

Prayer Before Conducting the Choir

Jeremy N. Holst

O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who from the very beginning of time didst create the angelic hosts to hymn Thee, bless us to achieve an angelic and God-pleasing sound with the voices that Thou didst gift to us in Thine abundant, loving mercies; help us to—in humility and with all due reverence and piety—convey the text of the sacred hymns that have, throughout the ages, been preserved by Thy Church and passed down to us by our Holy and Divinely-inspired Fathers; and bestow upon me, thine unworthy servant, the strength and courage to lead and protect this choir from all the assaults of the enemy, for leadership is harder than any obedience; and grant that we all may hymn with one mind, with one heart, and with one voice the Unoriginate Father, and with Him Thou, His Only-begotten Son, and His All-Holy and Life-giving Spirit—the Spirit of Truth—through the prayers of Thy most pure and ever-virgin Mother and of the one she helped sing, Saint Romanos, and of all the saints. Amen.