

## **Wedding at Cana**

Unison with Organ  
Marriage Ceremony; Year C, Epiphany 2

This anthem was composed by Martin Swalboski, Director of Music at the First Congregational Church of Jamestown, NY. While a choir member in the 1990s at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Anderson, SC, he composed "Wedding at Cana" to fill the need for an anthem suitable to Year C, Epiphany 2, when the Gospel reading is the story of Cana (John 2:1-11).

Martin found his lyric in an old copy of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. It is a hymn text titled "How Welcome Was the Call" by Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), author also of the cherished hymns "O Praise Ye the Lord! Praise Him in the Height!" and "The King of Love My Shepherd Is." For me Baker's poetic images of welcome and blessing, gladness and plenteousness are perfectly complemented by the quiet radiance of Martin's music.

My thanks to Martin for his permission to post this anthem, and to our mutual friend Debra Spear, who first acquainted me with Martin's composition and subsequently brought the two of us into communication.

Albert Blackwell  
January 16, 2012

# Wedding at Cana

*To the Glory of God, in honor of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
choir members and their spouses—those here and those in treasured memory—  
and Laura Jo & Frederick Terry. And to J.J. III.*

Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.

Martin L. Swalboski (1951–)  
Edited by Albert Blackwell

Unison

1.How wel - come was the call, and sweet the fes - tal lay, when  
2.His gra - cious power di - vine the wat - er ves - sels knew, and  
3.How wel - come was the call, and sweet the fes - tal lay, when  
\*4.O bless, as erst of old, the bride-groom and the bride; their

Organ

Je - sus deign'd in Ca - na's hall to bless the mar - riage day! And  
plen-teous was the mys - tic wine the won - d'ring ser - vants drew. O  
Je - sus deign'd in Ca - na's hall to bless the mar - riage day! O  
lives with - in thine arms en - fold, thy spi - rit be their guide. Be -

\* When the anthem is sung as part of a marriage ceremony, verse 4 should be substituted for verse 3.

hap - py was the bride, and glad the bride-groom's heart, for  
 Lord of life and love, come Thou a - gain to - day, and  
 Lord of life and love, come Thou a - gain to - day, and  
 fore thine al - tar throne this mer - cy we im - plore: as

He who tar - ried at their side bade grief and ill de - part.  
 bring a bless - ing from a - bove that ne'er shall pass a - way.  
 bring a bless - ing from a - bove that ne'er shall pass a - way.  
 thou dost knit them, Lord, in one, so bless them e - ver - more.