

Thy Word, O Lord, Before Me Lies

Written by Harold H. Brauer

1953

The first of nine hymns written over the years was composed while serving as chairman of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, North Wisconsin District, Pastor-Teacher Conference in October 1953. The hymn concept was suggested by a presentation on personal Bible study. The secretary, H. Handrich, noticed Pastor Brauer writing while the topic was presented and at its conclusion asked to see the results. Originally, the hymn tune (shown below) used when writing the hymn was *Erhalt Uns, Herr, Geisliche Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1543. In 1976 it was include in a special service at Zion Lutheran Church, Wausau, WI, commemorating the 40th Anniversary of Rev. Brauer's ordination into the Lutheran ministry. Also, a "Day of Spiritual Music" at Zion Lutheran Church in 1956, featured this hymn using an unpublished tune composed by Hugo Gehrke for the event.

(<https://www.cuchicago.edu/contentassets/d4ea336194854fddafa7218f49e34882/gehrke-archive.pdf>)

The musical score is presented in three systems, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are arranged in four columns, with the first column containing four numbered lines of text. The melody is primarily composed of quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The bass line provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

1 Thy Word, O Lord, be - fore me lies; Help
2 Thy Spir - it grant that what I read May
3 What I here read and learn, dear Lord, Sink
4 This grant to all who read Thy truth: To

me to read with o - pen eyes, To lis - ten with a rev' rent
meet some deep and in - most need; Re - vive my faith with pro - mise
in my heart that it be stirred To ac - tion right, to liv - ing
hear Thee speak in age or youth; Thy Spir - it guide, Thy bless - ing

awe As Thou dost speak to me Thy Law.
sure Of grace in Christ that doth en - dure.
pure; With hope of heav'n my soul as - sure.
give, That all with Thee in heav'n may live.