

# Two Evening Canticles

## O Gracious Light

*Phos Hilaron*

for John Strege and the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Chamber Singers, Portland, OR

Rev. Dr. Charles M. Guilbert

Scot Crandal

*Freely* (♩ = ca. 92)

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Keyboard

*for rehearsal only*

5

bright - ness of the ev - er - liv - ing Fa - ther in heav'n,

bright - ness of the ev - er - liv - ing Fa - ther in heav'n,

bright - ness of the ev - er - liv - ing Fa - ther in heav'n,

liv - ing in heav'n,

*in more strict time*

9 *p gradual cresc.*

O Je - sus Christ, Ho - ly and Bless - ed!

*p gradual cresc.*

O Je - sus Christ, Ho - ly and

*in more strict time*

*p gradual cresc.*

13 *mf*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly and Bless - ed! Now as we

*mf*

Bless - ed! Ho - ly and Bless - ed! Now as we

*mf gradual cresc.*

Ho - ly and Bless - ed, and Bless - ed! Now as we

*mf gradual cresc.*

Ho - ly and Bless - ed! Now as we

*mf*

17

come to the set - ting of the sun, and our eyes be - hold the ves - per

come to the set - ting of the sun, and our eyes be - hold the ves - per

come to the set - ting of the sun, and our eyes be - hold the ves - per

come to the set - ting of the sun, and our eyes be - hold the ves - per

21

*div. f* light, *f* We sing your prais - es, O God; *mf* Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly

*f* light, *mf* Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly

*div. f* light,

*f* light,

*f* light,

25

*mp* Spir - it. You are wor - thy at all times to be praised by hap - py

*mp* Spir - it. You are wor - thy at all times to be praised by hap - py

*mp* You are wor - thy at all times to be praised by hap - py

*mp* to be praised by hap - py

*mp*

29

*freely* voic - es, *mp* O giv - er of

*mp* voic - es, O

*mp* voic - es, O Son of God,

*mp* voic - es, O God,

*freely*

*mp*

33

life, and to be glo - ri - fied through all the worlds.

life, to be glo - ri - fied through all the worlds.

life, to be glo - ri - fied through all the worlds.

life, all the worlds.

life, all the worlds.

# Let My Prayer Rise

for John Strege and the Trinity Episcopal Cathedral Chamber Singers, Portland, OR

Based on Psalm 141:2

Scot Crandal

*Legato* (♩ = ca. 82)

**Soprano Alto**

*mp*

Let my prayer come in - to thy

**Tenor Bass**

*mp*

pres - ence as in - cense, and the

*mf*

lift - ing up of my hands be as an eve - ning sac - ri -

*mf*

and the lift - ing up of my hands be as an eve - ning sac - ri -

fice,

fice, eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

*p* *rit.* *div.*

eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

## Performance Notes

Intended for evening prayer, *O Gracious Light* is traditionally sung during candle-lighting, and *Let My Prayer Rise* while incense is lit.

The text of *O Gracious Light* is a translation of the Greek *Phos Hilaron*, one of the most ancient hymns used today. Basil of Caesarea, who died in 379, wrote that the hymn was so old, no one knew its author. The first seven measures and the last seven measures of this setting are in a chant style with planing parallel fourths and fifths over a sustained bass note. The middle section begins in an imitative style, moves to a homophonic texture, builds to the word “light,” then subsides before returning to the simple style introduced in the first seven measures.

In *Let My Prayer Rise*, all parts move in a sweeping motion to the middle of the word “incense.” The last phrase, “evening sacrifice,” spreads from a unison to an ambiguous final chord without getting louder.

—S.C.