Dear to the Heart of the Shepherd

1. Dear to the heart of the Shepherd, Dear are the sheep of his fold;  
2. Dear to the heart of the Shepherd, Dear are the lambs of his fold;  
3. Dear to the heart of the Shepherd, Dear are the “nine-ty and nine”;  
4. Green are the pas-tures in-viting; Sweet are the wa-ters and still.

Dear is the love that he gives them, Dear-er than sil- ver or gold.  
Some from the pas-tures are stray-ing, Hun-gry and help-less and cold.  
Dear are the sheep that have wan-dered Out in the des-ert to pine.  
Lord, we will an-swer thee glad-ly, “Yes, bless-ed Mas-ter, we will!”

Dear to the heart of the Shepherd, Dear are his “oth-er” lost sheep;  
See, the Good Shep-herd is seek-ing, Seek-ing the lambs that are lost,  
Hark! he is ear- nest-ly call-ing, Ten-der-ly plead-ing to-day;  
Make us thy true un-der-shep-herds; Give us a love that is deep.

O-ver the moun-tains he fol-lows, O-ver the wa-ters so deep.  
Bring-ing them in with re-joic-ing, Saved at such in-fi-nite cost.  
“Will you not seek for my lost ones, Off from my shel-ter a-stray?”  
Send us out in-to the des-ert, Seek-ing thy wan-der-ing sheep.”
Out in the desert they wander, Hungry and helpless and cold;

Off to the rescue he hastens, Bringing them back to the fold.

(4th verse) we'll hasten,