

Sing For Joy

FEBRUARY 2008 / YEAR A

GRAND MUSIC
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Sing For Joy is a production of St. Olaf College.



by Pastor Bruce Benson, host

Lent comes early this year. Almost too early to live up to its name. In early February the days are still short and the nights long. The word Lent comes from a contraction of the word lengthen, referring to the spring-time phenomenon of the lengthening of daylight as we move away from the winter solstice toward the spring equinox. Lent, in other words, is the season of lengthening daylight. In early February? Well, yes the days are a bit longer in February than during January; and, to be sure, the days will lengthen considerably as Lent progresses toward Easter Day. But early February can feel more like winter than spring, and therefore more suited to the continuation of the Epiphany season than the start of Lent. But, ready or not, here it comes.

And that “ready-or-not” aspect of Lent is part of what makes it compelling and fruitful year after year. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, 40 days before Easter, so its beginning is calculated by counting back from Easter, and Easter wanders around the spring calendar, following the moon instead of the sun. I am not unsympathetic to arguments for nailing down a date for Easter and making it the same every year. School vacation scheduling would be easier for many people. But a day and a season that are not corralled and domesticated by our business calendars is probably good for us. Some years Lent waits until March to say, “Come, let us remember again that we are dust, but God is good. Let us remember that we have sinned, but God is faithful.” But this year we’re barely into February and already Lent is calling us to that repentance and a renewal of faith and love.

It isn’t a message or call one has to prepare for. It simply comes. And it comes to restore and renew. If the season of Lent were nothing but a time of pious wallowing about in negativity there would be little to recommend it. And less to sing about. *Sing For Joy* would have to go off the air until Easter. But Lent has as its purpose, not a darkening of mood for God’s people, but a lengthening of light for the spirit, just as the name says about the days of the season. *Sing For Joy* has a renewed reason to continue. Lent is a time for honesty — about ourselves and about God. If it were just the former, there would be less cause for singing. But Lent calls us toward God who is faithful, toward God who is merciful, gracious, “slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

Therefore music for the Lenten season can be sober without being morose. It can take human failure and sin seriously and still sing for joy, because the last word about our lives and the world is a word that belongs to God. And that word is love. May Lent be a blessing to you this year.

Peace be with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce Benson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "B".

February 3, 2008

Scriptures for Transfiguration of Our Lord,
Last Sunday after Epiphany:

- (1R) Exodus 24:12–18
- (PS) Psalm 2 or Psalm 99
- (2R) 2 Peter 1:16–21
- (G) Matthew 17:1–9

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise (ST. DENIO) –
Welsh Traditional (1R)

Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral: London, England / John Scott
(CD) *The Music of St. Paul's Cathedral* / HYPERION / SPCC2000
© 2000 Hyperion Records Limited, PO Box 25,
London, England SE9 1AX
www.hyperion-records.co.uk

When Morning Gilds the Skies (LAUDES DOMINI) –
Sir Joseph Barnby (G)

Choir of Yorkminster Park Baptist Church: Toronto, Canada /
Catherine M. Palmer
(CD) *The Joy of God* / MARQUIS CLASSICS / ERAD 175
© 1996 Marquis Classics, 30 Kenilworth Avenue,
Toronto, Canada M4L 3S3
www.marquisclassics.com

Christ Upon the Mountain Peak – Frank W. Boles (G)

Choirs of St. Paul's Episcopal Church; Indianapolis Pro Music:
Indianapolis, Ind. / Frank W. Boles
(CD) *O Hear Us, Lord* / PRO ORGANO / CD 7058
© 1998 Zarex Corporation, PO Box 8338,
South Bend, IN 46660-8338
www.zarex.com

“O Nata Lux” from Lux Æterna – Morten Lauridsen (G)

Polyphony: London, England / Stephen Layton
(CD) *Morten Lauridsen: Lux Æterna* / HYPERION / CDA67449
© 2005 Hyperion Records Limited, PO Box 25,
London, England SE9 1AX

Transfiguration – Craig Phillips (G)

