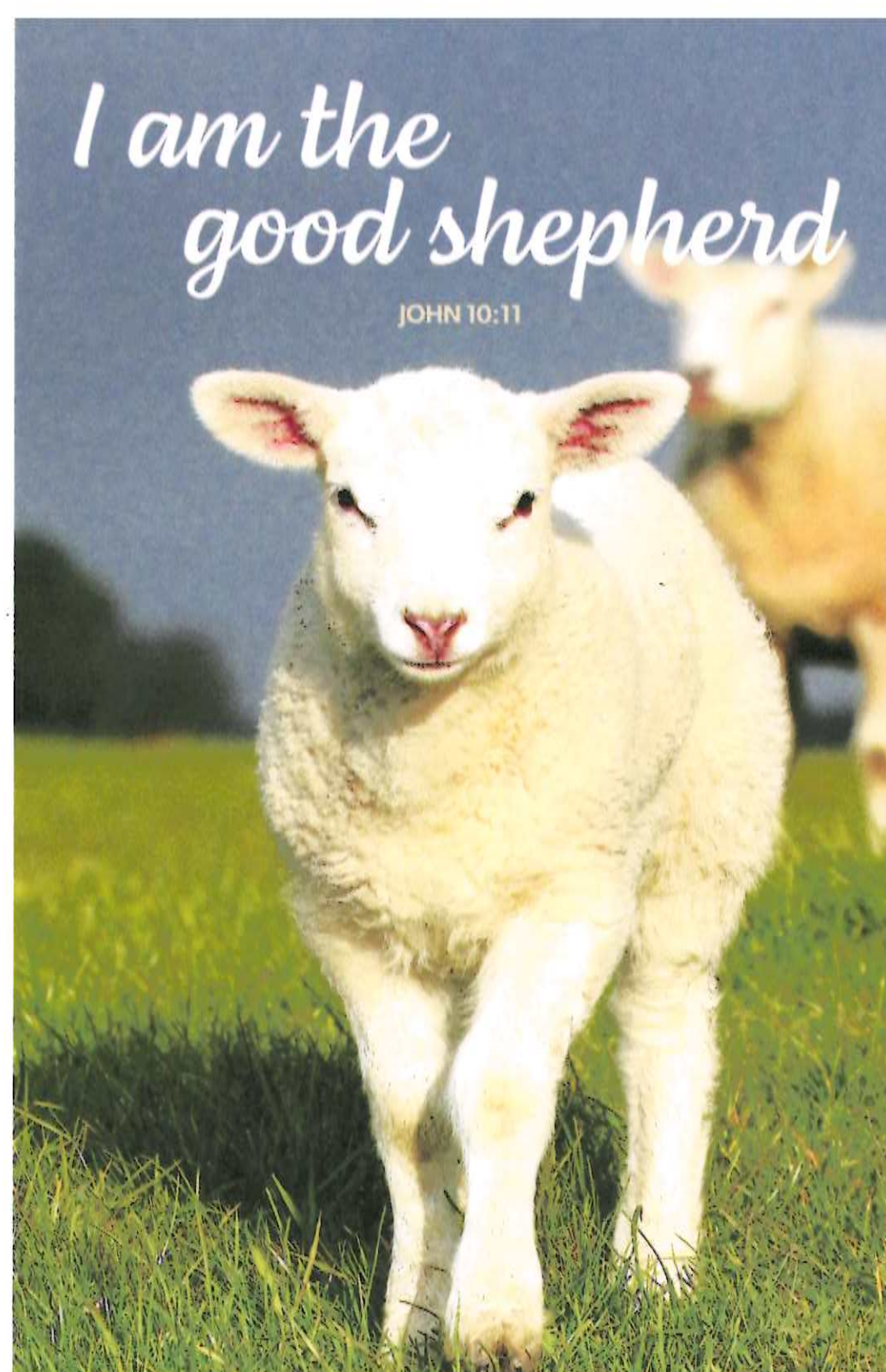
When Jesus says “I am” in the Gospel of John, he unlocks a new perspective on his love. In today’s reading, when Jesus declares, “I am the good shepherd,” we can imagine our Lord caring for us and guiding us. We picture ourselves as his sheep. It’s reassuring to hear that we aren’t alone to navigate the dangers and challenges of this world. We have a loving shepherd who is looking out for us.

