

Connecting Music to Mass
August 28 2016

Today's readings are found at #1157 in the hymnal.

Last weekend's reading from the Letter to the Hebrews talked about discipline, which, after hearing the Gospel reading, translated into disciplining ourselves for the Kingdom of God. The author of Hebrews says in such an honest tone, *"At the time, all discipline seems a cause not for joy but for pain, yet later it brings the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who are trained by it."*

I immediately thought of the difficult disciplining conversations I have with my own children. But there's always a new angle to be seen. How are the behaviors of **parents** critical to not only their own salvation, but also to their children's? "The fruits of righteousness" are reaped not only for us, but for our children as they learn by watching us.

Jesus doesn't ease up on us this week. *"For every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."* Our inconvenient human pride gets in the way of this so often! But he doesn't stop there. *"When you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind..."* The opening hymn "The Kingdom of God" (#736) is a repeat from last week. One of the reasons I chose this new hymn while planning for August is because we are able to use it several weeks in a row. Each set of readings relates to a different line of the hymn text. The line, "The outcasts are welcomed God's banquet to share" is especially powerful this week as we recognize in this gospel that the poor, crippled, lame, and blind – these "rejects" – are guests in the Kingdom of God!

We thrive off of building communities of people that look like, think like, and talk like us. It's easy. It's safe. Most of the time we don't necessarily reject different people, but we certainly don't seek out to welcome them. It's a missed opportunity for solidarity and evangelization. The communion hymn "At the Table of Jesus" (#948) not only acknowledges the saving power of the Eucharist, but also the unity found in the Kingdom of God. It's no coincidence that this text is set to the familiar tune "Simple Gifts" – think about it. The verses are a paraphrase of the ancient hymn text "Ubi Caritas," which is a cornerstone text for love, charity, and unity.

How can we model the hospitality found "at the table of Jesus" in our own lives? That's for each person to think about. The fruit of hospitality is in the closing lines of the gospel. "Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." Those who have experienced this are changed forever.

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[Click here - Sunday Readings for August 28, 2016](#)

The Kingdom of God



1. The king - dom of God is jus - tice and joy;
2. The king - dom of God is mer - cy and grace;
3. The king - dom of God is chal - lenge and choice;
4. God's king - dom is come, the gift and the goal;



For Je - sus re - stores what sin would de - stroy.
The cap - tives are freed, the sin - ners find place,
Be - lieve the good news, re - pent and re - joice!
In Je - sus be - gun, in heav - en made whole.



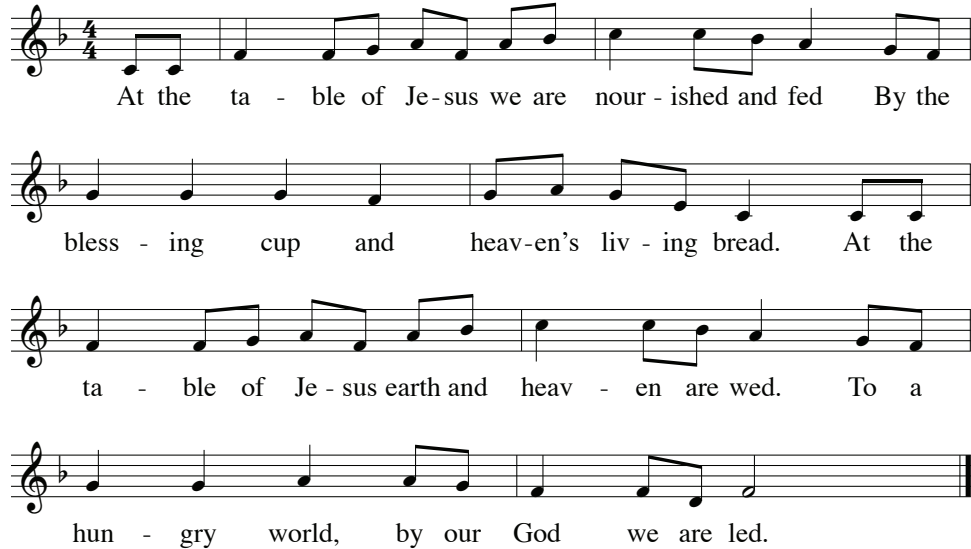
God's pow - er and glo - ry in Je - sus we know;
The out - cast are wel - comed God's ban - quet to share;
God's love for us sin - ners brought Christ to his cross:
The heirs of the king - dom shall an - swer his call;



And here and here - af - ter the king - dom shall grow.
And hope is a - wak - ened in place of de - spair.
Our cri - sis of judge - ment for gain or for loss.
And all things cry "Glo - ry!" to God all in all.

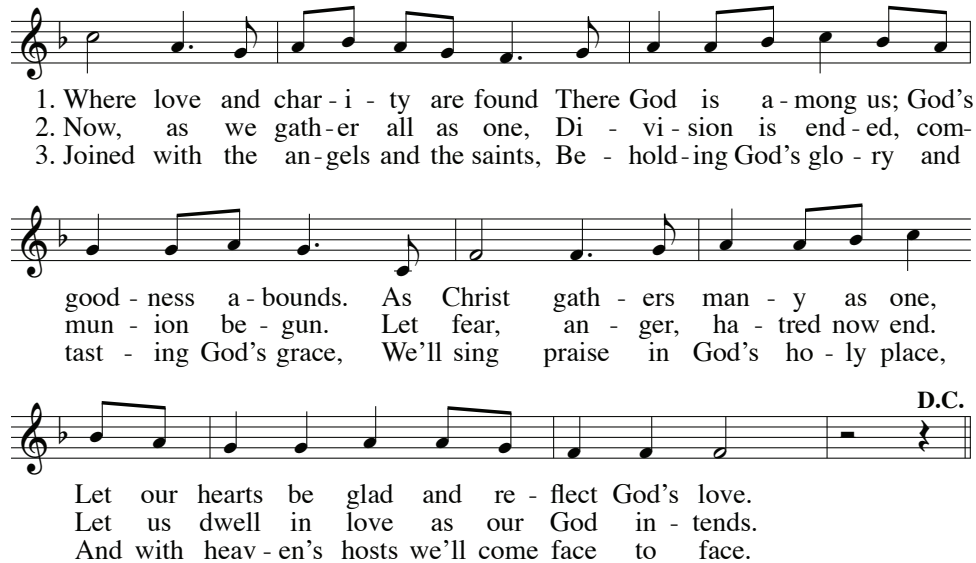
At the Table of Jesus

Refrain



At the ta - ble of Je - sus we are nour - ished and fed By the
bless - ing cup and heav - en's liv - ing bread. At the
ta - ble of Je - sus earth and heav - en are wed. To a
hun - gry world, by our God we are led.

Verses



1. Where love and char - i - ty are found There God is a - mong us; God's
2. Now, as we gath - er all as one, Di - vi - sion is end - ed, com -
3. Joined with the an - gels and the saints, Be - hold - ing God's glo - ry and
good - ness a - bounds. As Christ gath - ers man - y as one,
mun - ion be - gun. Let fear, an - ger, ha - tred now end.
tast - ing God's grace, We'll sing praise in God's ho - ly place,
D.C.
Let our hearts be glad and re - flect God's love.
Let us dwell in love as our God in - tends.
And with heav - en's hosts we'll come face to face.

Text: Based on *Ubi Caritas*; Tony E. Alonso, b.1980
Tune: SIMPLE GIFTS, Irregular with refrain; Joseph Brackett, Jr., 1797-1882; arr. by Marty Haugen, b.1950
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