

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is our duty and our joy to give you thanks and praise,

Lord God of heaven and earth,

because you are continually renewing

your work of creation

and transforming it to show

your glory through resurrection.

With your touch you formed us from the dust of the Earth.

You raised your people from slavery in Egypt;

you bound them to you through your covenant on Sinai;

and you made yourself known to them in exile

and the Promised Land.

In the cross of Jesus

you take into yourself the scars of our sin,

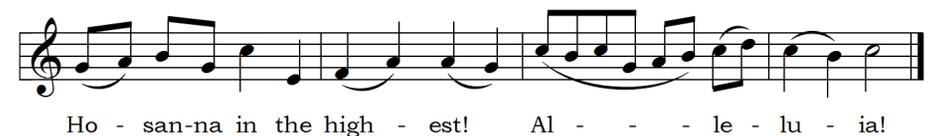
and in his resurrected body

you invite us to touch the wounds of your love.

And so we gladly thank you,

with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven,

singing the hymn of your unending praise:



Please be seated.

Forgiving God,

your Son's disciples cowered behind locked doors;
and yet in him you visited them
on the evening of resurrection
and breathed on them the Spirit of peace.

Breathe that Holy Spirit upon us now,

that your church may know the power of your forgiveness
and these gifts of bread and wine may be for us
the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ;
who, at supper with his disciples,
took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread,
and gave it to them, saying,

“Take, eat:

this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup.

Again he gave you thanks

and gave it to his disciples, saying,

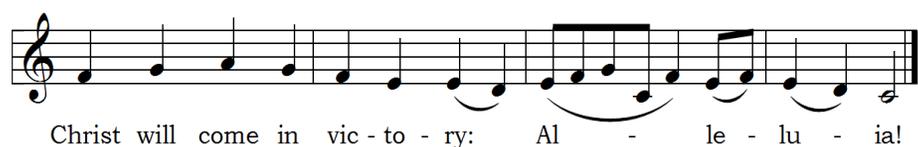
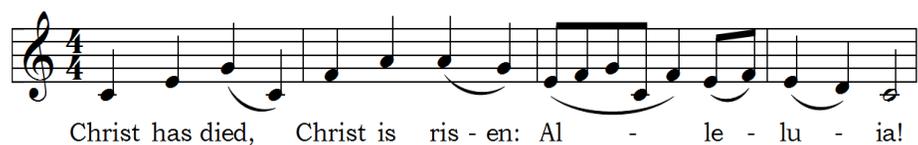
“Drink this, all of you:

this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed 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:



Lord and God,

intimate savior of our lives

and cosmic ruler of the universe,

in Jesus you are the substance of things hoped for
and the knowledge of things unseen.

Visit any who struggle under the shadow of doubt;

minister among all who suffer

beneath the claims of oppressive rule;

resurrect your children, your church, and your earth.

Bless those who have not seen and yet believe,

and shape your wounded body the church

to let the world see you through its scars.

Lift every voice to sing your Easter glory,

until the day when all stand before your throne,

in eternal communion with one another and with you,
ever one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

Samuel Wells and Abigail Kocher, alt.

MUSIC

Words: Traditional, alt.

Music: EASTER HYMN - Lyra Davidica