

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14, 2024

7:00 pm

PRELUDE

The Quiet Church

by Mark Fax

RINGING OF THE BELL

+ Gathering +

GATHERING HYMN

The congregation may stand.
Be Thou My Vision (ELW 793)



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.

GREETING

The Lord be with you.

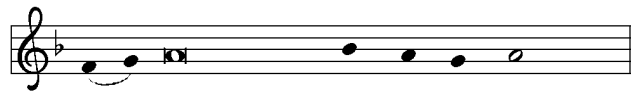
And also with you.

Tonight we remember that we come from the dust,
both earthen and cosmic,
thanks to burst of atoms billions of years old
still chasing the coattails of *Kairos*.

We are the heavy: pressed and held down by the gravity of sin
trapped in the stillness,
waiting for a new wind, breath, spirit,
to fill the ordinary and the everywhere with more.

Tonight we remember that we come from the dust
by listening carefully
to the sound of our chest
rising and falling,
fragile with the wonder of dust
that lives.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



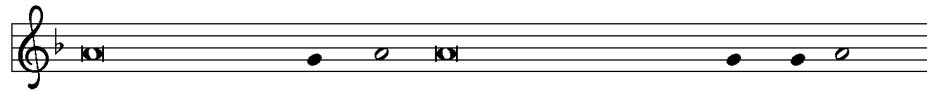
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, 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 ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer 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

Let us pray together.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

+ Word +

READING

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

A reading from Joel.

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—
²a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.
¹²Yet even now, says the Lord,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;
 ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the Lord, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.
¹⁴Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the Lord, your God?

¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;
 ¹⁶gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.

Let the bridegroom leave his room,
and the bride her canopy.

¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar
let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep.
Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'"

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 51:1-17

The congregation sings the refrain and the verses in bold.

Psalm Refrain

Have mer - cy on me, O
God, ac - cord - ing to your stead - fast love.

Psalm 51:1
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Psalm Tone

Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.
- ²**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,
and cleanse me | from my sin.**
- ³For I know | my offenses,
and my sin is ev- | er before me.
- ⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment.**
- ⁵Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my | mother's womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom | deep within. Refrain**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

⁸**Let me hear | joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken | may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face | from my sins,
and blot out | all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away | from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. Refrain**

¹³Let me teach your ways | to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- | stored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of | my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing | of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, o- | pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- | claim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or | I would give it.
You are not pleased | with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a | troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will | not despise. Refrain

READING

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

A reading from Second Corinthians.

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

^{6:1}As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

The congregation may stand.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹“Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²“So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶“And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY

The congregation may be seated.

Vicar Alex Linn

HYMN OF THE DAY

The congregation may stand.
As the Winter Days Grow Longer



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - fresh - ed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody
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INVITATION TO LENT

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church, we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life. Through this remembering, our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most holy and merciful God,
**we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

The congregation may be seated.

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us
that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Those who wish to receive ashes may proceed down the center aisle. The pastor marks the forehead of each person with an ashen cross, saying, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The person receiving ashes may respond, "Amen," and then return to their pew via the side aisle.

ANTHEM: Rise Mourner

arr. Florence B. Price

Rise mourner, Rise sinner
O can't you rise and tell
what the Lord has done for you.
Yes, He's taken my feet out of the miry clay
And he's placed 'em on the right side of my father.

PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

The congregation may stand.

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.
Amen.

