

Genesis 32:22-31

Jacob Wrestles With God

²² That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. ²³ After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. ²⁴ So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. ²⁵ When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. ²⁶ Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. ²⁸ Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel,^[a] because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." ²⁹ Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there.³⁰ So Jacob called the place Peniel,^[b] saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared." ³¹ The sun rose above him as he passed Peniel,^[c] and he was limping because of his hip.

Romans 9:1-5

Paul's Anguish Over Israel

¹ I speak the truth in Christ—I am not lying, my conscience confirms it through the Holy Spirit—
² I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart.
³ For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people, those of my own race,
⁴ the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption to sonship; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises.
⁵ Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of the Messiah, who is God over all, forever praised!
^[a] Amen.

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand

¹³ When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

¹⁵ As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."

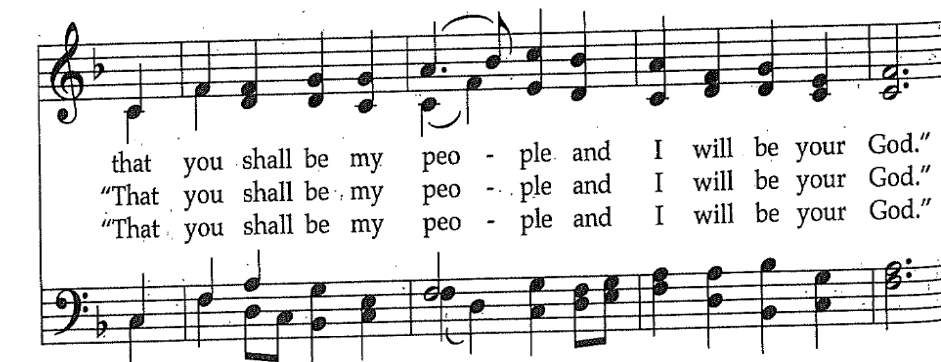
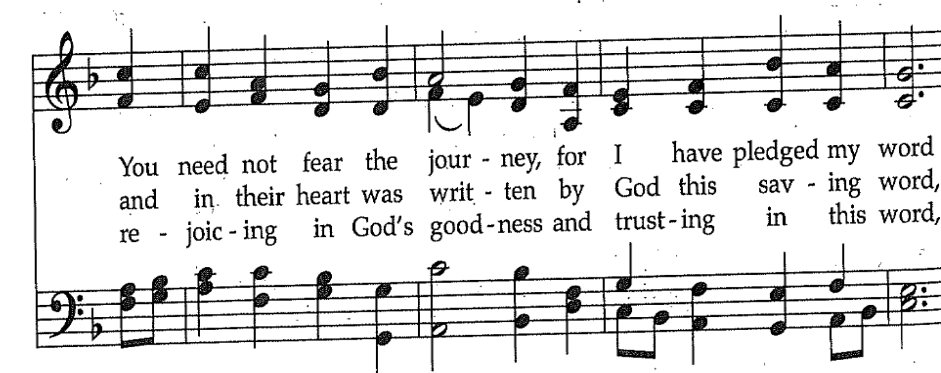
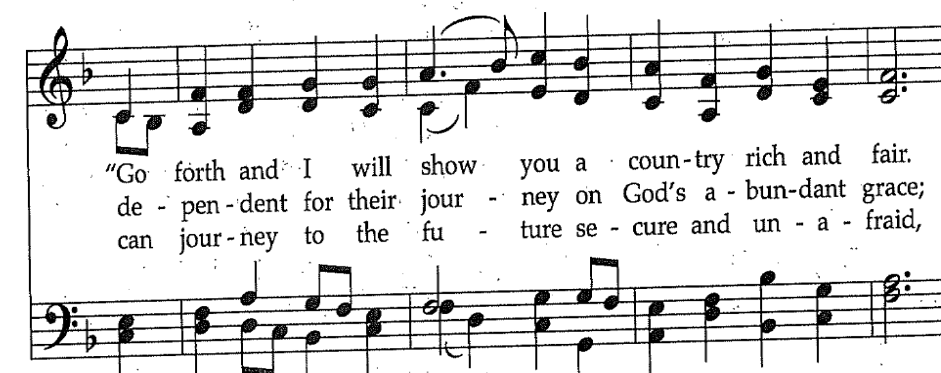
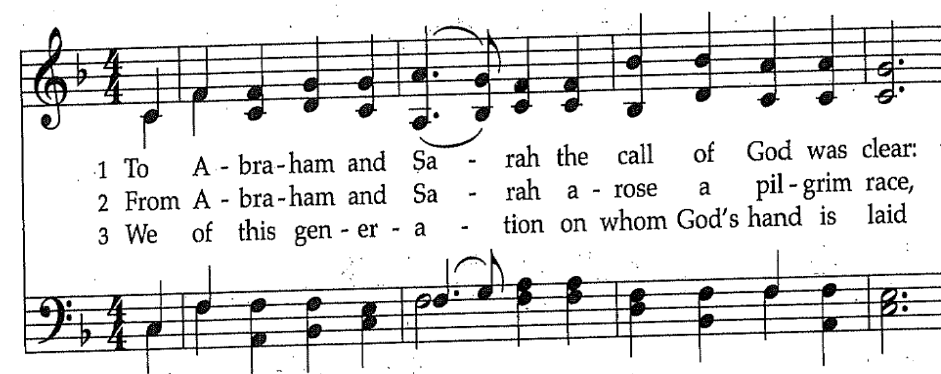
¹⁶ Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."

