## In memoriam David Strommen

## Blessed Are They

Congregation, Choir (SATB divisi), Handbells (3 Oct.), Optional Instruments, and Organ





\*The first measure should last about 15 seconds. May be played on organ or orchestral chimes an octave higher than written.

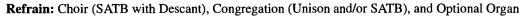
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<sup>\*</sup>Organist plays accompaniment of above Refrain for Stanzas 3 and 4. Voices may sing 4-part accompaniment or Descant from the above Refrain. MSM-50-8106





Stanza 5: Choir (SATB divisi), Congregation (Unison), Organ, and Optional Instruments

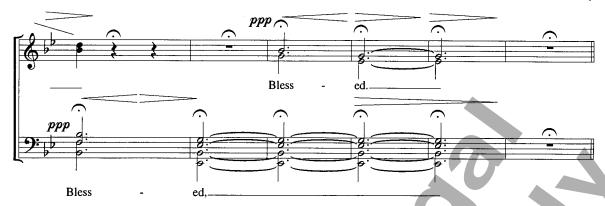


<sup>\*</sup>All decrescendo. Altos and tenors gradually drop out to ensure a subito fortissimo at C.

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<sup>\*\*</sup>Quotes African-American spiritual "Give Me Jesus."





Refrain: Choir (SATB with Descant), Congregation (Unison and/or SATB), and Organ



Handbell may repeat first measure at A to conclude this music.

## PERFORMANCE NOTES

The organ should be used only to accompany the congregation. The registration should be increased for each successive stanza while each repeat of the Refrain should be pianissimo. The organ should be Tacet for the final repeat at **E**.

The congregation should be encouraged to "embellish" their participation after Stanza 2 and especially at Stanza 5 by singing 4 part harmony and/or the Descant, so that successive stanzas grow in fullness and intensity, culminating in a glorious "Amen" at Stanza 5. The repeat of the Refrain, however, should always be pianissimo. The final repeat at **E** should be *a cappella*, with the effect being "as if from a distance" and dissolving away.

Instrumental Parts at Stanza 5 may be realized by Brass, Strings, Woodwinds, pitched Percussion, or a combination thereof. Instruments should not play the choral Introduction, the eight measures following **D**, or the final Refrain/Descant **E**.

The handbell part beginning after C may be expanded to include additional octaves. The Fs handbell may repeat the first measure at A as a final coda to the music.

The quote from the African-American spiritual, "Give Me Jesus" (page 5) would take on additional significance if the composer's choral setting of this spiritual is sung earlier in the service.

This publication is ideally suited for All Saints' observances, Funeral and Memorial services, Holy Communion and Weddings. The latter two could be effectively served with a Taizé-style adaptation of *Blessed Are They* using only the Refrain and Stanzas, with or without a choir.

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**Instructions for Singing:** Choir sings an introduction to this hymn followed by the **Refrain**. Thereafter, the congregation sings the **Refrain** and Stanzas as indicated. Four-part harmony and Descant participation is encouraged for Stzs. 3-5 so that each stanza grows in intensity and fullness, culminating in a glorious "Amen" at Stanza 5. The **Refrain** is always sung softly with the final repeat after Stanza 5 sounding "as if from a distance" and dissolving away.