

OCP Choral Series

May We Praise You

for Assembly, SATB Choir, Piano, and Guitar

Verse 1 based on Office prayer

Verses 2-4 John Foley, SJ

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INTRO: *Gentle and somewhat slow* (♩ = 76)

Piano

The piano introduction is in 4/4 time. The right hand features a melody of eighth notes with accents, while the left hand plays a steady eighth-note accompaniment. The piece concludes with a *rit.* (ritardando) marking.

VERSE 1:
p unison a tempo

Soprano/Melody
Alto
Tenor
Bass

1. May we praise you, O Lord, with

The choral part is a unison setting of the lyrics "1. May we praise you, O Lord, with". The piano accompaniment is in 4/4 time, marked *p* (piano). The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and a melody of eighth notes in the right hand. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

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1. heart and hand and voice. And since

The first system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting in 3/2 time and changing to 4/4. The middle staff is the bass line, also in 3/2 and 4/4. The bottom staff is the piano accompaniment, with a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: "1. heart and hand and voice. And since".

1. life it - self is your gift to us, then may

poco rit.

The second system of the musical score consists of three staves. The top staff is the vocal line, starting in 3/2 time and changing to 6/8. The middle staff is the bass line, also in 3/2 and 6/8. The bottom staff is the piano accompaniment, with a treble and bass clef. The lyrics are: "1. life it - self is your gift to us, then may". The tempo marking *poco rit.* is present in the vocal line, the bass line, and the piano accompaniment.

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo*

1. all that we are be yours.

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo*

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo*

secco

Detailed description: This system contains the first vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line is in 4/4 time, starting with a half note 'all', followed by quarter notes 'that we are', and a half note 'be yours.'. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a similar pattern in the left hand. Performance markings include 'a tempo', 'poco rit.', and 'secco'.

VERSE 2: *a tempo*

rit. *mp* 2. May our liv - ing be true. May

2. May our liv - ing be true, true. May

rit. *mp* *a tempo*

2. May our liv - ing be true. May

rit. *mp* *a tempo*

simile

Detailed description: This system contains the second vocal line and piano accompaniment for Verse 2. The vocal line starts with a half note 'May', followed by quarter notes 'our liv - ing', and a half note 'be true.'. The piano accompaniment continues with the eighth-note pattern. Performance markings include 'rit.', 'mp', 'a tempo', and 'simile'. The system concludes with a double bar line and a 2/2 time signature.

2. all re-turn to you. And when

2. all re-turn to you. And when

2. all re-turn to you. And when

This system contains three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in 3/2 time, with lyrics "2. all re-turn to you. And when". The middle staff is a bass line in 3/2 time, with lyrics "2. all re-turn to you. And when". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in 3/2 time, with lyrics "2. all re-turn to you. And when". The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A time signature change to 4/4 occurs at the end of the system.

2. life is done let our pass - ing be like a

poco rit.

2. life is done let our pass - ing be like a

poco rit.

poco rit.

This system contains three staves. The top staff is a vocal line in 4/4 time, with lyrics "2. life is done let our pass - ing be like a". The middle staff is a bass line in 4/4 time, with lyrics "2. life is done let our pass - ing be like a". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time, with lyrics "2. life is done let our pass - ing be like a". The piano part features a steady eighth-note accompaniment in the left hand and chords in the right hand. A time signature change to 2/2 occurs at the end of the system. The tempo marking *poco rit.* is present above the vocal line and below the piano accompaniment.

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo*

2. birth in - to light of day. _____

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo*

VERSE 3: *a tempo*

3. Let your step guide our path. Let

rit. *f* *a tempo*

3. Let your step guide our path, path. _____ Let

rit. *f* *a tempo*

3. Let your step guide our path. Let

rit. *f* *a tempo*

3. shades of dark not last. May the

3. shades of dark not last. May the

This system contains the first two staves of a musical score. The top staff is a vocal line in 3/4 time, with lyrics "3. shades of dark not last. May the". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, with lyrics "3. shades of dark not last. May the". The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 in the second measure.

Soprano/Melody

Alto

Tenor Solo

Tenor

Bass

3. sun of jus - tice re - turn on high, and your

3. May the sun of jus - tice re - turn on high.

3. sun of jus - tice re - turn on high.

poco rit.

This system contains the second two staves of a musical score. The top staff is a vocal line in 3/4 time, with lyrics "3. sun of jus - tice re - turn on high, and your". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in 3/4 time, with lyrics "3. sun of jus - tice re - turn on high.". The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature changes from 3/4 to 4/4 in the second measure. The tempo marking *poco rit.* is present above the vocal staves.

