

COMMUNION MEDITATION

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words and Music by
JAY ALTHOUSE

Tenderly (♩ = ca. 84)

ACCOMP.

mp

4 S. 5 *mp unis. or solo*

A. Bread is bro-ken, as a to-ken

T. **Bread is bro-ken, words are spo-ken,

B.

7

of the Sav-ior who died for me. Now we meet Him,

for the Sav-ior who died for me. *mp* TENORS ONLY or solo

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It begins with a piano accompaniment section marked 'mp' (mezzo-piano). The vocal parts enter at measure 4. The lyrics are: 'Bread is broken, as a token' (Soprano), '**Bread is broken, words are spoken,' (Tenor), and 'of the Savior who died for me. Now we meet Him,' (Tenors only or solo). The score includes a large red watermark that reads 'Preview Only! Legal Use Requires Purchase'.

* Also available for 2-Part voices, No. 11542.

** Optional text.

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10

glad - ly greet Him, for in dy-ing He set us free.

13

tutti mf

Come ris - en Lord and dwell with us. Be ev - er in our

tutti mf

mf

16

heart. May we know Thine e - ter - nal grace. May

19 *rit.* 21 *a tempo*
mp

sin and death de - part. Wine so sa - cred,
mp

a tempo
mp

22 *rit.* *mp*

con - se - cra - ted, giv - en to us as from His hand. —

(9)

25

Life un - end - ing, love de - scend - ing, in His mer - cy we

28

ev - er stand.

31

mf

Come ris - en Lord and dwell with us. Be ev - er in our

mf
*unis.**mf*

34

heart. May we know Thine e - ter - nal grace. May

37 *holding back slightly* 39 *a tempo* ***f***

sin and death de - part. _____ Sing His glo - ry,

a tempo
holding back slightly ***f***

40 won - drous sto - ry. We re - ceive Him with bread and wine.

43 Voic - es rais - ing, hum - bly prais - ing, we are mor - tal, but

46

ev - er Thine.

rit.

49

mp Slower

We are mor-tal, but ev - er Thine.

mp

Slower

(mp) opt. accompaniment

The image shows a musical score for a choral piece. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system (measures 46-48) features a vocal line with the lyrics 'ev - er Thine.' and a piano accompaniment. The second system (measures 49-52) features a vocal line with the lyrics 'We are mor-tal, but ev - er Thine.' and a piano accompaniment. The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *mp*, and performance instructions like 'Slower' and 'rit.'. A large red watermark 'PREVIEW ONLY Use Requires Purchase' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Communion Meditation is an anthem for the Lord's Supper that may be performed throughout the year and may be especially appropriate for communion on Easter Sunday, Ascension, and the Day of Pentecost. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Exodus 12: 1-14, Psalm 116: 12-19, Matthew 26: 17-29, Mark 14: 12-25, Luke 22: 7-23, and 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26. One basic homiletical theme is invoking the presence of the risen Lord as we partake of the holy wine and bread, symbols of the Savior who died for our sins.

Gently flowing 4-measure phrases and an unforgettable melody are the hallmarks of this communion offering. Rehearse all voices quietly in unison on the melody, mm. 5-28, singing a neutral syllable such as "noo" until pitches are secure and vocal tone is focused. Add the text with proper inflection and a basic feeling of two pulses per measure. Guard against singing "note-for-note," that is, all pitches inflected equally. Add the voice parts without sacrificing good musicianship.

Jay Althouse has written choral music for all levels of school and church choirs. He has over 400 choral compositions and arrangements in print. Jay received a B.S. in Music Education and an M.Ed. in Music from Indiana University of Pennsylvania.

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