

# OCP Choral Series

## The Lord Is My Light (Psalm 27)

## The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Assembly, Cantor, Unison Choir, Keyboard, and Guitar

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## The Lord Is My Light (Psalm 27)

Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

**Keyboard**

**INTRO Calypso** (♩ = ca. 120)

Key signature: B-flat major (three flats). Time signature: 4/4. Tempo: Calypso (♩ = ca. 120).

Chords: D $\flat$ , E $\flat$ , A $\flat$ , B $\flat$ m, E $\flat$ , A $\flat$ .

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From the collection THESE FORTY DAYS Octavo Packet #20376 Compact Disc #20375

♩ REFRAIN: 1st time: Cantor; All repeat; thereafter: All

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion.

The Lord is my light; of whom should I be a -

1 fraid? The Lord is my fraid? 2-5 *D.S.* to Verses

Final fraid? Fine

Final Ab Fine

## VERSE 1

1. The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion; whom should I

1. fear? The LORD is my life's ref - uge; —

1. — of whom should I be a - fraid? The Lord is my

## VERSE 2

2. Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call; have pit - y on me, —

2. — and an - swer me. Of you my heart speaks; —

Csus4 C Fm Bbm

2. — you my glance — seeks. The Lord is my

Db/Eb Eb

*D.S.*

### VERSE 3

3. Your pres - ence, O LORD, — I seek. Hide not your face from me;

Db Eb C Fm

3. do not in an - ger re - pel your ser - vant. You are my

Db

3. help - er: cast me not off. The Lord is my

*Ab/Eb* *Ebsus4* *Eb* *D.S.*

## VERSE 4

4. I be-lieve that I shall see the boun-ty of the LORD in the

*Db* *Eb*

4. land of the liv - ing. Wait for the LORD — with cour-age;

*Ab* *Eb* *Ab* *Bbm* *Eb*

4. be stout - heart-ed, and wait for the LORD. The Lord is my

*Ab/Eb* *Ebsus4* *Eb* *D.S. al fine*

# The Lord Is My Light (Psalm 27)

(Guitar/Vocal)

Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

**INTRO** *Calypso* (♩ = ca. 120)

Capo 1: (C) D<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup>

(Keyboard)

(Am) B<sup>bm</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup>

The Lord is my

♩ **REFRAIN:** 1st time: Cantor; All repeat; thereafter: All

(C) D<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup>

light and my sal - va - tion. The Lord is my

(Am) B<sup>bm</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> D.S.

light; of whom should I be a - fraid? The Lord is my

2-5 (G) A<sup>b</sup> to Verses Final (G) A<sup>b</sup> Fine

fraid? afraid?

**VERSE 1**

(C) D<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup>

1. The LORD is my light and my sal - va - tion; whom should I

(G) A<sup>b</sup> (C) D<sup>b</sup>

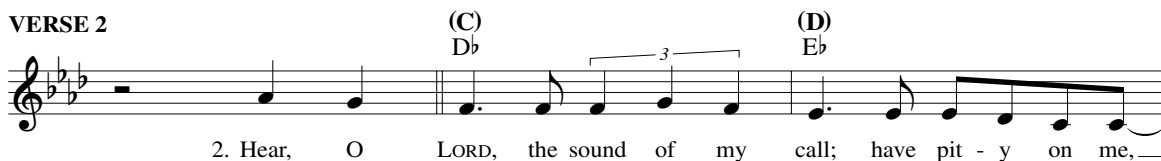
1. fear? The LORD is my life's ref - uge; \_\_\_\_\_

(D) E<sup>b</sup> (G) A<sup>b</sup> (D) E<sup>b</sup> D.S.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of whom should I be a - fraid? The Lord is my

