

Connecting Music to Mass June 19, 2016

In today's gospel, Jesus reveals his fate to the apostles, and gives them instruction for discipleship. It's helpful for me to step back and hear this passage as one of the apostles rather than a 21st century cradle Catholic. Imagine if you heard Jesus say this for the first time – "The Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised." It's an ordinary thing for us to hear since we know how the story ends, but what a shock it must have been to Peter and the others! Our opening hymn (#801) elaborates on the closing verse from the gospel reading. In a sense, this entire text is based on the final few words of the gospel reading – "...whoever loses his life for my sake will save it." It's one of the paradoxes of our faith, and this hymn text expresses it so well. Each verse is a plea to God for a virtue or trait to help us in our life of discipleship. I've summarized the hymn text in the following prayer...

Lord, grant me (vs. 1) humbleness to serve others,
(vs. 2) strength in body, mind, and spirit,
(vs. 3) courage to stand up for my faith,
(vs. 4) direction in my life of discipleship,
and (vs. 5) endurance to follow you to the Eternal Reward.

The closing hymn is, perhaps, a more joyful expression of discipleship. Fun Fact: the music and text for "I Want to Walk As a Child of the Light" was written by local composer Kathleen Thomerson, who was Professor of Organ at SIUE for many years. The refrain of this text reminds us of our eternal reward after a life of discipleship by quoting John's vision from the Book of Revelation (21:23) – "The city had no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gave it light, and its lamp was the Lamb."

Discipleship is not an easy path. It takes self-awareness and discipline to conquer our selfish human nature, both of which are doable through Christ. And that's the good news in today's readings. No matter what we suffer and endure in this life, we are united as members of the Body of Christ in the Sacrament of Baptism, foreshadowed in the first reading – "...a fountain to purify from sin and uncleanness." And thus, we are united to Christ as Paul says in the second reading, also quoted in our communion hymn – "For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free person, there is not male and female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Stephen Eros
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[Click here - Sunday Readings for June 19, 2016](#)

Take Up Your Cross



1. "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said, "If
2. Take up your cross; let not its weight Fill
3. Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And
4. Take up your cross, then, in his strength, And
5. Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, Nor



you would my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; His strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish pride be still; The Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - 'ry dan - ger brave: It guides you to a
 think till death to lay it down; For those who hum - bly

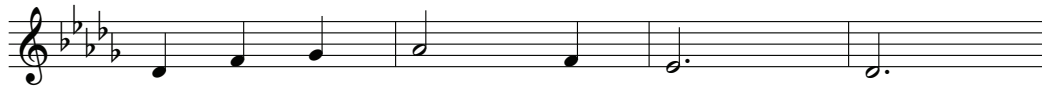


will - ing heart, And hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up, And brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death Up - on a cross on Cal - v'ry's hill.
 bet - ter home And leads to vic - t'ry o'er the grave.
 bear the cross One day will wear the glo - rious crown.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright-ness of God.
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right-eous-ness shine on my path. And
When we have run with pa-tience the race, We



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



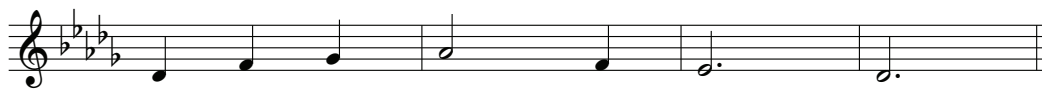
In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

