

SATB

O Jesus, Lord of Heavenly Grace

\$2.50

Christopher Alexander

Jesus, Lord of
Heavenly Grace

SATB and Piano

cantareworks

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

About the Work

An earnest prayer of hope and illumination by St. Ambrose of Milan is given a lyrical, sustained setting. The piano creates a supportive and lush accompaniment through its arpeggiated harmonies and playful chromaticism. As the choir progresses the folk-like melody, their texture dramatically increases to opportune a strong breadth of vocal power and emotion. This delightful prayer will be a perfect addition to your worship service.

*O Jesus, Lord of heavenly grace,
Thou Brightness of Thy Father's face,
Thou Fountain of eternal light,
Whose beams disperse the shades of night.*

*Come, holy Sun of heavenly love,
Shower down Thy radiance from above,
And to our inward hearts convey
The Holy Spirit's glowing ray.*

*So we thy Father's help will claim,
And sing thy Father's glorious Name,
And His almighty grace implore
That we may stand, to fall no more.*

*May He our actions deign to bless,
And loose the bonds of wickedness;
From sudden falls our feet defend,
And bring us to a prosperous end.*

*May faith, deep rooted in the soul,
Subdue our flesh, our minds control;
May guile depart, and discord cease,
And all within be joy and peace.*

*So let us gladly pass the day;
Our thoughts be pure as morning ray;
And faithful love our noonday light;
And hope our sunset, calm and bright.*

*O Christ, with each returning morn
A hinc image to our hearts is borne;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Savior and our God in Thee.*

— St. Ambrose of Milan (340-397)
Translation by John Chandler (1837)

About the Composer



Mr. Christopher Alexander is an award-winning composer and arranger from St. Joseph, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Science in Vocal Music Education degree from Missouri Western State University in 2009. A self-taught pianist, his compositions and arrangements ranging from instrumental works to vocal solo and choral literature. Mr. Alexander has been commissioned numerous times by singing groups and church choirs within the northwest Missouri and northeast Kansas regions. He is also active in musical theatre productions as a music director and pianist. His works have been published with GIA Music Publications, Hal Leonard, and Excelcia Music Publishing.

In 2016, he was awarded the St. Joseph Allied Arts Council Mayor's Award for Artist of the Year. In 2023, he was inducted into the New Generation Singers Hall of Fame.

Mr. Alexander currently serves as the pianist and primary arranger for The New Generation Singers, a Christian singing youth group based in St. Joseph, Missouri. He is a member of NAfME, ACDA, MCDA, and Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity.

He is available for commissions and conducting events on request.

O JESUS, LORD OF HEAVENLY GRACE

SATB and Piano

Words by
ST. AMBROSE of MILAN (340-397)
Translation by JOHN CHANDLER (1837)

Music by
CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER

Larghetto sostenuto con affetto (♩ = c. 64-68)

PIANO

p

Pedal harmonically

Detailed description: This block contains the piano introduction. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The music is in 4/4 time and begins with a piano (*p*) dynamic. The right hand plays a series of chords and moving lines, while the left hand provides a harmonic accompaniment. A note indicates to pedal harmonically.

3 SOPRANO, ALTO

TENOR, BASS

rit. *unis. p*

0

Detailed description: This block shows the vocal introduction for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. The Soprano and Alto parts are on a treble clef staff, while Tenor and Bass are on a bass clef staff. The music starts at measure 3. The Soprano and Alto parts have a *rit.* (ritardando) marking and end with a *unis. p* (unison piano) instruction. The Tenor and Bass parts are silent, marked with a 0.

rit.

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for the second system. It continues from the first system and includes a *rit.* (ritardando) marking. The piano part features a treble and bass clef with various chordal and melodic textures.

5 *a tempo*

Je - sus, Lord of heav'n - ly grace, Thou

a tempo

Detailed description: This block shows the vocal entry for the first system of the main text. It includes a measure number '5' in a box and an *a tempo* marking. The Soprano part is on a treble clef staff and begins with the lyrics 'Je - sus, Lord of heav'n - ly grace, Thou'. The Tenor and Bass parts are on a bass clef staff and are silent.

5 *a tempo*

a tempo

Detailed description: This block shows the piano accompaniment for the second system of the main text. It includes a measure number '5' in a box and an *a tempo* marking. The piano part continues with a treble and bass clef, providing harmonic support for the vocalists.

O Jesus, Lord of Heavenly Grace

7

Bright - ness of Thy Fa - ther's face, Thou

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. It begins with a measure rest, followed by the lyrics "Bright - ness of Thy Fa - ther's face, Thou". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, starting with a whole rest.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the first system, consisting of two staves in treble and bass clefs. The right hand features a continuous eighth-note accompaniment pattern, while the left hand plays a simple harmonic accompaniment.

9

Foun - tain of e - ter - nal light, Whose —

This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. It begins with a measure rest, followed by the lyrics "Foun - tain of e - ter - nal light, Whose —". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, starting with a whole rest.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the second system, consisting of two staves in treble and bass clefs. The right hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment pattern, and the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

11

beams dis - perse the shades of night.

This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef with a key signature of three flats and a common time signature. It begins with a measure rest, followed by the lyrics "beams dis - perse the shades of night.". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef, starting with a whole rest.

This system shows the piano accompaniment for the third system, consisting of two staves in treble and bass clefs. The right hand continues the eighth-note accompaniment pattern, and the left hand provides harmonic support with chords and single notes.

O Jesus, Lord of Heav'nly Grace

13 *rit.* *mp* **14** *a tempo*

rit. *mp* *a tempo*

Come, ho - ly Sun of heav'n - ly

13 **14**

rit. *mp* *a tempo*

15

love, Show - er down Thy ra - diance from a -

15

17 *mf*

bove, And to our in - ward hearts con -

mf

17 *mf*

O Jesus, Lord of Heavenly Grace

19

vey The Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less

p unis.

p unis.

This system contains the first two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The music begins with a whole rest in the vocal line and a half note in the piano line. The lyrics 'vey The Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less' are written below the vocal line. Dynamics include a crescendo leading to a *p unis.* marking.

19

p

This system contains the second two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and chords in the left hand. A *p* dynamic marking is present.

21

ray.

mf

So

This system contains the third two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line has a whole note 'ray.' followed by a whole rest. The piano accompaniment has a whole note chord. Dynamics include a *mf* marking.

21

This system contains the fourth two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The piano accompaniment continues with eighth-note patterns and chords.

23

we the Fa - ther's help will claim, And

This system contains the fifth two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The vocal line has a whole rest followed by the lyrics 'we the Fa - ther's help will claim, And'. The piano accompaniment has a whole note chord.

23

mf

This system contains the sixth two staves of music. The top staff is a vocal line in treble clef, and the bottom staff is a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The piano accompaniment features eighth-note patterns and chords. A *mf* dynamic marking is present.

25 *mf*
And His al -
sing the Fa - ther's glo - rious Name,

25

27
might - y, al might - y grace im - plore That we may

27

29
stand, to fall no more. *mp*
May

29