

Connecting Music to Mass
July 31, 2016

The parable of the rich man is a good reminder for our over-materialized culture. The rich man, as he basks in the abundance of his possessions, is reminded of his mortality when God says that his life will be taken that night. The point of the parable is *not* to give up our material possessions, but to invest *more* in eternity than in our earthly life. Step back and look at your TV or computer time vs. prayer time. How well are they balanced? Also remember that our possessions can help us in our discipleship. Study, prayer, and communication have never been easier than they are right now! In light of all this, remember first and foremost that God sees all people as his children regardless of possessions or lack thereof. The offertory hymn "Come to the Water" (#584) serves as a reflection on this message. The hymn text, based on passages from Isaiah and Matthew, remind us that *all* are welcomed by God, especially the lost, broken, and least among us. Let us always remember to keep this spirit of hospitality and charity in our interactions with every human being.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us that not only are we children of God, but we are united in Christ to serve others and bring his message to the world. The opening hymn "As We Gather at Your Table" (#839) gathers us as one to worship, but it also gives us a lot to think about – how we engage in praise and worship of God, and how this strengthens us to do Christ's work in the world. I offer this text as a meditation for you. If you're reading this before Mass, take a few minutes to read the text and really hang on every word. Is that truly how we approach Mass? Are we praying fully as a community? Do we feel a strong sense of mission when we go out into the world? My hope is that this text will open your heart to engage fully in prayer, and inspire you to do Christ's work when you leave. God be with you!

Stephen Eros
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As We Gather at Your Table



1. As we gath - er at your ta - ble,
2. Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness
3. Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon



As we lis - ten to your word,
In the sac - ra - ment of life;
Oth - er guests to share that feast



Help us know, O God, your pres - ence;
Send us forth to love and serve you,
Where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come



Let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nour - ish us with
Bring - ing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your
Those who had been last and least. There no more will



sa - cred sto - ry Till we claim it as our own;
great com - pas - sion To for - give as you for - gave;
en - vy blind us, Nor will pride our peace de - stroy,



Teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet
May we still be - hold your im - age
As we join with saints and an - gels



How to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
In the world you died to save.
To re - peat the sound - ing joy.

COME TO THE WATER

John Foley, S.J.



1. O let all who thirst, let them come to the
 2. And let all who seek, let them come to the
 3. And let all who toil, let them come to the
 4. And let all the poor, let them come to the



1. wa - ter. And let all who have noth-ing,
 2. wa - ter. And let all who have noth-ing,
 3. wa - ter. And let all who are wea - ry,
 4. wa - ter. Bring the ones who are lad - en,



1. let them come to the Lord: with-out
 2. let them come to the Lord: with-out
 3. let them come to the Lord: all who
 4. bring them all to the Lord: bring the



1. mon-ey, with-out price. Why should you pay the
 2. mon-ey, with-out strife. Why should you spend your
 3. la - bor, with-out rest. How can your soul find
 4. chil-dren with-out might. Eas - y the load and



1. price, ex-cept for the Lord?
 2. life, ex-cept for the Lord?
 3. rest, ex-cept for the Lord?
 4. light: 7 come to the Lord.