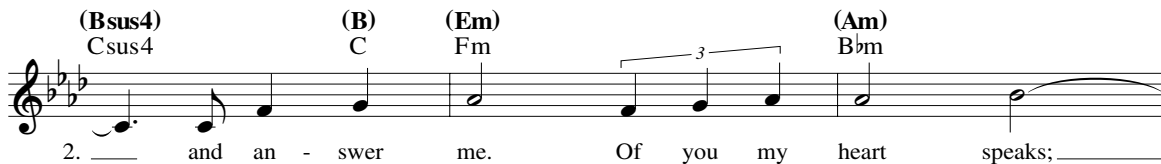
## VERSE 2

(C) (D)  
Db Eb



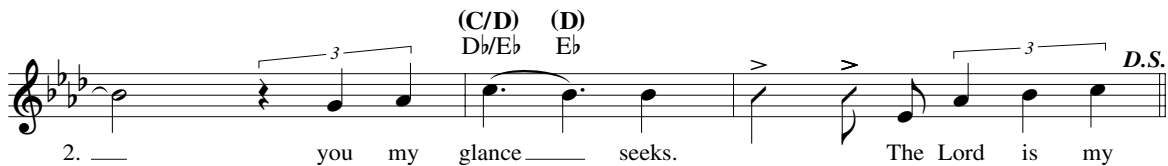
2. Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call; have pit - y on me,—

(Bsus4) (B) (Em) (Am)  
Csus4 C Fm Bbm



2. \_\_\_ and an - swer me. Of you my heart speaks; \_\_\_\_\_

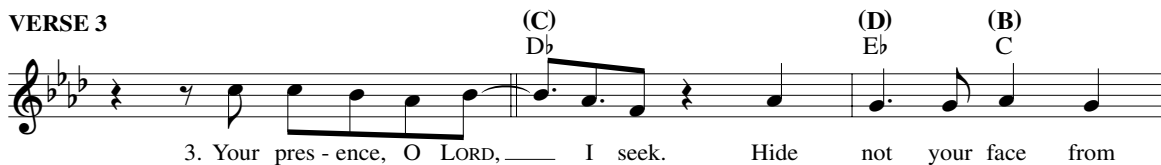
(C/D) (D)  
Db/Eb Eb



2. \_\_\_ you my glance \_\_\_ seeks. The Lord is my

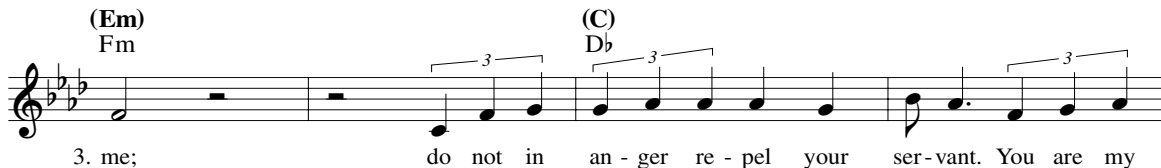
## VERSE 3

(C) (D) (B)  
Db Eb C



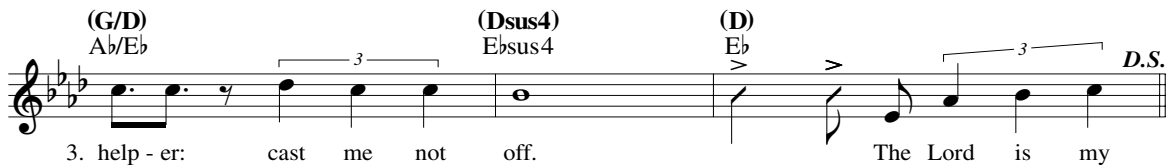
3. Your pres - ence, O LORD, \_\_\_ I seek. Hide not your face from

