

# THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

(SATB)

James Montgomery (paraphrasing Psalm 23)

John Roeder (alluding to Thomas Koschat's harmonization of FORSAKEN)

Reverently, but with some hesitation  $\text{♩} = 69$

S *mp* *poco cresc.*  
The Lord is my Shepherd; no want shall I know. I feed in green pastures; safe -

A *mp* *poco cresc.*  
The Lord is my Shepherd; no want shall I know. I feed in green pastures; safe -

T *mp* *poco cresc.*  
The Lord is my Shepherd; no want shall I know. I feed in green pastures; safe -

B *mp* *poco cresc.*  
The Lord is my Shepherd; no want shall I know. I feed in green pas - tures; safe -

7 *cresc.* *poco f*  
- fold - ed I rest. He lead - eth my soul where the still wa - ters flow, re - stores me when

*cresc.* *poco f*  
- fold - ed I rest. He lead - eth my soul where the still wa - ters flow, re - stores me when

*cresc.* *poco f*  
- fold - ed I rest. He lead - eth my soul where the still wa - ters flow, re - stores me when

*cresc.* *mf* *poco f*  
- fold - ed I rest. He lead - eth my soul where the wa - ter re - stores me, re - stores me when

14 *dim.* *e rit.* *mp* *p*  
wand'ring, re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems when op - pressed, re -

*dim.* *e rit.* *mp* *p*  
wand'ring, re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems when op - pressed, re -

*dim.* *e rit.* *mp* *p*  
wand'ring, re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems when op - pressed, re -

*dim.* *e rit.* *mp* *p*  
wan d'ring re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems when op - pressed, re -

Più mosso ♩ = 76

poco accel. ----- rit. ----- subito ♩ = 80 poco a poco accelerando -----

21

- stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems oo  
 - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems oo  
 - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems Thru the val - ley and shad - ow of  
 - stores me when wan - d'ring, re - deems oo

(accel.) ----- (♩ = 84) (sempre accel. -----  
 cresc. ----- mp poco dim. ----- mf

29

oo Thy rod de - fend, thy  
 oo Thy rod, thy  
 death though I stray, since thou art my Guardian, no e - vil I fear. Thy rod shall de - fend me, thy  
 oo Thy rod shall de - fend me, thy

(sempre accel.) ----- al ♩ = 88 poco a poco ritardando -----  
 dim. ----- p

37

staff be my stay. No harm, no harm, no  
 staff be my stay. No harm can be - fall, no harm can be - fall, no  
 staff be my stay. no  
 staff be my stay. No harm, no harm, no

45 poco a poco ritardando ———— (♩ = 76) rit. ————

*pp*

No harm can be - fall.

*dim.* ———— *pp*

harm with my Com - for - ter near. No harm can be - fall,

*dim.* ———— *pp*

harm can be - fall with my Com - for - ter near. No harm can be - fall

*dim.* ———— *pp*

harm with my Com - for - ter near. No harm can be - fall

53 ———— ♩ = 69 ———— Maestoso, subito ♩ = 80 ————

*mf*

in af - fliction my ta - ble is spread. My

*p* ———— *mf*

In the midst of af - fliction, af - fliction my ta - ble is spread. With thy bles - sings my

*mf* ————

in the midst, in the midst of af - fliction my ta - ble is spread. With thy blessings un - mea - sured my

*mf* ————

when my ta - ble is spread. Ah, my

61 poco pressando ———— ♩ = 84 ———— Allargando ————

*poco f* ———— *f*

cup run neth o'er, it run - - - neth. Oh, what shall I ask

*poco f* ———— *f*

cup run neth o'er. With per - fume and oil thou an - noint - est my head. Oh, what shall I ask

*poco f* ———— *f*

cup run neth o'er. With per - fume and oil thou an - noint - est my head. Oh, what shall I ask

*poco f* ———— *f*

cup run neth o'er, it run - - - neth. Oh, what shall I ask

69

Holding back  $\text{♩} = 76$  Very slowly  $\text{♩} = 63$

*mp*

of thy pro - vi - dence more? \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, what can I ask? \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord is my

of thy pro - vi - dence more? \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, what can I ask? \_\_\_\_\_ The Lord is my

of thy pro - vi - dence more? \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, what can I ask \_\_\_\_\_ my

of thy pro - vi - dence more? \_\_\_\_\_ Oh, what can I ask \_\_\_\_\_ my

A tempo  $\text{♩} = 84$

77

Shep - - - herd.

Shep - - - herd.

Shep - - - herd?

Shep - - - herd?

James Montgomery's paraphrase of Psalm 23, set by Thomas Koschat, has been a staple of American hymnody since the nineteenth century. His text follows the Biblical verses closely, but adds a few phrases to emphasize a theme of personal redemption. It is intriguing, and perhaps ironic, that Koschat set this text to the hymn tune known as FORSAKEN. Inspired by this seeming contradiction, I have reworked his strophic setting into a through-composed tonal journey, in which some innocent chromaticism leads into wildernesses that render Montgomery's self-assured tropes more tentative and supplicating.

-- John Roeder