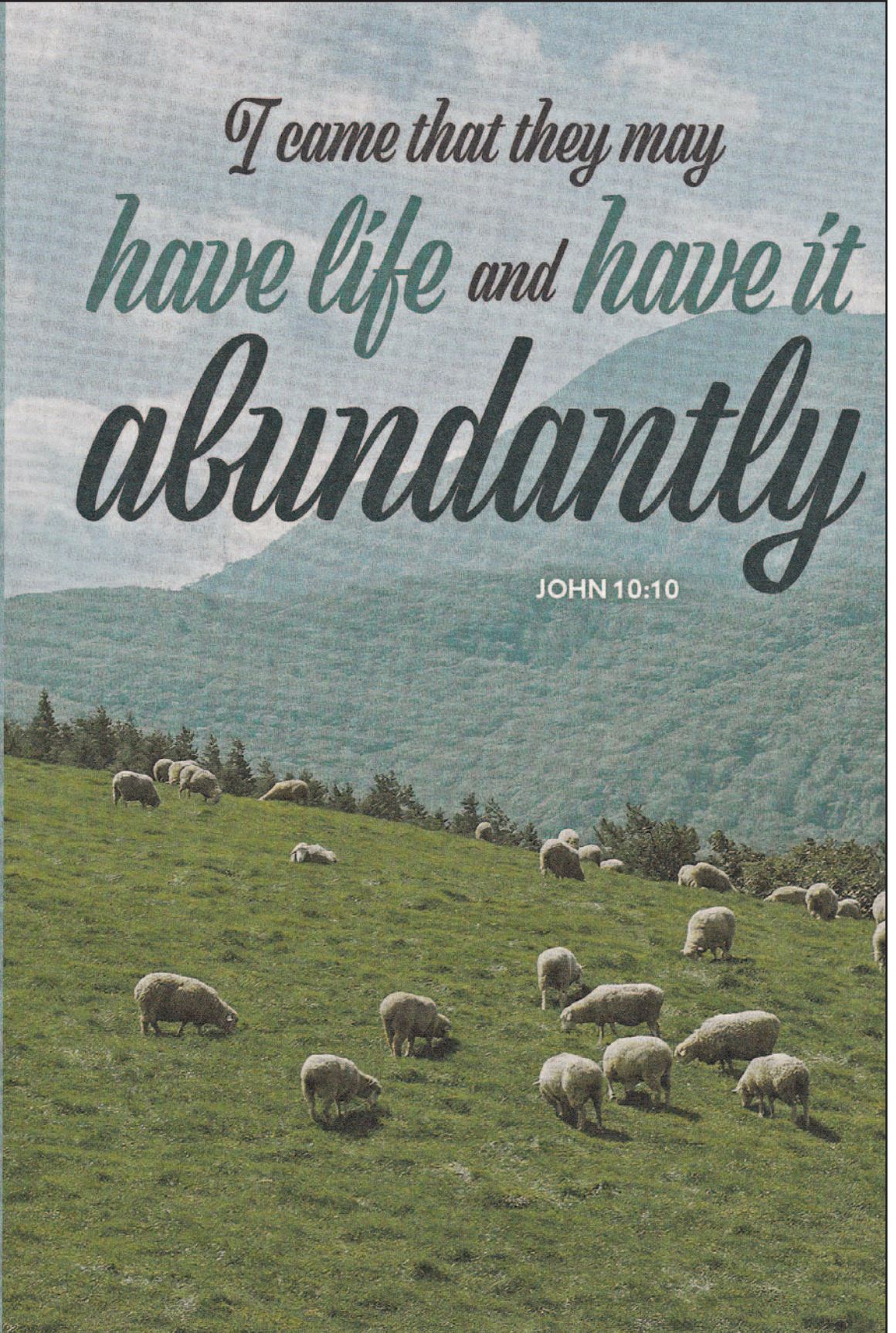


St. John Lutheran Church

*I came that they may  
have life and have it  
abundantly*

JOHN 10:10



Cover: Sheep grazing, Northern Territory, Australia by khalid ghawas/500px. Copyright © Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

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# ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER • APRIL 26, 2026

## Reverent Reflection

## Prelude

## Welcome

## Church Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

- P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. O God, powerful and compassionate, you shepherd your people, faithfully feeding and protecting us. Heal each of us, and make us a whole people, that we may embody the justice and peace of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C. **Amen.**
- P. Most merciful God,
- C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us and for his sake God forgives us all our sin. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C. **Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn:** Shepherd Me O God (#780)

## Apostolic Greeting

- P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C. **And also with you.**

## Kyrie p. 147

- P. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- P. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- P. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

### **Canticle p. 149**

- P. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
- C. **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. Power and riches and wisdom and strength, and honor and blessing and glory are his. This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.**  
**Sing with all the people of God and join in the hymn of all creation:**  
**Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.**  
**This is the feast of victory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.**  
**Alleluia. Alleluia.**
- P. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray:

*O God our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

### **Word**

#### **First Reading: Acts 2:42-47**

<sup>42</sup> [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

<sup>43</sup> Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All who believed were together and had all things in common; <sup>45</sup> they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. <sup>46</sup> Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 23**

**Response: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want."**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup> **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.** R

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

<sup>6</sup> **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.** R

## **Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:19-25**

<sup>19</sup> It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth."

