Healing Leaves of Grace
A THOMAS PAULECHKO HYMNARY

FOREWORD BY JOHN THORNBURG

AUGSBURG FORTRESS
HEALING LEAVES OF GRACE
A Thomas Pavlechko Hymnary
Thomas Pavlechko

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Dedicated to
all my musician friends, family, and music supporters in Youngstown, Canfield, Cincinnati, Akron, Petersburg, Memphis and Austin with whom I have ministered in all these cities represented in this collection. Your inspiration and encouragement have been valuable fuel for my work.
Thank you all!
INTRODUCTION

*Healing Leaves of Grace* represents a wide range of composing for me. After my first two collections premiered in 2002 and 2004, I found myself quite busy with presentations, commissions, and new avenues of composition, including orchestral music, concert band arrangements, and symphonic pops. Even recording as an organist for film soundtracks became an unexpected part of my work. Granted, hymn tunes were also being composed throughout this time, but not intentionally collected.

It was not until a summer sabbatical in 2015 that I was able to sit down and compile the hymns that had been composed since the last collection. I also found several of my sketches of tunes, incomplete, from way back in the twentieth century. Thus, this collection contains a vast array of composing styles influenced both by the texts and by the people in the churches I was serving as early as the 1980s. It had also become a tradition for me to honor those singers in the choirs who retired into “emeritus” status with a new hymn tune, as well as recognizing clergy and friends whose ministries outside of music were profoundly moving to me.

I thank all those who were an inspiration, and give thanks to the Holy Spirit for guiding my creativity.

I also wish to acknowledge and thank:

My friend, colleague, and co-writer, the Rev. John Thornburg, for agreeing to write the foreword to this collection. John, I am deeply honored.

The clergy, choirs and congregations of Calvary Episcopal Church, Memphis, Tennessee, and St. Martin’s Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas, for their encouragement and willingness to test these tunes.

Sumner Jenkins and Steve Wager, who typeset several of these hymns early on so that the choirs and congregations could test them.

Lynda Gayle Deacon, Leanne Kleinmann, and Arlene Pavlechko, who provided their literary expertise.

The proofreaders: Lynda Gayle Deacon, Robert Friedrich, Calvary Choir, Memphis; St. Martin’s Choir, Austin.

The writers of these hymn texts, without whom there would be no music.

Thomas Pavlechko
2005–2019
Thomas Pavlechko’s hymns and musical compositions have been premiered and sung at national and regional conferences of the American Guild of Organists, the Association of Anglican Musicians, the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians, and The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, which presented him as its 2002 Emerging Hymn Tune Composer.

Pavlechko’s compositions can be found with Augsburg Fortress, Church Publishing, Covenant Publications, G.I.A., Hope Publishing, St. James Music Press, and Selah Publishing, which published his first two hymn collections, *Radiant City* and *Wellspring*. Hymns and service music are included in the hymnals and hymnal supplements of the Community of Christ, the Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Evangelical Covenant Church, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Roman Catholic Church, the Protestant Churches in China, and the Ecumenical Churches of Australia. Over twenty published hymn collections also contain his hymn tunes. In 2018, his biography was included in the Canterbury Dictionary of Hymnology, a reference resource for scholars of global hymnody.

In addition to his work with Catholic, Episcopal, and Lutheran churches in Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia, Pavlechko has served as Chapel Musician and Adjunct Faculty for the Lutheran Seminary Program in the Southwest, Austin, Texas, and Adjunct Professor of Music at William and Mary’s Richard Bland College, Prince William, Virginia. He also held a seat on the liturgical music editorial team for *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, the worship book of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. And, with Carl Daw, he co-wrote *Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary*, the three-volume worship planning guide for the Episcopal Church.

Pavlechko is an honors graduate of the Dana School of Music at Youngstown State University where he studied counterpoint with Mark Walker. He received the Master of Music from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati where he studied composition and counterpoint with Allen Sapp. Post-graduate study in symphonic and concert band orchestration has been with Donald Grantham at the University of Texas at Austin and Randol Alan Bass.
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FOREWORD

The collaboration of a hymn poet and a tune composer might be likened to the partners in a trapeze act. There is a lot at stake. Both the flyer and the catcher have precise movements which each must execute so that their hands entwine securely. Inches matter. They must place full and complete trust in each other.

I have full and complete trust that when I send a text to Thom Pavlechko, his musical artistry will give my words flight. Notes matter, intervals matter, sequence matters and Thom is as disciplined as he is creative in weaving them together.

We met when we were both learning our craft. At once I saw the curiosity, the playfulness and the joy that are necessary to becoming good at something. We were in a group of about two dozen aspiring poets and composers, and his energy and dedication to the craft stood out.

Since that time, our paths have crossed many times as we have collaborated on hymns, on leading song in worship, and on fashioning hymn festivals. Friendship over time is a rich gift in and of itself, but artistic collaboration over time is even richer. We have seen each other’s work grow and flex to fit new ministry contexts and new moments in American religious culture. I could not be more grateful that our paths have crossed.

This collection has the variety, the nuance, and the passion that are hallmarks of Thom’s work. I thank God for giving Thom such a unique set of gifts.

John Thornburg, FHS
1 A child, most eager to belong, observed an elder lost in song. She asked a timeless thing: “Please tell me we’re alive, not dead; to feel that God is near, to free us of the truths that last. And now, the most profound, God’s love is cause our hearts to grow. In truth, we cannot say, and so, with beat, renew our praise so singing in this place reflects your
Be at peace, my child despairing, you are not of this world; your life will find its place among the stars. Share your life with grace for-bear-ing, no wound too deep to heal; your precious life my hope, as I am yours. Share your life with grace for-bear-ing, no wound too deep to heal; your precious life my hope, as I am yours. My strength abides within, for I am there. That bathe each night with hope, and I am there. Re-turn-ing on-ly love, for I am there. My strength abides within, for I am there.
IN OUR NATION’S INFANCY

1 In our nation’s infancy the church was planted here; church was planted here;
2 May the memories we recall of a seed fed with the ties are bound secure.
3 Friends and family all are we, the For giving, healing,
4 Lead us forth in confidence! What need we now to fear? Be yond the span of

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Music: Thomas Pavlechko
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MIDLOTHIAN
Irregular
YOU ARE THE WAY

1 You are the way, to you alone
2 You are the truth, your word alone
3 You are the life, the rending tomb
4 You are the way, the truth, the life;

grant us that way, that way to know,

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grant us that way to know,
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