Choir of All Saints' Church: Beverly Hills, Calif. / Dale Adelman
(CD) *Be Still, My Soul* / GOTHIC RECORDS / G 49251
© 2006 Gothic Records, PO Box 414, Orcas, WA 98280
www.gothic-catalog.com

Beautiful Savior (CRUSADER'S HYMN) – Silesian Folk Tune,
arr. F. Melius Christiansen (G)

St. Olaf Choir; Kelly Becker, alto / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2294
© 1999 St. Olaf Records, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue,
Northfield, MN 55057
www.stolafrecords.com

February 10, 2008

First Sunday in Lent:

- (1R) Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7
- (PS) Psalm 32
- (2R) Romans 5:12–19
- (G) Matthew 4:1–11

Forty Days and Forty Nights (HEINLEIN) – Martin Herbst (G)

Cantus Choro: Melbourne, Australia / Peter Chapman
(CD) *Hymns for All Seasons, Vol. 2* / MOVE / MD 3062
© 1987 Move Records, Box 266, Carlton South 3053, Australia
www.move.com.au

For God Commanded Angels to Watch Over You –

Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (G)
St. Olaf Choir / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Advance Australia Fair* / ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2173
© 1997 St. Olaf College, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue,
Northfield, MN 55057
www.stolafrecords.com

Adam Lay Ybouden – Richard Webster (1R)

St. Olaf Cantorei / John Ferguson
(CD) *Love Divine, Illumine Our Darkness* / ST. OLAF RECORDS
/ E-2473
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Northfield, MN 55057
www.stolafrecords.com

“Since by Man Came Death” from Messiah – G. F. Handel (2R)

Taverner Choir and Players / Andrew Parrott
(CD) *Handel Messiah* / VIRGIN VERITAS / 7243 5 61330 2 0
© 1996 EMI Classics, 304 Park Avenue South,
New York, NY 10010
www.emiclassics.com

Veillez et Priez (Watch and Pray) – Monks of Keur Moussa (G)

Monks of Keur Moussa: Senegal
(CD) *Mass and Hymns from the Monastery of Keur Moussa,*
Senegal / ARION / ARN 64095
© 1989 Arion S.A., 36 Avenue Hoche, 75008 Paris

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley – African American Spiritual,
arr. William L. Dawson (G)

Jeanette Thompson, soprano; David Miller, piano;
Iepers Kamerkoor / Dirk Coutigny
(CD) *Negro Spirituals* / PAVANE RECORDS / ADW 7267
© 1992 Pavane Records, 17 Ravenstein Str., B-1000, Brussels
www.pavane.com

I Need Thee Every Hour (DEPENDENCE) – Robert Lowry (G)

Christopher Cock, tenor; Mormon Tabernacle Choir:
Salt Lake City, Utah / Craig Jessop
(CD) *The Sound of Glory* / TELARC / CD-80579
© 2001 Telarc International Corporation,
23307 Commerce Park Road, Cleveland, OH 44122
www.telarc.com

February 17, 2008

Scriptures for Second Sunday in Lent:

- (1R) Genesis 12:1–4a
- (PS) Psalm 121
- (2R) Romans 4:1–5, 13–17
- (G) John 3:1–17

God so Loved the World – Libby Larsen (G)

St. Olaf Cantorei / John Ferguson
(CD) *Through the Church the Song Goes On* /
ST. OLAF RECORDS / E-2801
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What Wondrous Love (WONDROUS LOVE) – William Walker,
Southern Harmony, arr. James Christopher (G)
Anonymous 4

(CD) *American Angels: Songs of Hope, Redemption and Glory* /
HARMONIA MUNDI / HMU 907326
© 2003 Harmonia Mundi, 2037 Granville Avenue,
Los Angeles, CA 90025
www.harmoniamundi.com

Witness – African American Spiritual, arr. Jack Halloran (G)
VocalEssence Ensemble Singers: Minneapolis, Minn. /
Sigrid Johnson
(CD) *What a Mighty God: Spirituals and Gospels for Chorus* /
CLARION / CLR904CD
© 1995, 2004 VocalEssence and Clarion Records, PO Box 31366,
Omaha, NE 68131
www.vocalescence.org

