


171. THE CROSS

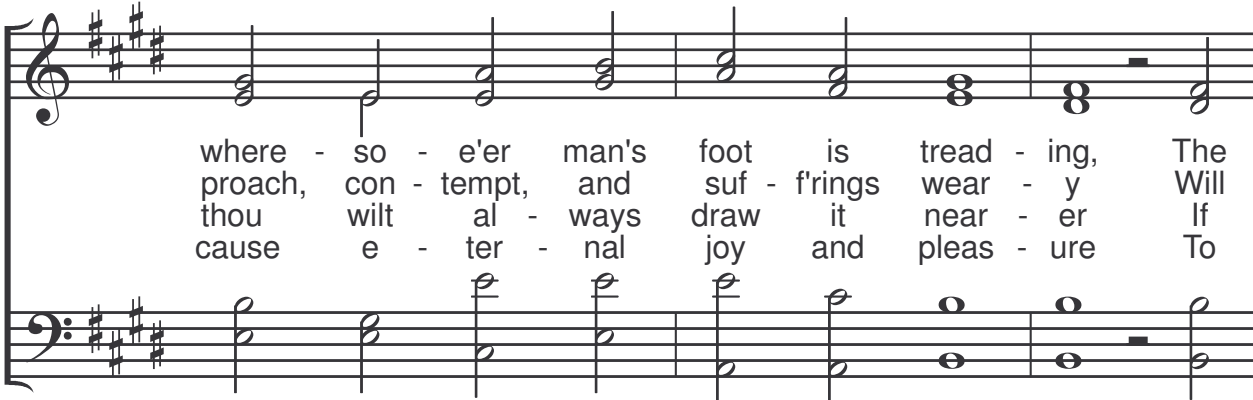
73.



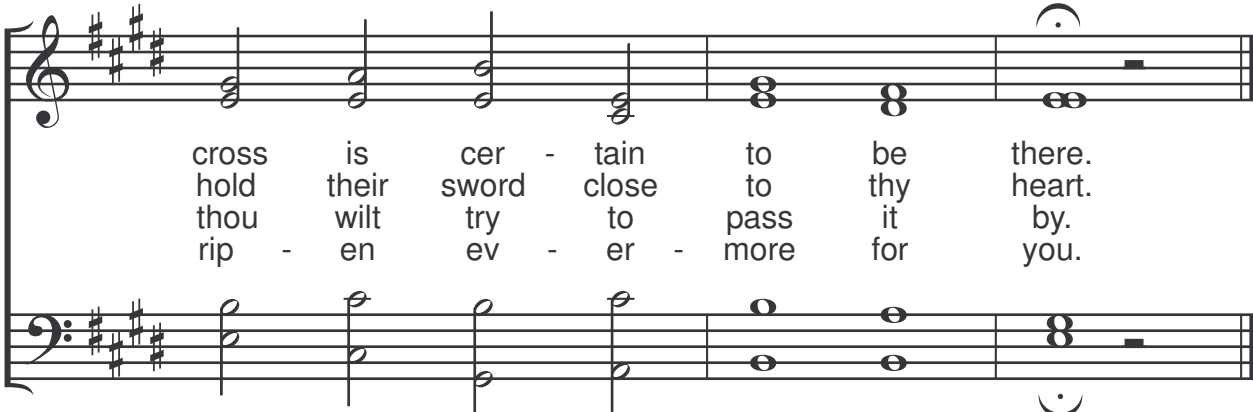
1. The might - y tree, the cross, is spread - ing
 2. With thou - sand fig - ures dark and drear - y,
 3. Though far or near if thou wouldst trav - el,
 4. O, do not fear the cross' af - flic - tion!



Its arms of suf - f'ring ev - 'ry - where; For
 The cross comes nigh with pain and dart; Re -
 A cross is ev - er stand - ing nigh; And
 The Sav - iour suf - fered on it, too, To



where - so - e'er man's foot is tread - ing, The
 proach, con - tempt, and suf - f'rings wear - y Will
 thou wilt al - ways draw it near - er If
 cause e - ter - nal joy and pleas - ure To



cross is cer - tain to be there.
 hold their sword close to thy heart.
 thou wilt try to pass it by.
 rip - en ev - er - more for you.

5. But if thou wouldst relieve its pressure,
The figure of the cross then heed.
'Twill teach thee how to ease thy suff'ring;
To consolation it will lead.
6. Two beams are in the cross united;
A short one lies across the long,
But instantly the cross is lightened
When short lies parallel to long.
7. This figure then explains the meaning:
Why often hard our suff'rings press;
And how relief we may be gaining
When souls are laden with distress.
8. The longer beam is God's direction;
Across it lies thy will, perverse.
Thus brings the cross pain and affliction;
God's dispensation seems for worse.
9. Resist not then God's regulation,
Although His hand may press thee hard;
But conquer thy own will with patience;
Soon cross and suff'ring will depart.
10. If thus thou'lt overcome thy wishes
And let God's will prevail in thee,
Then thou wilt find peace in thy suff'ring;
And grace thy great reward will be.
11. Then bear thy woes with Jesus gladly,
And fear the cross of life no more,
For when thy journey here is ended,
The cross will open heaven's door!