

THE DWELLINGS MASS

RITUAL MUSIC FOR THE VOICE OF THE CHURCH

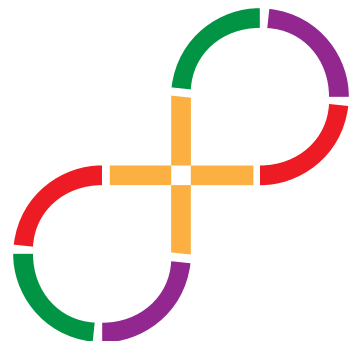
FOR ASSEMBLY, LEADERS OF SONG, SATB CHOIR
AND OPTIONAL GUITAR AND KEYBOARD ACCOMPANIMENT

music by **TONY WARD**

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An introduction to THE DWELLINGS MASS

The Dwellings Mass calls the assembly, with the guidance of leaders of song, to sing the text of the people's prayers recto-tonally (on a single pitch) in a contemplative rhythmic style, while members of the music ministry create a chorally driven harmony around it. This mass is meant to be prayed from deep within us (called as we are to be dwellings of God), suitable for any dwelling where God's people are gathered (retreat houses, churches small and large, intentional communities, and so on), and can be accompanied any way a community is able (from one guitar to pipe organ to large ensemble), or not accompanied at all.

My great hope for this setting of the Mass is that those communities that utilize it in their sung prayer may find it easily adaptable to their particular character, acoustics, style of worship, and resources. Above all, this setting aims to make the rhythmic cadences of the words we pray accessible, natural and palpable; to encourage each person singing it to engage these prayers from the heart, while providing a meditative and uplifting harmonic backdrop.

It is imperative that the music ministry provides a balance between the assembly's single pitch and the harmonies which enliven it. Ideally, half the choir would be visibly "with" the assembly as leaders of song (perhaps even physically present among the

assembly). For these leaders of song, the task at hand is to present a reliable and welcoming example of recto-tonal singing, maintaining the single A sung throughout this mass with the energy and expressiveness that the rhythmic flow of the texts provide.

The task of bringing the harmonic and aesthetic flow of this setting falls to the choir (that is, the other half of the choir); yours is the gift of bringing color, depth and grace to the prayer of the assembly. Again, a careful balance must be attained through prudent dynamics, good phrasing and diction, and pastoral attentiveness to the needs of the community.

Very little is provided for instrumentalists in this setting. The hope is that this is seen not as an exclusion, but as a license to adapt your own giftedness and sensitivity in accompanying the prayer of the people. Pianists are encouraged to improvise on the guitar chords above the melody, paying attention to the rhythmic flow of the choir parts. Organists, winds and string players can easily adapt the choral harmony to their instruments, as might be done with a four-part chorale. While the setting is presented in a relatively romantic choral style, I encourage communities to experiment with it in styles better suited to them. My only request would be that the primary goal of empowering the sung prayer of the people be maintained. In short, I hope that *The Dwellings Mass* can be molded by the community into a familiar, suitable and welcoming means of praising God around and within us. —TW

PENITENTIAL ACT

KYRIE ELEISON

Music by **Tony Ward**

Freely, expressively ♩ = c. 85

A5 Gsus2/B G6 D

mp *mf*

Assembly Leaders of Song

(invocation)

Ky - ri - e, e - lei - son.
 Chri - ste, e - lei - son.
 Ky - ri - e, e - lei - son.

Soprano Alto

mf

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
 Chri - ste e - lei - son.
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.

Tenor Bass

A5 Em/D D

Presider: *mf* **All:**

May almighty God have mercy on us,
 forgive us our sins,
 and bring us to everlasting life.

A - men.

mf

A - men.

GLORY TO GOD

Music by **Tony Ward**

With breadth and conviction ♩ = c. 96

mf A/C# D/A A

Assembly Leaders of Song
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on

Soprano Alto
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on

Tenor Bass
Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and on

Em/A D/A A D G/D Dmaj7

earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-

earth peace to peo-ple of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we a-

GOSPEL ACCLAMATIONS

Music by **Tony Ward**

REFRAIN $\text{♩} = 96$

mf A5 Em Gsus2/B G6 D *f*

Assembly Leaders of Song

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Soprano Alto

mf *f*

Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tenor Bass

IN THE LENTEN SEASON:

A5 Gsus2/B G6 D

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end-less glo - ry.

mf

Praise to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, King of end-less glo - ry.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

HOLY

Music by **Tony Ward**

With heartfelt expression ♩ = c. 96

mf A5 A/G D/F# A

Assembly Leaders of Song

Soprano Alto

Tenor Bass

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord God of hosts.

G6/D D

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

D F#m7

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

Bm7 Bm7/A Gsus2 D/F# A *f* Gsus2/B G6

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the Ho - san -

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho san - na in the

D Gsus2/B *rit.* G6 D

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. na. Ho - san - na.

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

ACCLAMATION
 Assembly:

mp A Gsus2/B A/C# Gsus2/D A/E F#m7

Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Re - sur -

mp

Save us, Sav-ior of the world, for by your Cross and Re - sur -

Bm7 A6 G6 Dmaj7/A Gsus2/B G6 D

cresc.

rec - tion you have set us free.

cresc.

rec - tion you have set us free.



LAMB OF GOD

Music by **Tony Ward**

Assembly Leaders of Song

mp A5 G6 D/F#

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

Soprano Alto

mp

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the

Tenor Bass

1. A/E D Gsus2/B G6 D 2. A/E Gsus2/B G6 D

world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.

world, have mer-cy on us. world, grant us peace.