

It is
the Lord!

JOHN 21:7

Grace upon Grace

The risen Christ is difficult to recognize at first. According to today's gospel reading from John, even as he approached his disciples on the beach, they "did not know that it was Jesus" (John 21:4). Neither did Mary Magdalene recognize him outside the tomb on Easter morning. She assumed he was the gardener (20:14-15). Apparently, resurrection changes Jesus to the extent that he appears a stranger even to his closest friends.

That is, until he makes himself known to them again. In Mary's case, he simply speaks her name. "Rabbouni! Teacher!" she replies, newly hopeful as she carries the good news to the others (20:16-18). For the disciples in the fishing boat, it is a miraculous catch that brings Jesus' identity to light. "It is the Lord!" the beloved disciple says to Peter, who promptly dives overboard to reach Jesus on the shore (21:7).

As the story draws to a close, Jesus returns to his disciples with signs that he will continue to be with them. He calls them by name, feeds them with abundance, and invites them again into lives of purpose: "Do you love me? . . . Feed my sheep" (21:17). In this way, the end of the Gospel of John recalls the beginning. Jesus, crucified and risen, continues to grant his followers "grace upon grace" (1:16).

Moreover, the end of John signals the beginning of Jesus' ministry alongside disciples through the ages. The risen Jesus is a mystery to us too. We may not readily recognize him in the course of daily life. Yet even as he is hidden from view, he is also revealed. In baptism, he calls us by name. At his table, he feeds us with abundance. At the doorways of our gathering places, he invites us again and again into lives of purpose. Grace upon grace.

Christ is risen indeed. Come, follow him!

Millcreek Lutheran Church
Third Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2025

A warm welcome to our church! We appreciate your presence here today and enjoy the new and the familiar faces as we gather together. 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 or fill out a visitor's card in the pew rack. We're glad you're here!

Prayer: O God, our Father, whose son suffered because of man's denial, yet offered forgiveness with a challenge to serve him: Call us from our lifestyles that deny his Lordship over our lives; that the genuine love we feel towards Christ may be expressed through a life of service in his church. We pray in his name. Amen

Serving you this morning:

Guest Preacher,	Sister Marianne Brock
Lay Leader,	Jennifer Rosengrant
Organist/Pianist,	Debbie Tice
Lay Reader,	Dara Wolfe
Ushers/Audio,	Scott Johnson & Frank Hoffman

The Service

- Prelude of Entrance
Announcements
Prelude of Preparation
*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56
*Opening Hymn: **LBW (green) #363, Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing**
*Greetings: Pages 57, line 5

- *The Kyrie: Pages 57 & 58, line 6
- *Hymn of Praise: *Glory to God*. Page 58
- *Prayer of the Day: (On the lesson insert, read in unison)
- The First Reading
- The Psalmody: On the lesson insert (read responsively)
- The Second Reading (on blue insert)
- *The Alleluia Verse: Page 62, line 14
- *The Gospel
- *Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16
- The Sermon
- Hymn of the Day: **LBW (green) #433, The Church of Christ, in Every Age**
- *The Nicene Creed, Page 64
- Senior Choir Anthem
- *The Prayers: Page 65, line 22
- *The Lord's Prayer, Page 71 (spoken)
- *Benediction & Dismissal: Page 74, lines 42 & 43
- *Departing Hymn: **NCH (red) #363, Wonderful Words of Life**
- Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated
- Postlude
- *Please stand**

Commemoration on blue insert.

*The flowers & bulletins are given to the honor & glory of God, &
in loving memory of Richard T. Bergman, our father.*

~ Greta & Greer





May 4, 2025

Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]

named Saul. At this moment he is praying,¹² and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight."¹³ But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem;¹⁴ and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name."¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel;¹⁶ I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."¹⁷ So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."¹⁸ And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized,¹⁹ and after taking some food, he regained his strength.

For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, ²⁰and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God."

Psalm

Psalm 30; tone 10



⁴ Sing praise to the LORD,
¹ all you faithful;
 give thanks in ho-¹ ly remembrance.
⁵ God's wrath is short;
 God's favor¹ lasts a lifetime.
 Weeping spends the night,
 but joy comes¹ in the morning.
⁶ While I felt se-¹ cure, I said,
 "I shall never¹ be disturbed."

continued

Psalm, continued

⁷You, LORD, with your favor,
made me as strong ¹ as the mountains."

Then you hid your face,
and I was ¹ filled with fear.