¹⁷ "We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.

¹⁸ "Bring them here to me," he said. ¹⁹ And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. ²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. ²¹ The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

To Abraham and Sarah

I Will Be Your God

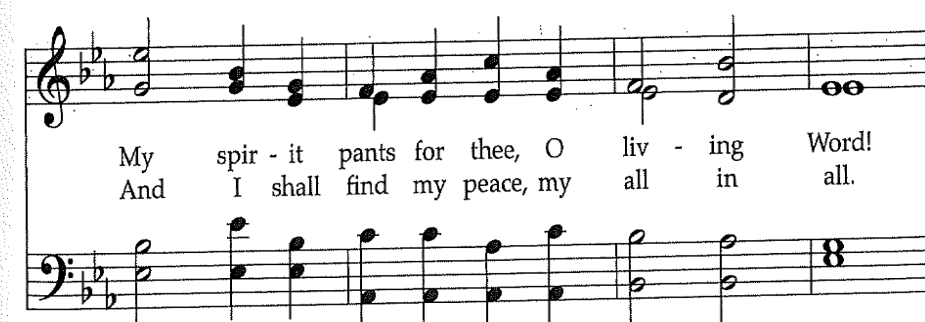
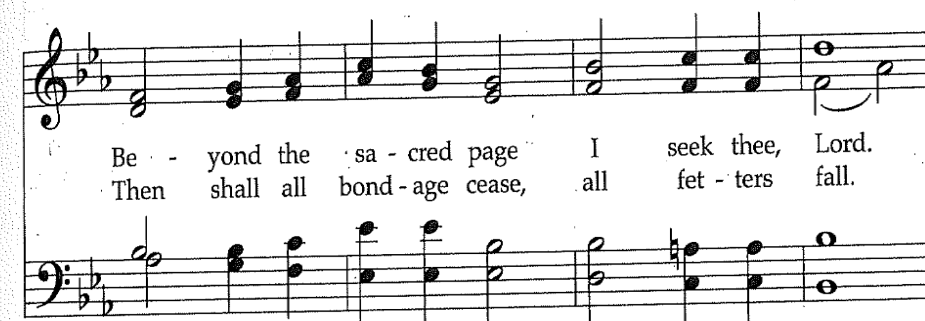
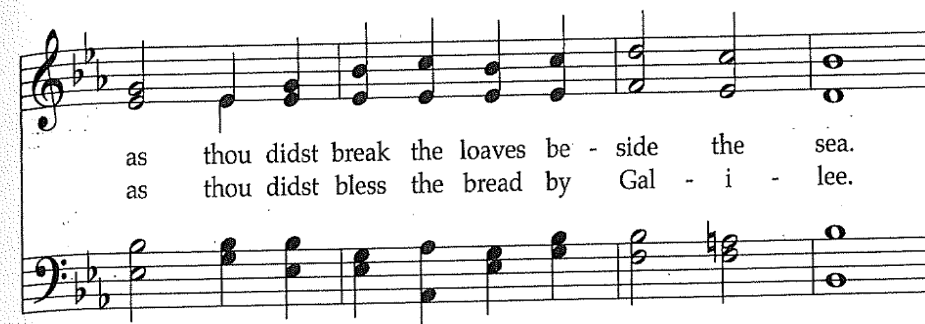
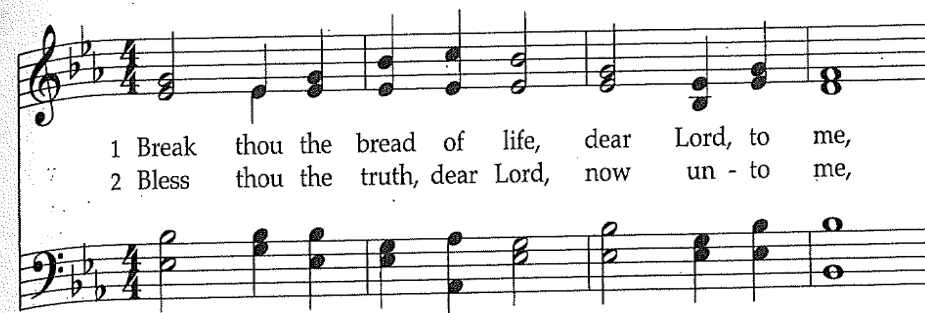


