BRING FORTH THE KINGDOM

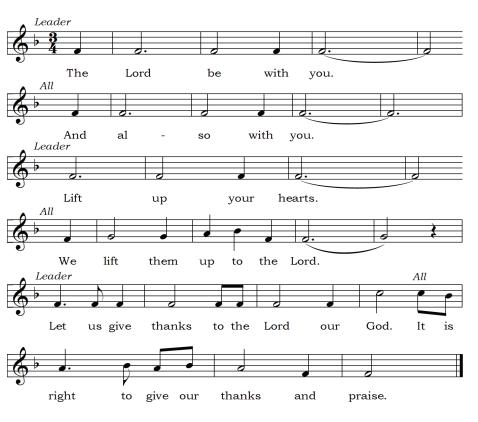


Words and Music: Marty Haugen

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THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You made us in your image,

in the fullness of the mystery of your Triune community, to be in relationship with you and all that you have made.

Again and again, through prophets and people, through leaders in faith, and in the ordering of common life, you have established your rule as Shepherd, calling, caring, culling, and bidding us to follow.

Again and again we turned from your way of leading, to establish ourselves as leaders for our own sake, monarchs, despots, generals, chief priests, and kings, distorting the gift of community into a commodity to be used for the benefit of those who rule.

And still you called to us,

gathering us from the places where we have been scattered, seeking us where we have lost our way, healing us from the injuries we have sustained, strengthening us in our weakness,

and feeding us in the rich pastures of your love and truth.

And so,

with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Please be seated.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Coming among us in the weakness and vulnerability of an infant, he reminds us of our need for care and our capacity to provide it to all who are in need. Gathering disciples and calling crowds for healing, he showed us that your leadership begins with compassion, that your rule is the rule of saving love. Witnessing boldly to your kingdom, visiting the sick, the friendless, and the needy, eating with outcasts, and reaching out to prisoners, inviting all to enter the joy of your saving love, he accepted death at the hands of the kings of the earth. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

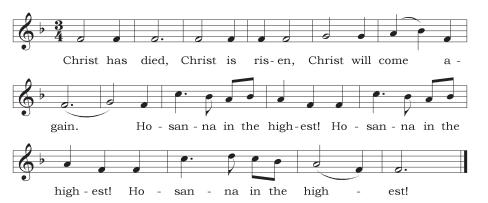
On the night in which he gave himself up for us he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so.

in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.



Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them to be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood and renewed by your Spirit to bring the good news of your kingdom to all the world, by word and living example. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