⁸I cried to ¹ you, O LORD;

I pleaded with ¹ my Lord, saying,

⁹"What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down ¹ to the pit?

Will the dust praise you
or de- ¹ clare your faithfulness?

¹⁰Hear, O LORD,

and have mer- ¹ cy upon me;

O LORD, ¹ be my helper."

¹¹You have turned my wailing

¹ into dancing;

you have put off my sackcloth

and clothed ¹ me with joy.

¹²Therefore my heart sings to you

¹ without ceasing;

O LORD my God,

I will give you ¹ thanks forever.

Second Reading

Revelation 5:11-14 [not printed]

Gospel

John 21:1-19

After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

⁹When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. ¹⁰Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish that you have just caught." ¹¹So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them;

and though there were so many, the net was not torn. ¹²Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. ¹³Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. ¹⁴This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

¹⁵When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." ¹⁶A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." ¹⁷He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. ¹⁸Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." ¹⁹(He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

TODAY'S READINGS May 4, 2025

Volume 56, Number 2

Next Sunday's Readings: Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30.

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13 of 15

ITEM013777 Tracks 1 and 2

Revelation 5:11-14

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;

Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

May 4, 2025 Commemoration

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 & women across time and space. Throughout its history, the church has sought to lift up Christians who have been unique, exemplary people of faith.

A native of North Africa, Monica (A.D. 333–387) was the devoted mother of Saint Augustine. Throughout her life she sought the spiritual welfare of her children, especially her brilliant son, Augustine. When Augustine left North Africa to go to Italy, she followed him where she had the joy of witnessing her son's conversion to the Christian faith.



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Our Mission

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

Sunday, May 4, 2025

You can **listen to the worship service** over the phone patch at **10:15 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

MAY BLOOD DRIVE CANCELLED: The May Blood Drive has been cancelled. The next blood drive will be July 17.

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH will be celebrating 50 Years of Ordination for the Rev. Parris Beckhardt on June 29th, 2025 at 10:30AM. A luncheon will follow at 11:45AM. Cards will be collected here at the church or can be mailed to Frieden's Office with "Ordination Anniversary" in the bottom left corner. If you are interested in attending the luncheon, see the signup sheet in the Narthex. Nancy Deiter will coordinate the luncheon reservation.

Helping God Restore and Renew our Congregation

As our congregation and council works through this time of transition, we want to update you as to the steps that have been taken to date:

- Council has completed the Council Information Sheet for Interim Pastor and will be discussing with Deacon Marsha Roscoe from Lower Susquehanna Synod this Sunday May 4 at our council meeting.
- Deacon Marianne Brock will be our supply pastor for May 4 and May 11.
- Sunday May 18 we will be having a brief service with a few Hymns, Prayer of the Day, Readings, and Gospel only. We will use the remainder of the service to hold a congregational meeting to discuss next steps from our meeting with Deacon Marsha Roscoe

and to distribute a survey to congregational members. Please plan to attend this very important meeting.

- We will be sharing coverage for May 25th and the month of June on May 18th.

We appreciate your patience as we begin the process of an interim and future pastor. We will keep you informed on a weekly basis as to where we are in the process and the next steps to be taken. Our council is confident that we are on the right path. We must Trust in the Lord as he knows the best plans for our congregation.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Sunday, April 27, 2025, Current Offerings- \$1,974, Plate-\$195, Lent- \$100, Memorial Fund- \$200, Bldg. Rental- \$40, Coffee- \$5. **Total-\$2,514** Attendance- 82 Sunday School- 10.

FLOWER AND BULLETIN SIGNUP SHEETS FOR 2025 are available on the bulletin board in the narthex. Flowers-\$30, Bulletins- \$10

PASTORAL EMERGENCY CONTACT: If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Council President Jen Rosengrant (717-228-8857) and she will work with the pastor on call.

GRADUATION: If you have a student graduating from high school or college and wish to have their future plans posted in the bulletin, please inform Jen M.