(Em) (C)  
Fm Db



3. me; do not in an - ger re - pel your ser - vant. You are my

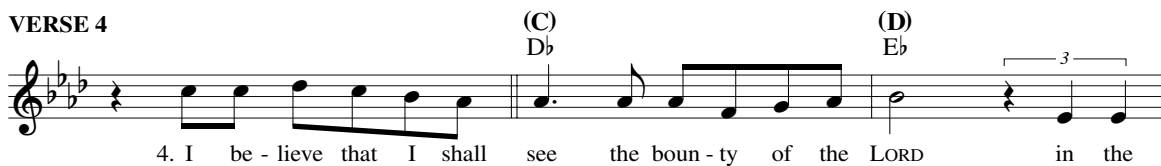
(G/D) (Dsus4) (D)  
Ab/Eb Ebsus4 Eb



3. help - er: cast me not off. The Lord is my

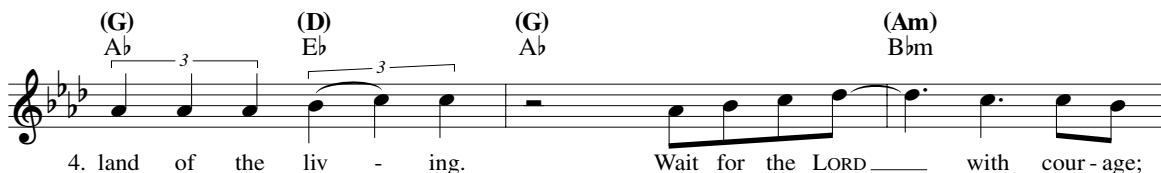
## VERSE 4

(C) (D)  
Db Eb



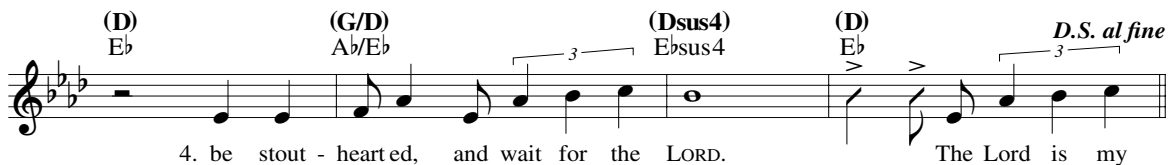
4. I be - lieve that I shall see the boun - ty of the LORD in the

(G) (D) (G) (Am)  
Ab Eb Ab Bbm



4. land of the liv - ing. Wait for the LORD \_\_\_ with cour - age;

(D) (G/D) (Dsus4) (D)  
Eb Ab/Eb Ebsus4 Eb



4. be stout - hearted, and wait for the LORD. The Lord is my

# The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

**INTRO** (♩ = ca. 84)

Ab Ebsus4 Eb Fm Ab/Eb

Keyboard

Db Ab/Eb Eb7 Db Ab

♩ **REFRAIN: 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All**  
(a tempo)

The Lord is my shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall

Db/Eb Ab Ebsus4 Eb Fm Ab/Eb

(a tempo)

want, there is noth - ing I shall want. The

1 D.S.

1 D.S.

Db Ab/Eb Eb7 Db Ab Db/Eb



## VERSE 1

1. LORD is my shep - herd; I shall not want. In

$D\flat$   $E\flat$  sus4  $E\flat$   $A\flat$   $D\flat$  C

1. ver - dant pas - tures he gives me re - pose; be -

Fm  $Fm/E\flat$   $D\flat$   $E\flat$  sus4  $E\flat$

1. side rest - ful wa - ters he leads me;

F  $B\flat$  m  $E\flat$   $A\flat$

1. he re - fresh - es my soul. The

*poco rit.* *D.S.*

E  $D\flat$  m  $G\flat$   $E\flat$  *D.S.*

*poco rit.*

## VERSE 2

2. guides me in right paths for his name's sake.

*D $\flat$*  *E $\flat$ sus4* *E $\flat$*  *D $\flat$ /A $\flat$*  *A $\flat$*

2. E-ven though I walk in the dark val - ley I fear no

*E $\flat$*  *F $m$*  *F $m$ /E $\flat$*

2. e - vil; for you are at my side

*E $\flat$ sus4* *E $\flat$*  *F* *B $\flat$*

2. with your rod and your staff that give me cour - age. The

*E $\flat$*  *A $\flat$*  *E $\flat$ sus4* *E $\flat$*  *D.S.*

*poco rit.*

VERSE 3

3. spread a ta - ble be - fore me in the sight — of my foes;

E Gb Ab E Gb Ab

3. you a - noint my head with oil; my cup o - ver - flows. — The

E Dbsus2 Gb Eb D.S.

*poco rit.*

VERSE 4

4. kind - ness fol - low me all the days of my life; and I shall dwell in the

Db Eb Cm Fm E

4. house of the LORD for years to come. — The

Ebsus4 Eb D.S. al fine

*f* *mp* *poco rit.*

# Composer Notes

## *The Lord Is My Light*

In this setting of Psalm 27, the faces of God’s pilgrim people are lifted up to the light of redemption and hope. In this light, we find our courage to wait for the Lord; we also find our reason for rejoicing. The verses of this psalm setting call for freedom, energy, and relaxed animation. Combining tambourine or shakers with the piano accompaniment can produce a Latin flavor, which can bring the welcome warmth of sunshine to the Lenten weeks of late winter and early spring.

