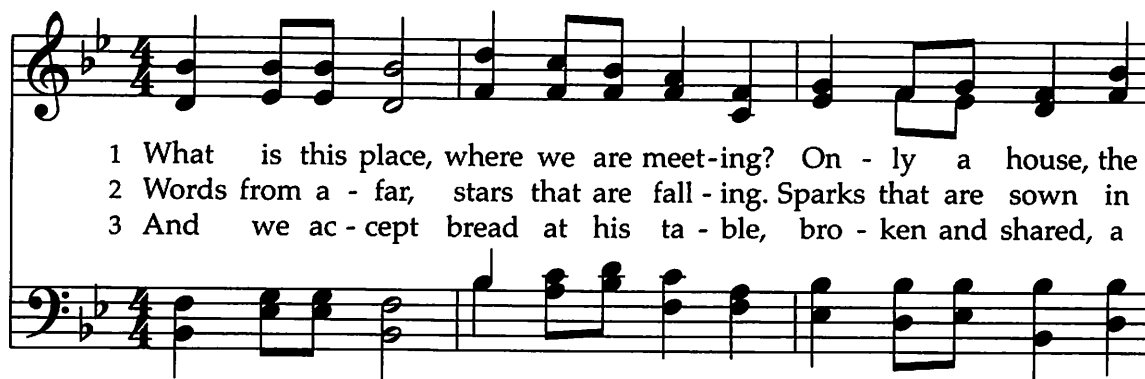
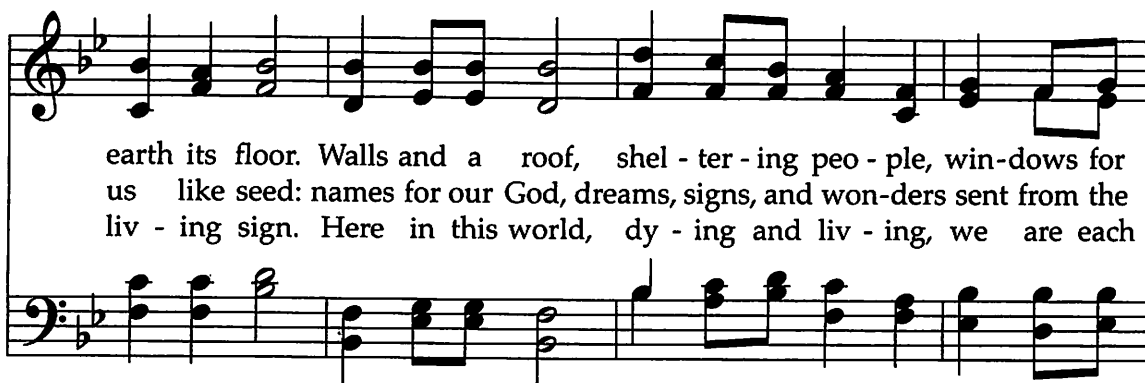


