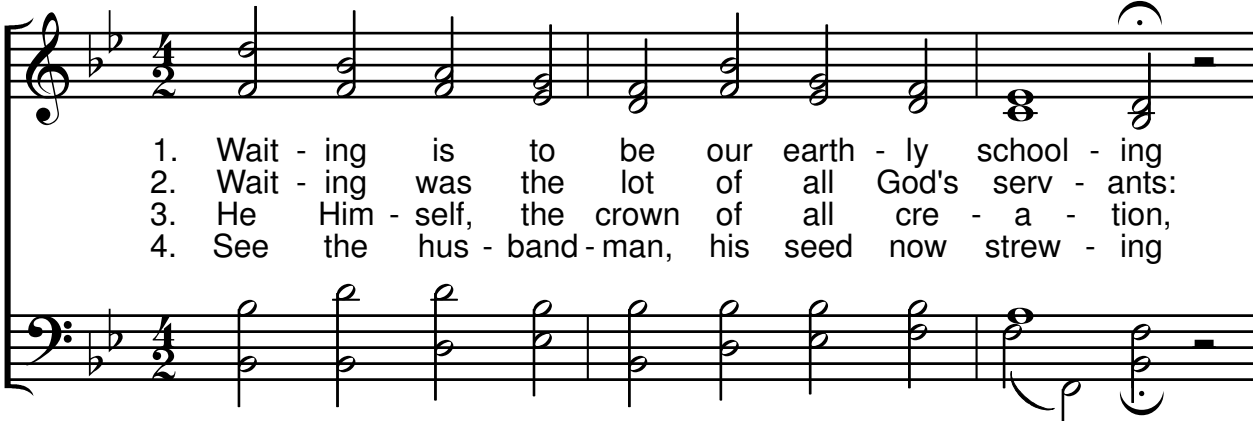
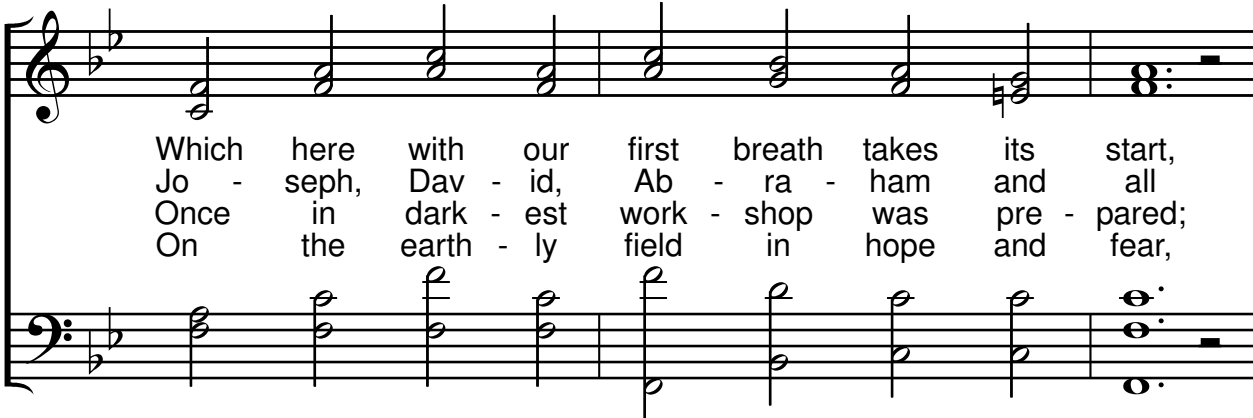


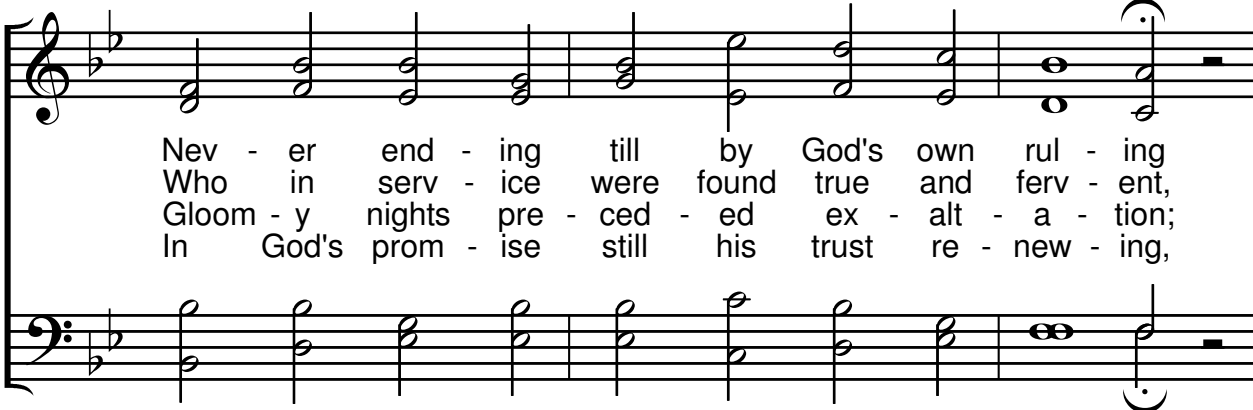
244. THE TIME OF WAITING



1. Wait - ing is to be our earth - ly school - ing
 2. Wait - ing was the lot of all God's serv - ants:
 3. He Him - self, the crown of all cre - a - tion,
 4. See the hus - band - man, his seed now strew - ing



Which here with our first breath takes its start,
 Jo - seph, Dav - id, Ab - ra - ham and all
 Once in dark - est work - shop was pre - pared;
 On the earth - ly field in hope and fear,



Nev - er end - ing till by God's own rul - ing
 Who in serv - ice were found true and ferv - ent,
 Gloom - y nights pre - ced - ed ex - alt - a - tion;
 In God's prom - ise still his trust re - new - ing,



Our faint spir - it shall in peace de - part.
 And whom God un - to great deeds did call.
 Af - ter suf - f'ring, heav - en's bliss was shared.
 Till spring sun - shine makes the sprouts ap - pear.

5. Few fruits ripen from the spring-time sunshine;
Not till autumn is abundance shown;
Without waiting we ne'er feel the rapture
Of a precious, bounteous harvest grown.
6. God oft gave beyond all expectation
More than heart had wished for to behold;
Should not this give us new inspiration
To await what His word has foretold?
7. Ne'er a word of God was uttered vainly,
Although its fulfillment seemed afar;
Noble things take time, though promised plainly;
And the very best we find in God.
8. Battle bravely tow'rd that destination,
Though the night of waiting now enfold;
Other brethren bore yet more privation,
Yet through conflict, vict'ry did behold.
9. Vict'ry shalt thou win through fiery trials
Pure and in the likeness of thy Lord;
Worthy to partake of joyful blessings,
Therefore wait now for that great reward.
10. Waiting, hoping here in darkest silence,
Leads us to that future happiness;
Waiting, trusting oft with fear and trembling
Brings glad tiding of eternal bliss.