

HOW CAN I EVER REPAY YOU?

Song from Responsorial Psalm 116 for Corpus Christi Year B
for Cantor, Assembly & Descant
with Keyboard, Flute & Guitar

TONY BARR

*Our blessing is a communion
with the blood of Christ.*

How can I ever repay you
for the kindness you show me?
I will pour out the cup of liberation
in thanksgiving for your Name, O Lord.

How precious within your sight
are those who have died in your name,
I am your servant, child and maid,
you have released me from slavery.

Sacrifice I offer in thanksgiving,
and call on your name all day long.
I shall walk always in your presence
through all the days of my life.

I renew my vows made to you,
before the Lord, O God of Israel,
gathered to sing praise in your Temple,
beating hearts in Jerusalem.

Psalm 116 is a dramatic Liturgical song. The blood shed by the Paschal Lamb at Passover led the Hebrew slaves to freedom and the birth of the Jewish People, Nation, and State. The refrain we sing refers to the Passover Memorial which is performed each year at Passover in remembrance of this journey of liberation, and as a promise of that freedom yet to come, unification under God alone as One People on earth. The cup we pour each time we celebrate the Eucharist is likewise a reminder to us of promises that one day we shall too be absorbed into the light and presence of the Shepherd King who is our Promise and our Peace.

The drama in singing the psalm is achieved by honoring the dynamics of performance described by Joseph Gelineau, later corroborated by Bernard Huijbers. It is scored for 3 dynamic voices, a trilogy arrangement of voices found in classical Greek theater. The first voice is the Psalmist (most likely a cantor) who proclaims the psalm verses from the ambo, the place of Scriptural proclamation. The second voice is the Choir, leading the refrain and adding harmonies to elevate the sound. The third voice, perhaps the most important, is the Assembly singing the refrain in response not only to the Psalm Verses but to the Scriptures which have been proclaimed. At every other ritual moment in the liturgy, the cantor, who is not the Psalmist, returns to the music area.

Comparing the psalm to a dance and drama, the cantor rises above and beyond the time and space of the liturgy, which it is being celebrated and uniting us, even momentarily, with all who have already made the journey of freedom.
- Tony Barr

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Responsorial Song from Psalm 116 for Corpus Christi

music from Psalm 116 Tony Barr

INTRO ♩ = 84

Flute

Flute

Our bles-sing

B \flat C Gm Gm C B \flat /C

All

cup is a com - mun - ion with the of Christ. Our bles - sing

F Dm B \flat Gm Dm F B/C

REFRAIN

Flute

Descants on selected lines after Verse 1

cup, com - mun - ion with the blood of Christ.

cup is com - mun - ion with the blood of Christ.

cup a com - mun - ion with the blood of Christ.

F Dm B \flat Gm Dm B \flat B \flat C F

VERSES

1. How can I ev - er re - pay you for the preciousness you show me?
 2. How precious with - in your sight are the things you have done for me, who died in your arms?
 3. Sacrifice I offer in thanks - giving and call on your Name, O Lord, in the night.
 4. I renew the vows I made to you before the Lord, O God of Israel.

F Am Dm B \flat Gm

1. I will pour out the cup of li - ber - ation, O Lord, because you are my God, and I will praise your Name, my de - light.
 2. I am your servant, child of low - ly handmaid, O Lord, you have re - leased me from slavery.
 3. I shall walk al - ways in your presence, O Lord, because you have done this for me, O Lord.
 4. gathered this night with - in your arms, O Lord, because you have done this for me, O Lord.

Dm Gm B \flat Gm Csus4

rit.

REFRAIN

a.t. Our singing praises you, O Lord, because you have done this for me, O Lord.

B \flat /C

D.S.

How Can I Ever Repay You

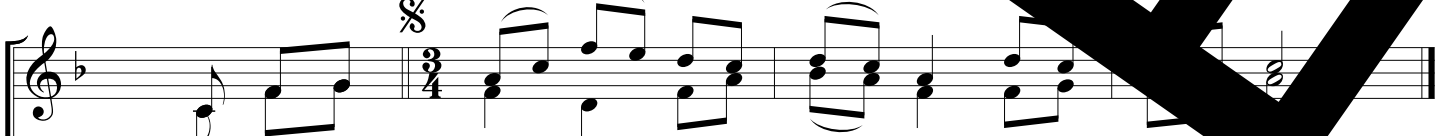
Responsorial Song from Psalm 116 for Corpus Christi

REFRAIN ♩ = 84

music from Psalm 116 by Tony Barr

Descants on selected refrains after Verse 1

Our bles - sing cup, a com - mun - ion with the blood of Christ.



Our bles - sing cup is a com - mun - ion with the blood of Christ.



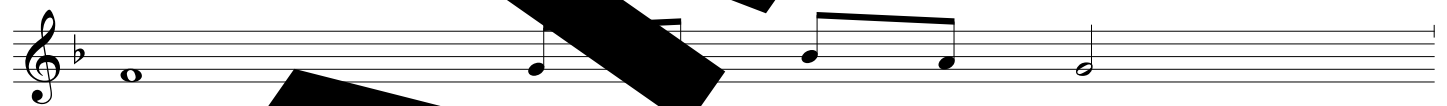
Our bles - sing cup is a com - mun - ion with the blood of Christ.

VERSES Psalmist from the ambo

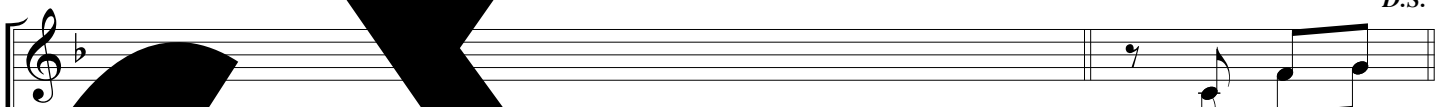
1. How can I ever repay you
2. How precious with in your sight
3. Sacrifice I offer in thanksgiving
4. I renew the vows I made to you



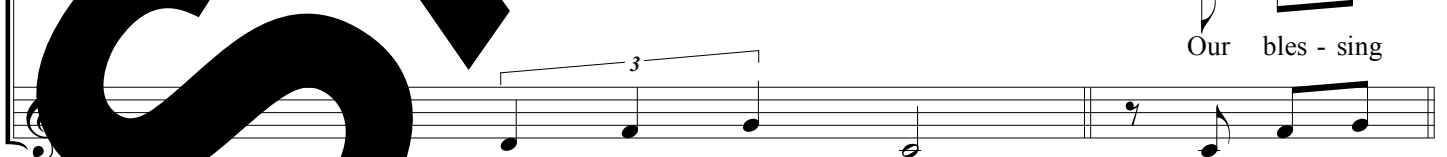
1. for the kind - ness you show me?
2. are you have died in you.
3. and call on your name and night.
4. be - lieve as - sembled,



1. I will pour out my cup of li - ber - ation,
2. I am your servant of low - ly handmaid,
3. I shall walk in your ways in your presence
4. gathered this night with in your Temple,



1. in thanksgiving for your Name, my de - light
2. you have re - leased me from slavery.
3. through the days of my life.
4. beating heart of Je - rusalem



1. in thanksgiving for your Name, my de - light
2. you have re - leased me from slavery.
3. through the days of my life.
4. beating heart of Je - rusalem