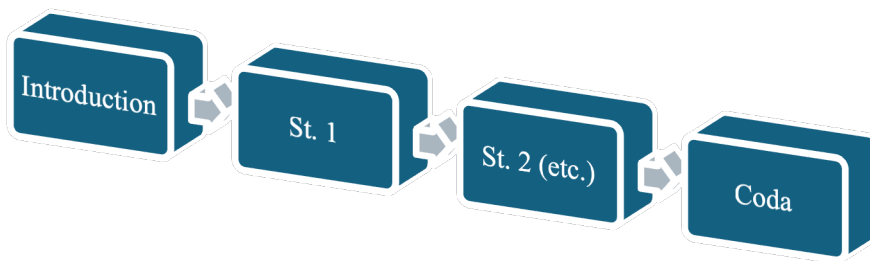


Small Choir Toolkit

Serving Through Song Augsburg Fortress Webinar | September 22, 2026
David Sims

From Hymn to Anthem: How to compose your own setting

Structure comes first. A hymn anthem is like a train:



You will need:

- An introduction.
 - Play a published introduction.
 - Borrow part of the hymn.
 - Write one.
- A plan for what the choir does on each stanza.
 - Unison, or harmony, or alternate every few measures.
 - Groups A and B, or high voices and low voices.
 - Solo with humming.
 - Sing in canon.
 - Unison, but with alternate keyboard harmonies.
 - Harmony, but only some of the harmonies (SA, or SAT).
- A way to link the stanzas together.
 - Short version of the introduction.
 - Ritornello.
 - A few measures of the hymn.
- A coda or ending.
 - Repeat the linking material.
 - Repeat the last phrase.
 - A few repeated chords.
 - Make it a choral canon.
 - (A fermata is fine, too!)

Make sure the choir has a predictable roadmap to follow.

Intro

4-bar piano, then "oo" melody, legato and piano

DCS

From the First Word of Creation

p
mp
mf
f

All, Unison
All, Harmony
All, Unison

SA-1 From the first word of cre - a - tion, as the works of
2 Christ has shown us God's com-pas - sion: from the heart of
3 Cir - cling us, the Spir - it beck - ons, call - ing us with
4 Ring us round with ho - ly un - ion; pierce us through with

God un - fold, B God's de - sire is toward the man - y -
God all rise; each u - nique and each be - lov - ed,
sigh - ing deep, that all join with those re - joic - ing,
gold - en fire; bind our guard - ed hearts to - geth - er;

var - ied flock and var - ied fold— All bound to - geth - er
yet to - geth - er in - ter - twined; Ham two - ven in a
that all mourn with those who weep; and, re - fin - ing
with your love our lives in - spire, that, O God, in

Interlude
by God's pres - ence like a strand of wo - ven gold.
seam - less gar - ment by the crim - son love of Christ.
us from hard - ness, healed and whole our hearts will keep.
you a - bid - ing, we em - bod - y your de - sire.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien
Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813-1879
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Final stanza: I. Bert Carlson, from Intros / Alt. Accomp. vol. 3

Children of the Heavenly Father

Caroline V. Sandell Berg, 1832–1903
tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958

TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA
Swedish folk tune
arr. John Ferguson

Slowly, freely and with quiet intensity (♩ = c. 50–54)

Piano

expressively

3 Voice

Chil - dren of the heav'n - ly

6

Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er; nest - ling

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Children of the Heavenly Father: Three Swedish Folk Hymns for Medium Solo Voice, by John Ferguson, ISBN 978-1-5064-7998-9

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bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en._____

with a bit more motion

God his own doth tend and nour - ish, in his

ho - ly courts they flour - ish. From all e - vil things he

original tempo

spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them._____

24

Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his

27

chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth; his the lov - ing pur - pose

30

sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

34

slower

subito pp

mp

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christina Rossetti, 1830–1894

Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
arr. K. Lee Scott

Smooth and gentle (♩ = 76)

*Oboe *p*

Organ or Piano *p* (Man.)

5

p

In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan, earth stood hard as

(Ped.)

10

mp

i - ron, wa - ter like a stone; snow had fall - en snow on snow,

mp

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*Separate oboe part on page 54.

