

*The official hymn of the 50th International Eucharistic Congress*

# Though We Are Many

by

**Bernard Sexton**

For Keyboard,  
Guitar,  
C Instrument  
SATB Choir,  
Congregation





## The 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress Hymn

The anthem of the 50<sup>th</sup> International Eucharistic Congress brings together a variety of themes that feed into the theme of the Congress – The Eucharist: Communion with Christ and with one another.

The Eucharistic Congress coincides with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council. In addition to drawing on the Scriptures, the anthem reflects elements of *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, *Lumen Gentium*, and *Gaudium et Spes*, as well as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. Thus this anthem sets before both eye and ear a feast of themes relating to the Eucharist and the lifestyle it inspires, making this a hymn for all times and all occasions.

The refrain of the hymn invites us to reflect time and again on the core theme of the Congress. Inspired by LG §7 and §23 we who are many are one body in Christ and our communion must be authentic. The hymn reminds us more than once that communion cannot be bound by social division of any sort. (LG §7; 1 Cor 10:17; Rm 12:5)

Verse 1 acknowledges the journey each had to make to be present at this gathering around the table of God's Word. It calls to mind phases on the journey of the disciples to Emmaus – gathering and recognising a longing for Christ as the word was being broken. We acknowledge Christ's presence in our gathering and in the Word. (Lk 24:13; CCC 1346, 1347)

Verse 2 celebrates our participation in the living sacrifice of Christ, our new and eternal lives with Christ. Our communion with Christ and one another is not only the memorial of the saving mysteries but also the realisation in our lives of the fruits of Christ's love for us and for all. (1 Cor 11:26; SC § 47; CCC 1364)

Verse 3 returns to LG §7 drawing our attention to the identity of the Church as the living body of Christ. We are reminded again of our mission, our call to be witnesses and ambassadors of that love in the world. (LG §7,8; Eph 6:20)

Verse 4 has us revisit the beginnings of the Christian life and at the same time look to the goal of our journey, the heavenly banquet in the house of the Father. The Eucharist offers us a foretaste of what is to come. (1 Cor 12:13; Song 2:4; Lk 14:13; Mt 22:2; Rev 19:17; CCC 1326 See also St. Thomas Aquinas, *O Sacrum Convivium*).

Verse 5 takes us back to the Emmaus story, reminding us that Eucharist does not end at the altar. The intended outcome of Eucharist is that God's people go out, nourished with the Word and with the Bread of Life and entrusted with a mission in the world. (Lk 24:32-35; GS §3; LG §32,33; SC § 2).

This final verse is for everyone. St. Patrick, Patron of Ireland, is presented as one who, despite adversity, proclaimed the Good News with conviction, love and joy. He presented a living message that lives on to this day. This is the call of every Christian, to know Christ and to live our communion with Him and with one another in our daily lives, just as we celebrate it at our Sunday Eucharist. (*Preface for the Feast of St. Patrick*; Heb 4:12.)

Commissioned for the 50th International Eucharistic Congress, Dublin, Ireland 2012

# THOUGH WE ARE MANY

Bernard Sexton

**Introduction Gently** ♩ = 70-75

Capo 3: play (D) (D/F#) (Em/G) (Em) (A) (D9) (Gsus2) (D/F#) (Em) (Asus2,4) (A)  
 F F/A Gm/Bb Gm C F9 Bbsus2 F/A Gm Csus2,4 C

5

(D) (D/F#) (Em/G) (A) (Dsus4) (D) (G) (F#m7) (Bm7)  
 F F/A Gm/Bb C F sus4 F Bb Am7 Dm7

Though we are ma - ny, — we — are one bo - dy, we who come to share this —



8

(Em) (Em/G) (Asus2,4) (A) (D) (D/F#) (Em/G) (F#sus4) (F#/A#) (Em6/B) (Bm)  
 Gm Gm/Bb C sus2,4 C F F/A Gm/Bb A sus4 A/C# Gm6/D Dm

liv - ving — bread; — Cup of sal - va - tion, — shared a - mong all na - tions, —

11

(G) (F#m7) (Bm7) (Em7) (A7) (D) (A/D) (G/D) (A7)  
 Bb Am7 Dm7 Gm7 C7 F C/F Bb/F C7 (to verses)

nour - ish - ing us now and — ev - er - more.

To Verses

1. We
2. Now
3. And
4. This
5. And
6. As

Final Time

15 (Bm) Dm (A) C N.C.

*poco rall.*

more, nour-ish-ing us now and — ev - er -

*rit.* *tacet.*

18 (D) (D/F#) (Em/G) (Em) (A) (D9) (Gsus2) (Asus2,4) (A) (Dsus2,4) (D)

F F/A Gm/Bb Gm C F9 Bbsus2 Csus2,4 C Fsus2,4 F

more.