Jesus loves us so much that he goes above and beyond the shepherd’s role as a caretaker. He gives up his own life so our sins can be forgiven and we can receive eternal life. That’s what being a good shepherd means—having such a close relationship with the sheep that the shepherd will stop at nothing to protect them. The shepherd will lay down his own life so his sheep can have life.

When we hear Jesus’ promise to be our good shepherd, we must not miss his commitment to gather up the sheep that aren’t yet part of his flock. They, too, will listen to Jesus’ voice. Responding to his loving call, they will become part of the one flock that follows Jesus as their good shepherd, their Savior, and their Lord. No matter how many sheep are already jostling for space, there is always room for one more. Just like there is always room at our holy communion table for one more person to eat the bread, drink the wine, and receive the gifts of God’s mercy and grace. We can always squeeze closer to the sheep around us to let one or more sheep enter Jesus’ flock, thankful that the flock is growing and that we get to listen to the loving voice of our good shepherd, together.

I am the good shepherd

JOHN 10:11





Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Christ, good shepherd of the sheep, you seek the lost and guide us into your fold. Feed us, and we shall be satisfied; heal us, and we shall be whole. Make us one with you, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 4:5-12

The next day [the] rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, ⁶with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. ⁷When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" ⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, ⁹if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has

been healed, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. ¹¹This Jesus is

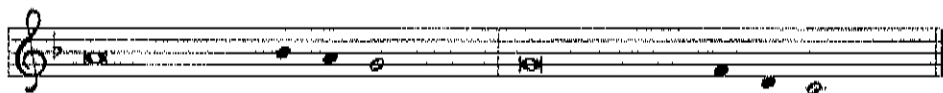
'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders;

it has become the cornerstone.'

¹²There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Psalms

Psalm 23; tone 2



The LORD ¹ is my shepherd;
I shall not ¹ be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down
¹ in green pastures
and leads me be-
¹ side still waters.

³You restore my ¹ soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right
pathways ¹ for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I shall ¹ fear no evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they ¹ comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me
in the presence ¹ of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil,
and my cup is ¹ running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me
all the days ¹ of my life,
and I will dwell
in the house of the ¹ LORD
forever.

Second Reading

1 John 3:16-24

We know love by this, that [Jesus Christ] laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him ²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved,

if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Gospel

John 10:11-18

[Jesus said:] "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down

my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

TODAY'S READINGS April 21, 2024

Volume 55, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 22:25-31; 1 John 4:7-21; John 15:1-8.

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Millcreek Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

Welcome, friends in Christ! We appreciate your presence here today. If you are a visitor, we hope you will consider joining us – knowing that you can expect to find people who love God and who want to know and love you. Visitors, please sign our guest book, fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack and introduce yourself to Pastor Scott as you leave. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: Compassionate Father, whose Son gave himself in a ministry of loving care and redeeming grace: Bring us into his fold; that we may feel the blessing of his life restoring us to wholeness and protecting us from being ravaged by sin. We pray in our Savior's name. Amen.

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Confession & Forgiveness, Page 56

*Opening Hymn: **No. 338 NCH (red),**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

*Greetings: Page 57, line 5

*The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6

*Hymn of Praise: ***The Feast of Victory***, Page 60

*Prayer of the Day: (on the lesson insert, read in unison)

Children's Sermon

The First Reading (on lesson insert)

The Psalmody: ***My Shepherd, You Supply My Need,***
sung by the congregation

The Second Reading (on lesson insert)

*The Alleluia Verse: Page 62, line 14

*The Gospel (on lesson insert)

*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16

The Sermon

Hymn of the Day: **No. 332 NCH (red),**

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

*The Nicene Creed: Page 64, Line 20

Choir Anthem: ***Gentle Shepherd***

*The Prayer: Page 76

*The Lord's Prayer, Page 71 (spoken)

*The Benediction

*Departing Hymn: **No. 330 NCH (red),** ***He Leadeth Me***

Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated

Postlude

*Please stand

Serving you this morning:

