

In memoriam David Strommen

Blessed Are They

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



Luke 23: 42; Revelations.
adapt. Larry L. Fleming

Larry L. Fleming

A $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 66$
(Handbells tacet until page 5)

Handbells *pp* L.V. *mp* *pp*

Tenors *pp legato*

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me

(Small group) *pp*

S Je -

S A *pp* Nn.

T *pp* Nn.

when you come in - to your king - dom. (m) Nn.

S *poco rit.*

sus, re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me.

(Nn.) *poco rit.*

S A (Nn.)

T B (Bass) *pp* Nn. *poco rit.*

*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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Refrain: Choir (SATB), Congregation, and Organ

S
A

Organ

pp

Bless - ed are they which are called, Bless - ed are they which are called,

T
B

pp

Bless - ed are they which are called To the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb.

Stanza 1: All Voices in Unison and Organ

Unison
Voices

Organ

p

1. Mul - ti - tudes, clothed in white robes, From ev - 'ry na - tion and tongue,

Stood be - fore God and the Lamb At the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb.

Stanza 2: Choir (SSAT), Choir Bases and Congregation on Melody, and Organ (with Optional Instruments)

S
S
A
T

B

mf

Bless - ed, bless - ed,

Bass
and
Congr.

mp - mf

2. They'll nei - ther hun - ger nor thirst, Death, sor - row, pain van - quished now,

Organ

bless - ed, Mar-riage Feast of the Lamb.
 God wipes all tears from their eyes By the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb.

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

Soprano Descant *pp*
 Je - sus, re - mem - ber me, when you come in - to your
 S A *pp*
 Organ Bless - ed are they which are called, Bless - ed are they which are
 T B *pp*
 king - dom. Je - sus, re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me.
 called, Bless - ed are they which are called To the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb.

Stanzas 3 and 4: All Voices in Unison and/or SATB and Organ*

Unison Voices *mf* 3. Bless - ing and hon - or, they cry, Un - to the Lamb that was
f 4. Ser - vant, saint, mar - tyr at rest, Sanc - ti - fied, ran - somed, re -
 slain, Re - deem - ing us with his blood In the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb.
 stored, Thun - d'rous - ly sing a new song Of the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb.

*Organist plays accompaniment of above Refrain for Stanzas 3 and 4.

Voices may sing 4-part accompaniment or Descant from the above Refrain.

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

Soprano Descant

pp

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me, when you

S A

pp

Bless - ed are they which are called, Bless - ed are

T B

pp

come in - to your king - dom. Je - sus, re - mem - ber me,

they which are called, Bless - ed are they which are called To the Mar - riage

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

Instr. I (Handbells) **C** + 8^{va} ↑

Instr. II + 8^{va} ↓ *ff* *L.V.*

Soprano Descant

re - mem - ber me. *ff*

S A

** *ff*

Give me Je - sus,

T B

ff

Give me Je - sus,

Organ

Feast of the Lamb. *Congr. ff* 5. Wor - thy art thou Lamb of

*All decrescendo. Altos and tenors gradually drop out to ensure a subito fortissimo at C.

**Quotes African-American spiritual "Give Me Jesus."

ppp Bless - ed.

ppp Bless - ed.

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

E

pp-ppp

Soprano Descant

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me, when you come in - to your

S

A

Organ

pp-ppp Bless - ed are they which are called, Bless - ed are they which are

T

B

king - dom. Je - sus, re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me.

called, Bless - ed are they which are called To the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb.

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 F5 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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Blessed Are They

Luke 23: 42; Rev.; *adapt.* L. L. Fleming Larry L. Fleming

Descant: Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you
Refrain: Bless - ed are they which are called, Bless - ed are

Stanzas: 1. Mul - ti - tudes, clothed in white robes, From ev - 'ry
 2. They'll nei - ther hun - ger nor thirst, Death, sor - row,
 ▷ 3. Bless - ing and hon - or, they cry, Un - to the
 4. Ser - vant, saint, mar - tyr at rest, Sanc - ti - fied,
 5. Wor - thy art thou Lamb of God; To re - ceive

Descant: come in - to your king - dom. Je -
Refrain: they which are called, Bless - ed are they which are

Stanzas: na - tion and tongue, Stood be - fore God and the
 pain van - quished now, God wipes all tears from their
 ▷ Lamb that was slain, Re - deem - ing us with his
 ran - somed, re - stored, Thun - d'rous - ly sing a new
 glo - ry and praise. Al - le - lu - ia and a -

Descant: sus, re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me.
Refrain: called to the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb.

Stanzas: Lamb At the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb. (to Stanza 2)
 eyes By the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb. (to Refrain)
 ▷ blood In the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb. (to Stanza 4)
 song Of the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb. (to Refrain)
 men! For the Mar - riage Feast of the Lamb. (to Refrain)
 Repeat Refrain

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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.