

**Singing Our Faith**  
**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 23, 2017**

The Prophet Isaiah proclaims the mystery of God's ways - "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD." The gospel reading—concluding with the popular phrase "The last shall be first..."—describes the odd judgement of the vineyard owner who pays everyone the same wage regardless of how many hours they work. There's a lot more that can be said about the vineyard parable, and who the long-term and short-term laborers represent, but I digress. Instead, let's follow the path that St. Paul leads us down.

Paul opens by saying, "*Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me life is Christ, and death is gain.*" Summed up: if we follow Christ, we are his. We were all told as children to worry about our own actions, not others'. Regardless of how many hours we've put in in the vineyard vs. someone else, **we are Christ's!** And that's all that should matter to us!

The beautiful hymn "Lord of All Hopefulness" (below) elaborates on the idea of keeping Christ close to us at all times, just as St. Paul did. Like many formal prayers to God, the hymn follows the formula of 1) addressing God in line one, 2) praising what God has done in line two, and 3) asking God to give us something in lines three and four. Formalities aside, I love this text because it begs that our entire day be sanctified by God's grace – when we wake, as we work, when we come home, and as we sleep (check out the third line of music for all these).

**Singing Our Faith**  
**25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 23, 2017**

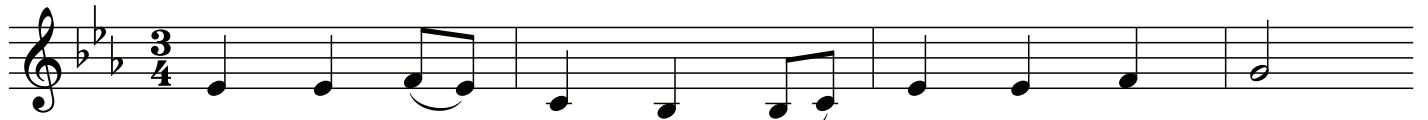
I especially love the second line, acknowledging what God has done and can do. I love this because it confirms that Jesus Christ is a personal god, and that he is both human and divine. Stanzas two and three especially speak to the human nature of Jesus, the carpenter and laborer, the teacher who welcomed with arms of embrace. He *understands* our day-to-day life, so there is an incredibly **personal** element when we ask him in prayer to be with us in our work and home life. On the other side of that is Jesus' divinity – his presence alone is a healing balm. How fortunate are we to have a personal God who desires a relationship with each of his children. And what a gift we have as Catholics – Jesus, present in the Eucharist, a balm to heal and revive our souls.

Stephen Eros

Director of Liturgy & Music

# Singing Our Faith

## 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 23, 2017



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,  
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,  
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,  
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de - stroy,  
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,  
Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,  
Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,



Be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
Be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–1953, © Oxford University Press  
Tune: SLANE, 10 11 11 12; Gaelic; harm. by Erik Routley, 1917–1982