

Litany of the Holy Cross

Adapted from the Traditional Litany of the Holy Cross

Cyprian Consiglio

Handbells used



A (♩ = ca. 55)

Cantor

Lord, have mer - cy!
 Christ, have
 Lord, have mer - cy!

Handbells

G

Keyboard

G

(Have)

(Have)

Soprano I
Soprano II (Melody)

Alto

Lord, have mer - cy! Lord, have mer - cy!
 Christ, have mer - cy! Christ, have mer - cy!
 Lord, have mer - cy! Lord, have mer - cy!

Tenor

Bass

D7 Em Am B7 Em

B (♩ = ca. 95) 1st time: Cantor, All repeat

mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on

G C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4

All (Have) us! Cantor Fa - ther in heav - en,
Holy Spir - it, ad - vo - cate,

Handbells

S (Have) mer - cy Have mer - cy on

T B

Em G C6 Cmaj7 D7

Son, Re-deem-er of the world: Have mer - cy on us!
 Ho - ly Trin - i - ty, one God.

us! Have mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on us!

Em7 Am 1 2 Em

C 1st time: Cantor, All repeat

Save us, O Ho-ly Cross! Save us, O Ho-ly cross! Save us, O Ho-ly Cross!

G C6 D Em7 Am B7sus4 Em

Cantor
 (dead!) *1. Where the Lamb of God was of - fered,

Handbells

S
 Save us, O Ho - ly Cross! Save us, O Ho - ly

A

T
 Save us, O Cross! Save us, Ho - ly

B

G C6 Cmaj7 D7

1. hope of Chris - tianity, pledge of res - ur - rec - tion of the

Cross! Save us, O Ho - ly Cross!

Cross! Save us, Ho - ly Cross!

Em7 Am G#4 Em

*Additional verses are found on pages 8 and 9.
 **Choir sings through once more after Cantor finishes verses.

D 1st time: Cantor, All repeat

Spare us, O Lord! Hear us, O Lord! Have mer - cy on us!

G C6 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em

Cantor
(us!) *1. Lord of God you take a - way the sins of the

Handbells

S
A Spare us, O Lord! Hear us, O Lord! Have

T
B

G C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7

*Additional verses are found on page 10.

E tempo primo (♩ = ca. 55)

1. world, have mer - cy on Lord, have mer - cy! _____
 Christ, have mer - cy! _____
 Lord, have mer - cy! _____

mer - cy on us!

Am B7sus4 Em G

Handbells *Fine*

Soprano II (Melody) *Fine*

Lord, have mer - cy! _____ Lord, have mer - cy! _____
 Christ, have mer - cy! _____ Christ, have mer - cy! _____
 Lord, have mer - cy! _____ Lord, have mer - cy! _____

D7 Em G7 B7 Em *Fine*

*Choir sings through once more after Cantor finishes verses.

Additional verses for section C: Cantor

G C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7

*1. Where the Lamb of God _____ was of - fered, hope of _____
(Save us, O)

Am B7sus4 Em G

1. Chris - tians, pledge of _____ - tion of the dead!
(Save us,)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7

2. Shel - ter of per - se - cut - ed in - no - cence, guide

Am B7sus4 Em G

2. of the blind, way to those who've gone a - stray.
(Save us, O Ho - ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

3. Staff of the lame, con-so - la - tion of the poor, re - straint of the pow - er - ful.
(Save us, O Ho -)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

4. De - struc - tion of the proud, ref - uge of sin - ners, prize of vic - to - ry o - ver hell!
(Save us, O Ho - ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

5. Ter - ror _____ of de - mons, mis - tress of youth. Suc - cour of the dis - tressed!
(Save us, O Ho - ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

6. Hope of the hope - less, star of the mar - i - time, _____ har - bor of the wrecked!
(Save us, O Ho - ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

7. Ram - part of the be - sieged, Fa - ther of or - phans, _____ the wid - ows' de - fense!
(Save us, O Ho - ly)

*Verse 1 is reprinted here for your convenience.

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

8. Coun-sel of the just. Judge of the wick - ed, — rest of the af - flict - ed!
(Save us, O Ho-ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

9. Safe-guard — of child-hood, strength of hu - man - ty, last — hope of the ag - ed!
(Save us, O)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

10. Light of those who sit — in dark-ness, splen-dor of kin - g - dom, civ - i - li - zer of the world.
(Save us, O Ho-ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

11. Wis-dom of the fool - ish, lib - ty of slaves, know-ledge of the ig - no - rant!
(Save us, O Ho-ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

12. Her-ald-ed by the proph-ets, preached by the a - p - t - les, — our sure rule of life!
(Save us, O Ho-ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

13. Glo - ry — of mar - tyrs, stud - y of scrip - tures, — chas - ti - ty of vir - gins!
(Save us, O Ho-ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

14. Joy of priests, foun - da - tion of the church, sal - va - tion of the world!
(Save us, O)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

15. Sup - port of the weak, strength of the par - a - lyzed, — med - i - cine of the sick!
(Save us, O Ho-ly)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

16. Font for those who thirst, cloth - ing for the na - ked, — bread for the hun - gry!
(Save us, O Ho-ly)

Additional verses for section D: Cantor

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

* 1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy on us!
(Lord!) (Spare us, O)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

2. Christ — hear us, gra — us, O — Lamb — of God!
(Spare us, O)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

3. Christ we — a - dore you; by the wood of the cross you have re - deemed — the world!
4. Christ — we bless you; by the wood of the cross you have re - deemed — the world!
(Spare us, O)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

5. Sweet was — the wood, sweet were the nails and the bur - den you bore!
(Spare us, O)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

6. For you — a - lone were — thy — to hear our — God and our King!
(Spare us,)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

7. Be - hold the cross, be — gone — pow - ers, be - hold — the cross!
(Spare us, O)

C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em G

8. Li - on of Ju - dah has — at — , be - hold — the cross!
(Spare us, O)

*Verse 1 is reprinted here for your convenience.

