

Hymn: Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us

The beloved hymn “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” was written by Mary A. Lathbury in 1873 and is one of the most popular hymns of all time. It has been translated, recorded, and performed by countless choirs, artists, and congregations throughout the years with its timeless message of comfort and assurance in the Lord.

Mary A. Lathbury was born in Utica, New York, in 1841. She grew up attending the Presbyterian Church before going on to graduate from Elmira Female College (now known as Elmira College) in 1861. Though she initially worked as a schoolteacher, Mary eventually became a published poet and songwriter, with works appearing in numerous publications. She penned “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” while visiting her sister in Indianapolis in 1873.

The hymn was first published the following year as part of the *Sunday School Hymnal* compiled by Joseph Parkinson. It has since appeared in over 100 different hymnals and has been translated into numerous languages, including German, Spanish, Swedish, Dutch, Italian, French, and Chinese.

The melody of “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” is taken from the traditional Irish tune “St. Columba” and was adapted by composer William Doane in 1872. The song has become a staple at funerals and memorial services due to its hauntingly beautiful lyrics that express faith in the Lord as a faithful shepherd who will watch over us, guiding us along life’s journey. The song’s message speaks to the timeless truth that no matter what happens in life, God is always with us.

No matter where you are or what your circumstances may be, “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us” is sure to bring a sense of comfort as it reminds us that the Lord is with us always, faithfully leading and guiding our steps. It’s no wonder this timeless hymn has become one of the most beloved songs for generations of believers to sing together in worship!

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us 61

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd ... and shall gently lead those that are with young — Isaiah 40:11 KJV

1. Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us, Much we need Thy ten - der care;
 2. We are Thine; do Thou be - friend us, Be the guard - ian of our way;
 3. Thou hast prom - ised to re - ceive us, Poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4. Ear - ly let us seek Thy fa - vor; Ear - ly let us do Thy will;

In Thy pleas - ant pas - tures feed us, For our use Thy folds pre - pare:
 Keep Thy flock, from sin de - fend us, Seek us when we go a - stray:
 Thou hast mer - cy to re - lieve us, Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, With Thy love our be - ings fill:

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee;
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still;

Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Hear, O hear us when we pray.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Ear - ly let us turn to Thee.
 Bless - ed Je - sus, bless - ed Je - sus, Thou hast loved us, love us still.