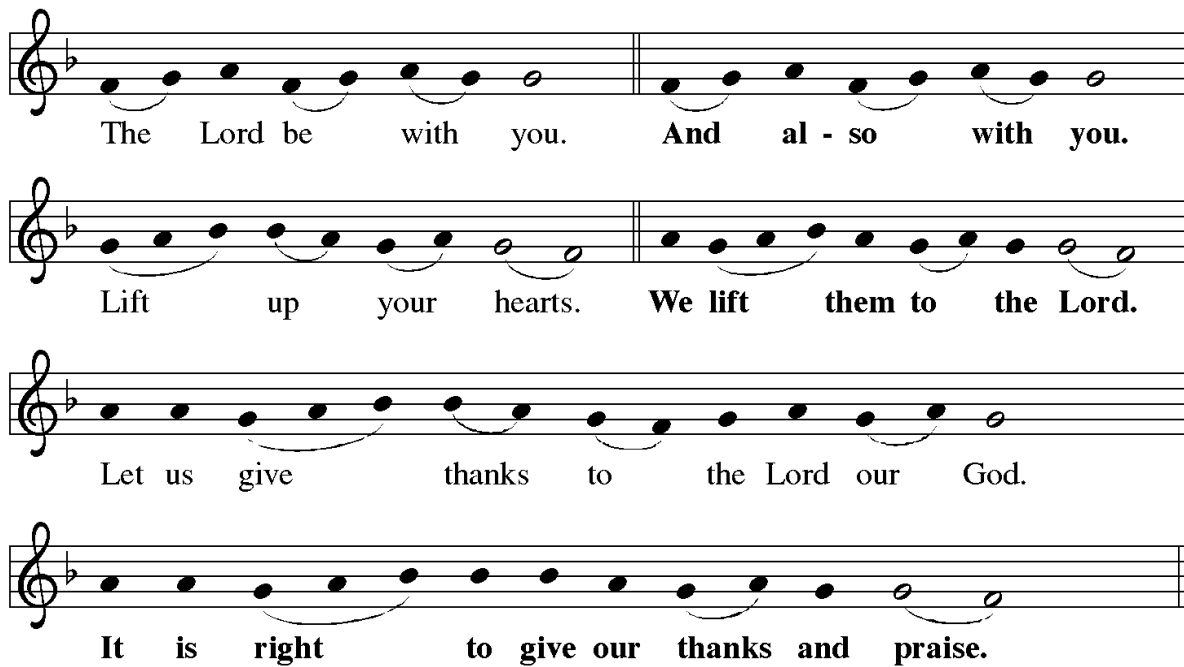
+ Meal +

THE PEACE

Continually made new each day with the setting sun and rising dawn, let us gather celebrating the Lord's supper as a community

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

DIALOGUE

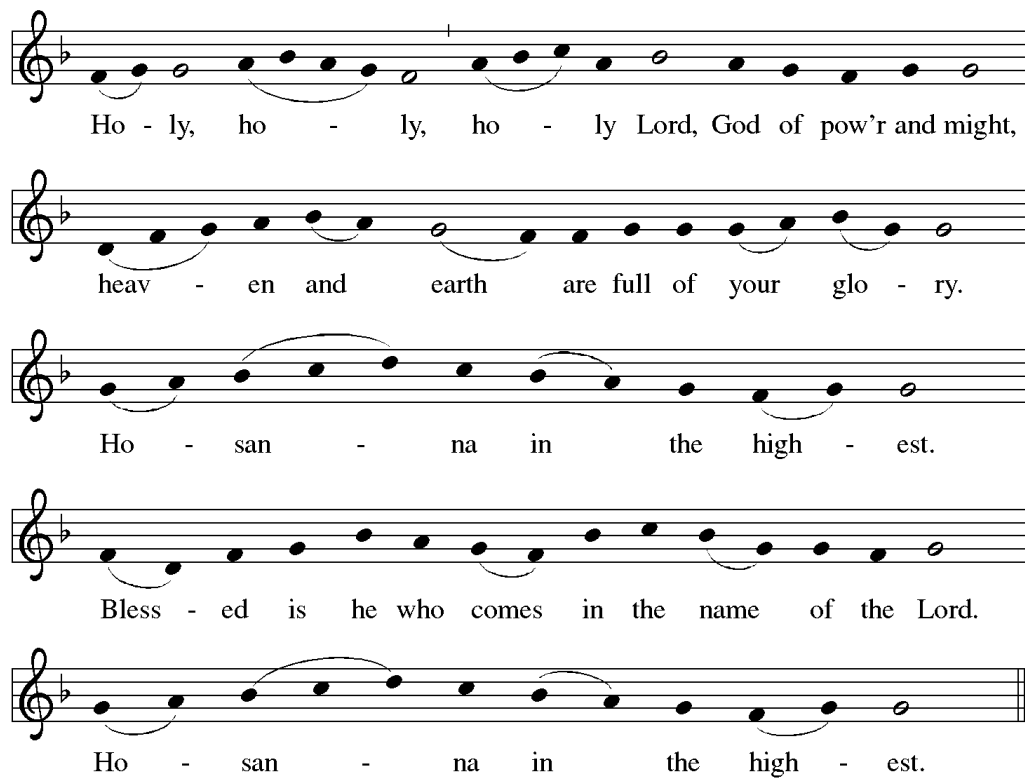


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

“... we praise your name and join their un-ending hymn:”

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and 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 name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER



Lord, remember us in your king - dom, and teach us to pray.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-against us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

INVITATION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION

The congregation may be seated.