Pastor, The Rev. Scott J. Paradise

Lay Leader, Susan Long

Organist, Pianist Debra Tice

Lay Reader, Debbie Buffington

Ushers/Audio, Frank Hoffman and Scott Johnson

When we are baptized, we are baptized into the body of Christ. We understand this body to be the communion of saints, a diverse witness of men and women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109

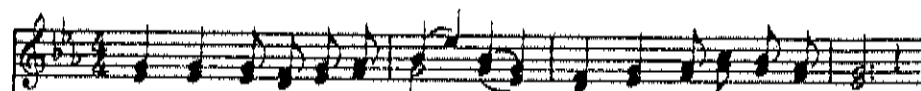
This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God. Anselm is perhaps best known for his "satisfaction" theory of atonement. He argued that human rebellion against God demands a payment, but because humanity is fallen it is incapable of making that satisfaction. But God takes on human nature in Jesus Christ, Anselm proposed, in order to make the perfect payment for sin.

The altar flowers and bulletins are presented to the honor and glory of God, and in loving memory of Ann Leibig by the Leibig Family.

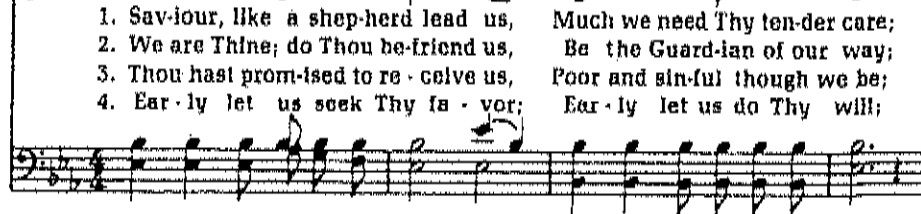
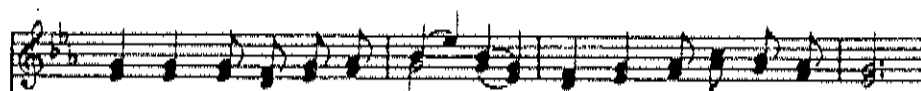
338 Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Dorothy A. Thrupp

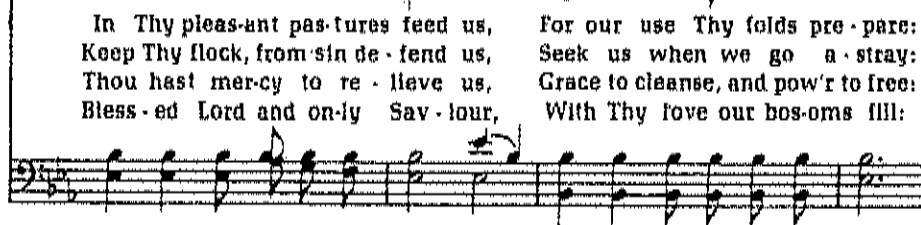
Wm. B. Bradbury




1. Sav-iour, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten-der care;
 2. We are Thine; do Thou be-friend us, Be the Guard-ian of our way;
 3. Thou hast prom-ised to re-cieve us, Poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4. Ear-ly let us seek Thy fa-vor; Ear-ly let us do Thy will;

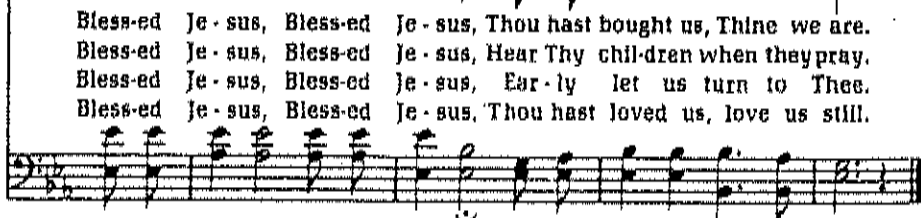
In Thy pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre-pare:
 Keep Thy flock, from sin de-fend us, Seek us when we go a-stray:
 Thou hast mer-cy to re-lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
 Bless-ed Lord and on-ly Sav-iour, With Thy love our hos-oms fill:





Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Hear Thy chil-dren when they pray;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Ear-ly let us turn to Thee;
 Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