*a tempo* *rall.*

## Verses

22

(D) (G) (Em7) (A) (G/B) (A/C#) (A7) (Bm) (G) (Em)  
 F B $\flat$  Gm $^7$  C B $\flat$ /D C/E C $^7$  Dm B $\flat$  Gm

1. gath - er in this place, round the ta - ble of the  
 2. our com - mun - ion re - calls, Christ's death and re - sur -  
 3. through this shared Euch - ar - ist, we are the liv - ing  
 4. bread u - nites the bap - tised, who are called to this great  
 5. when we leave here to - day with hearts re - newed in  
 6. Pat - rick pro - phet of old trod the path we tread to -

25

(Asus4) (A) (D) (D/F#) (Bm) (Bm2/A)  
 C sus4 C F F/E Dm Dm2/C

Lord. Christ's pres - ence is re -  
 ec - tion. This liv - ing sac - ri -  
 Church. We wit - ness to Christ's  
 feast. The feast a sign of God's  
 joy, so nour - ished we will em -  
 day, so we pro - claim - the Good

27

(G) (A/G) (F#m7) (Bm) (Cmaj7) (Em/B) (Asus2,4) (A)  
 B $\flat$  C/B $\flat$  Am<sup>7</sup> Dm E $\flat$ maj<sup>7</sup> Gm/D Csus<sup>2,4</sup> C

vealed, in our com mun ion and his liv - ing Word. (to refrain)  
 fice is our sal - va - tion now and ev - er - more.  
 Love, his liv - ing bo - dy act - ive in our world.  
 love, a great com - mun - ion with the saints a - bove. -  
 brace, the chall-enge now to live the Christ-ian call.  
 News and share the liv - ing mess - age with joy.

(to refrain)

(to refrain)

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**Introduction** Gently ♩ = 70-75

Capo 3: play (D) (D/F#) (Em/G) (Em) (A) (D9) (Gsus2) (D/F#) (Em) (Asus2,4) (A)  
F F/A Gm/Bb Gm C F9 Bbsus2 F/A Gm Csus2,4 C



## Refrain

5 (D) (D/F#) (Em/G) (A) (Dsus4) (D) (G) (F#m7) (Bm7)  
F F/A Gm/Bb C Fsus4 F Bb Am7 Dm7

Though we are ma - ny, we are one bo - dy, we who come to share this

8 (Em) (Em/G) (Asus2,4) (A) (D) (D/F#) (Em/G) (F#sus4) (F#/A#) (Em6/B) (Bm)  
Gm Gm/Bb Csus2,4 C F F/A Gm/Bb A sus4 A/C# Gm6/D Dm

liv - ing bread; Cup of sal - va - tion, shared a - mong all na - tions,

11 (G) (F#m7) (Bm7) (Em7) (A7) (D) (A/D) (G/D) (A7)  
Bb Am7 Dm7 Gm7 C7 F C/F Bb/F C7 (to verses)

nour - ish - ing us now and ev - er - more.

To Verses

1. We
2. Now
3. And
4. This
5. And
6. As



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Final Time

15 (Bm) (A) (D) (D/F#) (Em/G) (Em)  
 Dm C N.C. F F/A Gm/Bb Gm

*poco rall.*

more, nour-ish-ing us now and ev - er - more.

19 (A) (D9) (Gsus2) (Asus2,4) (A) (Dsus2,4) (D)  
 C F9 Bbsus2 Csus2,4 C Fsus2,4 F

Verses

22 (D) (G) (Em7) (A) (G/B) (A/C#) (A7) (Bm) (G) (Em)  
 F Bb Gm7 C Bb/D C/E C7 Dm Bb Gm

gath - er in this place, round the ta - ble of the  
 our com - mun - ion re - calls, Christ's death and re - sur -  
 through this shared Euchar - ist, we are the liv - ing  
 bread u - nites the bap - tised, who are called to this great  
 when we leave here to - day with hearts re - newed in  
 Pat - rick pro - phet of old trod the path we tread to -

25 (Asus4) (A) (D) (D/F#) (Bm) (Bm2/A)  
 C sus4 C F F/E Dm Dm2/C

Lord. Christ's pres - ence is re -  
 ec - tion. This liv - ing sac - ri -  
 Church. We wit - ness to Christ's  
 feast. The feast a sign of God's  
 joy, so nour - ished we will em -  
 day, so we pro - claim - the Good

27 (G) (A/G) (F#m7) (Bm) (Cmaj7) (Em/B) (Asus2,4) (A)  
 Bb C/Bb Am7 Dm Ebmaj7 Gm/D C sus2,4 C

vealed, in our com mun ion and his liv - ing Word.  
 fice is our sal - va - tion now and ev - er - more.  
 Love, his liv - ing bo - dy act - ive in our world.

love, a great com - mun - ion with the saints a - bove. -  
 brace, the chall - enge now to live the Christ - ian call.  
 News and share the liv - ing mess - age with joy.

