

## **Christian Priest,**

celebrate this Mass  
as if it were your first Mass,  
as if it were your last Mass,  
as if it were your only Mass.

### **Remember**

that you are never alone,  
for you are in the apostolic succession,  
and that your brother priests of Anglican tradition include  
Aidan, who lived austerely that he might better show forth Christ;  
the Venerable Bede, student and scholar;  
William Tyndale, who brought the Scriptures to the people;  
Richard Hooker, who taught the truth as it is in Jesus;  
John Donne, who identified with common humanity;  
George Herbert, who knew the beauty of worship;  
William Law, who called the servants of God to holiness;  
Absalom Jones, who gave dignity to the rejected of society;  
Charles Simeon, who won many souls to Christ;  
John Keble, loyal to the Church in spite of its persecution against him;  
James De Koven, who upheld the truth at all costs;  
Charles Lowder, who ministered lovingly to the poorest of the poor;  
Phillips Brooks, whose preaching filled churches;  
and Vivian Redlich, who chose to die rather than abandon his people.  
Know that their prayers uphold you.

### **Throughout the ages,**

your brother priests have been  
saints and rogues,  
known and unknown,  
loved and despised,  
and have ministered in times of peace and of conflict.

### **Strive**

to be numbered among the great ones of God,  
so that when your work is done,  
those among whom you have lived may say,  
"He showed us what Jesus is like,"  
and your Lord may say,  
"Well done, good and faithful servant;  
enter into the joy of your Master."

## **You who go to the altar of God,**

offer your service  
as if this were your first Mass,  
as if this were your last Mass,  
as if this were your only Mass.

### **Remember**

that your service is great in the eyes of God,  
and that you stand in a line  
more than three thousand years old.

Those who have stood at the Altar before you include

Abel, who built the first altar,  
Aaron, the first priest of the LORD,  
Samuel, who was dedicated to God when he was very small,  
Elijah the Miracle Worker, who rebuilt the fallen altar of Israel,  
Isaiah the Prophet, who saw God in the Temple,  
Judas Maccabeus, who purified the altar in Jerusalem,  
Vincent the Deacon who died rather than deny Jesus,  
Benedict, who went to the altar several times a day,  
Bede, who lived near the altar from the age of seven, and  
Nicholas Ferrar, who brought his family to the altar every day.

Keep their example before you,  
and know that their prayers support you.  
Do not let them down.

### **Always do your best,**

for the One you serve  
is the One who loves you best.

*"I will go unto the altar of God,  
even the God of my joy and gladness."*

*--Psalm 43:1*

# You Who Sing Unto the Lord

Sing this Mass as if it were your first Mass, as if it were your last Mass,  
as if it were your only Mass.

## Remember that it is you

who must lead the worship of the people  
when words alone cannot express  
the joys and sorrows of mankind  
when our race strives to know, love, and serve our God.

Know that you never sing alone,  
for you are among the vast, uncounted myriad which includes  
Miriam, who sang joyfully after the deliverance at the Red Sea,  
Hannah, who exulted before the LORD when he answered her prayer,  
David, Shepherd, Warrior, and King, who played the harp,  
Solomon, who wrote the Song of Songs,  
the sons of Asaph, who composed psalms,  
Judith, who prayed during the time of the evening Temple worship,  
Ephrem of Edessa, called "The Harp of the Holy Spirit",  
Gregory the Great, whose chants changed the worship of the Church,  
John of Damascus, whose hymns extol the Resurrection,  
Dunstan, the archbishop who cast bells,  
Thomas Aquinas, whose hymns praise the Blessed Sacrament,  
George Herbert, poet and priest,  
John and Charles Wesley, who wrote more hymns than anyone else,  
John Mason Neale, translator and composer,  
the youthful martyrs of Uganda, who sang on their way to the fire,  
Lesbia Scott, who wrote a song of the saints of God,

and above all, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Saints and Angels, whose canticle magnifies  
the Lord and gives voice to the whole redeemed creation.

Though you may be only a small part in the largest choir of all time and space, do not let your  
voice hesitate or fail, for Saint Paul teaches that the language of the Kingdom is always sung.

# You Who Sing Unto the Lord

Sing this Mass as if it were your first Mass, as if it were your last Mass,  
as if it were your only Mass.

## Remember that it is you

who must lead the worship of the people  
when words alone cannot express  
the joys and sorrows of mankind  
when our race strives to know, love, and serve our God.

Know that you never sing alone,  
for you are among the vast, uncounted myriad which includes  
Miriam, who sang joyfully after the deliverance at the Red Sea,  
Hannah, who exulted before the LORD when he answered her prayer,  
David, Shepherd, Warrior, and King, who played the harp,  
Solomon, who wrote the Song of Songs,  
the sons of Asaph, who composed psalms,  
Judith, who prayed during the time of the evening Temple worship,  
Ephrem of Edessa, called "The Harp of the Holy Spirit",  
Gregory the Great, whose chants changed the worship of the Church,  
John of Damascus, whose hymns extol the Resurrection,  
Dunstan, the archbishop who cast bells,  
Thomas Aquinas, whose hymns praise the Blessed Sacrament,  
George Herbert, poet and priest,  
John and Charles Wesley, who wrote more hymns than anyone else,  
John Mason Neale, translator and composer,  
the youthful martyrs of Uganda, who sang on their way to the fire,  
Lesbia Scott, who wrote a song of the saints of God,

and above all, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Saints and Angels, whose canticle magnifies  
the Lord and gives voice to the whole redeemed creation.

Though you may be only a small part in the largest choir of all time and space, do not let your  
voice hesitate or fail, for Saint Paul teaches that the language of the Kingdom is always sung.