CHURCH BREAKFAST: The Church Breakfast will be held on the 2nd Saturday of this month, May 10, at Country Fare Restaurant in Myerstown at 8:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome, no reservations needed. Inform the hostess of the group you are looking for and she will direct you to our table. You can choose to come every month or only on an occasion. Either way, we'd love for you to be part of our group. Nancy Deiter

SWEET SECOND SUNDAY - a big thank you to all who donated baked goods or cash to Charmayne's efforts to provide us with her quality treats. That being said, there will not be a sweet Sunday in May; the next one will be Sunday, June 1. This will be the last one until fall. You can always make special orders with Charmayne at any time. Thanks again to Charmayne for all her efforts. Sweet Second Sunday was started many years ago to support the congregation and we certainly appreciate the efforts.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

Alfred & Barb Beck
153 Deck Rd.
Womelsdorf, PA 19567

PRAYER LIST: If you asked for someone to be put on the prayer list, please tell the church secretary when our prayers have been answered so this list can be kept current. For non-member requests, please contact Jen M. with your requests by noon Wednesday each week.

secretary@millcreeklutheran.com or call: 610-589-2570.

MILLCREEK MEMBERS:

Chub & Peg Auman, Bryan Breidigam, Debbie Hartman, Violet Hepler, Frank Hoffman, Abbie Keath, The Leibig Family, Barbara Potteiger, Brian Ream, Norm Sharp, Stewart Wolf, Aaron Yiengst, Michael Yiengst, Jr., Greer Zellers

NON-MEMBERS: Mike Nelson (friend of Kristin Bender), Jane Yocum, Gary Beatty, (friends of Debbie Hartman), JoAnn Deahl (Brandy Gahres' mother)



LUMINARIA ORDERS can be taken anytime. Check with Deb for details. There are times when they are on sale for \$5 each instead of the normal \$10. Lanterns are also available for \$30.

As always, thanks to all supporting Relay for Life as the American Cancer Society strives to find a cure. **See Debbie Buffington or Debbie Tice for more Relay details.**

Feed My Sheep

The third time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" He said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said, "Feed my sheep. John 21:17 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on John 21:15-19



W Z A D S E L W S A I D R C P
A O P X F E Q J A D N J K I E
E C C S I K B N V E D I E R F
P M U P R S Y Q D A T R U T H
J S G G L O R I F Y A T Z F R
E A N G B K J Z D C R D A E K
E A M X A E A T I N G S C E G
T T H I N G S J E S U S N D U
P E J R H U R T S R I U Q D B
Y E Y J L D N L O N F P R R L
B P T H A S N B A O E I A T E
M T N E X H L A H M H N Y W L
R O D L R E D O F T B X Q P W
V F R D E E P B V G S S N B J
T U I E F P E U T E A R O W R

EATING
SAID
SHEEP

JESUS
PETER
THINGS

TRUTH
HURT
LOVE

CARE
GLORIFY
THIRD

MORE
FEED
LAMBS

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Christ Is Alive! Let Christians Sing

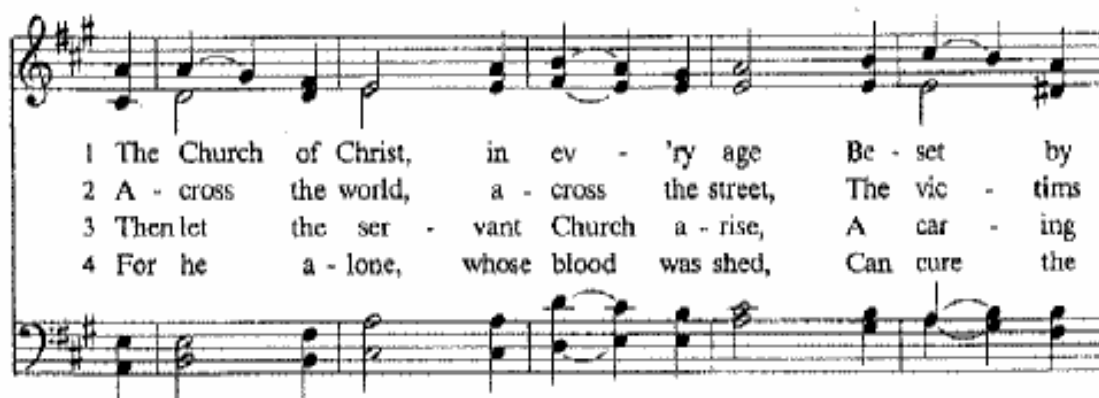
1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. His cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound To dis - tant
 3 Not throned a - far, re - mote - ly high, Un - touched, un -
 4 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, Where col - or,

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, He comes to claim the
 moved by hu - man pains, But dai - ly, in the
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, He suf - fers still, yet

