

*My sheep
hear my
voice*

JOHN 10:27

All Your Answers Questioned

Some years ago, a class from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago had T-shirts made with the slogan “LSTC: The place to get all your answers questioned.” What does it mean to advocate questioning at a seminary? Shouldn’t the church train leaders to provide answers? It is a common assumption that we achieve right faith by coming to a correct interpretation of divine things. Indeed, many people of faith are ready and willing to provide that correct interpretation. But faith is more than a set of propositions. It is a relationship of trust with the living Lord.

For his part, Jesus tends to resist easy answers. “How long will you keep us in suspense?” his interrogators ask in today’s gospel reading from John. “If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly” (10:24). But Jesus’ reply is hardly straightforward: “I have told you, and you do not believe, . . . because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me” (10:25-27).

We may crave clarity, but faith is not always clear-cut. It is filled with subtlety, ambiguity, tension. Even as God desires abundant life for us, God also calls us to lay down our lives for each other. The gospel encompasses both suffering and hope, death and new life. The Son of Man comes not to be served but to serve, to shepherd.

These truths are hard to “tell plainly.” That is not to say we should not seek understanding in the life of faith. But faith also means having our answers questioned, allowing God to renew our minds for the sake of our relationship with Christ who claims us for himself. After all, the gift and challenge of discipleship is not to come to indisputable conclusions about God, but to follow our Shepherd on the way.

Millcreek Lutheran Church
Fourth Sunday of Easter
May 11, 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: Everlasting Father: You have revealed yourself in the life of your Son, Jesus, who expressed your love as a perfect Shepherd who protects his sheep. Give us responsive hearts to that love, that we may know his voice and follow him, even into eternity. Grant this for his sake. Amen.

Serving you this morning:

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

The Service

Prelude of Entrance

Announcements

Prelude of Preparation

*Confession & Forgiveness: Page 56

*Opening Hymn: **LBW (green) #128, Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!**

*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
*The Alleluia Verse: Page 62, line 14
*The Gospel
*Responses: Page 63, lines 15 & 16
The Sermon
Hymn of the Day: **NCH (red) #434, Love Lifted Me**
*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) #338, Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**
Moments of Meditation: Congregation seated
Postlude
***Please stand**

The flowers are given in honor & glory of God & in celebration of all mothers.

~ from Rachel



The bulletins are given for a happy 11th birthday to Maddie! Love, Mom, Dad, & Skylar





Today's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Easter

May 11, 2025

Prayer of the Day

O God of peace, you brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great shepherd of the sheep. By the blood of your eternal covenant, make us complete in everything good that we may do your will, and work among us all that is well-pleasing in your sight, through 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 9:36-43

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. ³⁷At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. ³⁸Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, "Please come to us without delay." ³⁹So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and

other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. ⁴⁰Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. ⁴¹He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. ⁴²This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. ⁴³Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Psalm

Psalm 23; tone 10



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

Revelation 7:9-17

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. ¹⁰They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”

¹¹And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, ¹²singing,

“Amen! Blessing and glory and
wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever!
Amen.”

¹³Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed

in white, and where have they come from?” ¹⁴I said to him, “Sir, you are the one that knows.” Then he said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

¹⁵For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night
within his temple,
and the one who is seated on
the throne will shelter them.

¹⁶They will hunger no more, and
thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;

¹⁷for the Lamb at the center of
the throne will be their
shepherd,
and he will guide them to
springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every
tear from their eyes.”

Gospel

John 10:22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, ²³and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. ²⁴So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, “How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.” ²⁵Jesus answered, “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father’s name testify to me; ²⁶but you

do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. ²⁷My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father’s hand. ³⁰The Father and I are one.”



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Church Office
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secretary@millcreeklutheran.com

Our Mission

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

Sunday, May 11, 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.

EVANGELISM: The Evangelism Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 14 at 2:00 p.m. The Evangelism committee would like to remind you that there are many opportunities for you to share the WORD with friends and family members.

SAVE YOUR CHANGE! Make A Joyful Noise for LCCM and Save your Change! On Sunday, May 18 during service change will be collected to support the LCCM ministry!

FRIEDENS LUTHERAN CHURCH will be celebrating 50 Years of Ordination for the Rev. Parris Beckhardt on June 29, 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.

SUMMER CAMP registration is open at Camp Kirchenwald! If your children are interested please see Jen Rosengrant as we have scholarships available to reduce the cost.

213 PANTRY ITEMS: Thanks to all who donated during Lent to the LCCM Sharing Cupboard. The Sharing Cupboard of Myerstown netted 213 items to share with the less fortunate in our ELCO community. – Blessings! Evangelism Committee

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, May 4, 2025, Current Offerings- \$2,883, Plate-\$90, Flowers- \$40, Recycling- \$12.25 **Total-\$3,025.25** 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 yearbook/bulletin, please inform Jen M. by June 1.