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15

snow_ on_ snow, in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go. Our

21

God, heav'n can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain; heav'n and earth shall

26

flee a - way when he comes to reign. In the bleak mid - win - ter a

31 *mp*

sta - ble place suf - ficed the Lord God Al - might - y,

(I)

II

35 *mp*

Je - sus Christ.

40 *mp*

II

45 *p*

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a

p

50 53

shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man,

(Man.)

55

I would do my part, yet what I can I give him; give_____ my

(Ped.)

60

heart, give_____ my heart.

p espr. *mp* *pp* *rall.* *pp*

p *mp* *rall.* *pp*

solo

In the Bleak Midwinter

Oboe

Gustav Holst, 1874–1934
arr. K. Lee Scott

Smooth and gentle (♩ = 76)

p

5

6

3

13

3

20

21

16

37

mp

40

45

45

7

53

mf

56

mp

61

3

pp

rall.

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AUGSBURG CHORAL HYMN SERIES

O Word of God Incarnate

arr. Brenda Portman

Unison, piano, opt. descant

SAMPLE



O Word of God Incarnate

for unison voices and piano with opt. descant

William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

MUNICH
Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693
arr. Brenda Portman

With expression ($\text{♩} = 60$)

Piano *mp*

4

7

11 Unison voices *mp*

O — Word of God in - car - nate, —

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

14

O Wis - dom from on high, O

17

Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O

20

Light of our dark sky: we praise you for the

23

ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page, a lan - tern to our

27

foot - steps, _____ shines on from age to age.

mp

31

35 Unison voices (mf)

The__ church from you, our dear

mf

38

Sav - ior, re - ceived the__ gift di - vine; and__
Mas - ter,

41

still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to

44

shine. It is the chart and compass that,

47

all life's voyage through, mid mists and rocks and

50

quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.

53

56 Opt. descant *f*

Oh, — make your church, dear Sav - ior, a

Unison voices *f*

Oh, — make your church, dear Sav - ior, a

59

lamp_ of bur - nished gold to — bear be -

lamp of — bur - nished gold to — bear be - fore the

62

fore the na - tions true light, as of old; oh, teach your wand - 'ring

na - tions your true light, as of old; oh, teach your wand - 'ring

66

pil - grims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and dark - ness

pil - grims by this their path to trace, till, clouds and dark - ness

70

end - ed, they see you face to face.

end - ed, they see you face to face.

73

ISBN-13: 978-1-5064-9535-4



781506 495354

90000



Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

for unison voices and keyboard with C instrument

Dorothy Ann Thrupp, 1779–1847

William Bradley Roberts

Andante (♩ = 46)

Keyboard

p

(Ped.)

Unison voices

p

3

Sav - ior, — like a shep - herd lead us; much we need thy
your

5

ten - der care; in thy — pleas - ant pas - tures
your —

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Separate C instrument part on page 92.

Augsburg Easy Choirbook, vol. 1: *Music for the Church Year; Unison and Two-part Mixed*, ISBN 0-8006-7602-5

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7

feed us for our use thy folds pre - pare. Bless - ed
your

9

Je - sus! Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast
You have

11

bought us, thine we are. Bless - ed Je - sus! Bless - ed
yours

mf

*Omit cue size notes of treble staff when using organ.

14

Je - sus! Thou hast bought us, thine _____ we
You have yours _____

16

are.

18 C instrument

Ear - ly _____ let us seek thy fa - vor, ear - ly let us
your

18

20

learn thy will; do thou, Lord, our on - ly
 your Lord, our —

22

Sav - ior, with thy love our bos - oms fill. Bless - ed
 your

24

mf Je - sus! Bless - ed Je - sus! Thou hast
mf You have

24

mf

26

loved us; love us still. Bless-ed Je-sus! Bless-ed

29

Je-sus! Thou hast loved us; love us

31

still.

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

C instrument

William Bradley Roberts

Andante (♩. = 46)

8

18

p

21

24

mf

27

31

p

rit.

