

MELLITUS' CHALLENGE

For Robin Ward on the occasion of his baptism
at St Martin's Church Epsom,
30th September 2007.

Words by Nigel Williams, after Bede.
Music by Helen Williams.



St Mellitus was the first bishop of London and became the third archbishop of Canterbury after Augustine and Laurence. King Sabert of the East Saxons became a Christian. When he died, he left his kingdom between three sons, who refused to be baptized. In 616 they demanded of Mellitus that he give them the bread that would offer them special protection. Mellitus told them that the bread was only special for those that accepted Christianity in baptism. Sadly, the sons were not convinced. Mellitus went briefly into exile, until archbishop Laurence converted king Eadbald of Kent and Mellitus was recalled. The story is told in Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, Book II. Mellitus' feast day is April 24th.

*Here are the water and the bread of life.
Refuse the water and you cannot be
Fit to receive the consecrated bread
That is the body of your saviour Jesus.*

*But if you will be washed in the water
That offered salvation to your father,
Yours too will be a share in the consecrated bread
That is the body of your saviour Jesus.*

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after Bede, Ecclesiastical History, II.5

Music by Helen Williams

Musical score for vocal soloists and organ. The score is in 4/4 time and G major. It features four vocal staves: Mezzo solo, Tenor solo, Soprano/Alto, and Tenor/Bass. The organ part is optional and consists of two staves. The vocal staves contain rests for the first two measures.

Musical score for vocal soloist and organ with lyrics. The score is in 4/4 time and G major. It features four staves: M-s solo, S/A, T/B, and organ. The M-s solo part has a triplet of eighth notes in the first measure. The lyrics are: "Here are the wa-ter and the bread of life. Re - fuse the wa-ter and you ma ma ma ma ma". The organ part is optional and consists of two staves.

6

M-s solo

can-not be fit to re - ceive the co-nse-cra-ted bread

S/A

ma_ ma_ ma_ ma_ *mp* That is the

T/B

9

S/A

bo - dy of your sa - viour Je - sus.

T/B

(to bar 15 if no organ)

12

15

T solo *mf* But if you will be washed in the wa-ter that o-ffered sa-lva-tion to your

S/A *mp* da* da da da da da da

T/B

18

T solo 8 fa-ther, Yours too__ will be a share in the co-nse-cra-ted

S/A da da da da da

T/B

* "d" should not verge towards "t".

21

M-s solo *mf* That is your sa - viour, your

T solo 8 bread That is your sa - viour.

S/A *mf* That is the bo - dy of your sa - viour Je-sus. Your

T/B

25

M-s solo sa - viour Je - sus. Je-sus.

T solo 8 Your sa - viour Je-sus.

S/A sa - viour, your sa - viour Je-sus.

T/B