

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

# 369 Blessing and Honor

1 Bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and power,  
2 Let all the heav - ens sound forth Je - sus' name;  
3 Ev - er as - cend - ing the song and the joy,  
4 Give we the glo - ry and praise to the Lamb;

wis - dom and rich - es and strength ev - er - more,  
let all the earth sing his glo - ry and fame.  
ev - er de - scend - ing the love from on high;  
take we the robe and the harp and the palm;

be to the Lamb who our bat - tle has won,  
O - cean and moun - tain, stream, for - est, and flower  
bless - ing and hon - or and glo - ry and praise:  
sing we the song of the Lamb that was slain,

whose are the king - dom, the crown, and the throne.  
ech - o these prais - es and tell of God's power.  
this is the theme of the hymns that we raise.  
dy - ing in weak - ness but ris - ing to reign.

Fittingly titled "The Song of the Lamb" by its author, this hymn is a paraphrase and expansion of Revelation 5:12. It is set here to a resonant French tune of a kind that flourished in the transition from the older chant style to the harmonies and rhythms of modern hymns.

# My Shepherd Will Supply My Need 803

(Psalm 23)

1 My shep-herd will sup-ply my need; Je-ho-vah is his 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 he makes me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.  
 one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.  
 O may your house be my a-bode, and all my work be praise.

He brings my wan-dering spir-it back when I for-sake his ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;  
 There would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;

and leads me, for his 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.

The effectiveness of this beloved paraphrase of Psalm 23 owes much to the flowing shape note melody that serves as a "living stream" to carry the text, which in turn has been given a remarkable clarity and lightness through the poet's masterful use of single-syllable words.

## 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 \*Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

\*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22–23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

## **John 10:1-11**

“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. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

## **2 Samuel 5:1-4, 12**

Then all the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron, and said, “Look, we are your bone and flesh. For some time, while Saul was king over us, it was you who led out Israel and brought it in. The Lord said to you: It is you who shall be shepherd of my people Israel, you who shall be ruler over Israel.” So all the elders of Israel came to the king at Hebron; and King David made a covenant with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. David then perceived that the Lord had established him king over Israel, and that he had exalted his kingdom for the sake of his people Israel.