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**Bless the Lord**  
Two-part choir, Descant, Piano, Guitar, Flute, Assembly

arr. Tony Ward



**CHORAL SERIES**

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# Bless the Lord

NETTLETON

Arranged by Tony Ward

Preview



# Bless the Lord

Based on Psalm 103

Tony Ward and the Parishioners of Saint Noel

NETTLETON, 87 87 D

From *A Repository of Sacred Music, Pt. II*, 1813

Arranged by Tony Ward

**INTRO** *Andante* (♩ = ca. 82)

**Piano**

*mf* *cresc.* *dim. e poco rit.*

*a tempo* *cresc.* *dim.*

**VERSE 1, 2**

*mf*

1. Lord our God, your chil-dren praise you, Gath-ered here in sa-cred  
2. You are balm for all that ails us; You re-deem us from the

*mf*

Db Ab6 Db Ab/C Gb/Bb

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\*Play cue notes when no solo instrument is used.

Part for Handbells (30155095) is available online. Visit [ocp.org](http://ocp.org).

1. space To re - joice and to re - mem - ber Your com - pas - sion, love, and  
 2. grave: You re - store our wea - ry spir - its, You for - give, you heal, you

*Db Gb Dbadd9/F Ebm7 Ab6*

1. grace: Bless the Lord with hearts and voices; Bless the  
 2. save. Bless the Lord, from child to elder; Bless the

*Db Ab/Eb Db/F Gbmaj7*

*cresc. f*

1. Lord, our souls pro - claim! Here and now, let all with - in us Bless the  
 2. Lord, our hearts pro - claim! Rec - on - ciled, let all with - in us Bless the

*Db/F Gb Db/Ab Ebm/Ab*

*dim. e poco rit. a tempo*

1 *poco rit.*

1. Lord's most Ho - ly Name. 2. Lord's most Ho - ly Name.

1 Ebm7/Ab Ab6 Db Dbsus4 2 Ebm7/Ab Ab6 Db5

*dim.* *dim. e poco rit.* *p*

VERSE 3 *poco meno mosso*

Melody *p*

Harmony (Alto/Tenor *loco*)

3. Though our days are few and fleet - ing, And to dust we sure - ly fade, In your

Bbm/Db Ab/C Ebm7/Bb Gbmaj7/C

*mp* *mf*

3. stead - fast love and mer - cy We will rise: re - stored, re - made! Bless the \_

Dbmaj7/Ab Ab6 Ebm7/Ab Ab7sus4 Ab

*cresc. poco a poco*

*f* *poco rit.*

3. Lord, now and for - ev - er; Bless the Lord, our days pro - claim!

*f* *poco rit.*

Chords:  $D\flat$ ,  $G\flat\text{maj}7$ ,  $D\flat/F$ ,  $G\flat$

*a tempo* *mf*

Harmony (A/T (8vb))

3. Age to age, let all with - in us Bless the Lord's most Ho - ly

*a tempo dim.* *mf*

Chords:  $D\flat/A\flat$ ,  $A\flat7\text{sus}4$ ,  $A\flat7$ ,  $G\flat/A\flat$ ,  $A\flat6$

*allargando*

3. Name.

$D\flat$   $G\flat/D\flat$   $Fm7$   $G\flat6$

*cresc.* *allargando*

VERSE 4 *Maestoso*

Unison

*f*

4. You are light! We fear no dark - ness. You are hope! We spurn de -

*f*

4. spair. You are life and res - ur - rec - tion! Let us all your reign pre -

*ff*

Descant

Melody

4. pare. Bless the \_ Lord in faith - ful wit - ness; Bless the \_

*cresc.* *ff*

Chords:  $A\flat 6$ ,  $D\flat$ ,  $E\flat m/A\flat$ ,  $A\flat 6$ ,  $G\flat$ ,  $A\flat/G\flat$ ,  $D\flat$ ,  $E\flat m 7$ ,  $D\flat maj 9/F$ ,  $G\flat$ ,  $A\flat 6$ ,  $D\flat sus 4$ ,  $D\flat$ ,  $A\flat$ ,  $D\flat/F$ ,  $G\flat$