This hymn condenses the narrative of Genesis 17:1-22 and grounds it in the recurring statement of the covenant relationship between God and the people God has chosen. This Welsh tune also occurs in a minor version called LLANGLOFFAN, used elsewhere in this hymnal (see no. 362).

TEXT: Judith A. Fetter, 1984
MUSIC: Welsh melody
Text © 1984 Judith A. Fetter

LLANFYLLIN
7.6.7.6.D

Break Thou the Bread of Life 460

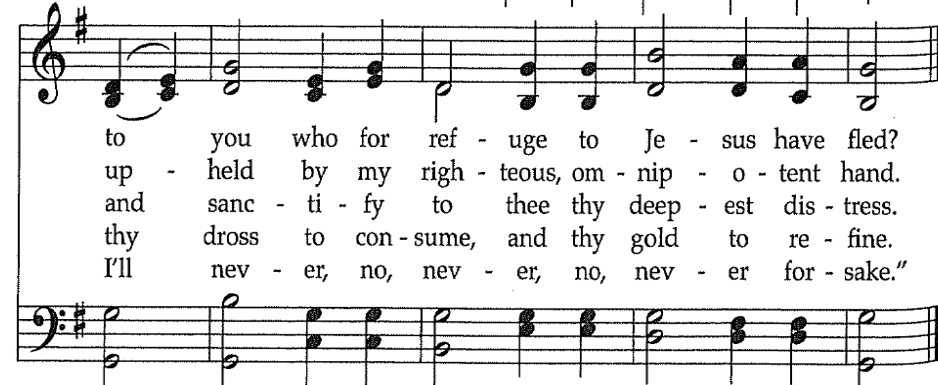
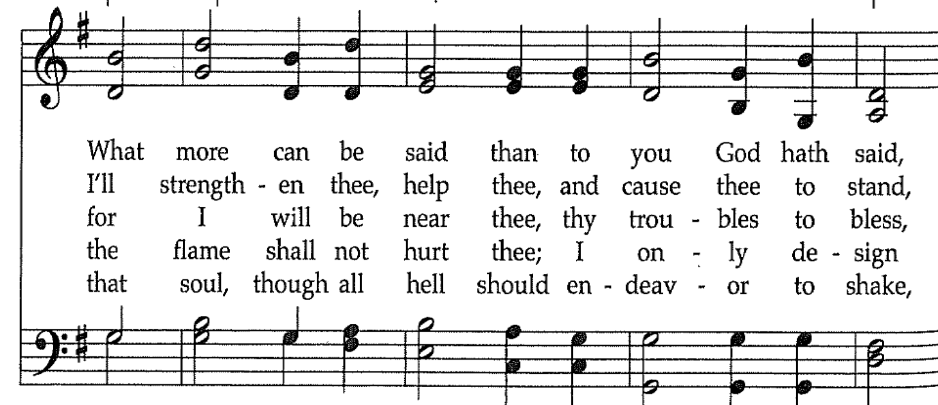
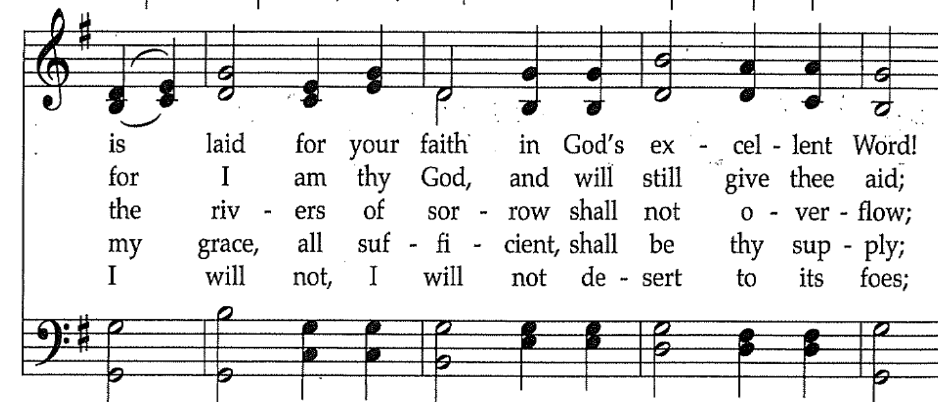
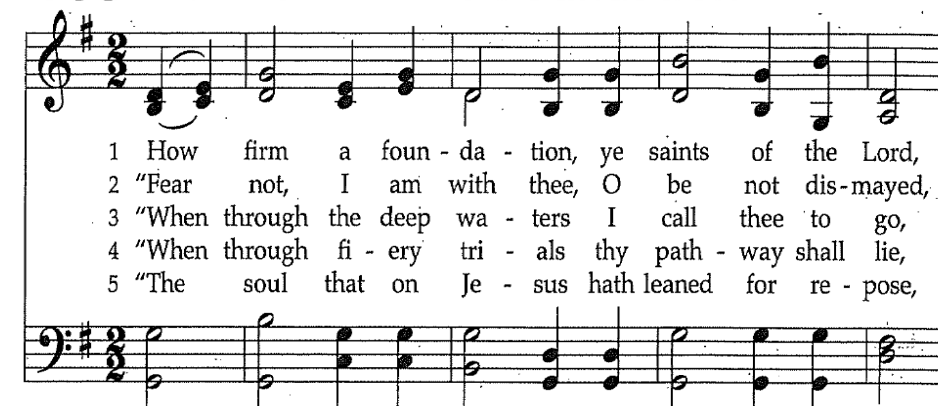


The phrase "bread of life" as a metaphor for Scripture has misled many people into thinking of this hymn as being connected with the Lord's Supper, when its true subject is Bible study. Both the author and the composer were active in the work of the Chautauqua Assembly.

TEXT: Mary Ann Lathbury, 1877, alt.
MUSIC: William Fisk Sherwin, 1877, alt.

BREAD OF LIFE
6.4.6.4.D

How Firm a Foundation



It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.

TEXT: "K" in John Rippons's A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.
MUSIC: American folk melody; Funk's Genuine Church Music, 1832, alt.

FOUNDATION
11.11.11.11