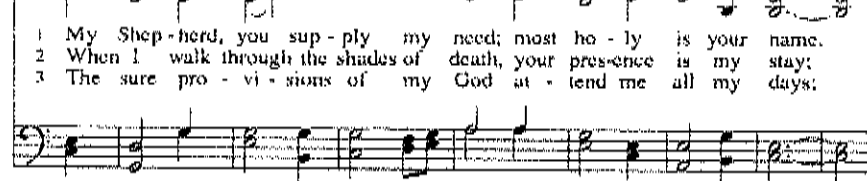
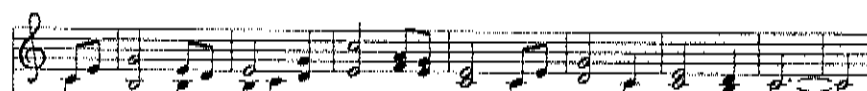
Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Hear Thy chil-dren when they pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Ear-ly let us turn to Thee.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, Bless-ed Je-sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.



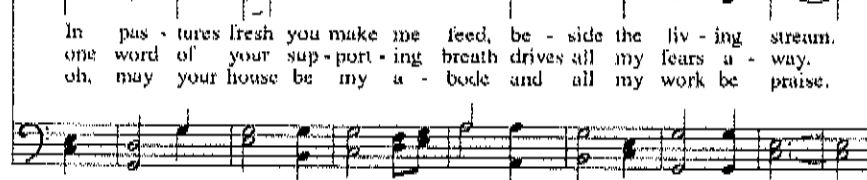

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need



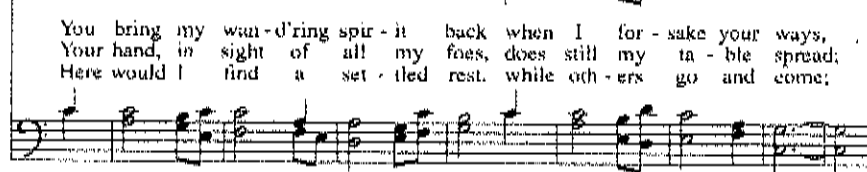

1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly is your name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;

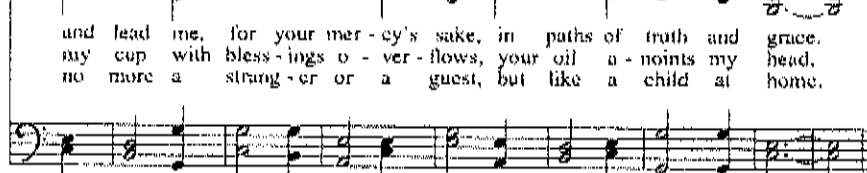
In pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.
 one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.
 oh, may your house be my a-bode and all my work be praise.

You bring my wai-d'ring spir-it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;
 Here would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;

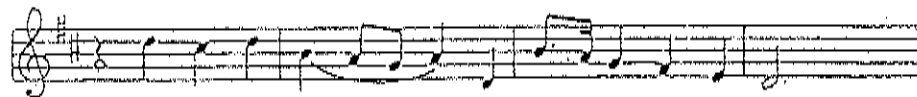



and lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows, your oil a-noints my head,
 no more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

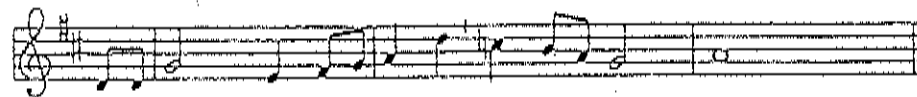


Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt., based on Psalm 23
 Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

The Feast of Victory



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



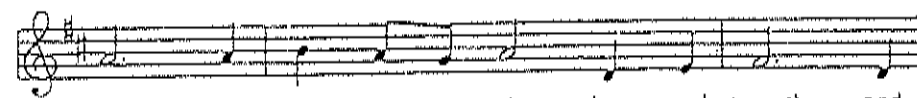
blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



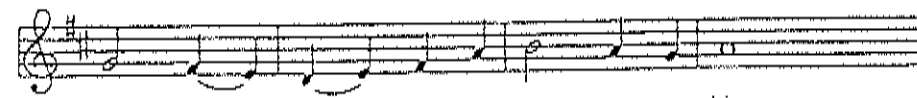
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



