

Connecting Music to Mass July 17, 2016

Today's readings (#1139) remind us, in many ways, to put God first in our life. In the first reading, God's messengers appear to Abraham; saying he was attentive to their needs would be an understatement. The verses of the responsorial psalm provide a laundry list of behaviors that lead us closer to God; the refrain tells us that we will indeed be close to God if we treat others with justice. St. Paul tells us in the second reading that becoming one with Christ will help us bring others to Christ – "It is he whom we proclaim, admonishing everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone perfect in Christ." Finally, in the gospel Martha is busy being a good hostess, while Mary is "slacking off" by sitting with Jesus. Martha's frustration with Mary is quickly put in check by our dear Lord, as he tells her that Mary's attentiveness to him is justified.

The extremes of Martha and Mary lead to the question: How often does the business of every day life distract us from being attentive to God? On the other hand, we can learn from Martha's (and Abraham's) actions as a good host. In the Mass, we are guests in God's house, and he serves as host. At the same time, we are hosts to Christ as he comes to us in the Eucharist. In the Mass, we show our attentiveness to God by focusing our wandering minds, and praying and singing as a community.

Our music today simply gives praise to God and invites his Spirit to possess us. Pay attention to the descriptive language in the opening hymn "Praise to You, O Christ Our Savior" (#596). This contemporary hymn gives praise to God for all the things he has done for us and our ancestors, which can also be metaphorically transferred to present day. The fourth verse is especially powerful in light of the recent tragedies in our country.

The closing hymn "Lord of All Hopefulness" (#663), set to the familiar Irish hymn tune "Slane," is a beautiful prayer. You'll notice that each stanza of this text is assigned to a different part of the day – break, noon, eve, end. It invites God's presence as we awake, go to work, come home, and go to sleep. Although it doesn't have a strong "sending forth" sound or message, it reminds us as we depart from today's liturgy to remain aware of God's presence in our lives, which extends far outside the walls of this church.

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Director of Liturgy & Music

[Click here - Sunday Readings for July 17, 2016](#)

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST OUR SAVIOR

Bernadette Farrell

Refrain



Praise to you, O Christ, our Sav-ior, Word of the Fa-ther, call-ing us to life;
Son of God who leads us to free-dom: glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

Verses



1. You are the Word who calls us out of dark-ness; you are the
2. You are the one whom proph-ets hoped and longed for; you are the
3. You are the Word who calls us to be ser-vants; you are the
4. You are the Word who binds us and u - nites us; you are the

1. Word who leads us in - to light; you are the Word who
2. one who speaks to us to - day; you are the one who
3. Word whose on - ly law is love; you are the Word - made -
4. Word who calls us to be one; you are the Word who

to Refrain



1. brings us through the des - ert: glo - ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
2. leads us to our fu - ture: glo - ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
3. flesh who lives a-mong us: glo - ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!
4. teach - es us for-give-ness: glo - ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

Lord of All Hopefulness



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.