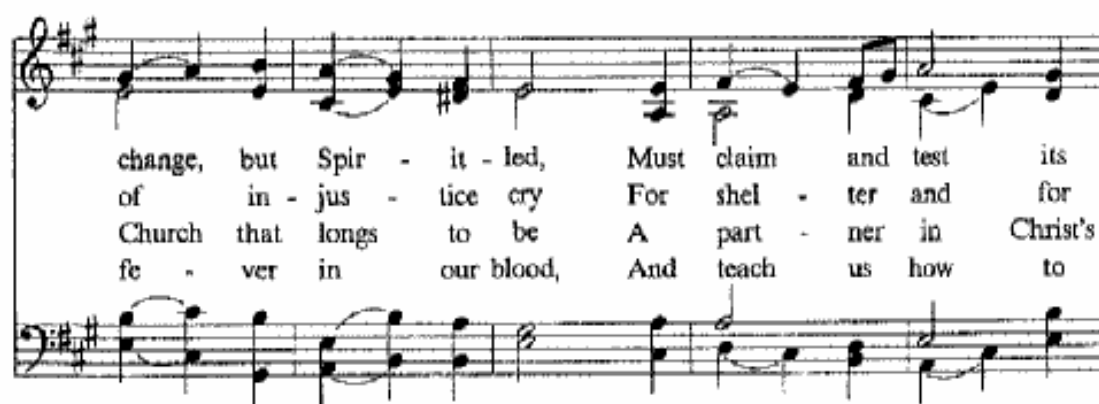
prais - es ring, In death his love shall nev - er die.
 here and now And con - quer ev - 'ry place and time.
 midst of life, Our Sav - ior with the Fa - ther reigns.
 loves the more, And lives, though ev - er cru - ci - fied.

- 5 Christ is alive! Ascended Lord—
 He rules the world his Father made,
 Till, in the end, his love adored
 Shall be to all on earth displayed.

The Church of Christ, in Every Age



1 The Church of Christ, in ev - 'ry age Be - set by
 2 A - cross the world, a - cross the street, The vic - tims
 3 Then let the ser - vant Church a - rise, A car - ing
 4 For he a - lone, whose blood was shed, Can cure the



change, but Spir - it - led, Must claim and test its
 of in - jus - tice cry For shel - ter and for
 Church that longs to be A part - ner in Christ's
 fe - ver in our blood, And teach us how to



her - i - tage And keep on ris - ing from the dead.
 bread to eat, And nev - er live be - fore they die.
 sac - ri - fice, And clothed in Christ's hu - man - i - ty.
 share our bread And feed the starv - ing mul - ti - tude.

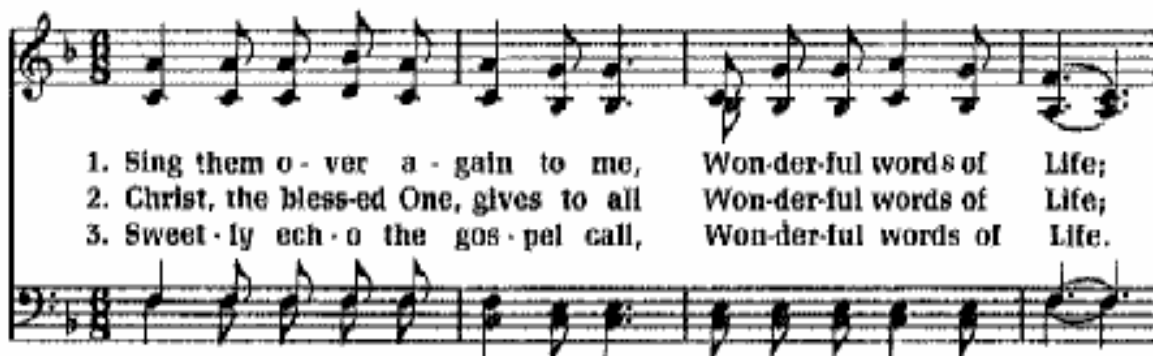
- 5 We have no mission but to serve
 In full obedience to our Lord;
 To care for all, without reserve,
 And spread his liberating Word.