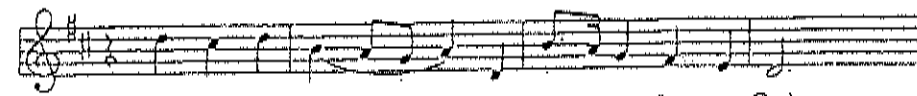
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



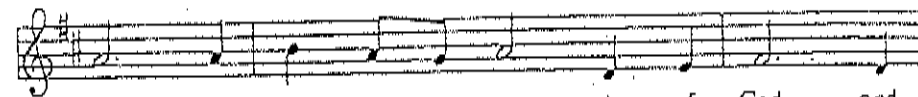
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



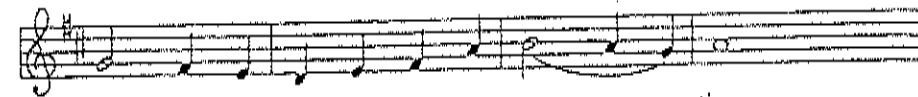
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



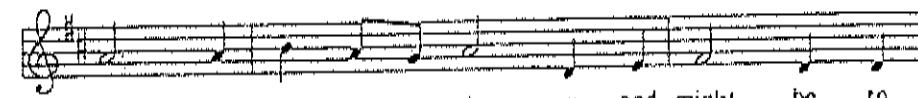
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



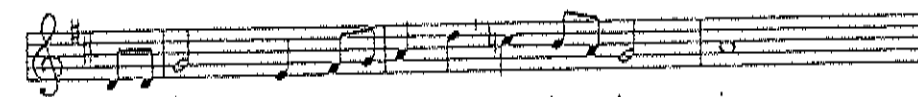
Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to



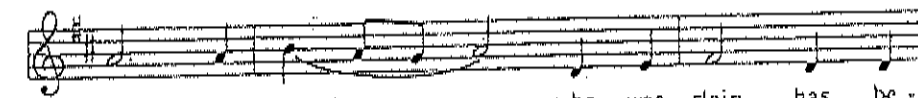
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



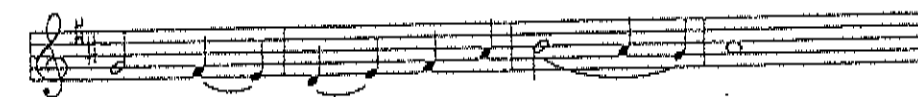
☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



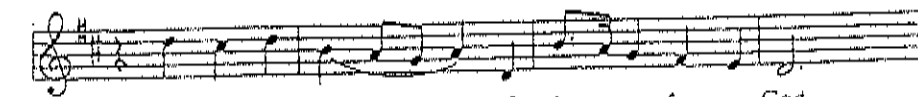
Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



☐ For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.



☐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.




Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



332 All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

Fanny J. Crosby

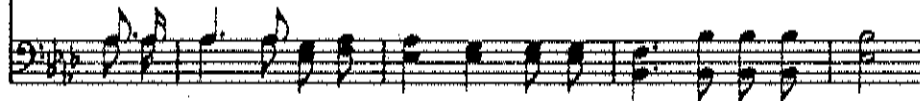

Robert Lowry



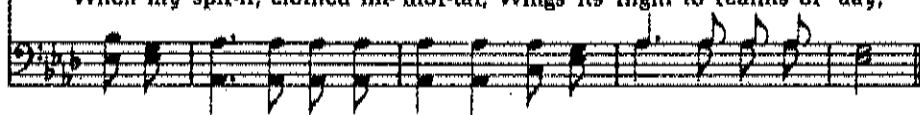
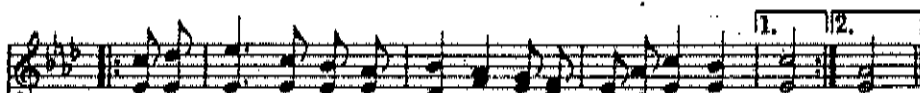
1. All the way my Sav-iour leads me; What have I to ask be-side?
 2. All the way my Sav-iour leads me; Cheers each wind-ing path I tread,
 3. All the way my Sav-iour leads me; Oh, the full-ness of His love!