All are welcome to commune at Christ's table without exception! If you are online, serve yourself or those worshipping with you by saying, "The body of Christ, given for you," and, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If you are communing in person, please proceed down the center aisle at the direction of an usher. You may receive bread or request a gluten-free wafer. A glass of wine (dark colored) will be placed on the table for you, or you may request grape juice (light colored). After drinking, please place your empty glass in the basket before returning to your seat via the side aisle. If you would prefer to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms across your chest to indicate this preference. If you would like to receive communion in your seat, please inform an usher, and the sacrament will be brought to you.

AGNUS DEI

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. A - men.

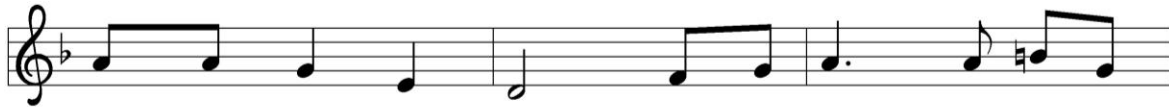
The image shows a musical score for the Agnus Dei. It consists of five staves of music in a single system, all written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with 'Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the'. The second staff continues with 'world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you'. The third staff continues with 'take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy'. The fourth staff continues with 'on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the'. The fifth and final staff concludes with 'sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.' The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, often grouped with slurs and ties.

COMMUNION HYMN

Tree of Life an Awesome Mystery (ELW 334)



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
 bod - y of our Lord.
 riv - er, you the sea.

One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.

General

Light of life beyond conceiving,
 mighty Spirit of our Lord;
 give new strength to our believing,
 give us faith to live your word

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation
 you have loved us as your own;
 stay with us through all temptation,
 make us turn to you alone.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing,
 may we be a blessing true;
 may we live and die confessing
 Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation,
 be the fountain of each soul;
 springing up in new creation,
 flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
 make us children of your light.
 Give us hearts to live more nearly
 as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow,
 God who lives beyond our death,
 hold us close through each tomorrow,
 love as near as every breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The congregation may stand.

Let us pray together.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ Sending +

BENEDICTION

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

Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Now, Lord (ELW 201)

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak;
help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

The congregation leaves in silence.

SERVING TODAY

Interim:

Director of Music:

Cantor:

Vicar Alex Linn

Luke Duroc-Danner

Audrey Neace

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MUSIC NOTES

Mark Fax (1911-1974) was an American composer and professor of music. Born in Baltimore, Fax was a prodigiously talented organist and keyboardist. By age 14, he had been employed as a theater organist playing film scores for the silent films in Baltimore's Regent theater and played for the services at his local church. He eventually enrolled at Syracuse University and later earned a Masters degree in composition from Eastman. Though he won the prestigious Julius Rosenwald Fellowship, depression-era conditions compelled him to turn down graduate fellowship offers, and he instead accepted a position at Paine College in Georgia where he founded the music department. In 1932, he returned to his studies, and he worked as a choir director and janitor to help support his family. He would go on to teach music at Howard University from 1947 to 1972, and he served as music director for the Asbury Methodist Church in Washington D.C. He composed many works for chorus, symphony, chamber ensembles, voice, and keyboard in addition to two full-length operas. He achieved very little public attention for his compositions until very late in his life when his second opera *'Til Victory is Won* (1967) premiered at the Kennedy center.

Florence B. Price (1887-1953) was an American composer, pianist, organist, and music teacher. Born in Little Rock, Arkansas, Price's early musical education came from her mother, and she would give her first performance at age 4 and have her first composition published at age 11. She attended the New England Conservatory of Music for both piano and organ. She returned to Arkansas where she taught briefly before moving to Georgia to head the music department at Clark Atlanta University. Returning to Little Rock with her husband, she struggled to find work in the increasingly segregated town, and following several lynchings in 1927, the Price family decided to move to Chicago. Price became a part of burgeoning Chicago Black Renaissance, and, after winning first prize in the Wanamaker Competition for her Symphony in E Minor, she became the first African-American woman to have a composition played by a major orchestra. Florence Price's compositional output includes four symphonies, four concertos, a wide range of other orchestral works, chamber music, a choral cantata and other choral works, many vocal works and spiritual arrangements, and wide variety of solo keyboard music.