

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.