4. Lord, our lives pro-claim! Here and now, let all with-in us Bless the

Db/F Gb Db/Ab Absus4 Ab Db

*f* *f cresc.*

4. Lord's most Ho-ly Name.

Ebm/Ab Ab6 Db Ebm/Db Db/Ab Db

*ff* *cresc.* *ff* *allargando*

## Composer Notes

In January 2023, I was invited to give a presentation on beauty and the Word for GIFT (Generations in Faith Together), our long-running faith formation series at Saint Noel Parish in Willoughby Hills, Ohio. At the end of the session, I gave a tiny crash course on meter and text writing, then gave the audience a small group assignment. Scripture in hand, our intrepid lyricists set out to read and discuss Psalm 103, then created a line of “87” text that expresses their common responses to the psalm. I collected these lines and adapted them into the text of this piece, set to the familiar tune NETTLETON.

The result was a hymn perfectly suited to the character of Laetare Sunday 2023, the date it premiered: a recognition of our need for God’s grace and mercy, a proclamation of thanks and praise for God’s steadfast love, and a commitment to live in that love all our days. Thanks so much to everyone who contributed to this text; may it pray well!

—Tony Ward

# Bless the Lord

(Guitar/Vocal)

Based on Psalm 103

Tony Ward and the Parishioners of Saint Noel

NETTLETON, 87 87 D

From *A Repository of Sacred Music, Pt. II*, 1813

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INTRO *Andante* (♩ = ca. 82)

Capo 1: (C/E) Db/F (Fmaj7) Gbmaj7 (C/E) Db/F (F) Gb *poco rit. a tempo* (C/G) Db/Ab

VERSES 1, 2

(Dm/G) (G6) (F/G) (G6) (C) (C) (G6) (C) (G/B)  
Eb/Ab Ab6 Gb/Ab Ab6 Db Db Ab6 Db Ab/C

1. Lord our God, your chil-dren praise you, Gath-ered  
2. You are balm for all that ails us; You re-

(F/A) (C) (F) (Cadd9/E)  
Gb/Bb Db Gb Dbadd9/F

1. here in sa - cred space To re - joice and to re - mem - ber Your com -  
2. deem us from the grave: You re - store our wea - ry spir - its, You for -

(Dm7) (G6) (C) (G/D) (C/E) (Fmaj7)  
Eb7 Ab6 Db Ab/Eb Db/F Gbmaj7

1. pas - sion, love, and grace: Bless the Lord with hearts and voic - es; Bless the  
2. give, you heal, you save. Bless the Lord, from child to el - der; Bless the

(C/E) (F) (C/G) (Dm/G)  
Db/F Gb *poco rit. a tempo* Db/Ab Eb/Ab

1. Lord, our souls pro - claim! Here and now, let all with - in us Bless the  
2. Lord, our hearts pro - claim! Rec - on - ciled, let all with - in us Bless the

1 (Dm7/G) (G6) (C) (Csus4) 2 (Dm7/G) (G6) (C5)  
Eb7/Ab Ab6 Db Dbsus4 Eb7/Ab Ab6 Db5 (let ring)  
*poco rit.*

1. Lord's most Ho - ly Name. 2. Lord's most Ho - ly Name.

**VERSE 3** *poco meno mosso*

*p* (Am/C)  
Bbm/Db (G/B)  
Ab/C (Dm7/A)  
Eb7/Bb (Fmaj7/B)  
Gbmaj7/C

3. Though our days are few and fleet - ing, And to dust we sure - ly fade, In your

(Cmaj7/G)  
Dbmaj7/Ab (G6)  
Ab6 (Dm7/G)  
Eb7/Ab (G7sus4)  
Ab7sus4 (G)  
Ab

3. stead - fast love and mer - cy We will rise: re - stored, re - made! Bless the\_\_

(C) Db (Fmaj7)  
Gbmaj7 (C/E) Db/F (F) Gb *poco rit. a tempo*

*f*

3. Lord, now and for - ev - er; Bless the\_\_ Lord, our days pro - claim! Age to

(C/G) Db/Ab (G7sus4) (G7)  
Ab7sus4 Ab7 (F/G) Gb/Ab (G6) Ab6 (C) Db (F/C) (Cmaj9/F) (F6)  
Gb/Db Dbmaj9/F Gb6

*mf*

3. age, let all with - in us Bless the Lord's most Ho - ly Name.