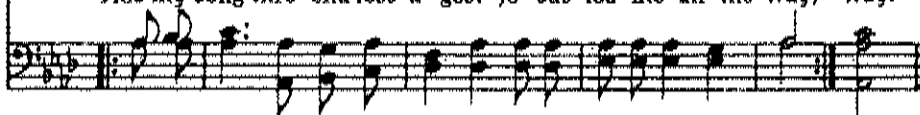
Can I doubt His ten-der mer-cy Who through life has been my Guide?
 Gives me grace for ev'-ry tri-al, Feeds me with the liv-ing bread.
 Per-fect rest to me is prom-ised In my Fa-ther's house a-bove.

Heaven-ly peace, di-vin-est com-fort, Here by faith in Him to dwell
 Though my wea-ry steps may fal-ter, And my soul a-thirst may be,
 When my spir-it, clothed im-mor-tal, Wings its flight to realms of day,

For I know, what-e'er be-fall me, Je-sus do-eth all things well; well.
 Cush-ing from the Rock be-fore me, Lo! a spring of joy I see; see.
 This my song thro' end-less a-ges: Je-sus led me all the way; way.

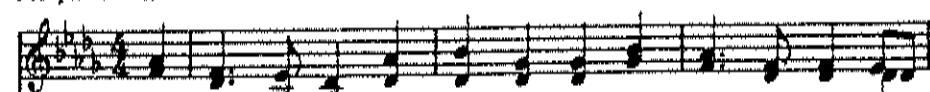


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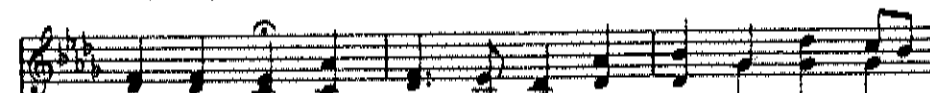
He Leadeth Me

Joseph H. Gilmore


William B. Bradbury



1. He lead-eth me, O bless-ed thought! O words with heav'n-ly
 2. Some-times 'mid scenes of deep-est gloom, Some-times where E-den's
 3. Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, Nor ev-er mur-mur
 4. And when my task on earth is done, When by Thy grace the

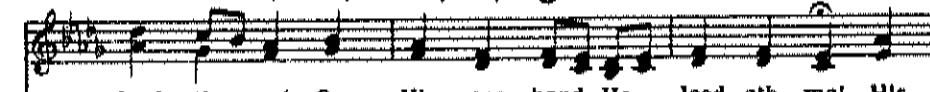
com-fort fraught! What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, Still
 bow-ers bloom, By wa-ters still, o'er trou-bled sea, Still
 nor re-pine; Con-tent, what-ev-er lot I see, Since
 vic-t'ry's won, E'en death's cold wave I will not flee, Since



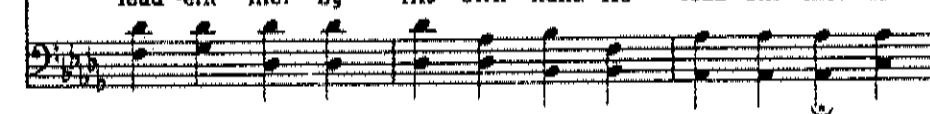
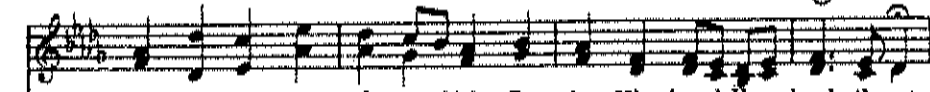
Refrain



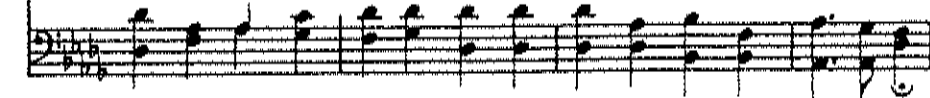
'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.
 'tis His hand that lead-eth me. He lead-eth me, He
 'tis my God that lead-eth me.
 God through Jor-dan lead-eth me.

lead-eth me! By His own hand He lead-eth me! His

faith-ful fol-l'wer I would be, For by His hand He lead-eth me.





