

Connecting Music to Mass July 10, 2016

We hear the popular parable of the Good Samaritan in this Sunday's gospel. In addition to this powerful story, a connection between the first reading and the gospel stood out to me. Moses, speaking of the law, says to the people, "No, it is something very near to you, already in your mouths and in your hearts; you have only to carry it out." Then in the gospel, Jesus responds to the scholar's question with another question. (Have you noticed that Jesus almost *always* answers a question with a question?) When asked how one can inherit eternal life, Jesus replies to the scholar, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" Why does he ask this? Because God has created every person with this law – love to God and neighbor – planted in their heart. God has created us with a desire for holiness and goodness in our hearts, but it's up to us to awaken and nourish that desire. The two readings end in the same way; Moses says, "...you have only to carry it out," and Jesus says, "Go and do likewise." Simple instructions for a challenging task!

In response to this call, our music today resounds with themes of unity and mission. The opening hymn "In Christ There Is No East or West" (#832) is an expression of ecumenical unity, as the fourth stanza says, "All Christly souls are one in him." As Catholics, we are called to join with our Christian brethren to do exactly what the second stanza says - achieve "high communion" through serving our neighbor. This service unites us to Christ and his mission, and helps others to come to know Christ as well. The closing hymn "The Master Came to Bring Good News" (#964) hits on several of the themes in Jesus' public ministry. Today, we should pay close attention to the second stanza as it says, "The law's [love to God and neighbor] fulfilled through Jesus Christ." This law, which existed for centuries, was perfected through Christ's sacrifice for us on the cross. That's our model of sacrifice for every day life. And because of that sacrifice, we place God in the center of our lives, and strive to glorify him in all our joys and sufferings, and even in the ordinary things.

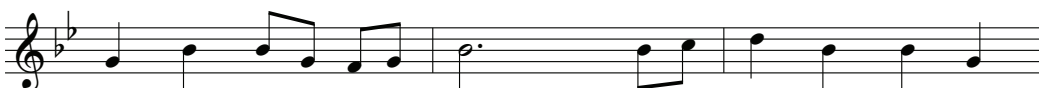
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[Click here - Sunday Readings for July 10, 2016](#)

In Christ There Is No East or West



1. In Christ there is no east or west, In
 2. In him shall true hearts ev - 'ry - where Their
 3. Join hands, dis - ci - ples in the faith, What -
 4. In Christ now meet both east and west, In



him no south or north, But one great fam - 'ly
 high com - mun - ion find; His serv - ice is the
 e'er your race may be! Who serve each oth - er
 him meet south and north; All Christ - ly souls are



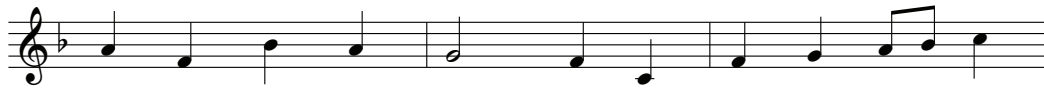
bound by love Through - out the whole wide earth.
 gold - en cord Close bind - ing hu - man - kind.
 in Christ's love Are sure - ly kin to me.
 one in him Through - out the whole wide earth.

Text: Galatians 3:23; William A. Dunkerley, 1852-1941, alt.
 Tune: McKEE, CM; African American; adapt. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

The Master Came to Bring Good News



1. The Mas - ter came to bring good news, The
2. The Law's ful - filled through Je - sus Christ, The
3. To seek the sin - ners Je - sus came, To
4. For - give us, Lord, as we for - give And



news of love and free - dom, To heal the sick and
man who lived for oth - ers. The law of Christ is:
live a - mong the friend - less, To show them love that
seek to help each oth - er. For - give us, Lord, and



seek the poor, To build the peace - ful king - dom.
Serve in love Our sis - ters and our broth - ers.
they might share The king - dom that is end - less.
we shall live To pray and work to - geth - er.



Fa - ther, for - give us! Through Je - sus hear us!



As we for - give one an - oth - er!