(to refrain)

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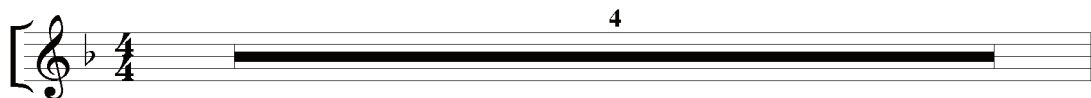
# THOUGH WE ARE MANY

C Instrument

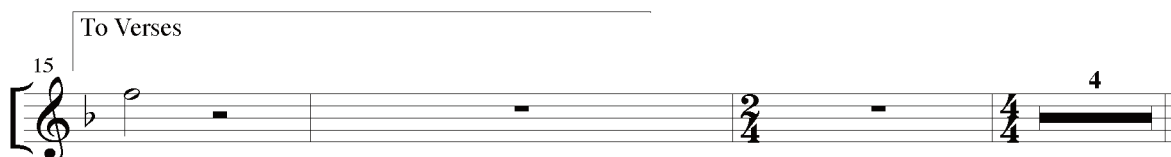
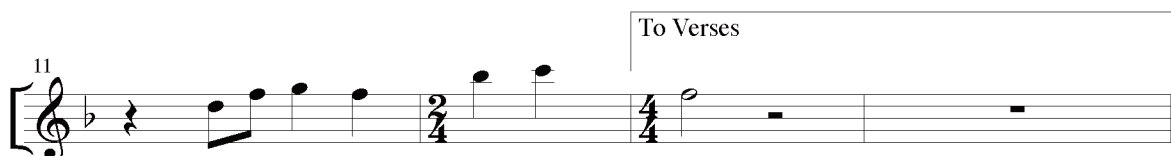
Bernard Sexton

## Introduction

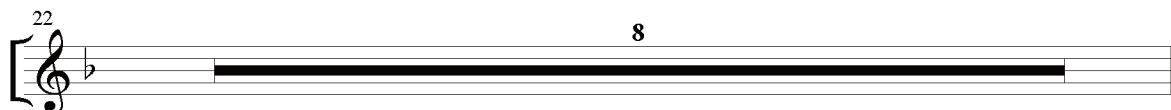
Gently ♩ = 70-75



## Refrain



## Verses



**Though We Are Many**  
*(Bernard Sexton)*

*Though we are many, we are one body,  
 we who come to share this living bread;  
 Cup of salvation, shared among all nations,  
 nourishing us now and evermore.*

1. We gather in this place  
 round the table of the Lord.  
 Christ's presence is revealed  
 in our communion and his Living Word.
2. Now our communion recalls  
 Christ's death and resurrection.  
 This living sacrifice  
 is our salvation now and evermore.
3. And through this shared Eucharist  
 we are the living Church.  
 We witness to Christ's love  
 His living body active in our world.
4. This bread unites the baptised  
 who are called to this great feast.  
 The feast, a sign of God's love,  
 a great communion with the saints above.
5. And when we leave here today  
 with hearts renewed in joy,  
 So nourished, we will embrace  
 the challenge now to live the Christian call.
6. As Patrick prophet of old  
 trod the path we tread today,  
 so we proclaim the Good News  
 and share the living message with joy

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## Refrain

Though we are ma - ny, we — are one bo - dy, we who come to share this  
 liv - ving — bread; Cup of sal - va - tion, shared a - mong all na - tions,  
 nour-ish-ing us now and ev - er - more. *(to verses)*

## Verses

1. We gath - er in this — place, round the ta - ble of the  
 2. Now our com - mun - ion re - calls, Christ's — death and re - sur -  
 3. And through this shared Euch - ar - ist, we — are the liv - ing  
 4. This bread u - nites the bap - tised, who are called to this great  
 5. And when we leave here to - day with — hearts re - newed in  
 6. As Pat - rick pro - phet of old trod the path we tread to -  
 Lord, — Christ's pres - ence is re - vealed, in our com  
 ec - tion. — This liv - ing sac - ri - fice is our sal -  
 Church. — We wit - ness to Christ's — Love, his liv - ing  
 feast. — The feast a sign of God's love, a great com -  
 joy, — so nour - ished we will em - brace, the chall - enge  
 day, — so we pro - claim - the Good News and share the  
 mun - ion and his liv - ing Word. *(to refrain)*  
 va - tion now and ev - er - more.  
 bo - dy act - ive in our world.  
 mun - ion with the saints a - bove. -  
 now to live the Christ - ian call.  
 liv - ing mess - age with joy.



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