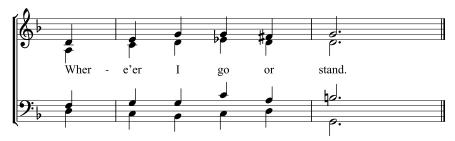
From God I Will Not Wander





- 2 When man's help and affection Shall unavailing prove,
 God grants me His protection And shows His pow'r and love. He helps in ev'ry need,
 From sin and shame redeems me,
 From chains and bonds reclaims me, Yea, e'en from death I'm freed.
- God shall be my Reliance In sorrow's darkest night;
 Its dread I bid defiance When He is by my side.
 I unto Him commend My body, soul, and spirit— They are His own by merit— All's well then at the end.
- Whate'er shall be His pleasure Is surely best for me; He sent His dearest Treasure That our weak hearts may see His good and gracious will. In His own Son He gave us Whate'er can bless and save us; Praise Him who loves us still!
- 5 Oh, praise Him, for He never Forgets our daily need;
 Oh, blest the hour whenever To Him our thoughts can speed; Yea, all the time we spend Without Him is but wasted, Till we His joys have tasted, The joy that hath no end.

- 6 Yea, when the world shall perish With all its pomp and pride, All that we once did cherish No longer shall abide. But though in death they make The deepest grave our cover, When there our sleep is over, God shall us then awake.
- 7 Our soul shall never perish, But in yon paradise
 The joys of heav'n shall cherish. Our body shall arise
 Pure, holy, new-born, free
 From ev'ry sin and evil;
 The tempting of the devil
 We then no more shall see.
- 8 What though I here must suffer Distress and trials sore,
 I merit ways still rougher; And yet there is in store For me eternal bliss,
 Yea, pleasures without measure, Since Christ is now my Treasure And shall be evermore.
- 9 Such is His will that made us. The Father seeks our good; The Son of sin doth rid us, And saves us by His blood; His Spirit rules our ways, Through faith in us abiding, To heav'n our footsteps guiding. To Him be thanks and praise!

"From God I Will Not Wander" ("Von Gott will ich nicht lassen") was written by Ludwig Helmbold (1532–1598) and printed on a broadside in 1563. The translation here provided is an altered version of that by Catherine Winkworth, which appears as "From God Shall Naught Divide Me" in the Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, No. 509, and The Lutheran Hymnal, No. 393. It appears in the Lutheran Service Book, No. 713, as "From God Can Nothing Move Me," with a new copyrighted translation. For the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book, we have used the form of the text mostly as it appears in the six stanzas included in The Lutheran Hymnal. The remaining stanzas have been supplied from the complete version in the Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, with sparing alterations. The opening lines of the first stanza have been brought more in line with the pleasing phrasing of the original German.

The melody "Von Gott will ich nicht lassen" has a long and involved history. Its origins lie in a French secular song, "Une jeune fillette," which relates the story of a young woman forced into a convent. The song was included in a 1557 collection in Lyons, though it existed for at least a good half-century before. Its melody became immensely popular and was joined to a number of texts, some secular, some religious, in France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and England. This popularity is reflected in the fact that "Von Gott will ich nicht lassen" is not the only chorale tune to have developed from it: the tune for Paul Eber's hymn "Helft mir Gotts Güte preisen" ("Help Me Praise God's Good Graces") is also a variation on the original secular melody, though departing farther from it. In fact, to this day Eber's text is often joined to the tune "Von Gott will ich nicht lassen." The arrangement for the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book comes from The Lutheran Hymnal, which closely follows the Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, as well as the earlier Mehrstimmiges Choralbuch.

The text and music here presented are in the public domain and may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose whatever. They are offered with the prayer that they may serve for the edification of Christian people everywhere. For more information, visit the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book at:

www.lutheranchoralebook.com

The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book presents From God I Will Not Wander by Ludwig Helmbold and translated by Catherine Winkworth published in Davenport, Iowa 2014