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Abide with Me / arr. Jantz A. Black

978-1-5064-9239-1

2-pt, pno



GLADSONG

Abide with Me

arr. Jantz A. Black | 2-part, piano

SAMPLE

Abide with Me

for 2-part voices and piano

Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847

EVENTIDE
William H. Monk, 1823–1889
arr. Jantz A. Black (ASCAP)

Andante religioso con rubato (♩ = 88–92)

Piano

mp legato

Part I
rit. *mp* *a tempo*

A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven -

Part II
rit. *mp* *a tempo*

A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven -

rit. *a tempo*

8

tide. The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a -

tide. The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a -



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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

12

bide. When oth - er help - ers fail and com-forts

bide. When oth - er help - ers fail and com-forts

16

flee, help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with

flee, help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with

20

a tempo me. *rit.*

a tempo me. *rit.* *mf* I

a tempo *rit.*

24 *mf* *a tempo*

I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour; _____

a tempo

need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;

a tempo *mf*

28

what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's

what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's

31

pow'r? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can

pow'r? Who like thy - self my guide and stay can

35

be? Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a -

be? Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a -

38

bide with me.

bide with me.

cresc. poco a poco

41

poco rit.

poco rit.

f *poco rit.*

44 **Broadly** *f*

Hold thou thy cross be -

46

fore my clos - ing eyes,

48

shine through the gloom, and

shine through the gloom, and

50

point me to the skies;

point me to the skies;

52

heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and

heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and

54

earth's vain shad - ows flee;

earth's vain shad - ows flee;

56

in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with

in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with

ff

59

dim. poco a poco *rit.* *slowly mp*

me. A - bide with

dim. poco a poco *rit.* *slowly mp*

me. A - bide with

rit. *slowly*

dim. poco a poco *mp*

62

a tempo *p*

me.

a tempo *p*

me.

a tempo p *dim. poco a poco* *pp*

ISBN-13: 978-1-5064-9239-1



90000

781506 492391

1 copy



MAY GOD BESTOW ON US GRACE

Aaron David Miller

2-part mixed, keyboard



AUGSBURG CHORAL LIBRARY

May God Bestow on Us Grace

for 2-part voices and keyboard

Martin Luther, 1483–1546
tr. Richard Massie, 1800–1887, alt.

Aaron David Miller

Andante (♩ = 84)

Keyboard *mp legato*

4 Part I *mp lyrically*

May God be-stow on us — grace, with

7

bles - sings rich pro - vide us; and may the bright - ness

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10

of God's face to life e - ter - nal guide us.

13

mp

Ah,

Part II

mp

May God be-stow on

sempre legato

16

ah,

us _____ grace with bless - ings rich pro - vide us; and

MAY GOD BESTOW ON US GRACE

19

ah, _____ ah, _____

may the bright - ness of God's face to life e - ter - nal

22

guide us; _____ that

mf

that *mf*

that

Part I & II
espress.

25 *unis.*

we may know God's gra - cious work and what is God's good

mf

MAY GOD BESTOW ON US GRACE

28

plea - sure and to the un - be - liev - ing show Christ's

31

rich - es with - out mea - sure. *p* Now let us say,

34

"A - men." *mf* Now let us say,

mf

MAY GOD BESTOW ON US GRACE

37

"A - men, a - men."

40 *unis.*

Now let us say, "A - men."

43 *p unis.*

Now let us say, "A - men."

p

MAY GOD BESTOW ON US GRACE

47 Part I *f*

Part II *f* Ah, _____

May God be-stow on

mp *mf*

50 ah, _____

us _____ grace with bless - ings rich pro - vide us; and

53 ah, _____ ah. _____

may the bright - ness of God's face to life e - ter - nal

MAY GOD BESTOW ON US GRACE

56

guide us.

59 *p* Now let us say, "A - men."

62 *rit.*

8^{va}

ISBN: 978-1-5064-2600-6



9 781506 426006



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YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD

arr. Nancy M. Raabe

Two-part, piano



AUGSBURG CHORAL LIBRARY

SAMPLE

Your Little Ones, Dear Lord

for 2-part mixed voices and piano

Hans A. Brorson, 1694–1764
tr. Harriet Krauth Spaeth, 1845–1925, alt.

HER KOMMER DINE ARME SMÅ
Johann A. P. Schulz, 1747–1800
arr. Nancy M. Raabe

Moderately, not too fast (♩ = c. 60)

Piano

p

poco rit.

4 Women *a tempo* *mp*

Men *a tempo* *mp*

Your lit - tle ones, dear Lord, are we, and

mp *a tempo*

7

come your low - ly bed to see; en - light - en ev - 'ry

Note: All dotted eighth-sixteenth rhythms may be played lightly but crisply, as if double-dotted.

