

Singing Our Faith
5th Sunday of Easter – May 19, 2019

Sing with All the Saints in Glory



1. Sing with all the saints in glo - ry, Sing the res - ur -
2. O what glo - ry, far ex - ceed - ing All that eye has
3. Life e - ter - nal! heav'n re - joic - es: Je - sus lives who
4. Life e - ter - nal! O what won - ders Crowd on faith; what



rec - tion song! Death and sor - row, earth's dark sto - ry,
yet per - ceived! Ho - liest hearts for a - ges plead - ing,
once was dead; Shout with joy, O death - less voic - es!
joy un - known, When, a - midst earth's clos - ing thun - ders,



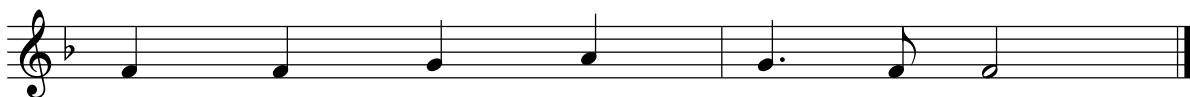
To the for - mer days be - long. All a - round the
Nev - er that full joy con - ceived. God has prom - ised,
Child of God, lift up your head! Pa - tri - archs from
Saints shall stand be - fore the throne! O to en - ter



clouds are break - ing, Soon the storms of time shall cease;
Christ pre - pares it, There on high our wel - come waits;
dis - tant a - ges, Saints all long - ing for their heav'n,
that bright por - tal, See that glow - ing fir - ma - ment,



In God's like - ness, we a - wak - en,
Ev - 'ry hum - ble spir - it shares it,
Proph - ets, psalm - ists, seers, and sag - es,
Know, with you, O God im - mor - tal,



Know - ing ev - er - last - ing peace.
Christ has passed the e - ter - nal gates.
All a - wait the glo - ry giv'n.
Je - sus Christ whom you have sent!

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Week after week, the scriptures of the Easter season express common themes. In the first reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we hear how the early Church was built up by the followers of Jesus. In the second reading from Revelation, John describes the heavenly liturgy, connected to our earthly celebration of the Mass, and how it is enjoyed by all God's faithful in heaven and earth. All of this, of course, is made possible by the resurrection of Jesus Christ. These are our Easter scriptures.

This Sunday's opening hymn leads us into the celebration of the Mass by describing exactly what we've been hearing about in Revelation for the past several weeks. "Death and sorrow, earth's dark story, to the former days belong."—this one line expresses the intention found in Sunday's revelation reading, "...for the old order has passed away."

Stanza three recalls last week's Revelation passage—John's "vision of a great multitude." The hymn does a "roll call" of the heavenly choirs: saints, patriarchs, prophets, psalmists, and so on. I like how the hymn writer classifies them as "deathless voices," putting further emphasis on the life gained through the resurrection. All of this reminds us that the Mass is so much more than what the eye perceives. As St. Paul says, "What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal."

Despite the text being penned by Anglican priest William Josiah Irons, the theology is very Catholic! The joy, nobility, and pomp and circumstance of the heavenly liturgy is expressed perfectly in the hymn

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tune—a melody from Ludwig van Beethoven’s iconic Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125. The hymn will fly by in 2 ½ minutes this weekend, so I encourage you readers to reflect on the text, perhaps with your Bible opened to Revelation, and let these two remarkable texts paint a picture in your mind of the extraordinary event that we will participate in this weekend. Oh, and make sure you’re on time for Mass so you don’t miss it!

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