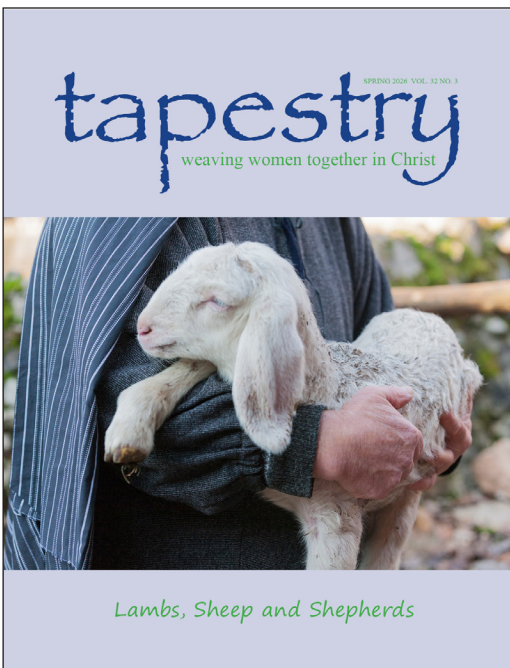




# Worthy is the Lamb

*The Lamb, Lutheran Service Book, 547  
Hymn text by Rev. Dr. Gerald P.  
Coleman, musician, pastor, singer,  
organist, conductor, violinist and  
contemporary composer (1953-2023).*



For more about lambs, sheep and shepherds, order an e-version of LWMLC's magazine, *tapestry*, Spring 2026, from Judy at [datamanager@lutheranwomen.ca](mailto:datamanager@lutheranwomen.ca).  
Single issue - \$3.75.

by Jill Munoz

Vice-president Christian Growth

Rev. Coleman grew up in Washington D.C. His family listened to all types of music. He played violin in the D.C. youth orchestra, and he went on to develop his musical gifts at Concordia University, Bronxville, New York where he majored in music. During his time at Concordia, he connected worship, not only with music but with a deep love of service in ministry. In the early 70s there were many changes from traditional worship to contemporary worship which he found exciting and stimulating. Encouraged to develop his significant musical talent, he received his doctorate from Yale University. Dr. Coleman became a professor of music at Concordia, Bronxville where he mentored and encouraged his students to take leadership roles in student chapel.

The Lord led Dr. Coleman to attend Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. During a summer school class on Galatians with Dr. Jonathon Grothe, (past president of Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ont.) he prepared his Greek translation ahead of time. During class time he experimented with words in two-syllable patterns like “the Lamb, the Lamb” and came up with the words for the hymn “Worthy is the Lamb.” The melody followed. He never changed a note or a word. While working on this – during class – he was also skillfully answering questions from his professor. He never missed a beat.

Now a pastor, Coleman served various congregations in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. (LCMS). He stressed the importance of service in the church, developing good relationships and encouraging strong lay leadership. “We need to care about the future of the church,” he stated. At the age of 70, after a brief illness, the Lord called him to his eternal home.

In this Lenten season, we can ponder the message of Jesus being the perfect sacrificial Lamb who died on the cross to save us from our sins. His resurrection brings us the gift of eternal life. “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29).

In 1999 *Lost and Found*, a Lutheran singing duo, recorded this hymn. You can listen here. [<https://youtu.be/VOGBS4dGiuc?si=CRUw55ftqV7O83rj>] or [<https://youtu.be/VOGBS4dGiuc?si=FIu9av5VKd7YQa5->]

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