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (ST. HELENA) – (1R)
Choir of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. Philip: Atlanta, Ga. /
Robert L. Simpson
(CD) *Great Hymns of the Church* / CHURCH PUBLISHING /
ISBN: 0-89869-286-5
© 1996 Church Publishing Inc., 445 Fifth Avenue,
New York, NY 10016
www.churchpublishing.org

My Faith Looks Up to Thee (OLIVET) – Lowell Mason (G)
St. Olaf Choir / Anton Armstrong
(CD) *Great Hymns of Faith, Vol. 2* / ST. OLAF RECORDS /
E-2651
© 2004 St. Olaf Records, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue,
Northfield, MN 55057
www.stolafrecords.com

Tree of Life (Excerpt) – Marty Haugen (G)
Marty Haugen and Friends
(CD) *Marty Haugen: Anthology 1, 1980–1984* /
GIA PUBLICATIONS / GIA CD-400
© 1997 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 South Mason Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60638
www.giamusic.com

“For God so Loved the World” from *The Crucifixion* –
Sir John Stainer (G)
Guildford Camerata / Barry Rose
(CD) *The Crucifixion* / LAMMAS RECORDS / LAMM 154D
© 2003 Lammas Records, 118 The Mount,
York, Herts, England YO24 1AS
www.lammas.co.uk

February 24, 2008

Scriptures for Third Sunday in Lent:

- (1R) Exodus 17:1–7
- (PS) Psalm 95
- (2R) Romans 5:1–11
- (G) John 4:5–42

“At the River” from *Old American Songs, Set 2* –
Robert Lowry, arr. Aaron Copland (G)
William Warfield, baritone; Aaron Copland, piano
(CD) *Modern American Vocal Works* / SONY CLASSICAL / MHK
60899
© 1999 Sony Music Entertainment, Inc., 550 Madison Avenue,
New York, NY 10022-3211
www.sonyclassical.com

Glories of Your Name Are Spoken (AUSTRIA) –
Franz Joseph Haydn (G, 1R)
Trinity English Lutheran Church Chancel Choir: Fort Wayne, Ind.
/ Robert Hobby
(CD) *Thine is the Glory* / MORNINGSTAR / CD-38-RH
© 1997 MorningStar Music Publishers, 2117 59th Street,
St. Louis, MO 63110-2800
www.morningstarmusic.com

O Bread of Life from Heaven (O WELT, ICH MUSS DICH LASSEN) –
Heinrich Issac, arr. F. Melius Christiansen (G)
Augsburg, Concordia, Gustavus, Luther and
St. Olaf College Choirs / Kenneth Jennings
(CD) *The F. Melius Christiansen 125th Anniversary Concert* /
ST. OLAF RECORDS / ST.OLAF E-2146-7
© 1996 St. Olaf Records, 1520 St. Olaf Avenue,
Northfield, MN 55057
www.stolafrecords.com

And Can It Be (SAGINA) – Thomas Campbell (2R)
Riverton Singers: Winnipeg, Canada / William Baerg
(CD) *These our Hymns* / RIVERTON PRODUCTIONS /
RP1200CD
© Riverton Productions, 225 Riverton Avenue,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R2L 0N1

O Come, Let us Sing unto the Lord – Anthony Piccolo (PS)
Choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral: New York, N.Y. /
John Michael Caprio
(CD) *O Come Let Us Sing* / GOTHIC / G 49091
© 1997 Gothic Records, PO Box 414, Orcas, WA 98280
www.gothic-catalog.com

His Name So Sweet – African American Spiritual (G)
Barbara Hendricks, soprano; Dmitri Alexeev, piano
(CD) *Negro Spirituals* / EMI RECORDS / CDC 740262
© EMI Records, Ltd., 304 Park Avenue South,
New York, NY 10010
www.emiclassics.com

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IDEALS TO ACTION



Contact us at:
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 singforjoy@stolaf.edu
 507-786-8596

Sing For Joy staff:
 Pastor W. Bruce Benson, host
 Dr. John Ferguson, music adviser

Jeffrey O'Donnell, producer and music director
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