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Preface

I am not a poet, though I love to craft sermons, hymn texts, melodies, and compositions based on sacred texts. I am a student of theology, a planner of worship, a musical craftsman. When Martin Luther returned to Wittenberg from the Wartburg Castle to restore order, he entered into a period of liturgical and musical reform and, with Johann Walter's assistance, composed "spiritual songs" to be sung within his Latin and German masses. Luther's hymnody was born out of necessity and reveals a strong theological foundation, an esteem for the historic liturgy, and a pastoral understanding of the importance of congregational song for faith and worship. I view this collection of texts and tunes to be patterned after Luther's work. It spans a career as a seminarian and pastor, an educator and church musician, a composer and conductor. My hymns were born out of life experiences and theological reflection. Each hymn in this collection resulted from an occasion—a worship event, a confirmation class, sermon preparation, a university chapel service, a baptism, a church anniversary. These "spiritual songs" were composed as a witness to the faith we share; at the same time, they disclose particular facets of my own life.

I remember sitting in church with my mother and hearing her brash, nasal tone sound out the hymns while she moved her finger along the words and notes to help me participate in the service. I wrote my first hymn text before I entered high school, when my home church in Baltimore invited members to compose an anniversary hymn. I chose KREMSER as the tune but struggled with the words—so much so that I never submitted the text. When my home congregation celebrated its one hundredth anniversary in 2015, I revisited that youthful verse and began to revise it but then decided to compose a new text and tune for the occasion. Before the hymn was completed, however, riots and fire had erupted in the city, causing me to amend and amplify the text. For the anniversary service, I was invited to conduct a festival choir in an expanded hymn setting, not knowing that only a few days later, my nephew, who had been so moved by the occasion, would suffer a tragic death. Hymns reach deep into the experience of our lives and give us hope in the living God, especially when devastating communal and personal tragedies occur.

I am fortunate to have had the combined creative experience of poet, composer, worship leader, and conductor in bringing these hymns to life. They are not rare gems of poetry or music, but they are faithfully conceived and composed "through faith for faith" (Romans 1:17). I present them to you to enliven and deepen the church's faith and worship, and to affirm that the Holy Spirit is still

creating. If one hymn inspires the faith of one believer or enlivens one moment in one service for those assembled, then a lifetime of prayerful creativity will have been worth it.

This collection encompasses my work from 1971–1996 in seminary, graduate study, and parish ministry; and from 1996–2022 during my days of university teaching and supply preaching. A Chronological Index is provided in the Appendix to trace the order in which these hymns were written or composed. Several hymns have multiple tunes for the same text, and in a few instances (i.e. 65, 16, and 91) a more recently composed tune is included with an earlier text and tune. A Topical Index is provided in the Appendix to facilitate finding hymns for the church year and for particular themes.

I am not opposed to the improvement of my texts to strengthen their theological accuracy or to reflect contemporary language usage, though I do consider my tunes and harmonies to be well conceived. I welcome the wedding of my tunes to other texts for assembly worship. I have arranged many of these hymns in expanded settings, which may be used to introduce them to congregations. These settings are found in the Appendix and are available from various publishers or by contacting me through my website: <https://pauldweber.com>. A complete index of my works may be found there and on the website of the Center for Church Music at Concordia University Chicago.

“Lord, increase our faith,” the disciples begged. As we live with the effects of the debilitating coronavirus and gather once more to sing praises to God, may the Lord increase our faith through “spiritual songs” such as these musical offerings. I dedicate these hymns to the glory of God for use in public worship and private devotion, so that faith in the crucified and risen Lord may abound through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Soli Deo Gloria!

June 2022
Staunton, Virginia

1 A wom - an and a coin— the coin is lost! How
 2 A shep - herd and a sheep— the sheep is lost! Far
 3 A par - ent and a child— the child is lost! The
 4 Dear God, you sought us when the world was lost, you

much it means to her, what time and toil, what
 from the flock, the one in hun - dred cries, then—
 par - ent feeds on mem - or - ies and hope, the
 gave your on - ly Son at what a cost; your

part it was to play in her bright dreams! Am
 risk - ing life— the shep - herd's voice and staff! Am
 prod - i - gal on husks and one last chance. Am
 Spir - it wel - comes home the tem - pest - tossed: Now

Refrain

A - bide in me as I a-bide in you, a -

Last time to Coda ♩ ¹⁻³

bide in me as I a-bide in you.