Wonderful Words of Life

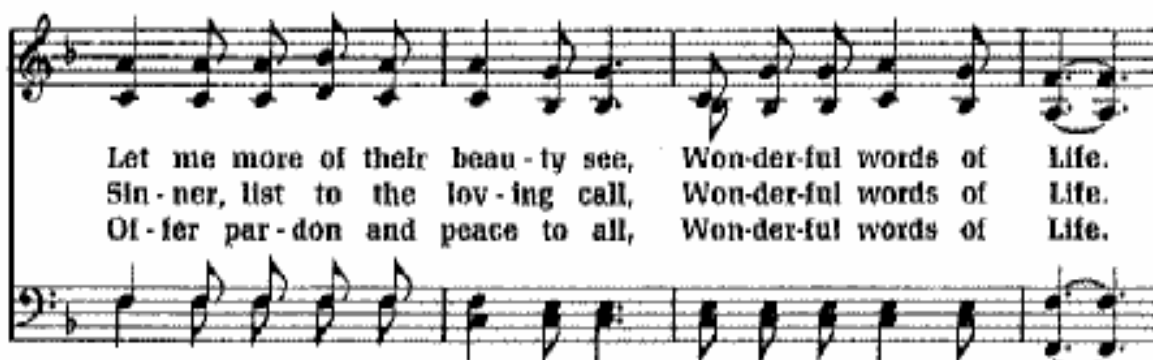
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Philip P. Bliss

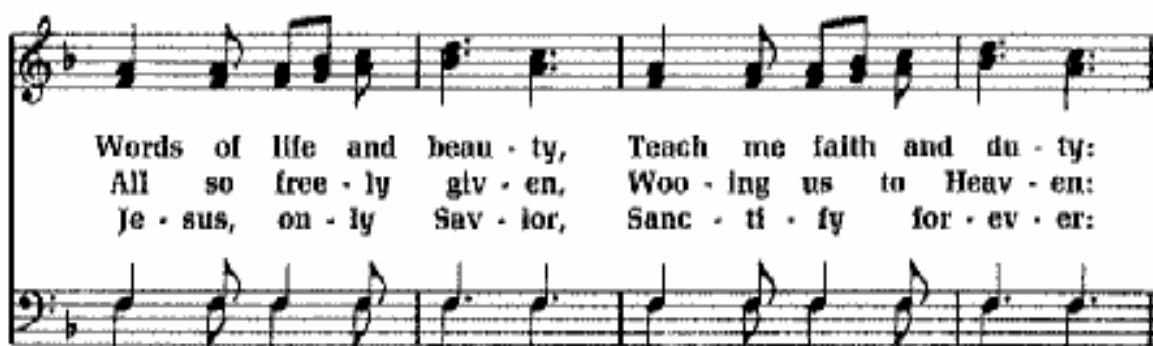
Philip P. Bliss



1. Sing them o - ver a - gain to me, Won - der - ful words of Life;
 2. Christ, the bless - ed One, gives to all Won - der - ful words of Life;
 3. Sweet - ly ech - o the gos - pel call, Won - der - ful words of Life.

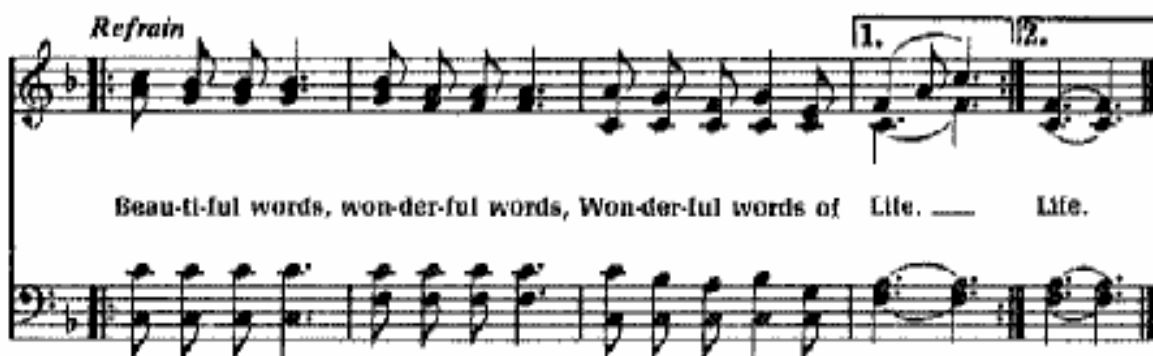


Let me more of their beau - ty see, Won - der - ful words of Life.
 Sin - ner, list to the lov - ing call, Won - der - ful words of Life.
 Of - fer par - don and peace to all, Won - der - ful words of Life.



Words of life and beau - ty, Teach me faith and du - ty:
 All so free - ly giv - en, Woo - ing us to Heav - en:
 Je - sus, on - ly Sav - ior, Sanc - ti - fy for - ev - er:

Refrain



Beau - ti - ful words, won - der - ful words, Won - der - ful words of Life. — Life.