

* Wednesday May 16 – MUSIC MINISTRY

"Awake, my soul! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn! I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations. For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds." (Ps 57:8f.)

*The importance of music in biblical religion is shown very simply by the fact that the verb "to sing" (with related words such as "song", and so forth) is one of the most commonly used words in the Bible.

Liturgical Music Flows From Love

The singing of the Church comes ultimately out of love. It is the utter depth of love that produces the singing. "*Cantare amantis est*", says St. Augustine, singing is a lover's thing. In so saying, we come again to the trinitarian interpretation of Church music. The Holy Spirit is love, and it is he who produces the singing. He is the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit who draws us into love for Christ and so leads to the Father. In liturgical music, based as it is on biblical faith, there is, therefore, a clear dominance of the Word; this music is a higher form of proclamation. Ultimately, it rises up out of the love that responds to God's love made flesh in Christ, the love that for us went unto death. After the Resurrection, the Cross is by no means a thing of the past, and so this love is always marked by pain at the hiddenness of God, by the cry that rises up from the depths of anguish, *Kyrie eleison*, by hope and by supplication. But it also has the privilege, by anticipation, of experiencing the reality of the Resurrection, and so it brings with it the joy of being loved, that gladness of heart that Haydn said came upon him when he set liturgical texts to music. Thus the relation of liturgical music to logos means, first of all, simply its relation to words. That is why singing in the liturgy has priority over instrumental music, though it does not in any way exclude it. It goes without saying that the biblical and liturgical texts are the normative words from which liturgical music has to take its bearings. This does not rule out the continuing creation of "new songs", but instead inspires them and assures them of a firm grounding in God's love for mankind and his work of redemption. (*The Spirit of Liturgy*, Pope Benedict XVI).

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; cry out to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms. (Ps 95:1-2)

... but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another [in] psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks always and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father. (Ephesians 5:18-19)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. (Col 3:16)

God has gone up with a shout; the LORD, amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise. For God is king over all the earth; sing hymns of praise. (Psalm 47:6-8)

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; with the lyre make music to our God. (Ps 147:7)

Sing to him a new song; skillfully play with joyful chant. (Ps 33:3)

Come, let us sing joyfully to the LORD; cry out to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with a song of praise, joyfully sing out our psalms. For the LORD is the great God, the great king over all gods. (Ps 95:1-3)

Shout with joy to the LORD, all the earth; break into song; sing praise. Sing praise to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and melodious song. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy to the King, the LORD. (Ps 98:4-6)

PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN MUSIC MINISTRY

Pray for the Spirit's powerful anointing upon our St. Mary and St. John Music Ministries, that hearts and minds will be lifted in praise and adoration to God.

- ✠ Pray that our parishioners will participate fully in the liturgies and experience the wonder of God's presence.
- ✠ Pray for wisdom and guidance for our music ministers as they prepare for each service.
- ✠ Pray for a powerful anointing upon our music ministers as they lead us in worship and praise.
- ✠ Pray that parishioners who have musical talents will offer those talents unto the Lord.
- ✠ Pray that our vocalists and musicians will pursue excellence in their musical talents, offering their best to the Lord and to His Church.
- ✠ Pray for the equipping of our ministers in music with relevant, inspiring resources.
- ✠ Pray for *Brother Benedict* and *Carolyn Curtis* that they will receive guidance and wisdom through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.
- ✠ **Raise our music and musicians up in prayer. Fast for them.**

Lord, Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may practice in our lives. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Musician's Prayer - Anonymous

Oh Lord, please bless this music that it might glorify your name. May the talent that you have bestowed upon us be used only to serve you. Let this music be a witness to your majesty and love, and remind us that you are always watching, and listening, from your throne above. May your presence and beauty be found in every note, and may the words that are sung reach the hearts of your people so they will draw closer to you. May your Spirit guide us through every measure so that we might be the instruments of your peace, and proclaim your glory with glad voices. *Amen.*

Loving Father, we give You praise and glory for all Your gifts: You have called us to follow Your Son Jesus, You have invited us to be Your people of praise. Father, we give You honor and glory. In Your love for Your Church You have given us the gift of musical ability. Bless us as we use our talents for Your glory and for the good of Your holy people. Give us strength to continue our efforts to lead Your Church in song and music. Fill us with joy as we carry out our ministry of praise. Heavenly Father, we give You praise through Christ Your Son in the love of the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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*When the trumpeters and singers were heard as a single voice praising and giving thanks to the LORD, and when they raised the sound of the trumpets, cymbals, and other musical instruments to "Praise the LORD, who is so good, whose love endures forever," the cloud filled the house of the LORD. The priests could no longer minister because of the cloud, since the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God. (2 Chronicles 5:13-14)*