

Commissioned by St. John's Lutheran Church, Zanesville, Ohio,  
in commemoration of its 175th anniversary, 1839-2014

# Continue in My Word

SA(T)B and Organ,  
with opt. Narration and Assembly

John 8:31-36 (NRSV)  
Martin Luther; *tr.* Catherine Winkworth

Zebulon M. Highben, ASCAP

*Narrator (before music begins):* Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him:

Gently (♩ = ca. 72)

Soprano  
Alto

Tenor  
Bass

Organ

*Unison mp*

"If you con -

*p legato*

## Performance Notes:

**Narration:** This piece may be performed with or without narration. If narration is used, the repeat at measure 20 should be observed as indicated and the narration timed to conclude at the second ending (measure 21). If the narration is not used, ignore the first ending and the repeat.

**Voicing:** The Tenor part doubles the Alto line, except at measures 28-30, where it doubles the Soprano at the octave. In those three measures, all four parts are desired. Otherwise, choirs with fewer men may eliminate the Tenor line, and choirs with fewer women may replace the Alto line with the Tenor line.

A reproducible Assembly/Congregation part is provided on page 11 for measures 32-40 ("Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"), so they may join the choir if desired.

Text: John 8:31-36 (NRSV); from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Text: Measures 32-40, Martin Luther, 1483-1546; *tr.* Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, *alt.* (PD).

Tune: Measures 32-40, *ERHALT UNS, HERR*, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder aufs new gebessert*, Wittenberg, 1543 (PD).

Music: Zebulon M. Highben, newly composed, and copyright © 2015 Birnamwood with this publication.

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3 *Unison mp*

“If you con - tin - ue in my Word, \_\_\_\_\_  
tin - ue in my Word, \_\_\_\_\_ you are

The first system of music includes a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a measure of rest, followed by the lyrics "If you continue in my Word,". The piano accompaniment consists of a treble and bass clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

5

\_\_\_\_\_ you are tru - ly my dis - ci - ples; \_\_\_\_\_  
tru - ly my dis - ci - ples; \_\_\_\_\_ and

The second system of music continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line has a measure of rest, followed by the lyrics "you are truly my disciples;". The piano accompaniment continues with the same eighth-note accompaniment in the right hand and bass line in the left hand.

7

and you will know the truth, and the

you will know the truth, and the

This system contains measures 7 and 8. The vocal staves are in G major. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note melody in the right hand and a sustained bass line in the left hand.

9

truth will make you free. *Div. f*

And

truth will make you free. *Div. f*

This system contains measures 9 and 10. The vocal staves end with a fermata. The piano accompaniment continues with the same texture as the previous system. The tempo marking *Div. f* (divisivo, forte) is present.

11 *mf*  
you will know the truth, and the truth will make you

11 *mf*

13 free.”

13 *p*

**Narrator:** They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

15

15

18

18

1.

1.

21 2.

*poco marcato*  
*mf*

“For if the

*mf*  
*poco marcato*

24

*poco più marcato*

Son has made you free, for if the

*poco più marcato*

24

*mf marcato*

26 *molto marcato*  
*f*

Son has made you free, for if the

26 *molto marcato*

28

Son has made you free, you will be free in - deed.

28 *f*

30 *Unison mf legato* *poco rit.* SA *a tempo f*  
 You will be free in - deed." Lord,

30 *Unison mf legato* *poco rit.* TB (+ Congr.) *a tempo f*  
 You will be free in - deed." Lord,

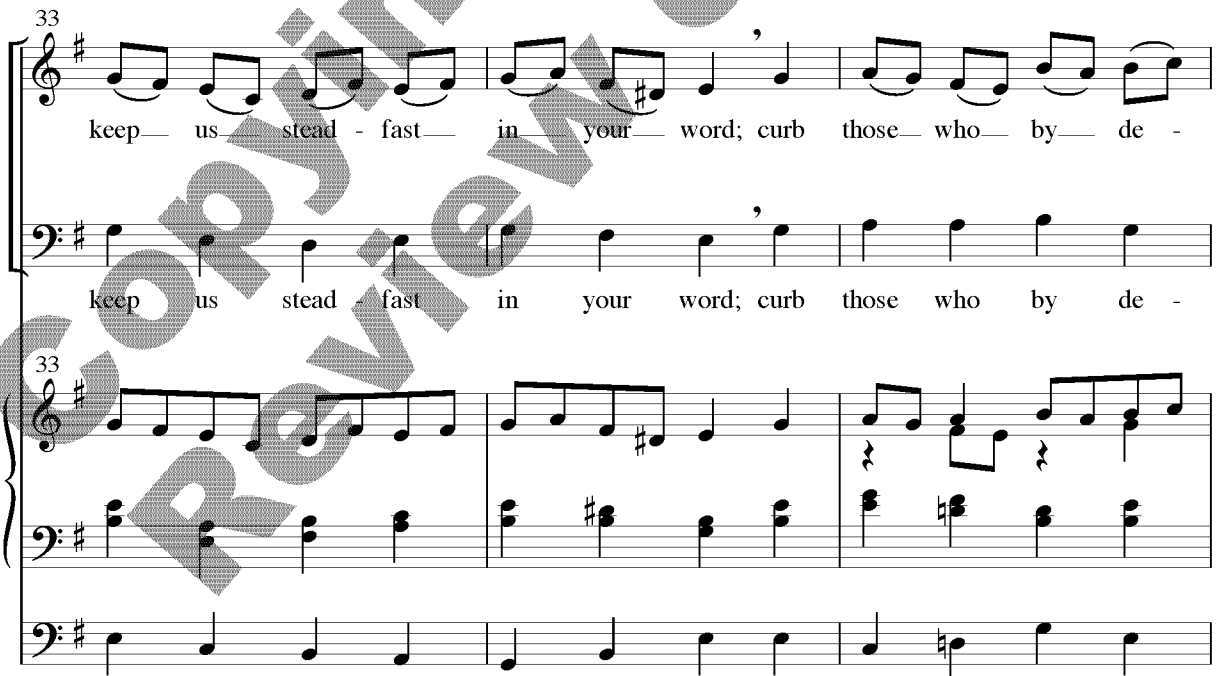
30 *mf legato* *poco rit.* *a tempo f*



33  
 keep — us — stead - fast — in your — word; curb those — who — by — de -

33  
 keep us stead fast in your word; curb those who by de -

33





36

ceit — or — sword would wrest the king - dom — from — your — Son and

ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son and

39 *poco rit.* *molto rit.*

bring — to — naught all — he — has — done.

bring to naught all he has done.

*poco rit.* *molto rit.*

*mf* *p*