

DRINK FROM THE WELL OF LIFE

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied

Words and Music by
MATTHEW ARMSTRONG

Legato (♩ = ca. 72)

SOPRANO

ACCOMP.

mp

Pedal carefully.

4

8 *poco rit.*

9 *a tempo*
mp

Drink from the well of life.

a tempo

poco rit.

a tempo

11

Let your thirst be quenched _ by the pre - cious blood of our

14

Lord and Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ. Drink from the well of

poco rit.

17 SOPRANO *a tempo*

life. Drink from the

ALTO *poco rit.* **19** *a tempo* *mf*

Drink from the

TENOR *mp cresc. e poco rit.* *mf*

The well that nev - er shall run dry,

BASS *mp cresc. e poco rit.* *mf*

The well that nev - er shall run dry, _____

17 *a tempo*

cresc. e poco rit. **19** *a tempo* *mf*

well of life. Let your thirst be quenched — by the
 well of life. Let your thirst be quenched — by the
 from the well of life. Let your thirst be

the well — of life, the

pre - cious blood of our Lord and Sav - ior, Je - sus Christ.
 blood of our Lord, Je - sus Christ.
 quenched — by the pre - cious blood of Je - sus Christ.
 blood of Je - sus Christ.

musical accompaniment for the second system.

26 *poco rit.* *p* *a tempo*

Drink from the well of life.

Drink from the well of life.

Drink from the well of life.

Of life.

26 *a tempo*

p poco rit. *mp*

29 *poco rit.*

29 *poco rit.*

33

a tempo
TENOR

mf

“I am the way; I am the

BASS

a tempo

mf

36

truth and the life; I am thy rock thy sal -

39

poco rit.

41

a tempo

mf

va - tion.” “I am the

mp

“I am e - ter - nal life, e -

mp poco rit.

a tempo

42

S. *mp*
 "I am e - ter - nal life. I am the

A. *mp*
 "I am e - ter - nal life, sal - va - tion;

T.
 way; I am the truth and the life;

B.
 ter - nal life,

42

45

way, the truth and the life."

I am the way, the truth and the life."

I am thy rock, thy sal - va - tion."

thy sal - va - tion."

45

48 UNISON WOMEN *mp* *poco rit.* *a tempo*

“I am e - ter - nal life.”

UNISON MEN *mp*

a tempo

poco rit.

51

55 *a tempo*

S. *mf*
Drink from the well of life Let your thirst be

A. *mf*
Drink from the well of life. Let your thirst be

T. *mf*
“I am the way;

B. *mf*
Drink from the well of life. Let your thirst be

55 *a tempo*

mf

58

quenched _ by the pre - cious blood of our Lord and Sav - ior, Je - sus

quenched _ by the blood of our Lord, _ Je - sus

I am the truth and the life; I am thy

58 quenched by the blood of Je - sus

61 *poco rit.*

Christ.

Christ, our sal - va - tion. Drink from the well of

rock, thy sal - va - tion.”

Christ, our sal - va - tion. “I am e - ter - nal

61 *p poco rit.*

10 (64)

a tempo

rit. poco a poco al fine

The well that nev - er shall run dry.

life.

A

mp

"I am the way.

I am the

life."

A

(64)

a tempo

rit. poco a poco al fine

67

men.

truth and the life."

men.

67

Drink from the Well of Life is a general anthem that may be especially appropriate for communion, baptism, confirmation, late Epiphany, early Lent, and Eastertide. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Exodus 17:1-7, Psalms 62:5-12 & 95, John 4:5-42 & 14:1-14, and Romans 5:1-11. One basic homiletical theme is that Jesus is the rock of salvation and the fount of eternal life.

In rehearsal, strive for fluid phrasing, sensitively shaded, with carefully enunciated text and uniform tone. Ask the entire choir to sing m. 9-17 in unison on the neutral syllable “noo,” working towards uniform timbre and secure intonation while shaping the phrases. Next, rehearse m. 18-29 with the paired voices on different neutral syllables, e.g., the tenors and basses on “nah” and the sopranos and altos on “noo,” carefully delineating the moving vocal lines and sculpting the phrases. This basic technique may be applied to the remainder of the anthem. Add text only after the notes, phrasing, and basic ensemble timbre are secure. To improve ensemble precision, sing the entire anthem on a neutral syllable pulsing constant eighth notes in alignment with the flowing keyboard accompaniment. Add the notated rhythms without sacrificing a sense of “inner pulse.”

Matthew Armstrong is a choral director, adjudicator, and composer. A graduate of Heidelberg College, he currently resides in Tiffin, Ohio.

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