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Suggestions for using *In Holy Harmony*

The prayers in this book first appeared in the more extensive *Blessed Are the Music-Makers: Warm-ups for the Musician's Spirit* (WLP 017254). This smaller resource is meant for either group or individual prayer by music ministers for rehearsals, music planning sessions, prior to worship, or at any musical gathering.

The prayers follow the rhythm of the liturgical calendar and the broad themes of the *Lectionary*. The seasons of Advent, Nativity, Lent, and Easter, which have a consistent number of Sundays or celebrations from year to year, have prayers for all the seasonal Sundays and feasts. The remaining “Days of Discipleship” and “Days of Proclamation” are for the other Sundays of the year. The prayers for “Days of Discipleship” are intended for those Sundays between the close of the Christmas season and the beginning of Lent, when the Gospels focus on the call of the disciples and various aspects of the early public ministry of Jesus. “Days of Proclamation” are for the Sundays following Pentecost, as we hear various scriptures about the church, born of the Holy Spirit, living out its mission in world.

Prayers for special music ministry occasions and feasts are provided as well.

For every entry, there are two prayers—one lengthier, one briefer—to accommodate a variety of pastoral situations. Along with the prayers you will find a short scripture passage related to the theme of those particular prayers.

All of the prayers, of course, are suitable for individual reflection and meditation.

These are but a few suggestions for using this book. Imaginative adaptation by those engaged in the creative ministry of making music is highly encouraged.



Ministry Occasions

A First Rehearsal

Lord our God,
you are the source of all music,
the source of every gift and talent we have.

May we consecrate our lives to you,
fulfilling the command of Christ
to teach all nations.

Let every sound we make
be dedicated to leading souls to you,
causing us to look to that day
when we join around your throne
in a glorious eternal psalm,
giving you praise
forever and ever.

Amen.

God of beauty and joy,
you graced Miriam's Exodus canticle;
you guided David's hand upon the harp.

Grace us and guide us now.
Fill us with your praise,
you who live and reign
forever and ever.

Amen.

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, as in all wisdom
you teach and admonish one another, singing psalms,
hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to
God.*

(Colossians 3:16)

Ministry Occasions

A Final Rehearsal

Lord our God,
in your name we have gathered
to give you praise.

We thank you for the music
we have made for your glory.

Continue to bless us as we go our separate ways.
Hold us in your care;
make us true disciples of Christ.
Keep your Spirit alive in our hearts.

May your song always be on our lips
until that day we are united again,
one in voice,
one in the timeless canticle of heaven,
forever and ever.

Amen.

Divine Maker of all music,
we have praised you
in your temple.

May we now join with all that has life and breath,
with every nation on earth,
to sustain the song of your loving-kindness,
our one God,
forever and ever.

Amen.

*Keep on doing what you have learned and received and
heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with
you.*

(Philippians 4:9)

Ministry Occasions

Welcoming a New Music Minister

(All extend hands in blessing, or lay hands on the new music minister.)

Bless [N.] our sister/brother
with strength and hope,
now and forever.

Amen.

Let us all grow in faith, hope, love,
and unity with her/him,
now and forever.

Amen.

May the blessing of almighty God,
Father, Son, ☩ and Holy Spirit,
remain with us, now and forever.

Amen.

A sign of peace may be exchanged.