

OUR BLESSING CUP

Responsorial Song from Psalm 116 for Holy Thursday
for Cantor, Assembly & Descants
with Keyboard, Woodwinds & Guitar

TONY BARR

*Our blessing cup is a communion
with the blood of Christ.*

How can I repay you, O God,
for the kindness you show me?
I will pour out the cup of thanksgiving,
calling on the name which saves us.

How precious in your eyes, O God,
is the death of your faithful.
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid,
you have loosed my bonds, and released me.

I will offer sacrifice in thanksgiving,
and call on your name night and day.
I will fulfill the vows I made to you,
before this holy assembly.

This late post-Exilic psalm is an Individual Thanksgiving. The use of dramatic in verses 7, 12 and 16 indicates that an earlier text was edited at a late stage of Israel's history. This grateful individual coming to the Temple to proclaim before the entire assembly God's tender-heartedness in delivering him or her, a devout suppliant, from grave danger. Special vows were then made (or renewed), placing the individual in debt to God for such favors.

Many clues indicate much earlier origins. The psalm may pre-date the Exile, to the days of the monarchy. The King would declare special Days of Atonement, Days of National Fasting, and special Days of Thanksgiving for a successful outcome. On these days, sacrifices were offered, when the King would make a public testimony in gratitude to God. Other evidence of earlier origins may be seen in comparison to other psalms. Psalm 34 compiles two personal testimonies about God's faithfulness to a devout person in distress. In the early days, the grateful person would present a testimony to the Temple priests, to be enshrined in a chest in the Temple. After the Exile, BC, the Temple was destroyed and their liturgy to reflect a more spiritually mature Nation. The editors delved into the early history (of the Temple destroyed when sent into Exile) and based their psalm revisions on many of these early testimonies.

A major shift in emphasis in this Temple renewal was a move from formalist religion, the mindless performance of ritual by priests, to create a greater participation by the assembly. These early individual testimonies were revised to include more people, drawing the people into becoming active participants. The passive bystanders had now become the performers.

- vv. 1-2 God is attentive to the needs of the faithful
- vv. 3-4 The absolute need the psalmist had faced
- vv. 5-11 God's merciful intervention
- vv. 12 Hymn of Gratitude

This psalm is associated with the Holy Thursday Liturgy. In particular, the final hymn of thanksgiving becomes the start of the assembly singing the Institution of Eucharist. The pouring of the blessing cups of liberation and salvation characterized the Jewish *chaburah* or friendship meal. The psalm is also used frequently during the thanksgiving Reading response to the Scriptures.

- Tony Barr

music & text © Tony Barr 2004, 2018
graphics & typography by Jabulani
published by Jabulani Music 2004, 2018

Jabulani Music, 1520 E Saint Germain St, Apt 81, Saint Cloud, MN 56304
phn 847-508-6576 email tbarrjabulani@gmail.com

Our Blessing Cup

Responsorial Song from Psalm 116 for Holy Thursday

music & text of Psalm 116 by Tony Barr

REFRAIN ♩ = ca. 84

Flute

Oboe [in F] or Clarinet [in G]

Descants

Cantor/All

Our bles-sing cup is a mem-ory with the blood of

Our bles-sing cup is a mem-ory with the blood of

a tempo

to Verses or *Fine*

Christ.

VERSES Cantor

1. How can I repay you, O God, for the kindness you show me?
 2. How precious in your eyes O God is the death of the faithful.
 3. I will offer sacrifice in thanks-giving and call on your name night and day.

G Bm Em C Am

1. I will pour out the cup of my sorrow, and call on your name which saves us.
 2. I am your servant, the child of your mercy; you have broken my bonds, and released me.
 3. I will fulfill the vows I made to you, O Lord, before this holy assembly.

Em Am Cmaj7 Am Dsus4

rit. 3 **to Refrain**

SAMPLE

Our Blessing Cup

Responsorial Song from Psalm 116 for Holy Thursday

text of Psalm 116 Tone

REFRAIN ♩ = ca. 84

Descants

Our bles-sing cup is a com - mun - with the blood of Christ.

Cantor/All

Our bles-sing cup is a com - with the Christ.

VERSES Cantor

1. How can I repay you, O for the kind - ness you show me?
2. How precious in your eyes O death of your faithful.
3. I will offer sacrifice in thanks-gr on your name night and day.

to Refrain

1. I will pour out the cup of thanks, and call on the name which saves us.
2. I am your ser of your handmaid, you have broken my bonds, and re - leased me.
3. I will fulfill th you, before this ho - ly as - ssembly.

SAMPLE

Our Blessing Cup

Responsorial Song from Psalm 116 for Holy Thursday
Basic Accompaniment

REFRAIN ♩ = ca. 84

Cantor/All

music & text of Psalm 116 Tony Barr
to Verses

Our bles-sing cup is a com - mun - ion with the blood of Christ.

D G C/D G Em C Am Em C D G

VERSES Cantor

1. How can I repay you, O God, for the kind - ness you show me?
 2. How precious in your eyes O God, is the death of your faithful.
 3. I will offer sacrifice in thanksgiving and call on your name night and day.

G Bm Am Bm7

to Refrain

1. I will pour out the contents of my cup in thanksgiving, and call on the name which saves us.
 2. I am your servant, O Lord, you have broken my bonds, and re - leased me.
 3. I will fulfill the promise made to you, before this ho - ly as - sembly.

Em C D Cmaj7 Am Dsus4