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel Acclamation p. 151**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

## **Gospel: John 10:1-10**

The holy gospel according to St. John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] <sup>1</sup> "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. <sup>2</sup> The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup> The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup> When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup> They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." <sup>6</sup> Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

<sup>7</sup> So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup> All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. <sup>9</sup> I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. <sup>10</sup> The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## **Children's Sermon**

## **Anthem**

## **Installation of Council Members**

## **Apostles' Creed**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth, I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

## Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*A brief silence.*

Shepherding God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (especially). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**

## Sharing of the Peace

### Offering

### Great Thanksgiving p. 152

P. The Lord be with you.

C. **And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

C. **We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Preface p. 153**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Words of Institution**

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. p. 153**

## **Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## **Communion p. 154**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.**

## **Distribution of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymns:** Amazing Grace (#779)  
Savior Like A Shepherd Lead Us (#780x0)  
Let Us Break Bread Together (#471)

## **Prayer after Communion**

### **Blessing**

**Sending Hymn:** What A Fellowship (#774)

### **Dismissal**

### **Postlude**

**ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Dedicated in Honor of Pastor Tammy's Birthday by her Mother.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am	Sunday Morning Worship Service
	10:30 am	Band Rehearsal
	10:45 am	Sunday School/CIA
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Ongoing		Shelf Stable Milk Collection Diaper Collection for Pantry, Holy Communion, Berlin
Tuesday, May 5th	7:00 pm	Bible Study in the Parish House
Saturday, May 9th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Building
Monday, May 11th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House
Wednesday, May 13th	2:00 pm	Afternoon Tea in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, May 16th	2:00 pm	Edelman Planetarium at Rowan University (Tentative)
Sunday, May 17th	11:00 am	Summer Sundays begins (casual youth activities)
Wednesday, May 20th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Saturday, May 23rd	8:00 am	Yard Sale (Parish Grounds)
Sunday, May 31st	2:00 pm	Faith250 Workshop (Location TBD)

*Please note: All activities, dates and times are subject to change.*

## PRAYER LIST

*Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:*

Jen Bailey	Tracey Drew	Ed Kagen	Renate Murray	Bill Steel
Krystal Booras	Indie Fisher	Tracey Kelly	Erica Polito	Carol Taylor
Michael Botti	Stephanie Friant	Carl Knopp	Samantha Reed	Henry Tesone
Brian Byrnes	Rhea Fryor	Deb Kuhn	Kimberly Rickert	Bill Todt
Meadow Cantoral	Ashley Fuhrman	Donna Leek	Ashley Rosser	George Vaneman, Sr.
Randy Cantoral	Bob Garner	Bob Lindamood	Dorcas Schellhas	George Van Wagner
Janet Cappuccio	Angela Guedes	Tim McCarthy	Jean Schlotz	Beverly Warming
Joe Condoli	Stan Harmer	Joanne McVelli	Finn Schureman	Mary White
Sandra DeRitis	Michelle Walk Hewitt	Melanie Miles	Gladys Sheppard	Helen Yezusko
Helen Dominic	Valerie Hoffmann	Kent Montford	Meilani Showell	Bob Zielsdorf
Frank Donovan	Makenzie Jack	Sue Murphy	Frank Siderio III	
Marie Lentine Douglas	Quincy Jones	Bill Murray	Eric Sprengel	

*Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.*

## ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please leave payment in the Church Office.

## WORSHIP BULLETIN DEDICATION

The cost (\$23) of the Weekly Worship Bulletin to fully cover the cost of paper and printing is donated by Henry and Marie Fickenschner in memory of their loved ones.

This Worship Bulletin is printed on paper that is made with renewable resources from third-party certified, sustainably managed forests.

Please place any Worship Bulletins to be discarded in the recycle bin in the narthex.

## ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

**1002 S. Main Street Williamstown, NJ 08094**

**Pastor: The Rev. Tammy Harmer**

**Phone Number: 1-856-875-8742 • Email: [stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com](mailto:stjohnslutheran1002@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [www.stjohnselc1002.org](http://www.stjohnselc1002.org)**

## BIBLE STUDY!

TUESDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>  
AT 7:00 PM IN  
THE PARISH HOUSE  
PLEASE JOIN US!



