

*Where Two
or Three
Are Gathered*



EASY
CHORAL
ANTHEM
SERIES

Awaken Me, O Lord

Sarah K. May

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St. Nerses the Gracious, ca. 1100–1173

Sarah K. May

(♩ = ca. 48)

Alto *p* *mp*

21

f

Sun of Jus - tice, light of the world, shine your light in - to my soul.

f

Soprano *mp* 25

Alto

mf

O Dawn of light, a - wak - en me, a - wak - en me, O Lord. O

mp

mf

29

f

Sun of Jus - tice, light of the world, shine your light in - to my

f

32

Optional repeat 2

f

mf

soul. soul. Shine your light, pour (pour) your

f

mf

37

love, a - wak - en me, O Lord.

Composer Notes

St. Nerses IV “The Gracious” (ca.1100–1173) was a theologian, hymnographer, and Catholicos (patriarch) of the medieval Armenian Church. Born to a noble family, he was ordained a priest while a teenager and consecrated a bishop around age 35. In 1166 he succeeded his brother Gregory III as the Catholicos, the spiritual leader of all Armenians. He is known for his many prayers and hymns, as well as his ecumenical efforts to reconcile the Armenian and Greek churches. Today he is venerated as a saint by the Armenian Orthodox, Armenian Catholic, and Roman Catholic churches.

In a 2001 apostolic letter celebrating the 1700th anniversary of Armenia’s official conversion to Christianity, St. John Paul II quoted St. Nerses’ *Hymn in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary* and praised the Catholicos as a leader who “combined an extraordinary love for his people and its tradition with far-sighted openness to other Churches in an exemplary effort to seek communion in full unity.”

This piece is a meditation on hope, and on God’s goodness and mercy. Particularly suited to the season of Advent, it asks the Lord for light and guidance in our lives. It is intended to be versatile; repetition may be used at the director’s discretion, and if needed, it may be lightly doubled on a keyboard instrument.

—Sarah K. May