1 I am the vine, you are the branch-es; those who a -
 2 A - part from me, you can do noth - ing, keep my com -
 3 As I love you, love one an - oth - er; my joy in

Born for Resurrection

5

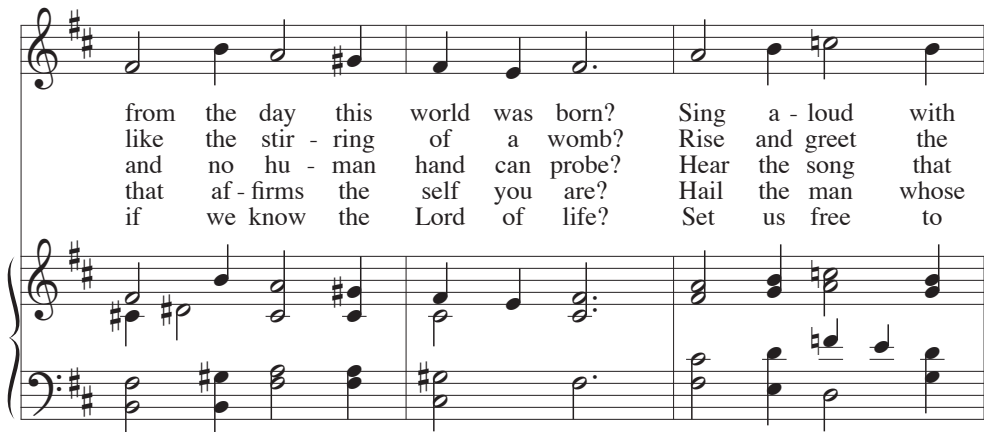
Did You Hear a Song This Morning



1 Did you hear a song this morn - ing burst - ing through the
2 Did you hear a sound this morn - ing break - ing through a
3 Does the pain that tears your dark - ness mock you like the
4 Has the sub - tle doubt of Thom - as bound your mind with
5 Did you hear the news this morn - ing break - ing through our



si - lent dawn? Did you feel an an - cient rhy - thm
si - lent tomb? Did you feel an awe - some trem - or
plight of Job? Does it reach where death is laugh - ing
chain and bar? Have you lost the deep as - sur - ance
pet - ty strife? Do you feel our par - ents won - der



from the day this world was born? Sing a - loud with
like the stir - ring of a womb? Rise and greet the
and no hu - man hand can probe? Hear the song that
that af - firms the self you are? Hail the man whose
if we know the Lord of life? Set us free to

Text: Norman Habel

Music: Paul D. Weber

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BORN FOR RESURRECTION

8 7 8 7 7 8 8

1 God's on - ly Son, the Word a - lone, true source of rev - e -
 2 By grace a - lone Christ took on flesh to die for our sal -
 3 By faith a - lone the righ - teous live in ev - 'ry gen - er -
 4 So let this hymn of u - ni - ty in joy - ous cel - e -
 5 O God, trans-form us in this time of loss and res - ig -

la - tion, un - veils the gra - cious will of God for
 va - tion, and through the cross and emp - ty grave brings
 a - tion. Dis - pel - ling gloom, re - viv - ing hope, they
 bra - tion in - spire . . . deeds of har - mo - ny and
 na - tion to be your church, a - live and bold in

us and all cre - a - tion. The Scrip - tures make the
 forth a ref - or - ma - tion. For we are bap - tized,
 join in ac - cla - ma - tion: to God, who gave an
 rec - on - cil - i - a - tion, for ven - geance, ha - tred,
 joy - ful proc - la - ma - tion. Your Word a - lone, your

Holy Emmanuel, God with Us Ever

Tune 1

26

1 Ho - ly Em - man - u - el, God with us ev - er,
 2 Ho - ly Em - man - u - el, child of the Most High,
 3 Ho - ly Em - man - u - el, keep us to - geth - er.
 4 Ho - ly Em - man - u - el, hope for to - mor - row:

prom - ised from long a - go, the One True Light:
 Word, full of grace and truth, in flesh and blood:
 U - nite our lives through prayer, love nev - er ends.
 bright - en the path we walk to end - less day.

come, fill us with your grace, scat - ter the dark - ness,
 may we per - ceive your light a - midst the dark - ness,
 Com - fort and fill our hearts with your strong pres - ence,
 Un - til you come a - gain we trust your prom - ise,

How Lovely Is the One Who Brings

1 How love - ly is the one who brings glad tid - ings of good
 2 How mar - vel - ous was Mar - y's faith in God's sur - pris - ing
 3 How won - der - ful the joy - ous news of an - gels in the

cheer, an - nounc - ing peace, God's sav - ing grace, for
 call: in - spired by grace we help the poor and
 sky: "Peace on the earth, good - will to all" for

all the world to hear. Lift up your voice and
 share God's love with all; for Mar - y's child was
 whom Christ came to die. From shep - herd fields near

sing for joy! Re - demp - tion's dawn is near! The
 sent by God to die up - on a cross. Em -
 Beth - le - hem, sound forth the cos - mic cry: "All

Light's Glittering Morn

40

1 Light's glit - t'ring morn be - decks the sky,
 2 While he the King of glo - rious might
 3 Hell's pains are loosed, and tears are fled;
 4 We pray thee, King with glo - ry decked,

heav'n thun - ders forth its vic - tor cry;
 treads down death's strength in death's de - spite,
 cap - tiv - i - ty is cap - tive led;
 in this our pas - chal joy, pro - tect

the glad earth shouts its tri - umph high,
 and tram - pling hell by vic - tor's right,
 the an - gel, crowned with light, has said,
 from all that death would fain af - fect

and groan - ing hell makes wild re - ply.
 brings forth his sleep - ing saints to light.
 "The Lord is ris - en from the dead."
 thy ran - somed flock, thine own e - lect.