SWEET SUNDAY: The most recent Sweet Sunday hit an all-time high of \$ 431.50! Since inception we have received \$ 18,689.75 from this fundraiser. The next Sweet Sunday will be June 1.

Helping God Restore and Renew Our Selves

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

Franklin Bergman
Linden Village
100 Tuck St.
Lebanon, PA 17042

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.**

Guaranteed Forever

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. John 10:28 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on John 10:27-30

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

HAND
STEAL
ETERNAL

LISTEN
LIFE
SHEEP

FOLLOW
GREATER
PERISH

FATHER
VOICE
NEVER

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today; Alleluia! 128



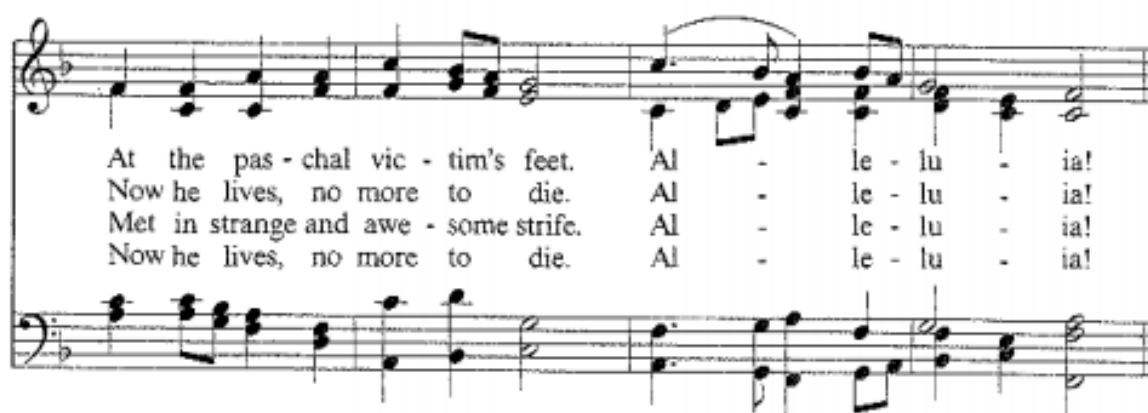
1 Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day; Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 For the sheep the Lamb has bled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Hail, the vic - tim un - de - filed, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Chris-tians, on this ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Chris-tians, has-ten on your way; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - less in the sin - ner's stead. Al - le - lu - ia!
 God and sin-ners rec - on - ciled, Al - le - lu - ia!
 All your grate-ful hom - age pay; Al - le - lu - ia!



Of - fer praise with love re - plete, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!
 When con-tend - ing death and life, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ the Lord is ris'n on high; Al - le - lu - ia!



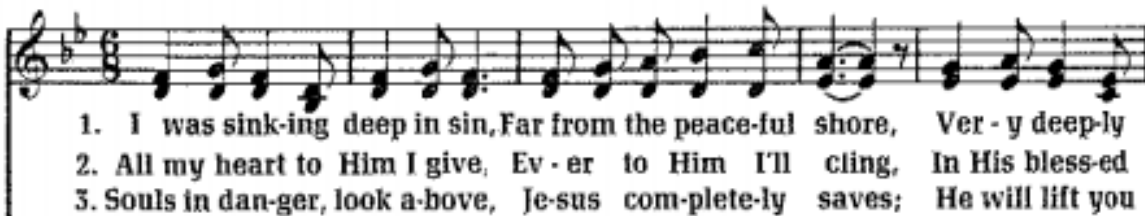
At the pas - chal vic - tim's feet. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Met in strange and awe - some strife. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now he lives, no more to die. Al - le - lu - ia!