**VERSE 4** *Maestoso*

(G6) Ab6 (C) Db (Dm/G)  
Eb7/Ab (G6) Ab6 (F) Gb (G/F)  
Ab/Gb (C) Db

*f*

4. You are light! We fear no dark - ness. You are hope! We spurn de - spair. You are

(Dm7)  
Eb7 (Cmaj9/F)  
Dbmaj9/F (F) Gb (G6)  
Ab6 (Csus4) (C)  
Dbsus4 Db (G) Ab

4. life and res - ur - rec - tion! Let us all your reign pre - pare.\_\_\_\_ Bless the\_\_

(C/E) Db/F (F) Gb (C/E) Db/F (F) Gb

*ff*

4. Lord in faith - ful wit - ness; Bless the\_\_ Lord, our lives pro - claim! Here and

(C/G) Db/Ab (Gsus4) (G)  
Absus4 Ab (C) Db (Dm/G) (G6)  
Eb7/Ab Ab6 (C) Db (Dm/C) (C/G) (C)  
Eb7/Db Db/Ab Db

*ff* *allargando*

4. now, let all with - in us Bless the Lord's most Ho - ly Name.

Guitar tacets first half of Verse 3; bracketed chords are included for rehearsal only.

Bless the Lord

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FLUTE

NETTLETON

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INTRO *Andante* ( $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 82$ )

*mf*

*poco rit. a tempo*

*p*

VERSES 1, 2

Tacet Vs. 1

*mp*

*f*

*poco rit. a tempo*

*mp*

1 Play

2 *poco rit.*

*mf*

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\*Cue-sized notes provided for an alternative range option.

VERSE 3 *poco meno mosso*

Musical score for Verse 3, *poco meno mosso*. The score consists of four staves. The first staff features a treble clef, a key signature of three flats, and a 3-measure rest. It includes dynamics *pp* and *p*, and markings *non vib.* and *vib.*. The second staff continues the melody with dynamics *f* and *mf*. The third staff includes markings *poco rit.* and *a tempo*, with dynamics *f* and *mf*. The fourth staff concludes with the marking *allargando* and dynamic *f*.

VERSE 4 *Maestoso*

Musical score for Verse 4, *Maestoso*. The score consists of four staves. The first three staves feature a treble clef, a key signature of three flats, and a melody with dynamics *f* and *ff*. The fourth staff includes the marking *allargando* and dynamics *f* and *ff*.

## Assembly Edition

### BLESS THE LORD

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1. Lord our God, your chil-dren praise you, Gath-ered here in sa-cred
2. You are balm for all that ails us; You re-deem us from the
3. Though our days are few and fleet-ing, And to dust we sure-ly
4. You are light! We fear no dark-ness. You are hope! We spurn de-



1. space To re-joice and to re-mem-ber Your com-pas-sion, love, and
2. grave: You re-store our wea-ry spir-its, You for-give, you heal, you
3. fade, In your stead-fast love and mer-cy We will rise: re-stored, re-
4. spair. You are life and res-ur-rec-tion! Let us all your reign pre-



1. grace: Bless the Lord with hearts and voic-es; Bless the
2. save. Bless the Lord, from child to el-der; Bless the
3. made! Bless the Lord, now and for-ev-er; Bless the
4. pare. Bless the Lord in faith-ful wit-ness; Bless the



1. Lord, our souls pro-claim! Here and now, let all with-
2. Lord, our hearts pro-claim! Rec-on-ciled, let all with-
3. Lord, our days pro-claim! Age to age, let all with-
4. Lord, our lives pro-claim! Here and now, let all with-



- 1-4. in us Bless the Lord's most Ho-ly Name.

Text: 87 87 D; based on Psalm 103; Tony Ward and the Parishioners of Saint Noel.  
Music: J. Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music, Pt. II*, 1813.  
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