

Commissioned to the glory of God by Saint Alban's Episcopal Church on the occasion of its 150th anniversary,  
and in memory of Phoebe Nurse, who, upon her death at age 24, left a small sum from the sale of her needlework  
to establish the first "free" church in Washington, DC — Saint Alban's Parish.

# Most Glorious Lord of Life

*Amoretti: Sonnet 68*

SATB *a cappella*

Edmund Spenser

Gary Davison

**With breadth** (♩ = 56)

*p*

Soprano  
Most glo - rious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy

Alto  
Most glo - rious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy

Tenor  
Most glo - rious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy

Bass  
Most glo - rious Lord of life, that on this day didst make thy

Piano  
**With breadth** (♩ = 56)  
*for rehearsal only*

4

tri - umph o - ver death and sin, and hav - ing har - rowed

tri - umph o - ver death and sin, and hav - ing har - rowed

tri - umph o - ver death and sin, and hav - ing har - rowed

tri - umph o - ver death and sin, and hav - ing har - rowed

Text: Sonnet 68 from *Amoretti*, by Edmund Spenser, 1552–1599, and published in 1595 (PD).

Music: Gary Davison, newly composed, and copyright © 2023 Birnamwood Publications.

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8 *unis.*

hell, didst bring a - way cap - ti - vi - ty thence cap - tive, us to win:

hell, didst bring a - way cap - ti - vi - ty thence cap - tive, us to win:

hell, didst bring a - way cap - ti - vi - ty thence cap - tive, us to win:

hell, didst bring a - way cap - ti - vi - ty thence cap - tive, us to win: *unis.*

11 *mp*

This joy - ous day, dear Lord, with joy be - gin, and grant that

*unis. mp*

This joy - ous day, dear Lord, with joy be - gin, and grant that

*mp*

This joy - ous day, dear Lord, with joy be - gin, and grant that

*mp* *unis.*

This joy - ous day, dear Lord, with joy be - gin, and grant that

14

*cresc. poco a poco*

we for whom thou did - dest die, be - ing with thy dear blood clean

*cresc. poco a poco*

we for whom thou did - dest die, be - ing with thy dear blood clean

*cresc. poco a poco*

we for whom thou did - dest die, be - ing with thy dear blood clean

*unis.* *unis.* *cresc. poco a poco*

we for whom thou did - dest die, be - ing with thy dear blood clean

16

*unis.* *mf* *unis.* *mp*

washed from sin, may live to - geth - er in fe - li - ci - ty: And

*unis.* *unis.* *mp*

washed from sin, may live to - geth - er in fe - li - ci - ty: And

washed from sin, may live to - geth - er in fe - li - ci - ty:

*unis.*

washed from sin, may live to - geth - er in fe - li - ci - ty:

19

that thy love we weigh - ing wor - thi - ly, may like - wise

that thy love we weigh - ing wor - thi - ly, may like - wise love thee,

*mp* And that thy love we weigh - ing wor - thi - ly, may like - wise

*mp* And that thy love we weigh - ing wor - thi - ly, may like - wise

22

love thee for the same a - gain, the same a - gain; And for thy sake, that

love thee for the same a - gain, the same a - gain; — And for thy sake, that

love thee for the same a - gain, the same a - gain; And for thy sake, that

love thee for the same a - gain, the same a - gain; And for thy sake, that

26 *cresc. poco a poco div. unis. mf unis.*

all like dear didst buy, with love, with love, with

*cresc. poco a poco mf*

all like dear didst buy, with love, with love, with

*cresc. poco a poco mf*

all like dear didst buy, with love, with

*cresc. poco a poco mf*

all like dear didst buy, with love, with

29 *f unis. rit. f rit. div. f unis. rit. f unis. rit.*

love may one an - oth - er en - ter - tain;

love may one an - oth - er en - ter - tain;

love may one an - oth - er en - ter - tain;

love may one an - oth - er en - ter - tain; So

**Tempo I**

32 *unis. p*

So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;

*p*

So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;

*unis. p*

So let us love, dear Love, like as we ought;

*p*

let us love, dear Love, like as we ought; *unis.*

**Tempo I**
**Meno mosso**

35 *pp*

Love is the les - son which the Lord us taught.

*pp*

Love is the les - son which the Lord us taught.

*pp*

Love is the les - son which the Lord us taught.

*pp*

Love is the les - son which the Lord us taught. *unis.*

**Meno mosso**