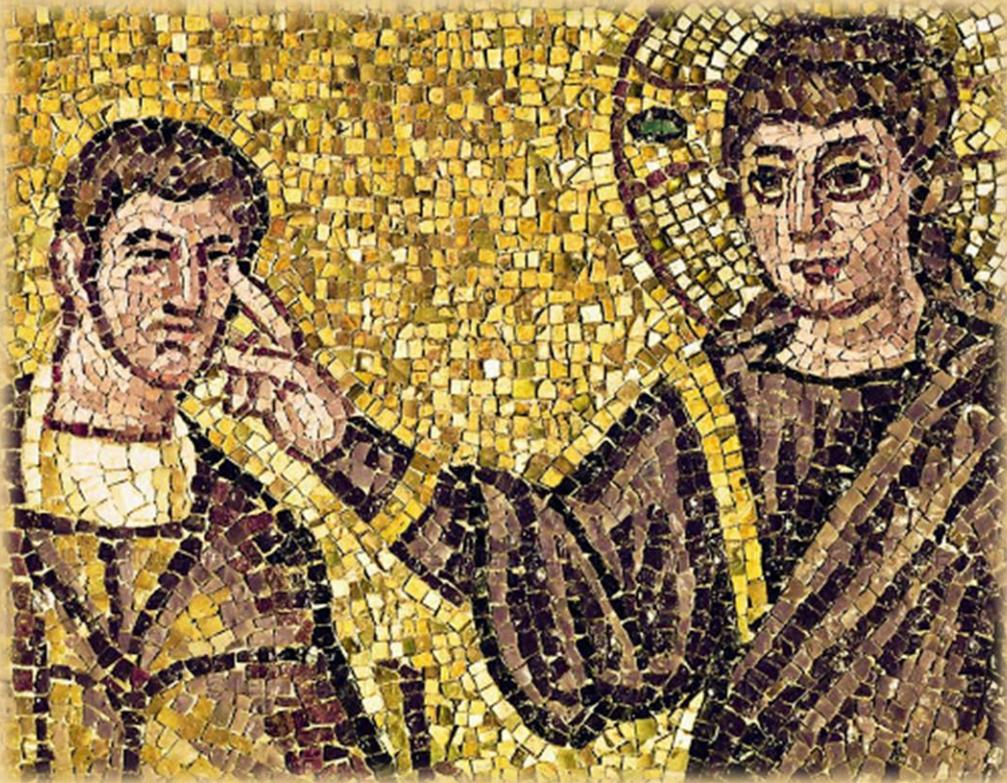


Our Saviour

LUTHERAN CHURCH



Jesus Gives Vision to the Man Born Blind

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

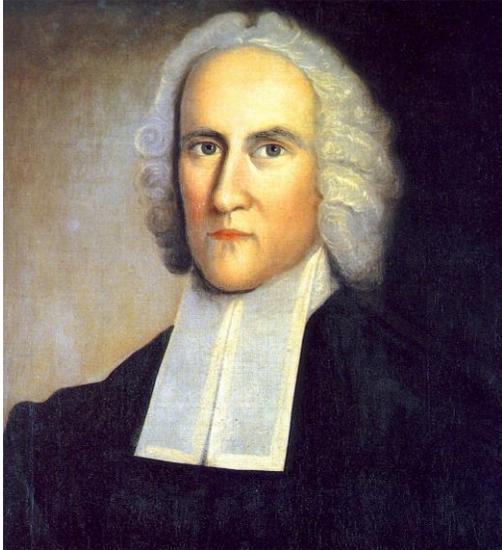
COMMEMORATION OF JONATHAN EDWARDS, PASTOR AND THEOLOGIAN

22 MARCH 2020

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP SETTING 4

Our Saint Today:

JONATHAN EDWARDS



Edwards was a teacher and missionary to American Indians, who died 1758

He was a minister in Connecticut and described as the greatest of the New England Puritan preachers.

In his most famous sermon, “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God,” Edwards spoke at length about hell. However, throughout

the rest of his works and his preaching he had more to say about God’s love than God’s wrath.

