

HE LEADETH ME - #50

Psalm 23

INTRODUCTION:

1. He leadeth me! O blessed thought
O words, with heavenly comfort fraught (filled, or laden) -
Whate'r I do, where e'r I be
still tis God's hand that leadeth me - Isaiah 48:17; Psalm 23
2. Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom
Sometimes when Eden's bower's bloom
By waters still, o'er trouble sea
Still tis His hand that leadeth me - Psalm 27
3. Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine
Nor ever murmur or repine - 1 Corinthians 10:1-12
Content whatever lot I see, - Hebrews 13:5
Since tis my God that leadeth Me
4. And when m task on earth is done
when by Thy grace, the victory's won - 2 Timothy 4:6-8
E'en death's cold wave I will not flee
Since God through Jordan leadeth Me
5. Chorus: He leadeth me, He leadeth me,
by His own hand He leadeth me
His faithful follower I would be - Matthew 25:21
For by His hand He leadeth me

Key of D Major

Meter: 8 - 8 - 8 - 8

Beat: 4/4

Lead: 4

Author: Joseph H Gilmore (1834 - 1918)- 19 published songs, mostly in German

On a Wednesday evening, Joseph Gilmore was preaching at a mid-week prayer service on the topic of Psalm 23. He wrote later, "I set out to give the people an exposition of the 23rd Psalm, but I got no further than the words 'He leadeth me.' Those words took hold of me as they had never done before. I saw in them a significance and beauty of which I had never dreamed...At the close of the meeting a few of us kept on talking about the thoughts which I had emphasized; and then and there, on a back page of my sermon notes, I penciled the hymn just as it stands today, handed it to my wife, and thought no more of it...She sent it without my knowledge to the *Watchman and Reflector* magazine, and there it first appeared in print December 4, 1862" (*Psalter Hymnal Handbook*, 616).

Composer: William B Bradbury (1816-1868) - 28 published songs including - Jesus Love Me!

After seeing Gilmore's text in the Boston *Watchman and Reflector*, William B. Bradbury (PHH 114) composed AUCHTON for those words. Bradbury arranged the text into a stanza/refrain structure, added the final line of the refrain, and published the hymn in his *The Golden Censor* in 1864. AUCHTON (also known as HE LEADETH ME) means "unknown." The tune is a gospel melody in typical verse/refrain pattern; it has a simple harmonization. AUCHTON consists of two main lines formed into an AABB pattern. Sing in harmony. Fermatas, if any are observed, should come at the ends of the lines and not in the middle of line 2, as some soloists prefer. --*Psalter Hymnal Handbook*, 1988