

408 There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit

1 There's a sweet, sweet Spir - it in this place, and I
2 There are bless - ings you can - not re - ceive till you

know that it's the Spir - it of the Lord; there are
know him in his full - ness and be - lieve; you're the

sweet ex - pres - sions on each face, and I
one to prof - it when you say, "I am

know they feel the pres - ence of the Lord.
going to walk with Je - sus all the way."

This gospel hymn grew out of this African American author and composer's intense experience of prayer with her interracial choir in Los Angeles one Sunday morning before worship. She recalled that sense of "a sweet, sweet Spirit" when she sat down at her piano the next day.

Refrain

Sweet Ho - ly Spir - it, sweet heav - en - ly Dove, stay right here

with us, fill - ing us with your love; and for these bless - ings we

lift our hearts in praise; with - out a doubt we'll know that we have

been re - vived when we shall leave this place.

29 O God, You Search Me

(Psalm 139)

D G A D Bm

1 O God, you search me and you know me. All my
 2 You know my rest-ing and my ris-ing. You dis-
 3 Be-fore a word is on my tongue, Lord, you have
 4 Al-though your Spir-it is up-on me, still I
 5 For you cre-at-ed me and shaped me, gave me

F#m G Bm Asus A

thoughts lie o-pen to your gaze. When I
 cern my pur-pose from a-far, and with
 known its mean-ing through and through. You are
 search for shel-ter from your light. There is
 life with-in my moth-er's womb. For the

Bm G F#m Bm

walk or lie down you are be-fore me: ev-er the
 love ev-er-last-ing you be-siege me: in ev-ery
 with me be-yond my un-der-stand-ing: God of my
 no-where on earth I can es-cape you: e-ven the
 won-der of who I am, I praise you: safe in your

Em G A7 D

mak-er and keep-er of my days.
 mo-ment of life or death, you are.
 pres-ent, my past, and fu-ture, too.
 dark-ness is ra-diant in your sight.
 hands, all cre-a-tion is made new.

Psalm 139 is one of the most introspective and most intimate of all the psalms, showing an acute mindfulness of God's presence in all aspects of one's life. Sometimes resisted, this omnipresence ultimately becomes a ground of hope, a promise that we never stray beyond God's care.

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Lead Me, Guide Me

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

for if you lead me, I can-not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

I am weak and I need your strength and power to

help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me

through the dark - ness your face to see.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Guitar chords in Pew Edition do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

This African American gospel hymn can well be understood as an updated adaptation of Psalm 5:8, with the "enemies" of the psalm treated as the pressures and temptations of daily life. As with the psalms, the "I" here is understood to express a shared communal experience.

TEXT: Doris Akers, 1953
 MUSIC: Doris Akers, 1953; arr. Richard Smallwood
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LEAD ME, GUIDE ME
 Irregular