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10

soul and mind, that we the way to you — may find.

14

mf With — songs we has - ten

17

you to greet, and — kiss the ground be - fore your feet. (hushed) *p* Oh, —

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The first system (measures 10-13) includes the lyrics 'soul and mind, that we the way to you — may find.' The second system (measures 14-16) includes the lyrics 'With — songs we has - ten' and a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. The third system (measures 17-20) includes the lyrics 'you to greet, and — kiss the ground be - fore your feet. (hushed) *p* Oh, —' and a piano (*p*) dynamic marking. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and moving lines in both hands, providing harmonic support for the vocal melody.

YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD

20

bless - ed hour, oh, sweet - est night that gave you birth, our soul's de -

mp

24

light.

p

27

mf

Oh, — draw us whol - ly to you, Lord, and —

mf

And

mf

YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD

30

f

to us all your grace ac - cord; true — faith and love to

f

to us all your grace ac - cord; true — faith and love to

33

mp

us im - part, that we may hold you in — our —

mp

36

heart. Un -

Red.

YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD

39 *mf*
 til at last we too pro-claim, with all your saints, your
mf

42 *f* *mp*
 glo-ri-ous name; in par-a-dise our songs re-new, and
f *mp*

45 *rit.*
 praise you as the an-gels do. *rit.*

rit.

YOUR LITTLE ONES, DEAR LORD

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The Augsburg Choral Library (ACL) offers the core repertoire for the church choir:
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WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

Amy Lynne Engelsdorfer

SAB, piano



AUGSBURG CHORAL LIBRARY

for the choir of the First United Methodist Church, Decorah, Iowa

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

for SAB voices and piano

Isaac Watts, 1674 –1748, alt.

Amy Lynne Engelsdorfer

$\text{♩} = 82$

Organ *p*

3 Soprano *unis. mp dolce*
Alto

When I sur - vey _____ the won-drous

dolce

6 cross, on which the Christ _____ of glo-ry_ died, my rich-est
prince _____

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9 *mf*

gain _____ I count but loss, and pour con - tempt on all my

12 *mp*

pride. _____

Baritone

mp

For - bid it,

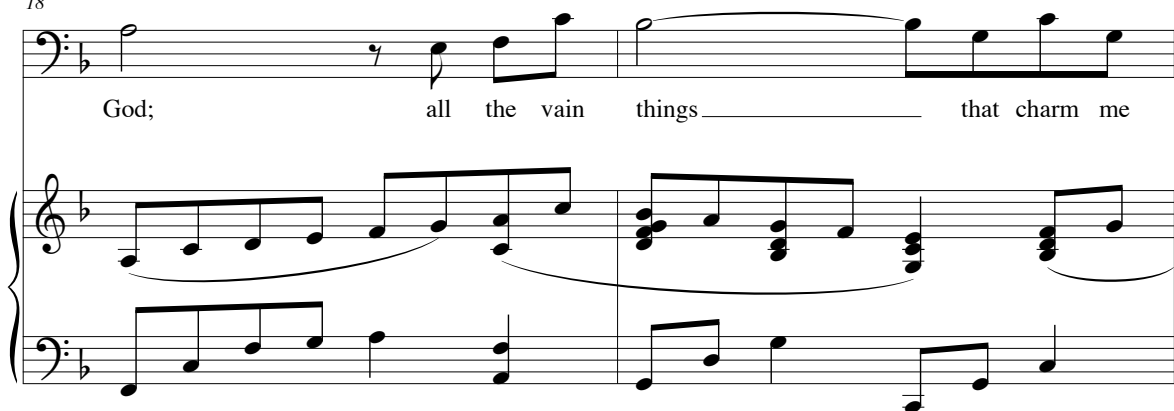
15

then, _____ that I should boast, save in the death _____ of Christ, my _
Lord _____

sim. mp

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

God; all the vain things that charm me



20 Soprano
Alto

most, I sac-ri - fice them to his blood. See, from his



23

head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and



WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

25

love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such

27

love and sor - row meet, or thorns com -

29

pose so rich a crown?

ff

ff

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

31 *sub. pp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Were the whole realm of na - ture

33 *cresc. poco a poco*

mine, that were a pres - ent far too -

of na - ture mine, that were a pres -

35 *poco cresc.* *mf* love so a - maz - ing,

small; *poco cresc.* *mf* love so a - maz - ing,

- ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing, so di -

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

37 *f* *unis. p*

so di - vine, my* all, de-mands my

f *p*

vine, de-mands my soul, my life, my* all,

40

life, my* all.

