

Music Blurb for 5-27-18

News and Notes:

This week we celebrate the Holy Trinity. We will sing "Almighty Father, strong to save," Here I am," and of course "Holy, holy, holy!" The choir will sing the "Sanctus" from Gounod's *Mass for St. Cecilia*. The work was first performed on St. Cecilia's Day in 1855 at Saint-Eustache in Paris. Since St. Cecilia was the patron saint of music, the church celebrated with the performance of a new Mass setting every year.

Worship bulletin:

For this week's song of praise we are using a popular version of the ancient Ambrosian hymn "Te Deum laudamus" (We praise you God). Tradition has it that the text was written by Ambrose and Augustine on the occasion of Augustine's baptism in 387 AD. It now seems to be attributed to Nicetus, a fourth century bishop of Remesiana. (In the Church of England the "Te Deum" was often used as the first canticle at Morning Prayer.) This version from our hymnal is a translation of a versified German version for the *Katholisches Gesangbuch* (Catholic Songbook) of 1774, published in Vienna at the request of the Austrian Empress Maria Theresa (Grösser Gott, wir loben dich). In order to give a complete version of the entire original "Te Deum," the committee compiling our present hymnal asked Bland Tucker, who was the chair of the Text Committee, to complete the paraphrase. He added verses 5, 6, and 7 in which he strove to maintain the character of the original paraphrase. The original tune (GROSSER GOTT) in the empress' songbook was more folk-like in character but it has remained a well-known hymn in Roman Catholic churches over the last few centuries. It was subsequently taken on by mainline Protestant hymnals. I noticed while watching a YouTube video of a Mass at St. Stephen's in Vienna that pretty much the entire congregation was singing this from memory.