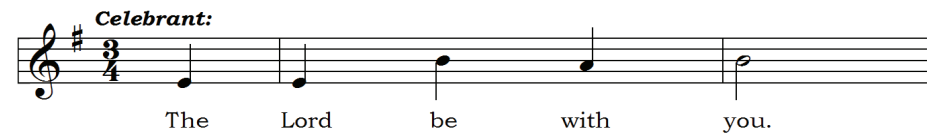


THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You brought all things into being and called them good.
From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image
and breathed into us the breath of life.
When we turned away, and our love failed,
your love remained steadfast.
When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights,
you bore up the ark on the waters,
saved Noah and his family,
and made covenant with every living creature on earth.
When you led your people to Mount Sinai
for forty days and forty nights,
you gave us your commandments
and made us your covenant people.
When your people forsook your covenant,
your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights;
and on your holy mountain,
he heard your still small voice.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might,
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the namd of the Lord! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est!

Please be seated.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
 When you gave him to save us from our sin,
 your Spirit led him into the wilderness,
 where he fasted forty days and forty nights
 to prepare for his ministry.
 When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin,
 you raised him to life,
 presented him alive to the apostles during forty days,
 and exalted him at your right hand.
 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.
 Now, when we your people prepare
 for the yearly feast of Easter,
 you lead us to repentance for sin
 and the cleansing of our hearts,
 that during these forty days of Lent
 we may be gifted and graced
 to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

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

Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death,
 ris - ing you re - stored our life.
 Lord Je - sus come!
 Lord Je - sus come in glo - ry!

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
 and on these gifts of bread and wine,
 Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
 that we may be for the world the body and Christ,
 redeemed by his blood.
 By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
 one with each other,
 and one in ministry to all the world,
 until Christ come 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 are yours, almighty God,
 now and forever.

A - men, a - men! A - men, a - men!