

The National Conference on WORSHIP, MUSIC, & THE ARTS

Carthage College, July 18-21, 1999

Variety in the Verse of the Day

Carol Laitinen, Presenter

The Verse of the Day is a familiar or significant Scripture text framed with alleluias. It is a proper, that is, its text changes each Sunday or festival. For this reason it is to be sung by a choir (a *choral* proper), since the congregation is not able to rehearse the changing text each week. The Verse echoes or reinforces the theme or tone of the day or season of the church year. Some of the verses are taken from the Old Testament, but most are from the New Testament. A number of them are taken from one of the four Gospels, sometimes from the day's Gospel itself.

The Verse is sung between the Second Lesson and the Gospel. It is a major proper that is in tune with the day's Gospel or the thought of which is consonant with some other Gospel expression. As such, it looks forward to and welcomes the reading of the Gospel.

The history of the Verse is a bit complicated. In a sense its roots go back to the Jewish synagogue worship where a psalm was read between the Scripture lessons. We might also identify it with the Gradual, an important proper that grew out of the Mass. It consisted of a liturgical arrangement of psalm verses together with the alleluia. The Verse, then, seems to be as old as the readings themselves.

Originally there were three readings: Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel. The Gradual was sung after the Old Testament Reading, and the Alleluia was sung after the Epistle. When in the Middle Ages the Old Testament Reading disappeared as a lesson, the Gradual and the Alleluia were reunited. (from CW Manual, pp. 151-152)

Suggested Variations

1. Choir
2. One section of the Choir (tenor)
3. Quartet, Trio, Duet, Solo
4. Antiphonal: Alleluia/ Verse with combinations such as choir/ soloist, SA/ TB, ST/ AB, etc.
5. Family combinations: mother/ daughter, siblings, husband/ wife, etc.
6. Pastor
7. Teacher(s)
8. Parish School: all, by grade, by classroom, boys, girls, small ensemble, soloist
9. Sunday School
10. Lutheran Girl Pioneers/ Pioneers
11. Seniors or OWLS
12. Teens
13. Doubling on an appropriate instrument - the entire verse, just the Alleluias, just the Verse
14. Add percussion
15. Substitute guitar for Keyboard accompaniment
16. Utilize various instruments on synthesizer or electronic keyboard (especially Handbells)
17. WELS visitors
18. Congregational Refrain
19. Anthem with similar text
20. Chant verse on Psalm tone with varied Alleluias
21. Original composition

Sample Verses- July, 1999

Northwestern Publishing House

1. Seasonal Responses and Verses - for every Sunday of the church year. Variety of composers, arrangements and optional instruments.

Concordia Publishing House

2. Verses and Offertory Sentences Volume I - 97-5509 - Parts I-IV Advent through Easter 7; 6 different composers
Accompaniment edition Organ \$12.00
Choir part SATB and unison \$.85 and up
3. Verses and Offertory Sentences Volume II - 97-5510 - Parts V-VIII Vigil of Pentecost through Christ the King (and Selected Lesser Festivals, Commemorations and Other Occasions.)
10 different composers
Accompaniment edition Opt. handbells, Organ \$14.00
Choir part SATB \$.85 and up
4. Verses for Advent- 98-2886 - Stephen Weber Keyboard, Unison \$.70
5. Four Verse settings for Advent - 98-2587 - Richard Wienhorst Handbells, SA \$1.25
6. Verses for the Easter Season - 98-3057 - Willan/ Guenther SATB \$2.25
7. Alleluia Verses - 98-3230 - For Festivals of the Liturgical Year (Palm Sunday, Easter, Ascension, Pentecost, Holy Trinity) - Jeffrey Blersch Organ, SATB \$2.00
8. Alleluia Verses, set 2 - 98-3285 - For Festivals of the Liturgical Year (Reformation, All Saints', Christ the King, Nativity, Epiphany, Transfiguration; *based on hymns of the day*) - Jeffrey Blersch Organ, SATB \$1.80
9. Certain volumes of CPH's "Creative Worship" also contain some good verses

Augsburg Publishing House

10. Verses and offertories - 11-9541 - Advent 1 through The Baptism of our Lord - Robert Wetzler Organ, SATB \$3.75
11. 11-9544 - Epiphany 2 through The Transfiguration of our Lord - David N. Johnson Keyboard, unison \$3.75
12. 11-9545 - Lent - Kevin Norris Organ, unison \$3.75

13.	11-9546 - Easter through The Holy Trinity - Walter L. Pelz	Organ, SATB	\$3.75
14.	11-9539 - Pentecost 12 through Pentecost 20 - Carl Schalk	Organ, unison	\$3.75
15.	11-9540 - Pentecost 21 through Christ the King - Donald Busarow	Organ, unison	\$3.75
16.	11-9542 - Lesser Festivals, Commemorations and occasions Volume One - Richard Hillert	Organ, unison	\$3.75
17.	11-9543 Volume Two - Richard Hillert	Keyboard, unison	\$3.75

