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I Saw Him in Childhood

Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Text: Vilhelm Parelius Birkedal, 1809-1892; trans. Oscar Overby, 1892-1964

Tune: Norwegian folk tune

I saw him in child - hood with eyes bright - ly beam - ing, In
 I saw him in youth when all life was a - dorn - ing The
 I saw him in mid - life in ho - ly de - cor - um; The
 'Twas then I be-held Him as mer - ci - ful Sav - ior Whose

3 rays of the rain - bow on moun - tain - tops gleam - ing; He
 flights of my spir - it in glo - ri - ous morn - ing. He
 sin - ner sur - ren - dered in judg - ment be - fore him; And,
 cross lost of - fense and re - stored me to fa - vor Em -

5 fond - ly em-braced me my fan - cy be-friend - ing, But
 beck - oned my soul as the glow of his por - tal Shed
 trem - bling, my heart in con - tri - tion was burn - ing, As
 brac - ing my bur - den I found a re - un - ion: The

7 veiled by the ver - dure the cross was im-pend - ing.
 ra - diance and rap - ture on all that is mor - tal.
 death - ter - rors closed o'er my spir - it in yearn - ing.
 Sav - ior and sin - ner once more in com-mun - ion.

5 Again I shall see him When evening comes o'er me,
 When daylight shall silently Cadence before me.
 And death o'er my vision Dim shadows is casting,
 O then I shall greet him In joy everlasting.