His personal experience of conversion came when he felt overwhelmed with a sense of God’s majesty, rather than a fear of hell.

Edwards carried out mission work among the Housatonic Indians of Massachusetts. He became president of the College of New Jersey, later known as Princeton University.

Although outstanding among America’s early theologians, Edwards is also controversial. He was a slave-owner and apologist for slavery, as well as a believer that only Christians who could describe a “personal conversion experience” should be admitted to Holy Communion.

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GATHERING

PRELUDE

THE GREETING

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister may comment briefly on the service of the day, and then invites the assembly to confess.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

The presiding minister leads the assembly in confession.

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned by my own fault in thought, word, and deed. I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

Almighty and merciful God grant you healing, pardon, and forgiveness of all your sins. Amen.

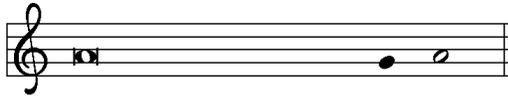
APOSTOLIC GREETING

As the song concludes, the presiding minister and the assembly greet one another with the words of 2 Corinthians 13:14.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



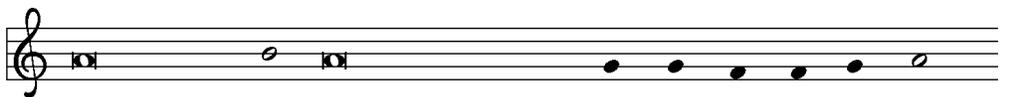
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The presiding minister offers the Prayer of the Day.

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

(1 Samuel 16:1-13)

¹The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”

²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.”

And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ ³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.”

⁴Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?”

⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.”

⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹

¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.”

¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.

The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.”

¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

(*Psalm 23*)

¹The Lord | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

²The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.

³You restore my | soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's
sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I
shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they | comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my
enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running
over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the
days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.

SECOND READING

(*Ephesians 5:8-14*)

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

*“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

The reading concludes:

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel in the words of Joel 2:13.



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL

(John 9:1-41)

The holy gospel according to St. John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and

beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.”

He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”

¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided.

¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?”

²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the

Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.”

²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

²⁶They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”

²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this

and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S WORD AND SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

(STANZAS I&2 ONLY)



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

An assisting minister invites the assembly to pray for those in need.

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God our vision, raise up teachers and preachers like Jonathan Edwards, who testify to your power. Raise up as well the voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked – those who are different, few in number or feared for being themselves. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our vision, protect your people in every nation. Bring peace in in Kurdistan, Somalia, the Maghreb and Mexico. Spare us all from disease, especially from COVID-19, and from the suffering it brings. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our vision, as we at Our Saviour remain apart to protect ourselves and our neighbors, draw us closer to one another

in love. Make us creative and brave in finding ways to minister in your name. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God our vision, come quickly to all who seek healing this day, especially: *names*. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God our vision, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints (*especially*). Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a REVERENT BOW, rather than a handshake, as sign of Christ's peace.

MEAL

OFFERING

As the gifts are presented, we stand.

(Psalm 51)

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER

RR, adapted

The assisting minister offers this or a similar prayer.

Let us pray. *[A brief silence]*

Make us, O Lord, fitting bearers of the gifts we offer here, as with them we turn our hearts to you and celebrate this venerable and sacred season. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

