

Ash Wednesday  
Vespers



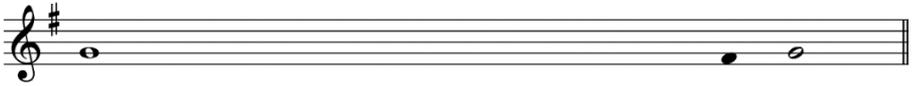
Wednesday, Week IV

February 22, 2023

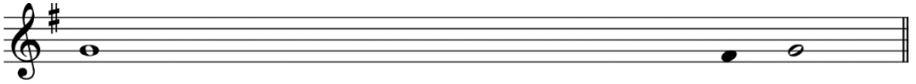
## INTRODUCTION



O God, come to my as - sist - ance. O Lord, make haste to help me.



Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spir - it:



As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. A - men.

## OPENING HYMN

### Again We Keep This Solemn Fast



1. A - gain we keep this sol - emn fast, A
2. The law and proph - ets from of old In
3. More spar - ing, there - fore, let us make The
4. Let us a - void each harm - ful way That
5. We pray, O bless - ed Three - in - One, Our



1. gift of faith from a - ges past, This Lent which binds us
2. fig - ured ways this Lent fore - told, Which Christ, all a - ges'
3. words we speak, the food we take, Our sleep, our laugh - ter,
4. lures the care - less mind a - stray; By watch - ful prayer our
5. God while end - less a - ges run, That this, our Lent of



1. lov - ing - ly To faith and hope and char - i - ty.
2. Lord and Guide, In these last days has sanc - ti - fied.
3. ev - 'ry sense; Learn peace through ho - ly pen - i - tence.
4. spir - its free From schem - ing of the en - e - my.
5. for - ty days, May bring us growth and give you praise.

*Ex more docti mystico*

Attr. to Gregory the Great, c. 540-604

Tr. by Peter J. Scagnelli and John Mason Neale, 1818-1866

Tr. © 1975, Peter J. Scagnelli, pub. by WLP

*Geistliche Lieder*, Wittenberg, 1543

PSALMODY



**Antiphon 1:** Lord, how wonderful is your *wis-dom*,\*  
so far beyond my *un-der*-standing.

Psalm 139

I

*Cantor* O Lord, you *search* me\*  
and *you* know me,

*All* you know my resting and my *ris-ing*,\*  
you discern my purpose from *a-far*.

*Cantor* You mark when I walk or lie *down*,\*  
all my ways lie open *to you*.

*All* Before ever a word is on my *tongue* \*  
you know it, O Lord, through *and* through.

*Cantor* Behind and before you *be-siege* me,\*  
Your hand ever laid *up-on* me.

*All* Too wonderful for me, this *know-ledge*,\*  
too high beyond *my* reach.

*Cantor* O where can I go from your *spir-it*, \*  
or where can I flee from *your* face?

*All* If I climb the heavens, you are *there*.\*  
If I lie in the grave, you *are* there.

*Cantor* If I take the wings of the *dawn* \*  
and dwell at the sea's furth-*est* end



*All* Even there your hand would *lead* me,\*  
your right hand would hold *me* fast.

*Cantor* If I say: “Let the darkness *hide* me \*  
And the light around me *be* night,”

*All* even darkness is not dark for *you*\*  
and the night is as clear as *the* day.

*Cantor* Glory to the Father, and to the *Son*,\*  
and to the Ho-*ly* Spirit,

*All* as it was in the beginning, is *now*,\*  
and will be for ever. A-men.

**Antiphon 1:** Lord, how wonderful is your *wis*-dom,\*  
so far beyond my un-*der*-standing.



**Antiphon 2:** I am the Lord;†  
I search the mind and *probe* the heart,\*  
I give to each one as his deeds *de*-serve.

## II

*Cantor* For it was you who creat-*ed* my being,\*  
knit me together in my moth-*er*'s womb.

*All* I thank you for the wonder *of* my being,\*  
for the wonders of all your *cre*-ation.



*Cantor* Already you *knew* my soul,\*  
my body held no secret *from* you

*All* when I was being *fash-ioned* in secret\*  
and molded in the depths of *the* earth.

*Cantor* Your eyes saw *all* my actions,\*  
they were all of them written in *your* book,

*All* every one of my days *was* decreed\*  
before one of them came in-*to* being.

*Cantor* To me, how mysteri-*ous* your thoughts,\*  
the sum of them not to *be* numbered!

*All* If I count them, they are more *than* the sand;\*  
to finish, I must be eternal, *like* you.

*Cantor* O search me, God, and *know* my heart.\*  
O test me and know *my* thoughts.

*All* See that I follow not *the* wrong path,\*  
And lead me in the path of life *e*-ternal.

*Cantor* Glory to the Father, and *to* the Son,\*  
and to the Ho-*ly* Spirit,

*All* as it was in the begin-*ning*, is now,\*  
and will be for ever. A-men.

