

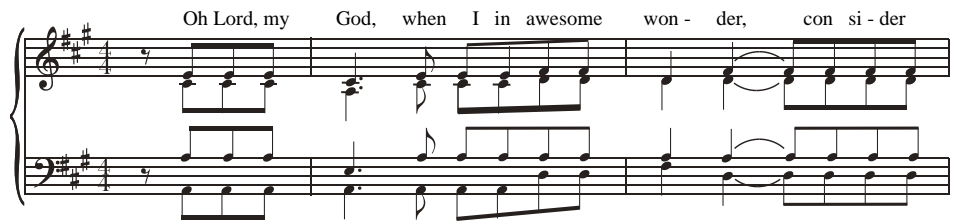
GRAVITY (SERIOUSNESS) The 1st virtue of a good teacher

Let us remember that we are in the holy presence of God.

Opening Song

Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder

Oh Lord, my God, when I in awesome won - der, con si - der



all the worlds thy hand has made, I see the stars, I hear the rol - ling

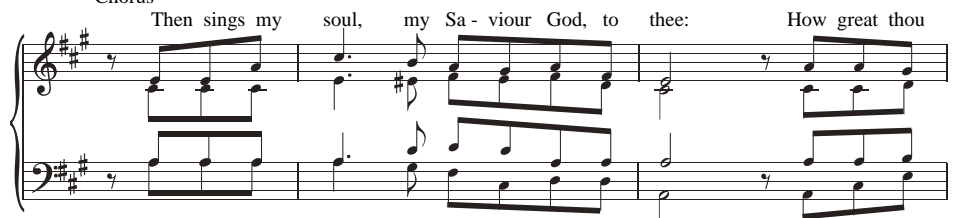


thun - der, thy power through - out the un - i - verse dis - played.

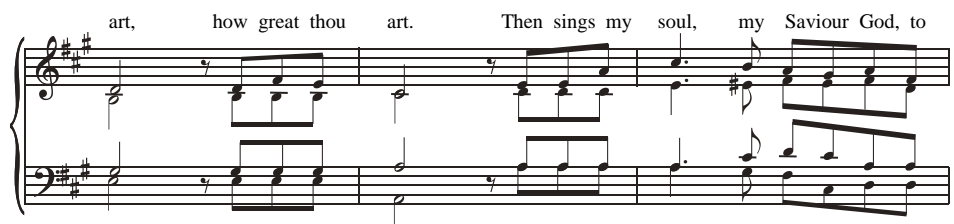


Chorus

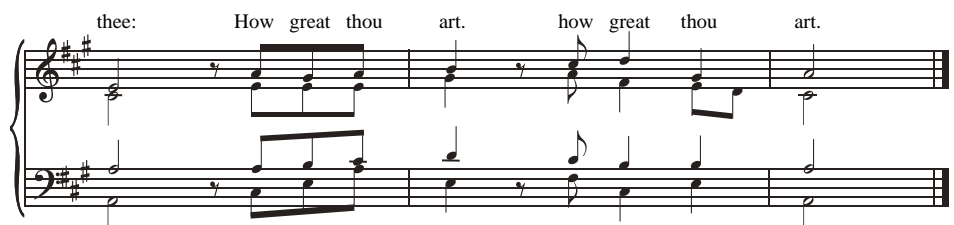
Then sings my soul, my Sa - viour God, to thee: How great thou



art, how great thou art. Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to



thee: How great thou art. how great thou art.



2. And when I think that God, his son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

3. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart;
When I shall bow in humble adoration,
And there proclaim; my God, how great thou art.

Words: Karl Boberg, translated by Stuart K. Hine
Music: Swedish folk melody, arranged by Michael Irwin

Reading from Brother Agathon 1785, translated by Brother Gerard Rummery 1998

Gravity is a virtue which regulates the exterior of a teacher, conformably to modesty, politeness, and good order.

