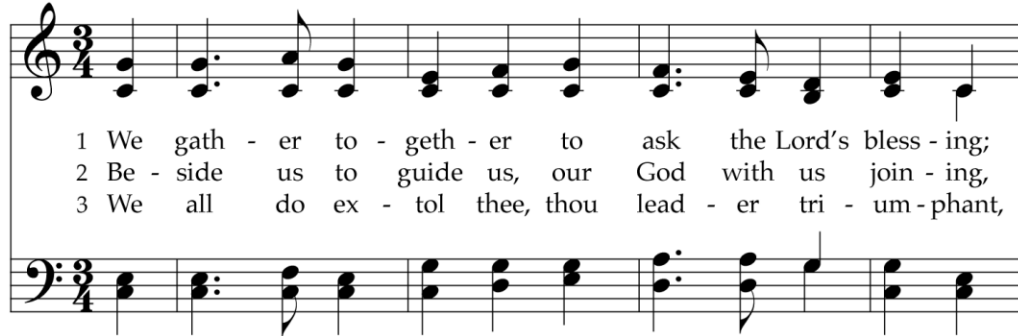


We Gather Together 336



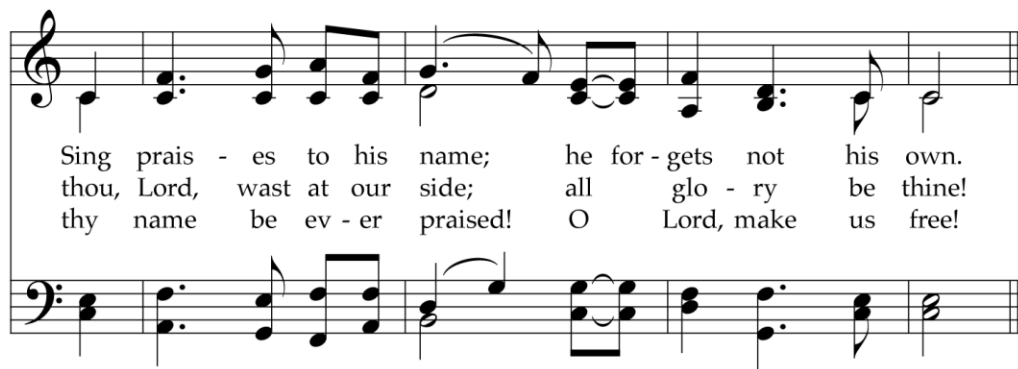
1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,



he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.



the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;



Sing prais - es to his name; he for - gets not his own.
 thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glo - ry be thine!
 thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

First published among songs celebrating the end of Spanish control of the Netherlands, this text's blend of patriotism and piety has made it popular at (often ecumenical) Thanksgiving Day services. The tune is named for the Viennese arranger whose male chorus popularized it.

504 We Come as Guests Invited

1 We come as guests in - vit - ed when Je - sus bids us dine,
 2 We eat and drink, re - ceiv - ing from Christ the grace we need,
 3 One bread is ours for shar - ing, one sin - gle fruit - ful vine,

his friends on earth u - nit - ed to share the bread and wine;
 and in our hearts be - liev - ing on him by faith we feed;
 our fel - low - ship de - clar - ing re - newed in bread and wine:

the bread of life is bro - ken; the wine is free - ly poured
 with won - der and thanks - giv - ing for love that knows no end,
 re - newed, sus - tained, and giv - en by to - ken, sign, and word,

for us, in sol - emn to - ken of Christ our dy - ing Lord.
 we find in Je - sus liv - ing our ev - er - pres - ent friend.
 the pledge and seal of heav - en, the love of Christ our Lord.

Without attempting to unravel the mystery of Christ's presence in the bread and wine, the central stanza of this text affirms that we are nourished by faith rather than by understanding. This hopeful text is reinforced by a gentle 16th-century tune created for a secular text.

SENDING

546 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us, from our strug - gling

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
pil - grim way, let no fear of death ap - pall us,

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. O re - fresh us,
in our hearts and lives a - bound. Ev - er faith - ful,
glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

O re - fresh us, trav - eling through this wil - der - ness.
ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

This hymn of corporate benediction is one of several using the same first line. It was written by a Baptist pastor who dedicated his entire ministry to a small church in rural Yorkshire. The tune used here was first transcribed from Sicilian sailors in the late 18th century.