

Music Blurbs for 9-16-18

News and Notes:

This week we will sing “Glorious things of thee are spoken” and “Lift high the cross.” The choir will sing “The Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester” and our bells will be playing as well. Organ music will include music from Dupre’s “The Stations of the Cross” and the Agnus Dei from Couperin’s “Mass for the Parishes.”

Sunday Bulletins:

The text of today’s opening hymn “Glorious things of thee are spoken” was written by John Newton, famous for writing the text of “Amazing grace.” In 1889 Newton’s text was matched with the tune we call AUSTRIA. It seemed as if the match would remain untouched forever. But during WWII the British found singing anything to the tune of the German national anthem “Deutschland, Deutschland ueber Alles” unacceptable. Because of that, the tune ABBOTT’S LEIGH was born.

Today we’ll use AUSTRIA. In the 1790s Austrian composer Franz Josef Haydn took many trips to London. He noticed the powerful appeal that the singing of “God save the King” had on the people and decided that Austria needed a national anthem too. He wrote the tune during January 1797 and on February 12 it was performed in public theaters in honor of the Emperor’s birthday to the words: “Gott erhalte, Franz der Kaiser (God save Franz the Emperor).” It was a hit. Haydn himself loved the tune and considered it his best and used it in a movement of his “Emperor String Quartet.” Legend has it that it was the last thing Haydn ever played on his piano. By the 1840s, the Germans stole the tune and put it to their own words (“Deutschland, Deutschland uber Alles”). In England the tune became popular and was used for many hymn texts including “Glorious things” in 1889.