

From God I Will Not Wander

Von Gott will ich nicht lassen
Ludwig Helmbold, 1563
Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

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Von Gott will ich nicht lassen
Christliche und tröstliche
Tischgesänge, Erfurt, 1572
Arr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

From God I will not wan - der,
On paths that shall not foun - der

For He'll not wend from me.
He leads, else I would stray.

He guides me with His hand, By day and night is

heed - ful And gives me what is need - ful,

Wher - e'er I go or stand.

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| <p>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.</p> <p>3 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.</p> <p>4 What'e'r 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
What'e'r can bless and save us;
Praise Him who loves us still!</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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!</p> |
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“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 *Mebrstimmiges Choralbuch*.

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The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book

presents

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by

Ludwig Helmbold

and translated by

Catherine Winkworth

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