

Shepherd of Tender Youth

SHEPHERD of tender youth,
Guiding in love and truth
Through devious ways;
Christ, our triumphant King,
We come Thy name to sing,
And here our children bring,
To join Thy praise.

Thou art our holy Lord,
O all-subduing Word,
Healer of strife:
Thou didst Thyself abase,
That from sin's deep disgrace
Thou mightest save our race,
And give us life.

O wisdom's great High Priest!
Thou hast prepared the feast
Of holy love:
And in our mortal pain
None calls on Thee in vain:
Help Thou dost not disdain,
Help from above.

Ever be near our side,
Our Shepherd and our Guide,
Our Staff and Song:
Jesus, Thou Christ of God,
By Thine enduring Word,
Lead us where Thou hast trod;
Make our faith strong.

So now, and till we die,
Sound we Thy praises high,
And joyful sing:
Let all the holy throng
Who to Thy church belong,
Unite and swell the song
To Christ our King!

Traditionally ascribed to Clement of Alexandria (c. AD 200)
Translated by Henry Martyn Dexter, 1849