# GENERAL CONGREGATION 36 rome // 2016

Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

# Co-worker of God



GC 36 - Rowing into the deep

# **INVITATORY**

My soul magnifies the Lord (Tamil)

All: AaNdavarai naan poatriduven enRum (3)

aaNdavarai naan poatriduven

I shall praise the Lord at all times

Cant: AaNdavarai naan poatriduven enRum

I shall praise the Lord at all times

avar puhazhai naaLum paadiduvaen (2)

I shall sing his praises everyday

en aaNmaa avaril perumai koLLum...

en aaNmaa avaril perumai koLLum

My soul magnifies the Lord

yeLiyavar idhai kettu mahizhvaaraaha (2)

Let the lowly hear this and rejoice

All: AaNdavarai naan poatriduven enRum (3)

aaNdavarai naan poatriduven

I shall praise the Lord at all times

**Cant:** AaNdavarai nambi vaazhvoarai chutri

aaNdavar thoothar yenRum kaathiduvaar (2)

Those who live trusting the Lord will be protected by His angel

aaNdavar evvaLavoe iniyavarae.....

aaNdavar evvaLavoe iniyavarae enRu

suvaithu paarungaL (2)

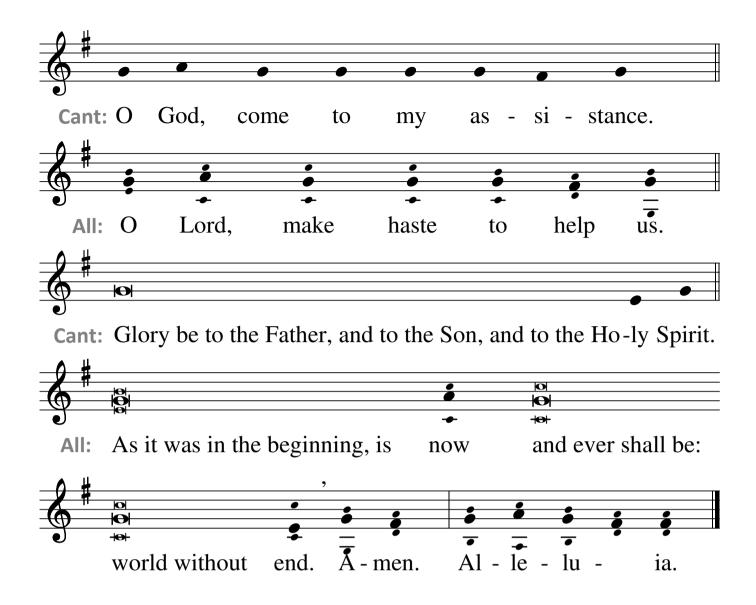
aaNdavar evvaLavou iniyavarae enRu

Taste and see how sweet the Lord is

All: AaNdavarai naan poatriduven enRum (3)

aaNdavarai naan poatriduven

I shall praise the Lord at all times



# **MEDITATION**

On the day of the feast of the dedication of the Lateran Basilica, the mother of all churches let us contemplate on being co-workers of God's grace. A text of Blessed Oscar Romero can help us. He gives a vision of our work in the Church which is not perfect and has not to be perfect, because we are not perfect. But in beeing sober it frees and motivates us to be creative, selfless and joyful co-workers of God's grace.

#### Cele:

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete, which is a way of saying that the kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No program accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives includes everything.

This is what we are about.

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted,

knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Amen.

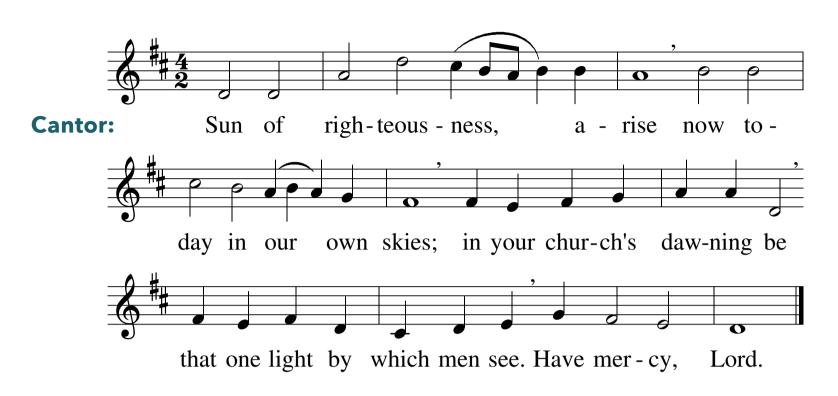
# **SCRIPTURE**

"Streams of the river gladden the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High. God is in its midst; it shall not be shaken. The LORD of hosts is with us; our stronghold is the God of Jacob." "Un río con sus acequias alegra la ciudad de Dios: santuario de la morada del Altísimo. Con Dios en medio de ella, no vacila. El Señor Todopoderoso está con nosotros, nuestro alcázar es el Dios de Jacob."

Psalm 46, 5.6.8

Salmo 46, 5.6.8

### **SILENCE**



All: Wake dead Christianity, / sleeping in complacency, / may it listen to you, Lord, / turn again and trust your Word. / Have mercy, Lord.

Cantor: See your Church by troubles rent / men were helpless to prevent; / gather, Shepherd of us all, / those who stumble, stray and fall. / Have mercy, Lord.

All: Open wide your people's doors; / may no guile, no earthly powers, / do your Kingdom harsh despite. / Lord, create in darkness light. / Have mercy, Lord.

**General-S:** Give your servants from above / faith and courage, hope and love; / let rich harvests there be grown / where they have in sorrow sown. / Have mercy, Lord.

**Secretary-S:** Let us see your glory now / as about the world we go; / with our little strength increase / whatsoever makes for peace. / Have mercy, Lord.

All: As you, Jesus Christ, are one / with the Father, as his Son, / may we live in unity / now and in eternity. / Have mercy, Lord.

# PRAYER AND BLESSING

**Cele:** Let us pray that we may be truly thinking and feeling with the Church, that may have a heart at the dimension of the needs of the People of God:

**All:** Spirit of God, dwell within your people.

**Cele:** For all the baptized, that the Christian people be filled with enduring love for God and the gospel of our salvation.

**All:** Spirit of God, dwell within your people.

**Cele:** For the Church that gathers in humble surroundings; may these faith communities enjoy the rich gifts of the Spirit:

All: Spirit of God, dwell within your people.

**Cele:** For the gift of gratitude, that everywhere God's faithful people offer a joyful sacrifice of praise in union with Christ:

All: Spirit of God, dwell within your people.

**Cele:** For the priests, deacons, ministers and catechists of the Church, that the Spirit bring to fulfillment the good work begun in them:

**All:** Spirit of God, dwell within your people.

Cele: For us, who try to give our best to the Society of Jesus, that we take into account that the Society was not instituted by human means; and it is not through them that it can be preserved and increased, but through the grace of the omnipotent hand of Christ our God and Lord. Therefore grant us Lord, that we may put our hope in you alone that you will preserve and carry forward what you deigned to begin for your service and praise and for the aid of souls.

cf. Constitutions, Part X, 1

**All:** Spirit of God, dwell within your people.

# **Blessing**