## *The Lord Is My Shepherd*

This piece was conceived in direct contradiction to my belief that the Church already had more settings of Psalm 23 than were necessary. While leading music for the funeral of a well-loved monsignor in our diocese, I was overwhelmed by the profound tenderness with which the gathering of our priests sang the refrain to Joseph Gelineau’s timeless “The Lord Is My Shepherd.” It was the sound of my brothers’ voices, raised in loving devotion and priestly solidarity, that echoed in my heart on the drive home that day. By the time I reached my driveway, I was humming the refrain of this setting. As the verses took shape, I knew they would require a voice with warmly heroic and shepherd-like qualities. Fortunately, Paul Hillebrand was available and gracious enough to travel to California to sing for the recording. In doing so, he fully realized the essential spirit of this psalm.

The beautiful image of the Good Shepherd graces the Church when she celebrates the RCIA second scrutiny, returning in the middle weeks of Eastertide and on various Sundays in Ordinary Time. In addition to its traditional use for the funeral rite, this psalm is also appropriate for use as a Communion processional and as a responsorial psalm for ordinations and first Communion liturgies.

—*Janèt Sullivan Whitaker*

# The Lord Is My Shepherd (Psalm 23)

(Guitar/Vocal)

Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

**INTRO** (♩ = ca. 84)  
Capo 1: (G) Ab (Dsus4) Ebsus4 (D) Eb (Em) Fm (G/D) Ab/Eb

(Keyboard)

(C) Db (G/D) Ab/Eb (D7) Eb7 (C) Db (G) Ab

♩ REFRAIN: 1st time: Cantor, All repeat; thereafter: All  
(C/D) Db/Eb (G) Ab (Dsus4) Ebsus4 (D) Eb (Em) Fm (G/D) Ab/Eb (C) Db  
(a tempo)

The Lord is my shep-herd; — there is noth-ing I shall want, there is

(G/D) Ab/Eb (D7) Eb7 1 (C) Db (G) Ab (C/D) Db/Eb D.S. 2, 3 (G) Ab to Verses 1, 2

noth-ing I shall want. The want. 1. The  
2. He

4 (G) Ab to Verse 3 5 (G) Ab to Verse 4 Final (G) Ab

want. 3. You want. 4. On-ly good-ness and want.

*Fine*

**VERSE 1** (C) Db (Dsus4) Ebsus4 (D) Eb (G) Ab (C) Db (B) C (Em) Fm

1. LORD is my shep-herd; — I shall not want. In ver-dant pas-tures —

(Em/D) Fm/Eb (C) Db (Dsus4) Ebsus4 (D) Eb (E) F (Am) Bbm

1. — he gives me re- pose; — be- side rest-ful wa- ters —

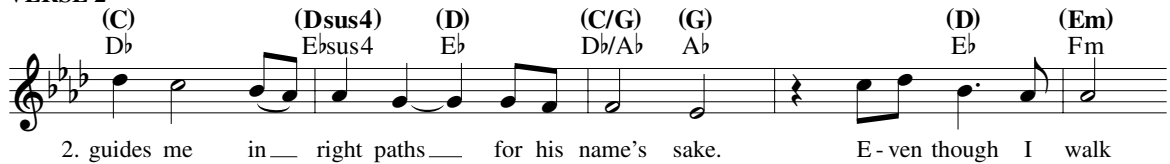
(D) (G) (E<sup>b</sup>) (Cm) (F) (D)  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E D<sup>b</sup>m G<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> *poco rit.* *D.S.*



1. he leads me; he re - fresh - es my soul. The

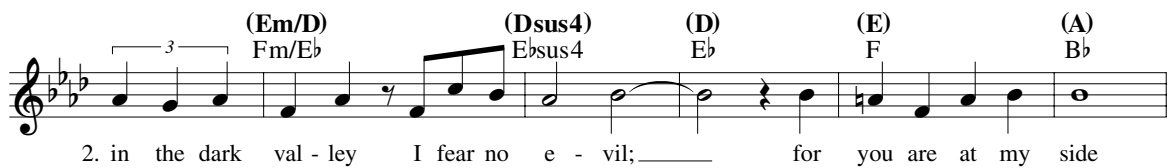
VERSE 2

(C) (Dsus4) (D) (C/G) (G) (D) (Em)  
 D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>sus4 E<sup>b</sup> D<sup>b</sup>/A<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> F<sup>m</sup>



2. guides me in right paths for his name's sake. E - ven though I walk

(Em/D) (Dsus4) (D) (E) (A)  
 F<sup>m</sup>/E<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>sus4 E<sup>b</sup> F B<sup>b</sup>