44 *rit. e dim.*

* Make a glottal stop between the words “my” and “all”.

WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

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HOPE OF THE WORLD

music

Taylor Davis

text

Georgia Harkness

SAB, piano



AUGSBURG CHORAL LIBRARY

Hope of the World

for SAB voices and piano

Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974

Taylor Davis

Molto rubato (♩ = 70)

Piano

mf *p* *mf*

5 Soprano
unis. *mp*
Alto

Hope of the world, thou Christ of great com-pas-sion, speak to our fear-ful hearts by

8 *div.*

con-flict rent. Save us, thy peo - ple_ from con-sum-ing pas-sion,

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

11 *unis.* *div.*

who by our own false hopes and aims are

13 Soprano
spent.

Alto
spent.

Baritone *mp*
Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,

HOPE OF THE WORLD

15

bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,

17 *p*

Hm

p

Hm

still let thy spir - it un-to us be giv - en, to heal earth's wounds and end all

The musical score is for a piece titled 'HOPE OF THE WORLD'. It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line starts at measure 15 with the lyrics 'bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,'. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand and a left hand. The right hand plays a melody of eighth and sixteenth notes, while the left hand provides a harmonic foundation with chords and single notes. The score continues to measure 17, where the vocal line has a 'Hm' (hum) and the piano accompaniment continues. The lyrics for the second part are 'still let thy spir - it un-to us be giv - en, to heal earth's wounds and end all'. The piano accompaniment includes a key signature change to one flat (B-flat) in the second system.

HOPE OF THE WORLD

20 *mf*
 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high-ways,
mf
 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high-ways,
mf
 bit - ter strife. Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high-ways,

23
 show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light,
 show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light,
 show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light,

HOPE OF THE WORLD

25

walk thou be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways

walk be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways

walk be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways

27

lure us a - way from thee to end - less night.

cresc. poco a poco

lure us a - way from thee to end - less night. Hope of the

cresc. poco a poco

lure us a - way from thee to end - less. . . Hope of the world,

cresc. poco a poco

HOPE OF THE WORLD

30 *cresc. poco a poco*

Hope of the world, — hope of the world, — hope of the world,

world, hope of the world, hope of the word, hope of the

hope of the world, hope of the world, hope of the world,

33

hope of the world. Hope of the world, O

world, hope of the world, hope of the Hope of the world, O

hope of the world, hope of the world. Hope of the world, O

f

HOPE OF THE WORLD

36

Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious, who by this sign didst con - quer

Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious, who by this sign didst con - quer

Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious, who by this sign didst con - quer

38

cresc. poco a poco

grief and pain, we would be faith - ful

cresc. poco a poco

grief and pain, we would be faith - ful

cresc. poco a poco

grief and pain, we would be faith - ful

cresc. poco a poco

HOPE OF THE WORLD

40 **Broadly**

to thy gos - pel glo - rious; thou art our Lord!

to thy gos - pel glo - rious; thou art our Lord! Thou art our

to thy gos - pel glo - rious; thou art our Lord!_____

Broadly

42 *ff rit.*

Thou art our Lord! Thou dost for - ev - er_____

Lord! Thou art our Lord! *ff rit.* Thou dost for - ev - er

_____ Thou art our Lord!_____ *ff rit. div.* Thou dost for - ev - er_____

ff rit.

8^{va}-----

HOPE OF THE WORLD

44 *a tempo*

reign.

a tempo

reign.

a tempo

reign.

a tempo

loco

8va

8va

47 *mp*

Hope of the world, _____

mp

Hope of the world, _____

mp

loco

8va

HOPE OF THE WORLD

50

hope of the world, _____ hope of the world,

_____ hope of the world, _____ hope of the world, _____

mp

Hope of the world, _

53

hope of the world, _____ hope of the world. _____ *pp*

_____ hope of the world, _____ hope of the world. _____ *pp*

_____ hope of the world, _____ hope of the world. _____ *pp*

_____ hope of the world, _____ hope of the world. _____

HOPE OF THE WORLD

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