435 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy, like the wide-ness
   of the sea. There's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice,
   which is more than lib-er-ty. There is no place where earth's
   sor-rows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place

2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures
   of the mind. And the heart of the E-ter-nal
   is most won-der-ful-ly kind. If our love were but more
   faith-ful, we would glad-ly trust God's Word, and our lives re-

3 There's a Wideness in God's mercy, like the Wideness
   of the sea. There's a Kindness in God's justice,
   which is more than Liberty. There is no place where earth's
   sorrows are more felt than up in heaven. There is no place

These stanzas, excerpted from quite a few more, offer a reminder that the model for our dealings with others should be God's generosity rather than limited human tolerance. The text is effectively set to a broad and sturdy Dutch folk melody, probably from the 17th century.

TEXT: Frederick William Faber, 1854, alt.
MUSIC: Dutch melody; arr. Julius Röntgen, c. 1906

IN BABILONE
8.7.8.7.D
Lord, We Have Come
at Your Own Invitation

1 Lord, we have come at your own invitation,
chosen by you, to be counted your friends;
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
ours, a commitment we know never ends.

2 Here, at your table, confirm our intention;
give it your seal of forgiveness and grace;
teach us to serve without pride or pretension,
all that it means to accept you as Lord.

3 When, at your table, each time of returning,
vows are renewed and our courage restored,
yours is the strength that sustains dedication;
ours, a commitment we know never ends.

St. Augustine spoke of eucharist as “the repeatable part of baptism,” and this hymn reminds us that each time we share in the Lord’s Supper we are renewing our baptismal vows. The text is set to a tune that dates to the transition between plainchant and modern tonalities.

TEXT: Fred Pratt Green, 1977, alt.
MUSIC: Paris Antiphoner, 1681; harm. La Feillée’s Méthode du plain-chant, 1808
Text © 1979 Hope Publishing Company
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433  Sign Us with Ashes

Capo 3: (G) (D) (Em) (Bm) (Am7)
Refrain: All

Sign us with ashes, merciful God, children of

(G) (Am7) (D) (G) (D)
Bb Cm7 F Bb F

dust, as to dust we return. Sign us with ashes,
(Em) (Bm) (Am7) (D7) (Gsus) (G)
Gm Dm Cm7 F7 Bbsus Bb Fine

mer - ci - ful God. Mark us and make us your own.

(D) (G) (C)
F Bb Eb

1 Sure - ly, you a - lone can save us. You pay our
2 Sure - ly, you a - lone up - hold us. You give us
3 Sure - ly, you a - lone can heal us. Yours is the
4 Sure - ly, you a - lone can free us. You break the
5 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - fine us. You give us
6 Sure - ly, you a - lone re - deem us. You fill our

(G) (D) (G) (D)
Bb F Bb F

price with precious blood. Reach - ing through your
strength for all our needs. Shield - ing with a
will to make us whole. Sooth - ing with a
bonds of guilt and sin. Brac - ing, till we
grace for lives made new, for - ing, through your
dust with ho - ly breath. Burst - ing from the

The refrain here recalls the imposition of ashes, a ritual based on Genesis 3:19, which has been a part of
Christian worship on Ash Wednesday since the 9th century. As The Book of Common Worship states, “This
ancient sign speaks of the frailty and uncertainty of human life.”

TEXT: Mary Louise Bringle, 2003
Text and Music © 2006 GIA Publications, Inc.
CONFESSION

Great compassion, you lift up your people with love.
Father's favor, you bless us with pardon and peace.
Mother's kindness, the contrite of heart, you console.
Walk uprightly, you bolster our hope once again.
Fire and radiance, a sacrifice worthy for you.
Grave in glory, you rise from the ashes of death!

Restore in Us, O God

This text reflects the historic understanding of Lent as a time to prepare catechumens for Baptism and penitents for reconciliation at the Easter Vigil. The first three stanzas address one of the three divine Persons, while the fourth stanza implores the help of the full Trinity.

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm7) (Em)(Bm7) (Em) (C) (Bm)

1 Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
2 O Spirit it, wake in us the wonder of your power;
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
4 Three-personed God, fill the promise of your grace,

renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flower.
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

This text reflects the historic understanding of Lent as a time to prepare catechumens for Baptism and penitents for reconciliation at the Easter Vigil. The first three stanzas address one of the three divine Persons, while the fourth stanza implores the help of the full Trinity.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1985
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Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

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