

**Be with Us Now, O Lord** is an anthem for communion. It may also be appropriate for Maundy Thursday. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Psalm 31, Matthew 26: 26-29, Mark 14: 22-26, Luke 22: 14-23, 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 and Philippians 2: 5-11. One basic homiletical theme is gathering as one body in Christ to remember His sacrifice through the sacrament of Holy Communion.

In rehearsal, strive for a very fluid legato with 4-measure phrases imbued with a strong feeling of the underlying eighth-note pulse. Avoid the tendency to slow down as you sing the dotted-quarter notes. Rehearse the entire anthem singing “noo” while pulsing a steady stream of eighth notes, sculpting the phrases dynamically and marking the exact point of each ensemble breath. Speak the text with that same sensitivity as the accompaniment is played; then, sing the text with expressive text declamation.

**Jay Althouse** has written choral music for all levels of school and church choirs. He has over 450 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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dedicated to LaVerne Ridley and the choirs and congregation of  
The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Columbia, SC

# BE WITH US NOW, O LORD

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

Words and Music by  
JAY ALTHOUSE

Gently (♩ = ca. 72)

SOPRANO  
ALTO

TENOR  
BASS

SOLO (or unis.) *mp*

We

Gently (♩ = ca. 72)

ACCOMP *mp*

5

give to you both heart and hand as in your pres - ence here we stand. We

SOLO (or unis.) *mp*

\*Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 16188.

9

live our lives as you have planned. Be with us now, O Lord.

13

We eat the bread, we

*tutti mp*

17

drink the wine, and thus we know your love di - vine, Our hum-ble lives: your

21

grand de - sign. Be with us now, — O Lord. —

*cresc.*

25 With a bit more movement

*mf*

You gave your life to free us from sin. —

*mf*

With a bit more movement

*mf*

29

*rit.* — *mp*

May we be pure with - in. — We *mp*

*rit.*

33

Tempo I

feel your spir - it as we pray. We know your love this ho - ly day. If

Tempo I

*mp*

37

you com - mand, we shall o - bey. Be with us now, O Lord.

*unis.*

*cresc.*

41

42

*unis. f*

We give to you both heart and hand as in your pres - ence

*f*

45

here we stand. We live our lives as you have planned. Be

*8vb*

48

with us now, O Lord. Be with us now, O

*rit mp* Slowly, freely

*mp*

*decresc. rit. [mp]*

Slowly, freely

52

Lord. A - men.

*a tempo*

*a tempo*

*mp*

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