

## Music Notes for the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 8, 2025

Many of our hymns for the fifth Sunday after the Epiphany find resonance with both the appointed texts from 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 and Matthew 5:13-20. Our sequence hymn, “Lord, speak to me,” echoes Paul’s words, “...we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of the age or of the rulers of the age...but we speak God’s wisdom, secret and hidden.” The hymn invites each of us to listen and respond to God’s wisdom and actively bear witness to it in the world. Our closing hymn is also connected to our reading from Corinthians. “God of Grace and God of Glory” is one of the most popular tunes from the Welsh hymn singing tradition. The hymn’s text was written by the internationally acclaimed preacher, Harry Emerson Fosdick. It was sung at the opening of the Riverside Church in New York City. Fosdick’s intention was to have his text sung to the tune *Regent Square* which many will recognize as the melody we use for the Christmas carol, “Angels From the Realms of Glory.” He apparently wrote that “The Methodists did it,” referring to the re-marriage of the text with the Welsh tune, Cwm Rhondda, which is the tune most used in most denominational hymnals.

The Cathedral Choir will offer Robert Lehman’s setting of the hymn, “Simple Gifts.”

- Michael Elsbernd