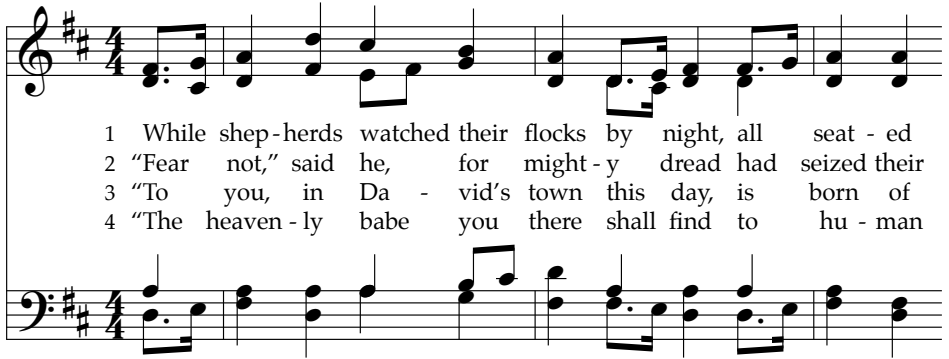
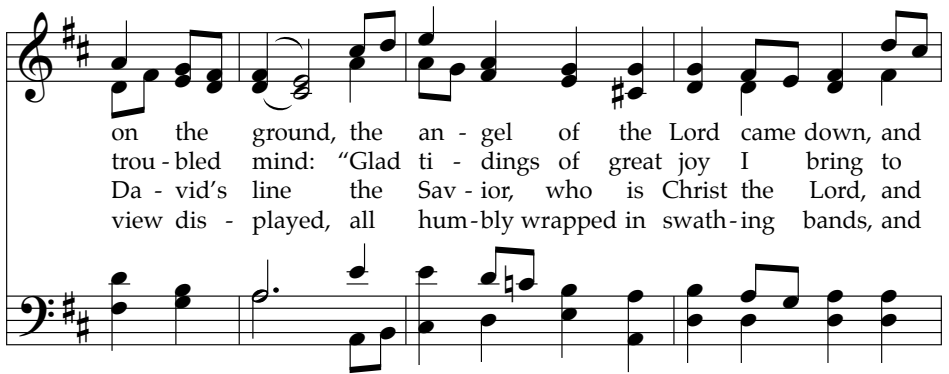


## While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks 118



1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed  
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town this day, is born of  
 4 "The heaven - ly babe you there shall find to hu - man



on the ground, the an - gel of the Lord came down, and  
 trou - bled mind: "Glad ti - dings of great joy I bring to  
 Da - vid's line the Sav - ior, who is Christ the Lord, and  
 view dis - played, all hum - bly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and



glo - ry shone a - round, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 you and hu - man - kind, to you and hu - man - kind.  
 this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:  
 in a man - ger laid, and in a man - ger laid."

- 5 Thus spoke the seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song,  
 6 "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will to all from highest heaven begin and never cease, begin and never cease!"

The publication of this text in the late 17th century marked an important moment in the transition from the older practice of psalm-singing to the newer style of hymn-singing. This tune was not originally written for church use but was derived from an operatic aria.