

SONG OF THE TEMPTATION

Luke 4:1-13
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan

Tune: WILDERNESS
David Haas

With a sense of drama ♩ = 80

Em D/C C Em

mp 1. From the riv - er to the des - ert, for - ty days that
mp 2. "If you are the one God choos - es, you can turn these
mf 3. "If you are the one God of - fers, leap in - to the
mf 4. "If you are the one God prom - ised, you could still bow
mp 5. Since we are the ones you gath - er, and from sin and

D/A A Am⁷ D

give no rest; fast and pray and wait and wres - tle,
stones to bread. See, the chil - dren yearn and hun - ger,
an - gels' hands. Show your pow - er and your glo - ry,
down to me. Look at all the wealth of na - tions,
death have freed, Je - sus, know - ing all our weak - ness,

Notes: "Song of the Temptation" is a musical setting of a wonderful hymn text by the late Canadian text writer, Sylvia Dunstan. This text is a powerful reflection/proclamation of the Gospel that is appointed in all three cycles of the Lectionary for the First Sunday of Lent. The story of the temptation of Jesus is offered here in a creative way that truly embodies the pathos of the gospel. This hymn could be utilized in many different and creative ways. It could serve as a gathering hymn, a response to the gospel/homily, or the stanzas could be interspersed throughout a dramatic proclamation of the gospel reading with different solo voices and sections of the choir taking different stanzas.

Performance: Regardless of where or how this hymn is used liturgically, it should be accompanied very simply so that the power of the words can be conveyed. If a cantor is utilized, they must prepare well the nuances and emotional contour of the message. The recording can be helpful in this regard.