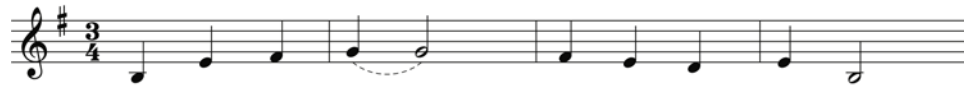


Gathering Hymn

Christ, Be Our Light!

Verses



1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness.
2. Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled.
3. Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry.
4. Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less.
5. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple,



Long - ing for truth, we turn to you.
Long - ing for hope, man - y de - spair.
Long - ing for wa - ter, man - y still thirst.
Long - ing for warmth, man - y are cold.
Man - y the hearts that yearn to be - long.



Make us your own, your ho - ly peo - ple,
Your word a - lone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your bread, bro - ken for oth - ers,
Make us your build - ing, shel - ter - ing oth - ers,
Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er,



Light for the world to see.
Make us your liv - ing voice.
Shared un - til all are fed.
Walls made of liv - ing stone.
Mak - ing your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.



Shine through the dark - ness. Christ, be our light!



Shine in your Church gath - ered to - day.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
Tune: CHRIST, BE OUR LIGHT, 9 8 9 6 with refrain; Bernadette Farrell, b.1957
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Greeting

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Penitential Act Form A (Confiteor)

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Collect

O God, who through your Word reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way, grant, we pray, that with prompt devotion and eager faith the Christian people may hasten toward the solemn celebrations to come. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reading 1 2 CHR 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem. Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled." In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: "Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!"

Responsorial Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, and our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, if I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

R. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!

Reading 2 **EPH 2:4-10**

Brothers and sisters: God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them

Alleluia **JN 3:16**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel **JN 3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus: “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.” For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

P. The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake, He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Universal Prayer

P. God's great love for the world gives us the confidence to offer our prayers for all those in need of that overflowing love.

LECTOR: For the Church, that we might take the selfless love of God that we have known in our lives and extend it to those in need, imitating God's generosity in our actions, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. For leaders of every stripe, that like King Cyrus of Persia they might be willing to be instruments of God's grace, bringing tolerance and hope to the people in their care, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. That those preparing for the Easter sacraments, especially our own catechumens, may always realize God's promise of eternal life through Christ's sacrifice, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. That every member of the faithful in this Year of St. Joseph will follow his example, and strengthen their life daily in the complete fulfillment of God's will, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. For all who have served in our armed forces or who continue to serve, and for their families and loved ones, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

L. For the silent prayers we hold in our hearts and for the intentions in the book of prayers: that they will be joined to those of our Blessed Virgin Mary, our patron St. Matthew, and all the saints, we pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer.

P. God of light, you gave light to the world on that first day and gave us your Son, the light of the world, who guides us to you. Help us shine that light for others as you listen to our needs and grant them according to your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

R. Amen

Preparation of the Gifts and Altar

What Wondrous Love Is This



1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;



What won-drous love is this, O my soul!
To God and to the Lamb I will sing.
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on.



What won-drous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
To God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
And when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joy-ful be,



To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul, for my soul;
While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing;
And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on, I'll sing on;



To bear the dread-ful curse for my soul!
While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: Alexander Means, 1801–1883

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE, 12 9 12 12 9; *Southern Harmony*, 1835; harm. by Richard Proulx, 1937–2010

P. Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life.

Then he places the paten with the bread on the corporal. If, however, the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud; at the end, the people may acclaim:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

Continued next page

The Deacon, or the Priest, pours wine and a little water into the chalice, saying quietly:

P. By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share in our humanity.

The Priest then takes the chalice and holds it slightly raised above the altar with both hands, saying in a low voice:

P. Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink.

Then he places the chalice on the corporal. If, however, the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud; at the end, the people may acclaim:

R. Blessed be God for ever.

Invitation to Prayer

P. With humble spirit and contrite heart may we be accepted by you, O Lord, and may our sacrifice in your sight this day be pleasing to you, Lord God.

If appropriate, he also incenses the offerings, the cross, and the altar. A Deacon or other minister then incenses the Priest and the people.

Then the Priest, standing at the side of the altar, washes his hands, saying quietly:

P. Wash me, O Lord, from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

Standing at the middle of the altar, facing the people, extending and then joining his hands, he says:

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Then the Priest, with hands extended, says the Prayer over the Offerings, at the end of which the people acclaim:

R. Amen.

Preface Dialogue

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.

Preface Acclamation

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The Mystery of Faith

P. The mystery of faith.

R. When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

The Lord's Prayer

P. At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

R. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Doxology

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.

Sign of Peace

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles; Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

If appropriate, the Deacon, or the Priest, adds:

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Comment: If the priest says "Let us offer each other the sign of peace." The congregation should avoid any contact with each other, and instead offer some other appropriate gesture. Then he takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice, saying quietly:

P. May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit. Lamb of God Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace. Invitation to Communion

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

ALL: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say
the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Hymn

We Remember

Refrain

We re - mem - ber how you loved us to your death,
and still we cel - e - brate, for you are with us here;
and we be - lieve that we will see you when you come
in your glo - ry, Lord. We re - mem - ber, we
cel - e - brate, we be - lieve.

Verses

1. Here, a mil - lion wound - ed souls Are
2. Now we re - cre - ate your love, We
3. Christ, the Fa - ther's great "A - men" To
4. See the face of Christ re - vealed In
yearn - ing just to touch you and be healed;
bring the bread and wine to share a meal:
all the hopes and dreams of ev - 'ry heart,
ev - 'ry per - son stand - ing by your side:
Gath - er all your peo - ple, and hold them to your heart.
Sign of grace and mer - cy, the pres - ence of the Lord.
Peace be - yond all tell - ing, and free - dom from all fear.
Gifts to one an - oth - er, and tem - ples of your love.

Concluding Rites

P. The Lord be with you.

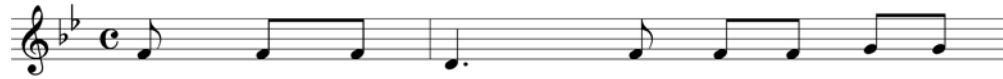
R. And with your spirit.

P. Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

How Great Thou Art



1. O Lord my God, when I in awe-some
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I
3. And when I think that God, his Son not
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac - cla -



won - der Con - sid - er all the works thy hands have
wan - der And hear the birds sing sweet - ly in the
spar - ing, Sent him to die, I scarce can take it
ma - tion And take me home, what joy shall fill my



made, I see the stars, I hear the roll - ing
trees, When I look down from loft - y moun-tain
in That on the cross, my bur - den glad - ly
heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, Thy pow'r through-out the u - ni-verse dis - played!
gran - deur And hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze,
bear - ing, He bled and died to take a - way my sin!
ra - tion And there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"



Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to thee: How great thou



art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav-ior God, to



thee: How great thou art, how great thou art!

Text: Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989
Tune: HOW GREAT THOU ART, 11 10 11 10 with refrain; Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989
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