Love Lifted Me

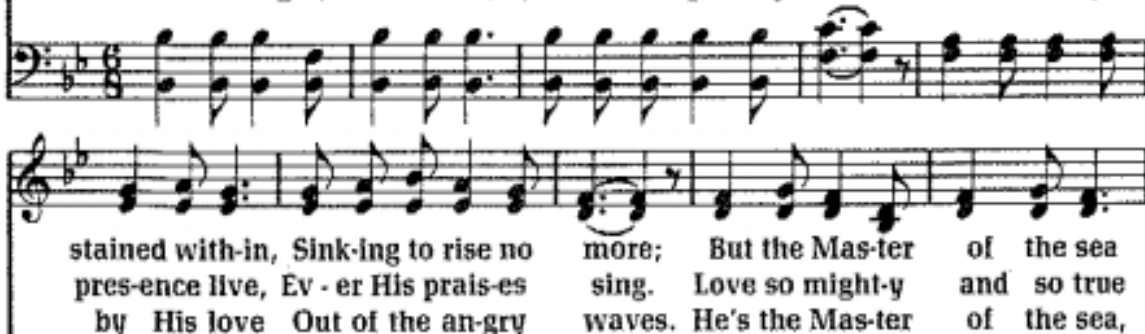
434

James Rowe

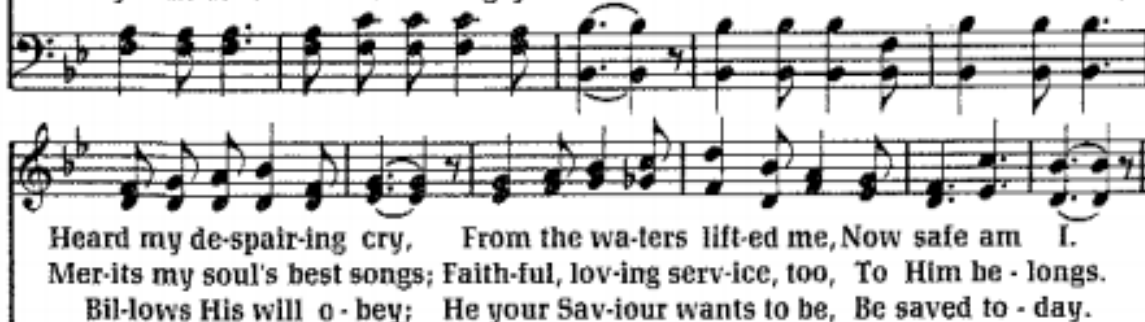
Howard E. Smith



1. I was sink-ing deep in sin, Far from the peace-ful shore, Ver - y deep-ly
 2. All my heart to Him I give, Ev - er to Him I'll cling, In His bless-ed
 3. Souls in dan-ger, look a-bove, Je-sus com-plete-ly saves; He will lift you



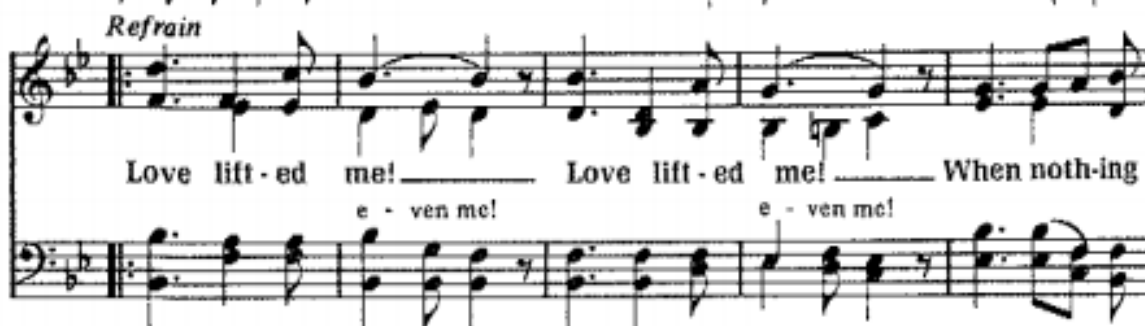
stained with-in, Sink-ing to rise no more; But the Mas-ter of the sea
 pres-ence live, Ev - er His prais-es sing. Love so might-y and so true
 by His love Out of the an-gry waves. He's the Mas-ter of the sea,



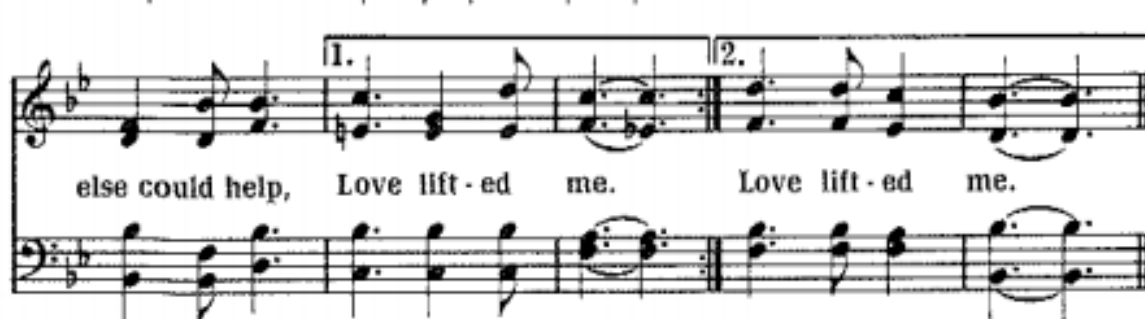
Heard my de-spair-ing cry, From the wa-ters lift-ed me, Now safe am I.
 Mer-its my soul's best songs; Faith-ful, lov-ing serv-ice, too, To Him be - longs.
 Bil-lows His will o - bey; He your Sav-iour wants to be, Be saved to - day.