Soprano *a tempo* *poco rit.* , *mf* *a tempo* *rit.*

Alto
3. love be our road and guide. _____

Tenor

Bass *a tempo* *poco rit.* *a tempo* *rit.*

VERSE 4:
p unison *a tempo*

4. To the Fa - ther be praise; to

p *a tempo*

4. Son and Spir - it, praise. Un - to

mp

mp

mp

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in 3/2 time, with lyrics "4. Son and Spir - it, praise. Un - to". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in 3/2 time. A time signature change to 4/4 occurs at the end of the first measure. Dynamics include *mp* (mezzo-piano) markings.

4. God the one let all praise be done, till the

poco rit. *p*

poco rit. *p*

poco rit. *p*

This system contains the next two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in 4/4 time, with lyrics "4. God the one let all praise be done, till the". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. Dynamics include *poco rit.* (poco ritardando) and *p* (piano) markings.

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *p*

4. dawn of the last - ing day, _____ may we

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *p*

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *p*



a tempo *molto rit.* *ff*

4. praise. _____

div. *a tempo* *molto rit.* *ff*

a tempo *molto rit.* *ff*



May We Praise You

(Guitar/Vocal)

Verse 1 based on Office prayer

Verses 2-4 John Foley, SJ

John Foley, SJ

INTRO: *Gentle and somewhat slow* (♩ = 76)

Capo 5: (Am7) (D) (Am7) (D) (Am7) (D) (Am7) (D)
 Dm7 G Dm7 G Dm7 G rit. Dm7 G

(Gsus2,4) (Gsus2) (G) (F) (C)
 Csus2,4 Csus2 C Bb F

a tempo

p 1. May we praise you, O Lord, with heart and hand and
mp 2. May our liv - ing be true. May all re - turn to
f 3. Let your step guide our path. Let shades of dark not
p 4. To the Fa - ther be praise; to Son and Spir - it,

(Gsus4) (G) (D) (Am2) (F11) (Esus4)
 Csus4 C G Dm2 Bb11 Asus4

poco rit.

1. voice. And since life it - self is your gift to us, then may
 2. you. And when life is done let our pass - ing be like a
 3. last. May the sun of jus - tice re - turn on high, and your
 4. praise. Un - to God the one let all praise be done, till the

(Bm7) (Am7) 1 (Am7) (D) (Am7) (D) (Am7) (D)
 Em7 Dm7 Dm7 G Dm7 G Dm7 G

a tempo *poco rit.* *a tempo* *rit.* *D.S.*

1. all that we are be yours.
 2. birth in - to light of
 3. love be our road and
 4. dawn of the last - ing

2	3
(Am7) (D) (Am7) (D)	(Am7) (D) (Am7) (D) (Am7) (D)
Dm7 G Dm7 G	Dm7 G Dm7 G Dm7 G
<i>a tempo</i>	<i>rit. D.S.</i>

2. day. _____

3. guide. _____

Final									
(Am7)	(D)	(Am7)	(D)	(Gsus4)	(D)	(C)	(D)	(G)	(G)
Dm7	G	Dm7	G	Csus4	G	F	G	C	C
<i>a tempo</i>		<i>rit.</i>		<i>a tempo</i>		<i>molto rit.</i>			<i>ff</i>

4. day, _____ may we praise. _____

Guitar Chord Charts

Gsus2	Gsus4	Gsus2,4	Am2	F11
o o	ooo	oo	xo oo	x oo

Performance Notes

May We Praise You is a song of thanksgiving for life in all its moments. A quiet evensong with many uses, it is ideal for Evening Prayer or Vespers, and can also find a place at Mass in Advent and Lent as a closing hymn.

The intent is that this hymn be used primarily with assembly participation, but the easy choral arrangement could be sung by choir alone at a meditative moment in the liturgy, where the assembly's participation would be an attentive and quiet listening. Those churches possessing a piano will find it to be the more successful accompaniment in this piece.

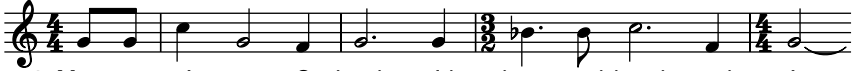
Movement should be maintained and the piece should not bog down. Yet it should not be so fast as to lose the meditative feel of the words. Please note carefully the *ritardando* and *a tempo* markings.

—J.F.


Assembly Edition

MAY WE PRAISE YOU


John Foley, SJ



1. May we praise you, O Lord, with heart and hand and voice.
2. May our liv - ing be true. May all re - turn to you.
3. Let your step guide our path. Let shades of dark not last.
4. To the Fa - ther be praise; to Son and Spir - it, praise.




1. And since life it - self is your gift to us, then may all that we
2. And when life is done let our pass - ing be like a birth in - to
3. May the sun of jus - tice re - turn on high, and your love be our
4. Un - to God the one let all praise be done, till the dawn of the



1-3

to Verses



Final

1. are be yours.
2. light of day.
3. road and guide.
4. last - ing

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