2. in the dark val - ley I fear no e - vil; for you are at my side

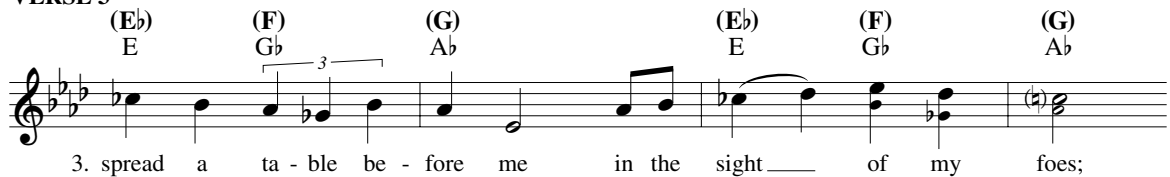
(D) (G) (Dsus4) (D) *poco rit.* *D.S.*  
 E<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>sus4 E<sup>b</sup>



2. with your rod and your staff that give me cour - age. The

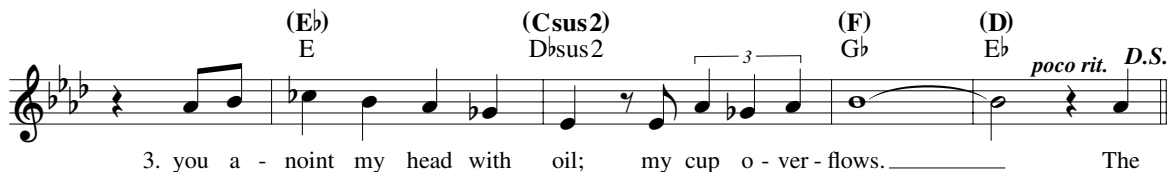
VERSE 3

(E<sup>b</sup>) (F) (G) (E<sup>b</sup>) (F) (G)  
 E G<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup> E G<sup>b</sup> A<sup>b</sup>



3. spread a ta - ble be - fore me in the sight of my foes;

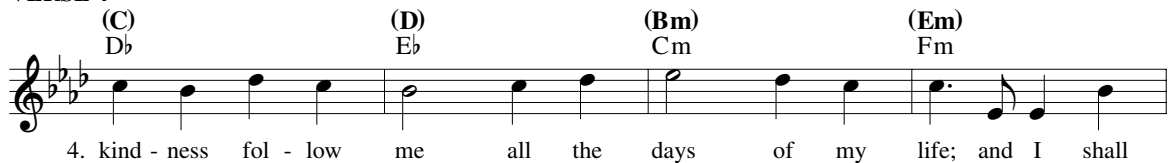
(E<sup>b</sup>) (Csus2) (F) (D) *poco rit.* *D.S.*  
 E D<sup>b</sup>sus2 G<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup>



3. you a - noint my head with oil; my cup o - ver - flows. The

VERSE 4

(C) (D) (Bm) (Em)  
 D<sup>b</sup> E<sup>b</sup> C<sup>m</sup> F<sup>m</sup>



4. kind - ness fol - low me all the days of my life; and I shall

(E<sup>b</sup>) (Dsus4) (D) *f* *mp* *D.S. al fine* *poco rit.*  
 E E<sup>b</sup>sus4 E<sup>b</sup>



4. dwell in the house of the LORD for years to come. The

## THE LORD IS MY LIGHT (PSALM 27)

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion.

The Lord is my light; of whom should I be a - fraid?

1. The LORD is my light and my salvation;  
whom should I fear?  
The LORD is my life's refuge;  
of whom should I be afraid?
2. Hear, O LORD, the sound of my call;  
have pity on me, and answer me.  
Of you my heart speaks;  
you my glance seeks.
3. Your presence, O LORD, I seek.  
Hide not your face from me;  
do not in anger repel your servant.  
You are my helper: cast me not off.
4. I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD  
in the land of the living.  
Wait for the LORD with courage;  
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

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## THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD (PSALM 23)

Janèt Sullivan Whitaker

The Lord is my shep-herd; there is noth - ing I shall want, there is noth - ing I shall want.

1. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
In verdant pastures he gives me repose;  
beside restful waters he leads me;  
he refreshes my soul.
2. He guides me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk in the dark valley  
I fear no evil; for you are at my side  
with your rod and your staff that give me courage.
3. You spread a table before me  
in the sight of my foes;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.
4. Only goodness and kindness  
follow me all the days of my life;  
and I shall dwell in the house  
of the LORD for years to come.

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