Belmont Mass
A Chant Mass for the People of God
Christopher Walker


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*Updated with approved texts for the “Lamb of God,” in accordance with the 2012 USCCB directive.
THE BELMONT MASS
A CHANT MASS FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

PERFORMANCE NOTES

The Belmont Mass was written in memory of the Benedictine Abbot Alan Rees of Belmont Abbey in Herefordshire, England. It is a chant mass that can be sung at any time. Small communities, religious houses, those attending weekday or early Sunday morning masses will find it easy to sing, accompanied or unaccompanied. It may also be sung during Lent or Advent to contrast with your more lively mass settings used in Ordinary Time.

PENITENTIAL ACT

The ‘Kyrie’ and ‘Lord have mercy’ may be sung separately or with invocations.

GLORY TO GOD

The chant should be sung in a fairly fast speech rhythm. Allow time for taking breaths at natural pauses. The priest may intone the first phrase, ‘Glory to God in the highest’.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALLELUIA

A variety of verses is given to cover most gospel themes in Ordinary Time. There are also verses for the season of Advent as well funerals.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION FOR LENT

The verses for each Sunday of Lent, years A, B & C are provided.

HOLY, HOLY

Sing with a good pace in speech rhythm so that it does not drag.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATIONS

Each memorial acclamation is set to different melodies, to avoid confusion. The introductory bar in the accompaniment lets people know which text is being sung. The priest may sing or say ‘The mystery of faith’.

DOXOLOGY AND GREAT AMEN

Let the priest sing the doxology with increasing intensity to encourage a strong ‘Amen’.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

This chant comes from “‘Morning & Evening’ prayer for the Commute”. Sing it in speech rhythm. It may be sung in unison, accompanied or unaccompanied, or with SATB harmony. If accompanied, keep it soft. The priest may sing or say ‘Deliver us, Lord…’.

LAMB OF GOD

‘To final’ bars: The measure ‘have mercy on us’ leading to the final ‘Lamb of God’ is harmonized differently to let the assembly know ‘grant us peace’ is coming. It is permitted to add different phrases after the initial ‘Lamb of God…’ – such as: ‘Bread of Life’; ‘Cup of Christ’s Blood’; ‘Savior of All’ etc. Always end with ‘Lamb of God’ to let people know the last phrase ‘grant us peace’ is coming.

— Christopher Walker
You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son. Ky-ri-e, e-le-i-son
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
Amen.
Glory to God

Christopher Walker
Belmont Mass

INTRO  keep it moving

Chant in speech rhythm  Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you, we adore you. We glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,

Lord God, heavenly King. O God, Almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.

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you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father.

Amen, amen.
Alleluia

REFRAIN  Joyfully (♩ = ca. 96)

(first time cantor, then all)

G  Am/G  G  C/E  G/B  C  G

mf (Intro: play refrain)

VERSES

G  Cantor/Choir

C/G  Am/F  C/E  Bm  D  D.C.

1. Speak, Lord, your servant is listening; you have the words of everlasting life. (1 Sam 3-9; Jn 6:68c)
2. Your words, Lord, are spirit and life; you have the words of everlasting life. (Jn 6:63c, 68c)
3. I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will have the light of life. (Jn 8:12)
4. My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord; I know them, and they follow me. (Jn 10:27)

5. I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord: No one comes to the Father, except through me. (Jn 14:6)
6. I call you friends, says the Lord: for I have made known to you all that the Father has told me. (Jn 15:13b)
7. Your word, O Lord, is truth; make us holy in the truth. (Jn 17:16, 17a)
8. Open our hearts, O Lord, to listen to the words of your Son. (Acts 16:14b)
9. Be watchful, pray constantly, that you may be worthy to stand before the Son of Man. (Lk 21:32)
10. Be faithful until death, says the Lord, and I will give you the crown of life. (Rev 2:10c)
11. Your words, O Lord, give joy to the heart, your teaching is light to my eyes. (Ps 19:9)
12. Teach me your paths, my God, and lead me in your truth. (Ps 25:34)
13. Teach me the meaning of your law, O God, and I will guard it with all my heart. (Ps 119:34)
14. God has called us with the Gospel, to share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Thes 2:14)
15. Increase our faith, O Lord, that our hearts may burn with your love. (Lk 17:5; Lk 24:32)

Lenten Gospel Acclamation

Christopher Walker
Belmont Mass

VERSES (Year A)

1. One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. (Matt. 4: 4b)
2. From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, hear him. (cf. Matt. 17: 5)
3. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. (Jn 3: 16)
4. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. (Jn 3: 16)
5. Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be. (Jn 12: 26)

VERSES (Year B)

1. One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. (Matt. 4: 4b)
2. From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him. (cf. Matt. 17: 5)
3. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. (Jn 3: 16)
4. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life. (Jn 3: 16)
5. Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be. (Jn 12: 26)

VERSES (Year C)

1. One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. (Matt. 4: 4b)
2. From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him. (cf. Matt. 17: 5)
3. Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand. (Matt. 4: 17)
4. I will get up and go to my Father and shall say to him: Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. (Lk: 15:18)
5. Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart; for I am gracious and merciful. (Joel 2: 12-13)
Holy

INTRO

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

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We Proclaim Your Death

Christopher Walker
Belmont Mass

Priest:

The mystery of faith.

G C D

All:

We proclaim your Death, O Lord,

G Em Am/C Bm

and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

Am/C D C/E G D Am/C C D

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When We Eat This Bread

Christopher Walker

Belmont Mass

Priest:

The mystery of faith.

All:

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,

we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

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Save Us Savior

Priest:

G C D

All:

Em Bm

Am D Em G/B C D

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Doxology and Amen

Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours,
for ever and ever. Amen, amen.

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The Lord's Prayer

Christopher Walker
Belmont Mass

Prayerfully

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Priest: (unaccompanied melody, or choir hum underneath, or gentle accompaniment)

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant us peace in our days,

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that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress,

as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

All:

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Lamb of God

Gently, not fast

Cantor or All

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

Em

D/F# Em D/F# Em/D Am/C Bm

have mercy on us.

I

Final

Am/C C G

Em F

Last Time

Cantor or All

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

C D E Am Am6 B

rall. e dim.

grant us peace.

Em Em/D Am/C Am

rall. e dim.

grant us peace.

Em

(E major or minor for the final chord!)

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