"The Church on the Hill"

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Our Mission

Helping God restore and renew our community, our congregation, and our selves.

Sunday April 21, 2024

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at 9:00 AM. Just dial **717-628-0125**. You will hear a message welcoming you to Millcreek. At that point you are connected to our church sound system, so just stay on the line. You may also watch the service later on You Tube.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Community

Upcoming Spang Crest Events: Please mark your calendar for the two chicken barbeques that are sponsored by the Friends of Spang Crest. The date for the spring BBQ is **Friday, May 3rd** and the fall one will take place in September. Members who would like to purchase a BBQ meal for one of our shut-ins for that day is also being planned. This is just another one of the little things we can do for our church shut-ins that they would so much appreciate. Two of the activities that Friends of Spang Crest provide for the residents are the free summer band concerts that are free for all to enjoy. This summer the two concerts are the Perseverance Band and the Lebanon Big Swing Band. There is also a bake sale at both Chicken BBQ's. If you would like to donate baked goods or want more information on the above events, please contact Margie Kriss.

CAMP NEWS: There will be a work day April 27 at Nawakwa on April 27th and at Camp Kirchenwald on May 4th. There will be a Summer Camp Kickoff Worship and Picnic on May 19 at Kirchenwald. For the latest updates on events call 717-677-8211 or email LutheranCamping.org.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

TREASURER'S REPORT: April 7-Current Offerings-\$1,995.00, Plate-113.00, Easter-8.00, Flowers-30.00, Bulletins-20.00, Recycling-21.00, Chili Sunday-90.00. **Total-\$2,277.00.**

Attendance-55, Sunday School-9

TREASURER'S REPORT: April 14-Current Offerings-\$1,265.00, Plate-75.00, Special Gift, Funeral Pall-1,000.00, Coffee-10.00. **Total-\$2,350.00.** Attendance-60, Sunday School-23

THE EVANGELISM COMMITTEE will be celebrating the April resident's birthdays along with "general fun and merriment" when we visit the **Spang Crest** campus on Monday April 29th at 7:00 p.m. A music sing-along and light refreshments with small gifts for the residents who attend is being planned for the evening. Julie Strickler and Deb Tice will be providing the music. Volunteers are definitely needed for this evening! If you'd like to help with the festivities, please contact any member of the committee.

2024 FLOWER AND BULLETIN SHEETS are available for folks to sign up for sponsoring. They are on the bulletin board outside the nursery. Prices are \$30 for flowers and \$10 for bulletins.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves



Dear Millcreek Family,

Thank you for the care package and reminder that I have a much larger family to come back to than I realize. In the package, there were two crafts, so my roommate and I put them together after a long day of class. While putting them together we realized that I have the album Yellow Submarine, by the Beatles, on vinyl. Attached to this email is an image of both of our yellow submarines and the album on our record player in our dorm room. Can't wait to be back, Aidan H.

THIS WEEK WE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) WITH CARDS & PRAYERS:

Sandy Bashore, 604 West Franklin Street, Womelsdorf, PA 19567.

IF YOU ASKED FOR A MILLCREEK MEMBER TO BE PUT ON THE PRAYER LIST, PLEASE TELL THE CHURCH SECRETARY WHEN OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED SO SHE CAN KEEP THIS LIST CURRENT.

NON-MEMBER REQUESTS ARE LISTED ON A WEEKLY BASIS. TO BE INCLUDED, YOU MAY CONTACT LINDA EACH WEEK WITH YOUR REQUESTS BY NOON ON THURSDAY. secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or 610-589-2570

MILLCREEK MEMBERS PRAYER LIST: R. Hart Beaver, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Abbie Keath, Shad Kreitz, The Leibig Family, Ronald Merkel, Barbara Potteiger, Nancy Sauter, Norm Sharp, Julie Strickler, Thomas Tice, Debra Webber, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Devon Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

**NON-MEMBER PRAYER LIST: Joe Buffington, surgery, husband of Debbie Buffington,
Branson Hoglund, surgery, grandson of Roy and Dotti Hoglund**