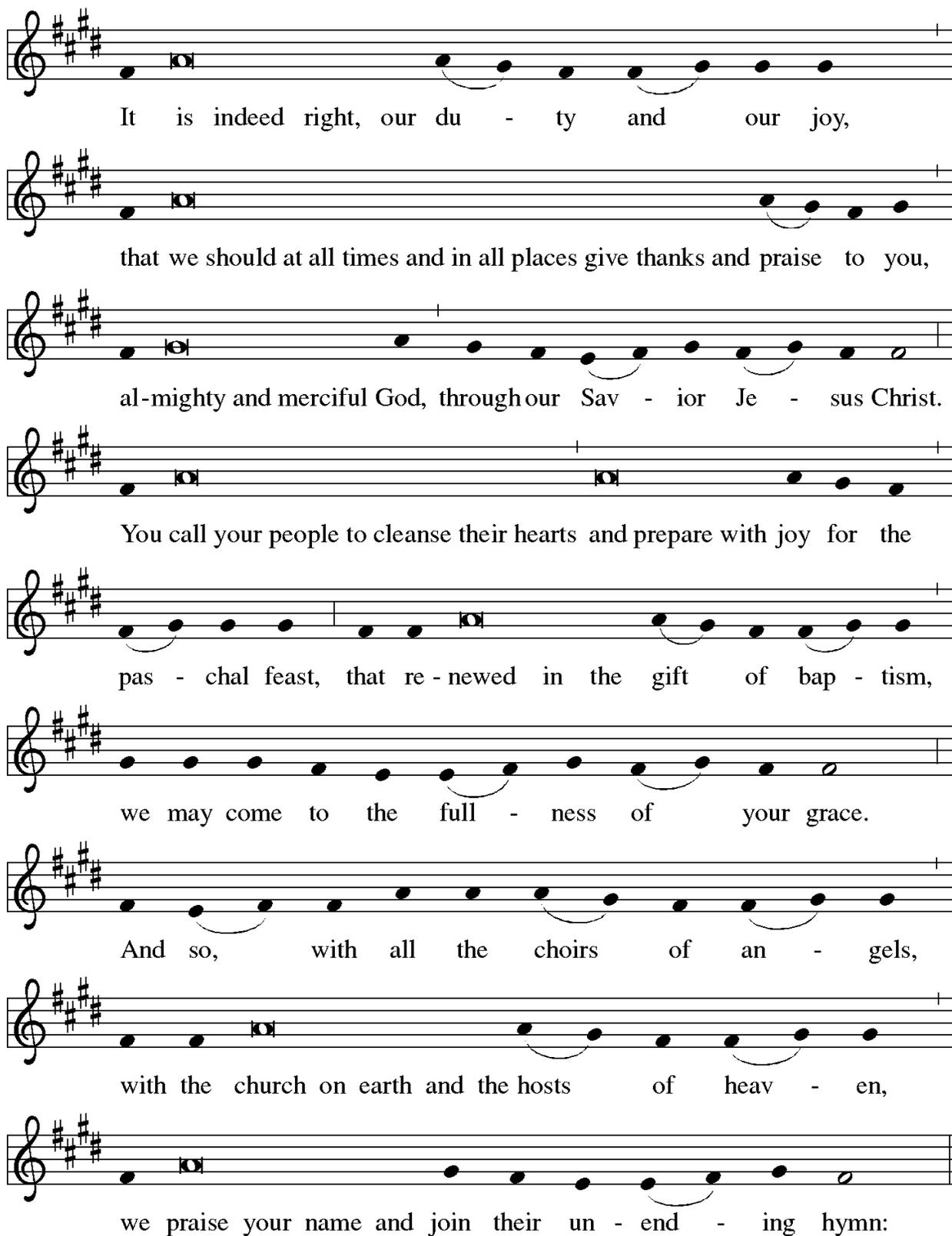
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows a musical score for a dialogue piece. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has one measure: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has one measure: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The music is written in a simple, melodic style with quarter and eighth notes, often beamed together.

PREFACE FOR LENT



It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,
al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the
pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,
we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

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SANCTUS

Isaiah 6:3 & Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

On behalf of the assembly, the presiding minister offers a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.

You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.

And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

The presiding minister may introduce the Lord's Prayer.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The presiding minister addresses the assembly in the words of Deuteronomy 8:3 :

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

The assembly may be seated.

COMMUNION CANTICLE: *Agnus Dei*

John 1:29



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine of his Supper.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Christ in his Supper. Those who do not receive may come forward with their arms crossed over their chest, and receive a pastoral blessing.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

BLESSING

*After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands.
The presiding minister gives a table blessing.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ELW p. 65

The assisting minister offers this or a similar prayer.

Let us pray. *[A brief pause]*

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayers, the song of grateful hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION

The presiding minister blesses the assembly

Almighty God, the Father, † the Son and the Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

***Join us (Virtually) on Wednesday Night at 7
for Holden Evening Prayer!***