

WHEN YOU BREAK THE BREAD

for S.A.T.B. voices, accompanied*

Words and Music by
RUTH ELAINE SCHRAM

Expressively (♩ = ca. 88-92)

ACCOMP.

4 SOPRANO

5

ALTO

TENOR & BASS UNISON

mp

Break the bread; when you break the bread, may you

7

al ways re - mem - ber the words I have said, when you

* Also available for S.A.B. voices, No. 4209, and two-part any combination voices, No. 4210.

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9 *mp*

Break the bread; when you break the bread, know-ing

mp

break the bread, know-ing

mp

11 *cresc.*

this is My bod - y, bro - ken for you. Gath - er to - geth - er and

cresc.

this is My bod - y, bro - ken for you. Come in - to My

mf

mf

cresc.

mf

14

break the bread; gath - er to - geth - er and drink the cup. —

house; come un - to My ta - ble and take of the bread and the cup.

17

(*unis.*) *dim.*

I give My life as a sac - ri - fice, My gift of

, (*unis.*) *dim.*

My life is a sac - ri - fice, My gift of

dim.

20

poco rit.

love. Take the cup; when you

mp

a tempo

poco rit. *mp*

23

take the cup, may you al - ways re - mem - ber this

25 *mp*

sym - bol of love, when you take the cup, when you

sym - bol of love, when you take the

mp

27 *cresc.*

take the cup, know-ing this *cresc.* is My blood that was

cup know-ing this is My blood that was

cresc.

29 *mf* 30

shed for you. Gath - er to-geth - er and break the bread;

shed for you. Come in - to My house, come un - to My

mf

32

gath - er to - geth - er and drink the cup. — I give My life as a

ta - ble and take of the bread and the cup. My life is a

35

sac - ri - fice, My gift of love, gift of —

sac - ri - fice My gift of love. —

mp *cresc.*

mp *cresc.*

mp *cresc.*

38

love — Break the bread, when you break the bread,

Break the bread, —

mf *f* *mf*

mf *dim.*

41 *mf* Take the cup, *mf*

f Take the cup, when you take the cup, do this in re-

mf Take the cup, *mf*

mf dim. *mf*

44 mem - brance, do this in re - mem - brance,

47 *mp rit. e dim. al fine* do this in re - mem - brance of Me. *(pp)*

mp rit. e dim. al fine *(pp)*

mp rit. e dim. al fine *(pp)*

When You Break the Bread is appropriate for World Communion, Maundy Thursday, or any celebration of the Lord's Supper. Suggested corresponding lectionary readings include Matthew 26: 26-29, Mark 14: 22-25, Luke 22: 14-23, John 13: 21-30, and I Corinthians 11: 23-36. One basic homiletical theme is that, in participating in Communion, all believers participate in the death of Christ.

In rehearsal, strive for sensitive text declamation, within a carefully shaped legato line. Practice the melody (m. 22-37, soprano line) with unison voices until proper articulation is achieved before adding the other vocal parts. An important countermelody is found in the bass line in m. 13-20 and 30-37. It should balance equally the melody in those sections.

Ruth Elaine Schram lives in Birmingham, Alabama, where she works for Shades Mountain Baptist Church. Active as a composer, arranger, and children's choir director, she has over 70 published sacred works and is an ASCAP Special Awards recipient.

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