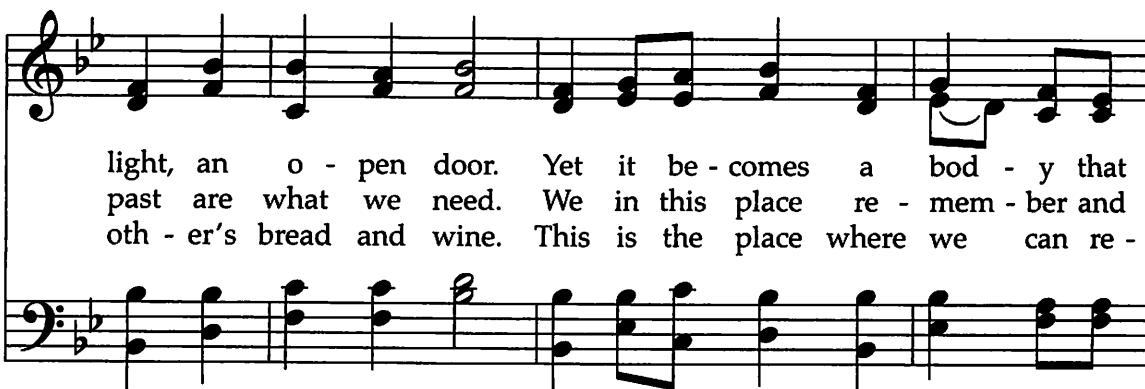
## What Is This Place



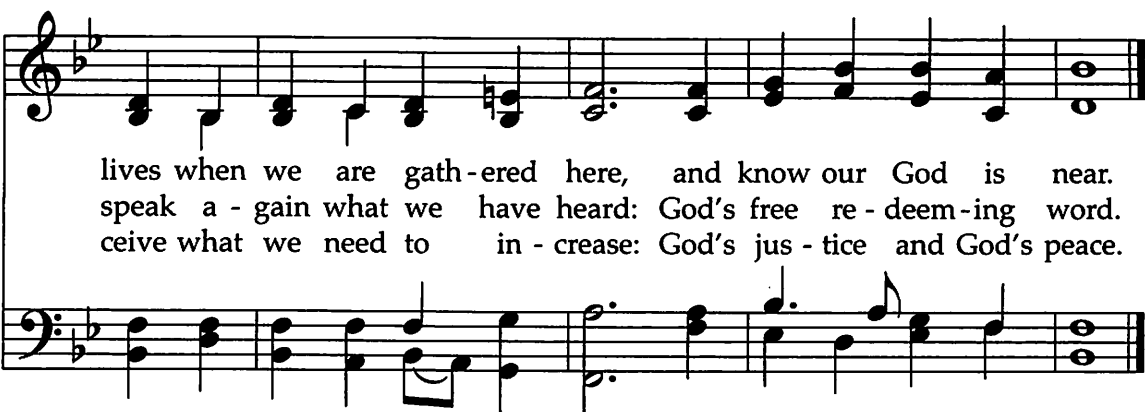
1 What is this place, where we are meet-ing? On - ly a house, the  
 2 Words from a - far, stars that are fall - ing. Sparks that are sown in  
 3 And we ac - cept bread at his ta - ble, bro - ken and shared, a



earth its floor. Walls and a roof, shel - ter - ing peo - ple, win-dows for  
 us like seed: names for our God, dreams, signs, and won-ders sent from the  
 liv - ing sign. Here in this world, dy - ing and liv - ing, we are each



light, an o - pen door. Yet it be - comes a bod - y that  
 past are what we need. We in this place re - mem - ber and  
 oth - er's bread and wine. This is the place where we can re -



lives when we are gath - ered here, and know our God is near.  
 speak a - gain what we have heard: God's free re - deem - ing word.  
 ceive what we need to in - crease: God's jus - tice and God's peace.

This text by a 20th-century Jesuit beautifully captures the fundamental truth that "church" is not primarily the building but the people who come together in order to be nourished by Word and Table so that they may show forth Christ's redeeming presence in the world.

## Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us 187



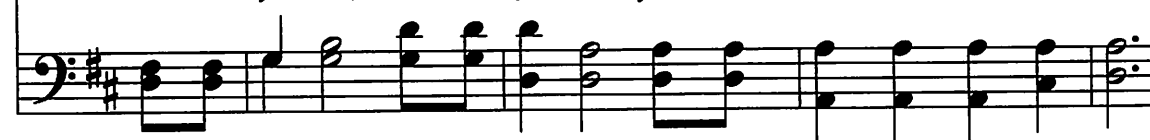
1 Sav - ior, like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten-der care.  
 2 We are yours: in love be - friend us; be the guard-ian of our way.  
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin-ful though we be;  
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor; ear - ly let us do your will.



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your fold pre-pare.  
 Keep your flock: from sin de - fend us; seek us when we go a-stray.  
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and power to free.  
 Bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have bought us: we are yours.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.  
 Bless-ed Je - sus, bless-ed Je - sus, you have loved us; love us still.



This unattributed hymn, like many that are now meaningful to adults, was written for children and develops shepherd imagery from Psalm 23 and John 10:1-18. The tune, composed for these words, was originally named for the text but has come to be known by the composer's name.

## O God in Whom All Life Begins 308

1 O God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit,  
 2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts  
 3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;

be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root.  
 that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts.  
 so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.

Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa - tience, joy, and peace;  
 So let our var - ied gifts com - bine to glo - ri - fy your Name  
 Be with us when we gath - er here to wor - ship, sing, and pray;

de - liv - er us from numb - ing fear, and grant our faith in - crease.  
 that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro - claim.  
 then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.

Although it was written for the installation of a pastor, this text is really about the mutual ministry shared by all members of a worshipping community, both when they are gathered and when they go forth into the world. The tune used here may have Christmas associations for some.