A teacher possessing this virtue holds his body in a natural position, without either affectation or awkwardness. He exhibits in all his external appearance the restraint and decorum which result from the maturity of his mind, from his piety and his wisdom. Above all, he takes care to preserve calm through his even temper and good humour.

Since gravity carried too far would make him ridiculous and obnoxious, he keeps it within appropriate limits. Thus, this virtue, properly understood, establishes good order in a class and inspires the students with confidence and respect in regard to the teacher himself.

Our response from *Titus 2 and 3 and 1 Timothy 4*

Side One: In all things you yourself must be an example of good behaviour. Be sincere and serious in your teaching.

Side Two: Use sound words that cannot be criticized so that your enemies may be put to shame by not having anything bad to say about us.

Side One: Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity.

Side Two: I want you to give special emphasis to these matters, so that those who believe in God may be concerned with giving their time to doing good deeds, which are good and useful for everyone.

Side One: But avoid stupid arguments, quarrels, and fights about the Law. They are useless and worthless.

Side Two: Practise these things and devote yourself to them, in order that your progress may be seen by all.

Side One: If you give these instructions to the believers, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, as you feed yourself spiritually on the words of faith.

Side Two: Teach these things and use your full authority as you encourage and rebuke your hearers. Let none of them look down on you.

All: Glory be to the Father Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Reading from *Christian Politeness* by John Baptist de La Salle

In a person's deportment there must always be something sedate and even majestic. You should take care, however, that there be nothing in this which suggests pride or arrogance of spirit, for such attitudes greatly displease everyone. What will produce this sedateness is the simple modesty and wisdom that as a Christian you display in all your conduct.

You are truly of noble birth since you belong to Jesus Christ and are a child of God. Hence in your exterior there should be nothing vulgar.

Everything in you should denote a certain air of nobility and greatness, a reflection of the power and majesty of God whom you serve.

This dignified appearance should not flow from arrogance or lead you to prefer yourself to others, for every Christian should show honour and respect to all others, considering them as children of God and brothers of Jesus Christ.

Our response from *Meditations 205 and 206* of John Baptist de La Salle

Side One: The judgment that Jesus will make after you die is a very serious one, as it will be about the souls of the children he has given you to look after.

Side Two: You must be convinced of this that God will begin by making you give an account of their souls before making you give an account of your own.

Side One: When you took responsibility for them, you committed yourself to procure their salvation with as much diligence as your own.

Side Two: God will ask, at your judgment, whether you have worked with wisdom and seriousness, without undue familiarity with those whom you teach.

Side One: This seriousness is what Paul recommended so strongly to Titus: "In all things you must be an example of good behavior, be sincere and serious in your teaching."

Side Two: Seriousness is very necessary for a teacher for if you are not usually serious, your students will not expect to hear you say anything worth listening to.

All: Glory be to the Father....Amen.

Pause for quiet reflection

Intercessions

Closing Prayer

All: God our Father, may we look upon those whom you have entrusted to us as your sons and daughters and therefore deserving of the greatest reverence and respect. Help us to show by the care we take of them that we are earnest in spreading your Word and in leading them to you. Grant us this through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Closing Song

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Al- migh - ty, the King of cre-
a- tion: O my soul, praise him, for he is your
health and sal - va - tion. All you who hear, now to his
al- tar draw near, join in pro- found a - do - ra - tion.



2. Praise to the Lord, let us offer
our gifts at his altar;
let not our sins and transgressions
now cause us to falter.
Christ, the High Priest,
bids us all join in his feast.
Victims with him on the altar.

3. Praise to the Lord, oh, let all that
is in us adore him:
All that has life and breath,
come now in praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from
his people again,
now as we worship before him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-80),
tr. C. Winkworth
Music: From 'Stralsund Gesangbuch' (1665)

The seriousness demanded of teachers does not consist in having a severe aspect,
in getting angry, or in saying harsh words.(Conduct of Schools)

**St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us.
Live Jesus in our hearts, forever!**