Agape

18.	A Seasonal Alleluia - HH3945 - For Christmas through Easter, Ascension, and Christ the King - Hal H. Hopson	Opt. Handbells, Opt. Trumpets, Opt. Trombones, Organ, SATB	\$1.10
-----	---	--	--------

Morning Star Publishing House

19.	Verses for the Sundays in Advent - MSM-80-001 - David M. Cherwien	Opt. Handbells, Organ, Unison	\$1.25
20.	Verses for the Epiphany Season - MSM-80-200 - David M. Cherwien	Opt. Handbells, Organ, Unison	\$1.25
21.	Verses for the Sundays in Lent - MSM-80-300 - David M. Cherwien	Organ, Unison or Two part	\$ 1.25
22.	Gospel Acclamation for Lent - MSM-80-306 - Thomas P. Gouin	Cantor, Assembly, Organ, SATB	\$1.00
23.	Verses for the Lenten Season - MSM-80-301 - Charles Schramm, Jr.	Opt. Organ, SATB	\$1.25
24.	Verses for the Sundays of Easter - MSM-80-400 - David M. Cherwien	Organ, Unison	\$1.25
25.	Verses for Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity - MSM-80-540 - David M. Cherwien	Organ, Unison/ solo, SATB	\$1.25
26.	Verse for all Saints' Day - MSM-80-810 - Robert A. Hobby	Organ, Two part Mixed Voices	\$1.00
27.	Verses for the Season of Pentecost - set one - MSM-80-541 - Pentecost 2 through 9 - David M. Cherwien	Organ, Unison	\$1.25
28.	Verses for the Season of Pentecost - set three - MSM-80-543 - Pentecost 17-27 - David M. Cherwien	Organ, Mixed Voices	\$1.25
29.	Verses for the Fall Festivals - MSM-80-880 - David M. Cherwien	Organ, opt. Brass Quartet, Unison or SATB	\$1.25

GIA Publications

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 30. Advent Alleluia - G-3157 - Michael Joncas
Choir, Cantor, Congregation, Two C instruments, Guitar and Keyboard | \$1.20 |
| 31. Christmastime Alleluia - G-4453 - James J. Chepponis
Cantor, Assembly, Keyboard, Opt. SATB voices, Guitar, Bb or C Instrument, Handbells | \$1.20 |
| 32. Halle, Halle Halle - G-3961 - Marty Haugen
Cantor, SATB, Congregation, Opt. Guitar, Keyboard | \$1.20 |
| 33. Easter Alleluia - G-3594 - Marty Haugen
Cong., SATB, Keyboard, Opt. Guitar, Opt. Woodwinds in C | \$1.20 |
| 34. Good News Acclamation - G-3297 - James J. Chepponis
Cantor, SATB, Assembly, Organ, Opt. Brass Quartet, Opt. Timpani, Opt. 16 Handbells | \$1.40 |
| 35. Gospel Acclamation - G-2897 - Howard Hughes, SM
SATB, Cong., Organ, Opt. 2 Trumpets, Opt. Tambourine | \$1.10 |
| 36. Ostinato Alleluia - G-2859 - James J. Chepponis
SATB, Cantor, Cong., Organ, Opt. instruments | \$0.80 |
| 37. Gospel Acclamation for Funerals - G-3550 - Robert J. Batastini
Cantor, Cong., Keyboard | \$3.00 |
| 38. Sundays of Advent - G-2110 - John Schiavone
Cantor, Cong., Keyboard | \$3.00 |
| 39. Sundays of Lent - G-2160 - John Schiavone
Cantor, Cong., Keyboard | \$3.00 |
| 40. Gospel Fanfare for Easter morning - G-3280 - James R. Biery
Cantor, Choir, Congregation, Organ, Opt. Timpani, Opt. Brass Quartet | \$3.00 |
| 41. Sundays of Easter - G-2162 - John Schiavone
Cantor, Cong., Keyboard | \$2.50 |
| 42. Easter Sunday, Ascension, and Pentecost - G-2179 - John Schiavone
Cantor, Cong., Keyboard | \$2.00 |
| 43. Irish Alleluia - G-4464 - O'Carroll/ Proulx
SATB, Cantor, Assembly, Opt. Timpani, Opt. Brass Quintet | \$1.20 |
| 44. The Cantor's Book of Gospel Acclamation - G-4987 - Robert J. Batastini
Keyboard, Cantor | \$26.50 |

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

- | | |
|---|--|
| 45. Resource Center- Number 18, October of 1996-Michael Burkhardt
various alleluia settings to be used as responses to the verse | |
| 46. ResourCenter- February, 1999-William Beckstrand - <u>Sundays in Easter, Alleluia Verse</u>
SATB, Choir, Cantor, Cong. | |