## COMMUNITY LUNCHEON

Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>  
11:30 in the Ed. Building  
All are welcome!



Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm in the Parish House

## CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

*Afternoon Tea*  
*in the Parish Tea Room*  
Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 pm



## GRIEF GATHERING

Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm in the Parish House Tea Room  
All Are Welcome!



SATURDAY, MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> • 8AM TO 2 PM RAIN DATE: MAY 30<sup>TH</sup>

## YARD SALE

To donate treasures for the Church Table contact Stephanie (856-912-9875) by May 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
For spaces contact Gail (609-313-0800).

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH • 1002 S. MAIN ST. • WILLIAMSTOWN, NJ

*Refrain*  
All

Shep-herd me, O God, be-yond my wants, be-yond my fears, from

death in - to life. life.

Leader or All

1 God is my shep-herd, so noth-ing shall I want, I  
2 Gent - ly you raise me and heal my wea - ry soul, you  
3 Though I should wan - der the val - ley of death, I

rest in the mead-ows of faith - ful - ness and love, I  
lead me by path-ways of righ - teous-ness and truth, my  
fear no e - vil, for you are at my side, your

*Refrain*

walk by the qui - et wa - ters of peace.  
spir - it shall sing the mu - sic of your name.  
rod and your staff, my com - fort and my hope.

Leader or All

4 You have set me a ban-quet of love in the face of

*Refrain*

ha-tred, crown-ing me with love be-yond my pow'r to hold.

Leader or All

5 Sure-ly your kind-ness and mer-cy fol-low me all the days of my life;



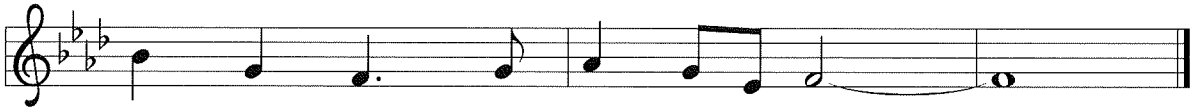
I will dwell in the house of my God for-ev - er - more.

*Final refrain*

All



Shep-herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be -



yond my fears, from death in - to life.

# faith250

## Sacred Bonds, Shared Hopes

**Crosskeys United Methodist Church**  
**1644 N. Main Street • Williamstown, NJ**  
**Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup> • 2:00 PM**

### Session #4 of 4

**faith250** is 4 workshops hosted and facilitated by different clergy members of the ministerium. It is an American Scripture Project focused on "The Spiritual Side of American Democracy" using sacred, traditional Scripture along side American texts (i.e., The New Colossus, The Declaration of Independence, What to the Slave is the Fourth of July, and America the Beautiful).



**We are accepting donations of**  
**Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.**  
**Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.**

## Holy Communion Lutheran Church of Berlin Baby Pantry need:



**BABY DIAPERS**  
**(especially larger sizes)**

**Collection is in the Narthex.**

## SAVE TIME . . . no need for checks or envelopes

ELCA-Endorsed Tithely giving platform enables you to tithe online or using the app.

- From your checking account or using your debit/credit card
- One-time donation or set up for recurring giving
- Designate specific ministry for your donation
- Scan the QR code to get started
- For assistance or questions, contact Tom Schofield or Henry Fickenscher



# Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

# Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us

789



1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.  
2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;  
3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;  
4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.  
keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.  
you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.  
bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.



# Let Us Break Bread Together

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

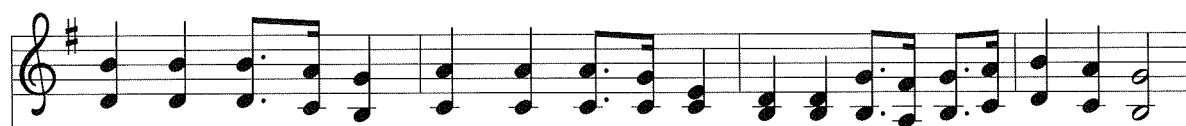
# What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine

774

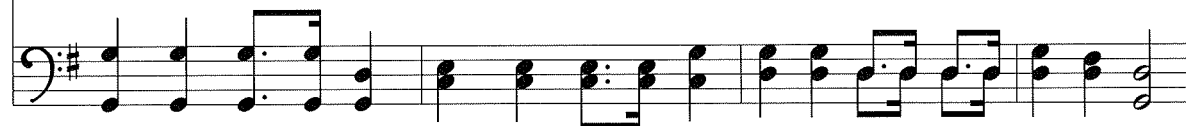
*Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*



- 1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
- 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.  
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



*Refrain*



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,