

## **Singing Our Faith** **16th Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 22, 2017**

This weekend's opening hymn is below. The Church says that the purpose of the opening hymn is to \*\*\*1) open the celebration, 2) foster the unity of those who have been gathered, 3) introduce their thoughts to the mystery of the liturgical time or festivity, 4) and accompany the procession of the Priest and ministers.

If we break down this list, numbers 1 and 4 are the easiest; numbers 2 and 3 require the worshipping assembly's attention. By singing together as an assembly, we become united in our praise and worship of God - #2. For those who say "I don't sing" remember that God doesn't care about the beauty of your voice, but simply about your heart's desire to praise him. If you're still not on board, at least get out the hymnal and pray the words - help foster unity!

The third purpose is especially true with this weekend's opening hymn "The Reign of God." The hymn texts summarizes the parables we will hear in this Sunday's gospel, "introducing our hearts to the festivity."

Each stanza, packed with powerful descriptive language, deserves a paragraph of its own - but I'll spare you. I invite you to reflect on stanzas 1-5 on your own, and see which verse speaks to you the most.

As we begin the celebration of the Eucharist, stanza 6 reminds us that the Holy Spirit is present "ablaze among us, kindling hearts," and inspiring us to bring the Kingdom of God to earth through our works of discipleship.

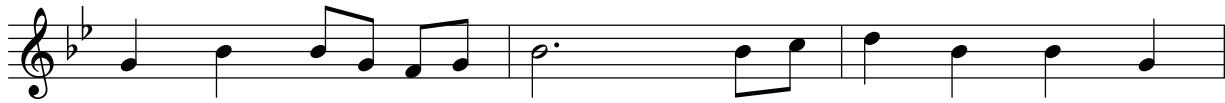
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Director of Liturgy & Music

\*\*\*General Instruction of the Roman Missal #47

# The Reign of God



1. The reign of God, like farm - er's field, Bears  
 2. The reign of God can - not be found In  
 3. The reign of God is like a pearl On  
 4. Though hid - den now, the reign of God May,  
 5. Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God From  
 6. The reign of God is come in Christ; The



weeds a - long with wheat; The good and bad are  
 far - off, for - eign land Till in fa - mil - iar  
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that  
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; From deep with - in it  
 ti - ny seed will spread, Till birds of ev - 'ry  
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined Till har - vest is com - plete.  
 face and place We find it close at hand.  
 pre - cious pearl, Go out and buy that field.  
 ris - es up, Like yeast in swell - ing dough.  
 feath - er come To nest, and there be fed.  
 kin - dling hearts, The reign of God is here!