Composer Notes

This piece was commissioned by Holy Cross Parish in Santa Cruz, California. The challenge was for me to write a setting that could be quickly taught and sung by the large group that was to be assembled for its premiere. I chose to use an ostinato melody that stayed the same, while changing the text. The melody is introduced each time by the cantor and repeated in unison by the choir; harmonies, verses, and other instruments are then added.

There is an abundance of verses in this litany, so it's also a good piece for the Veneration of the Cross on Good Friday of the Lord's Passion. While the short introductory and closing litany are a little complicated rhythmically and harmonically, the assemblages actually only answering on a monotone.

—*Cyprian Consiglio*

SAMPLE

Litany of the Holy Cross

(Guitar/Vocal)

Adapted from the Traditional Litany of the Holy Cross

Cyprian Consiglio

A (♩ = ca. 55)

G D7 Em

Cantor All

Lord, have mer - cy!
 Christ, have mer - cy!
 Lord, have mer - cy!

Lord, have mer - cy!
 Christ, have mer - cy!
 Lord, have mer - cy!

B (♩ = ca. 95) 1st time: **Cantor, All repeat**

Am7 B7 Em G C6 Cmaj7

Cantor

Lord, have mer - cy!
 Christ, have mer - cy!
 Lord, have mer - cy!

mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on

D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em All G

mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on

C6 Cmaj7 Em7

Cantor

Fa - ther in
 Ho - ly Spir - it,

en,
 ed, vo - cate

Son, Re - deem - er of the
 Ho - ly Trin - i - ty, one

All

us! Have cy on us! Have

C 1st time: **Cantor, All repeat**

Am B7 Em G

1 2

world: Have mer - cy on us! Save us, O Ho - ly
 God. z

mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on us!

C6 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4 Em

Cross! Save us, O Ho - ly Cross! Save us, O Ho - ly Cross!

Cantor G C6 Cmaj7 D7
 (dead!) *1. Where the Lamb of God _____ was of - fered,
All
 Save us, O Ho - ly **Cross!** Save us, O Ho - ly

Em7 Am B7sus4 Em
 1. hope of _____ Chris - tians, pledg of res - ur - rec - tion of the
 Cross! Save _____ ly Cross! **

D 1st time: Cantor, All repeat

G C6 D7 Em7 Am B7sus4
 Spare us, O Lord! Hear us, O Lord! Have mer - cy on us!

Cantor G C6 Cmaj7 D7 Em7
 (us!) *1. Lamb of God you take a - way the sins of the
All
 Spare us, O Lord! Hear us, O Lord! Have

Am B7sus4 Em G *Tempo primo* (♩ = ca. 55)
 world, have mer - cy on _____ rd, have mer - cy! _____
 Christ, have mer - cy! _____
 Lord, have mer - cy! _____
 mer - cy on us!

All D7 Em Am7 B7 Em *Fine*
 Lord, have mer - cy! _____ Lord, have mer - cy! _____
 Christ, have mer - cy! _____ Christ, have mer - cy! _____
 Lord, have mer - cy! _____ Lord, have mer - cy! _____

*Additional verses are found on pages 8 and 9 for section C, and page 10 for section D.
 **All sing through once more after Cantor finishes verses.

Litany of the Holy Cross

OBOE

Cyprian Consiglio

A (♩ = ca. 55) 3 times 6

B (♩ = ca. 95) 6

C 6

D 6

E *tempo primo* (♩ = ca. 55) 3 times 6

*(VERSES)

*(VERSES)

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*Repeat once more after Cantor finishes verses.

Note: Instrumentalist can improvise on this part and tacet some of the repeats depending on how many verses the Cantor sings.

SAME

Assembly Edition

LITANY OF THE HOLY CROSS

Cyprian Consiglio

A 1st time: Cantor; All repeat twice

B 1st time: Cantor; All repeat three times

Lord, have mer - cy! (Have) mer - cy on us! Have
 Christ, have mer - cy! (Have) mer - cy on us! Have
 Lord, have mer - cy! (Have) mer - cy on us! Have

mer - cy on us! Have mer - cy on us! (Have)

C 1st time: Cantor; All repeat until Cantor finishes Verses

Save us, O Ho - ly Cross! Save us, O Ho - ly Cross!

D 1st time: Cantor; All repeat until Cantor finishes Verses

Save us, O Ho - ly Cross! Hear us, O Lord!

Hear us, O Lord! mer - cy on us!

to **A**

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