

Connecting Music to Mass August 14, 2016

Today we celebrate and honor our patroness, St. Clare of Assisi – Happy Feast Day! Although we celebrate this feast, we will still hear the readings for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the second reading from the Letter to the Hebrews, we hear about leaving the “stuff” behind that doesn’t matter, and keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus. And the gospel reminds us that discipleship will never be an easy road... but it’s certainly a worthwhile one. How appropriate that these messages echo the life of St. Clare!

Our opening hymn, “All Creatures of Our God and King” (#611), is a paraphrase of St. Francis’ “Canticle of Creation.” As we know, Clare was a close follower of Francis. Together, their lives of simplicity have greatly inspired our parish, especially our new church building. Our beautiful stained glass windows in the nave and Blessed Sacrament Chapel pay homage to this text and its various depictions of creation. Our closing hymn – “For the Beauty of the Earth” – was chosen for a similar reason.

In my search for music for this weekend, I stumbled upon a hymn text written in 2009 by composer James Michael Thompson which I’ve included below. I think the beauty of the text speaks for itself; pairing it with the simple, familiar tune O WALY WALY seemed like a perfect match. I hope you will enjoy this as our prayer time after communion.

O Light from Light, all splendor’s Source, Whose clear beams shine with heaven’s joy,
We give You thanks for Mother Clare And ev’ry form of praise employ.

Enticed by Francis’ preaching sweet, Christ Crucified became her Spouse;
She gathered sisters to her side Where Poverty would grace the house.

She left behind all earthly gain That riches true might be her all;
In poverty, obedience, And chastity she heard Christ’s call.

As mother to her flock, she lived And modeled Christ to ev’ryone;
In loving service spent herself In toil from dawn to setting sun.

As she has shown us, Lord, Your way, So give us grace like her to be,
That we may turn from self to You And in your Way be truly free.

Most high, omnipotent, good God, O Father, Son and Spirit blest,
With Mother Clare and all your saints Bring us, Your Church, to endless rest.

When getting to know our parish, one of the things that amazed me was how we followed in the footsteps of our patroness. Our devotion to the Eucharist, ecological consciousness, beautifully kept grounds and gardens, and use of God’s creation in our church decor are beautiful ways to pay tribute to St. Clare. May she continue to intercede for us, and bless our parish richly!

Stephen Eros
Director of Liturgy & Music

[Click here - Sunday Readings for August 14, 2016](#)

All Creatures of Our God and King



1. All crea - tures of our God and King, Lift
 2. O rush - ing wind and breez - es soft, O
 3. O flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, Make
 4. Dear moth - er earth, who day by day Un -
 5. And ev - 'ry one of ten - der heart, For -



up your voice and with us sing: Al - le - lu - ia!
 clouds that ride the winds a - loft, Sing your prais - es!
 mu - sic for your Lord to hear. Sing your prais - es!
 fold rich bless - ings on our way, Sing your prais - es!
 giv - ing oth - ers, take your part, Sing your prais - es!



Al - le - lu - ia! O burn - ing sun with gold - en beam
 Al - le - lu - ia! O ris - ing morn, in praise re - joice,
 Al - le - lu - ia! O fire so mas - ter - ful and bright,
 Al - le - lu - ia! The flow'rs and fruits that in you grow,
 Al - le - lu - ia! All you who pain and sor - row bear,



And sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam,
 O lights of eve - ning, find a voice.
 Pro - vid - ing us with warmth and light,
 Let them God's glo - ry al - so show.
 Praise God and cast on him your care.



Sing your prais - es! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>6. And you, most kind and gentle death, Waiting to hush our final breath, Sing your praises! Alleluia! You lead to heav'n the child of God, Where Christ our Lord the way has trod. Sing your praises! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> | <p>7. Let all things their Creator bless, And worship God in humbleness, Sing your praises! Alleluia! Praise God the Father, God the Son, And God the Spirit, Three in One! Sing your praises! Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!</p> |
|---|--|