Refrain



Love lift - ed me! Love lift - ed me! When noth-ing
 e - ven me! e - ven me!

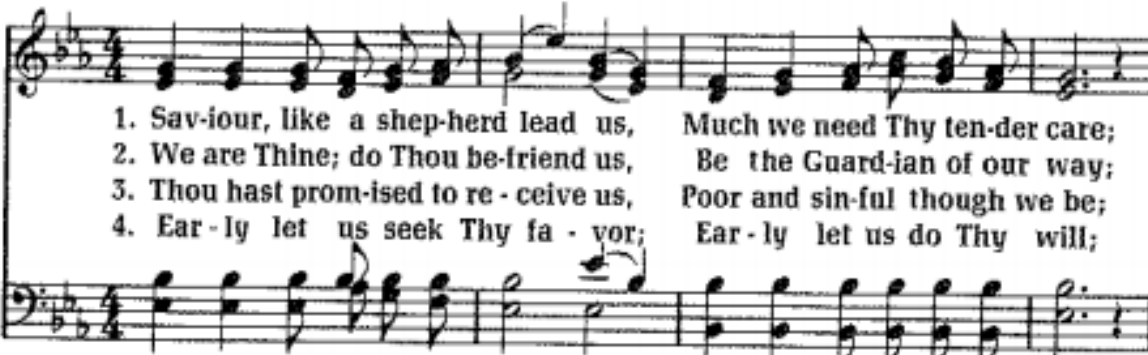


1. else could help, Love lift - ed me. 2. Love lift - ed me.

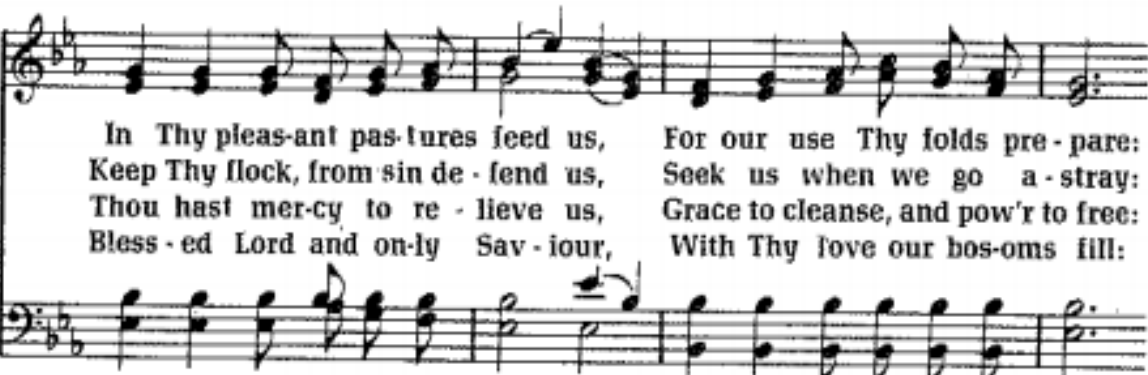
338 Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Dorothy A. Thrupp


Wm. B. Bradbury



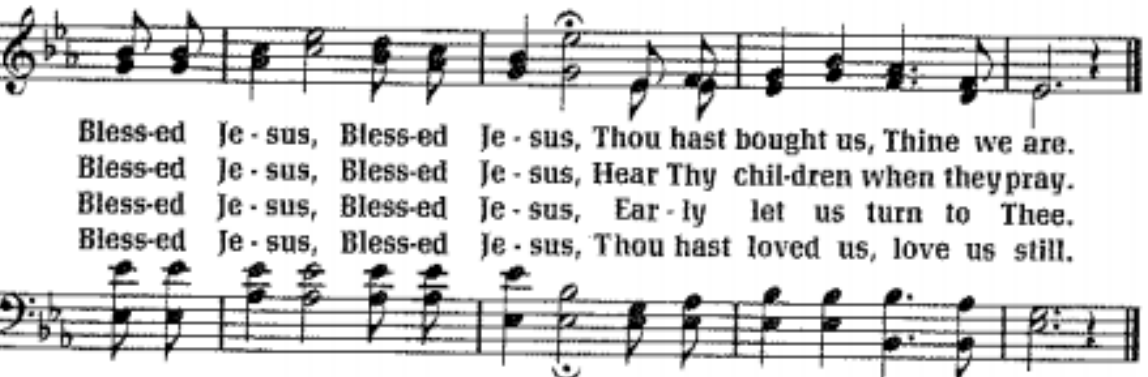
1. Sav-iour, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten-der care;
 2. We are Thine; do Thou be-friend us, Be the Guard-ian of our way;
 3. Thou hast prom-ised to re-ceive us, Poor and sin-ful though we be;
 4. Ear-ly let us seek Thy fa-vor; Ear-ly let us do Thy will;



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 bos-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.