**Antiphon 2:** I am the Lord;†  
I search the mind and *probe* the heart;\*  
I give to each one as his deeds *de*-serve.



**Antiphon 3:** Through him all things *were* made; \*  
he holds all creation together in *him*-self.

Canticle – Colossians 1:12-20

*Cantor* Let us give thanks to the Father †  
for having made *you* worthy\*  
to share the lot of the saints *in* light.

*All* He rescued us from the power of *of* darkness\*  
and brought us into the kingdom of his belov-*ed* Son.

*Cantor* Through him we have *re*-demption,\*  
the forgiveness of *our* sins.

*All* He is the image of the invis-*ble* God,\*  
the first-born of *all* creatures.

*Cantor* In him everything in heaven and on earth was *cre*-ated \*  
things visible and *in*-visible.

*All* All were created *through* him;\*  
all were created *for* him.

*Cantor* He is before all else *that* is.\*  
In him everything continues *in* being.

*All* It is he who is head of the body, *the* church! \*  
he who is the *be*-ginning,

*Cantor* the first-born of *the* dead,\*  
so that primacy may be his *in* everything.



*All* It pleased God to make abso-*lute* fullness\*  
reside *in* him

*Cantor* and, by means *of* him,\*  
to reconcile everything in *his* person,

*All* both on earth and in *the* heavens,\*  
making peace through the blood of *his* cross.

*Cantor* Glory to the Father, and to *the* Son,\*  
and to the Ho-*ly* Spirit,

*All* as it was in the beginning, *is* now,\*  
and will be for ever. A-men.

**Antiphon 3:** Through him all things *were* made; \*  
he holds all creation together in *him*-self.

## READING

Philippians 2: 12b – 15a

Work with anxious concern to achieve your salvation. It is God who, in his good will toward you, begets in you any measure of desire or achievement. In everything you do, act without grumbling or arguing; prove yourselves innocent and straightforward, children of God beyond reproach.

## RESPONSORY



To *you*, O Lord,\* I make my prayer *for* mercy.

R/. To *you*, O Lord,\* I make my prayer *for* mercy.

Heal my soul, for I have *sinned* against you.\*

R/. I make my prayer *for* mercy.

Glory to the Father and *to* the Son\* and to the Ho-ly Spirit,

R/. To *you*, O Lord,\* I make my prayer *for* mercy.

## CANTICLE OF MARY



**Antiphon** When *you* give alms,\* do not let your left hand know what your right hand *is* doing.

Luke 1:46-55

*Cantor* My soul proclaims the greatness *of* the Lord,\*  
my spirit rejoices in God *my* savior

*All* for he has *looked* with favor\*  
on his low-ly servant.

*Cantor* From this day all *gen*-erations\*  
will call *me* blessed.

*All* the Almighty has done great *things* for me,\*  
and holy is *his* Name.



*Cantor*

He has mercy on *those* who fear him\*  
in every gen-*er*-ation.

*All*

He has shown the strength *of* his arm,\*  
he has scattered the proud in their *con*-ceit.

*Cantor*

He has cast down the mighty *from* their thrones,\*  
and has lifted up *the* lowly.

*All*

He has filled the hungry *with* good things,\*  
and the rich he has sent a-*way* empty.

*Cantor*

He has come to the help of his *ser*-vant Israel \*  
for he has remembered his promise *of* mercy,

*All*

the promise he made *to* our fathers,\*  
to Abraham and his children *for*-ever.

*Cantor*

Glory to the Father, and *to* the Son, \*  
and to the Ho-*ly* Spirit:

*All*

as it was in the begin-*ning*, is now,\*  
and will be for ever. A-men.

**Antiphon**

When *you* give alms,\* do not let your left hand  
know what your right hand *is* doing..

## INTERCESSIONS

### *Leader*

All glory and honor to God, for in the blood of Christ he has ratified a new and everlasting covenant with his people and renews it in the sacrament of the altar. Let us lift our voices in prayer:

*R/. Bless your people, Lord.*

### *Deacon*

Lord, guide the minds and hearts of peoples and all in public office, may they seek the common good.

*R/. Bless your people, Lord.*

Renew the spirit of dedication in those who have left all to follow Christ, may they give clear witness to the holiness of the Church.

*R/. Bless your people, Lord.*

You have made all men and women in your image, may they always uphold human dignity.

*R/. Bless your people, Lord.*

Lead back to your friendship and truth all who have gone astray, teach us how to help them.

*R/. Bless your people, Lord.*

Grant that the dead may enter into your glory, to praise you for ever.

*R/. Bless your people, Lord.*

## OUR FATHER...

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

Grant, O Lord,

that we may begin with holy fasting,

this campaign of Christian service,

so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils,

we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, for ever and ever.

*R/. Amen.*

## BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Leader*            The Lord be with you.

*R/. And with your spirit.*

*Leader*            May almighty God bless you, the Father,  
and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*R/. Amen.*

*Leader*            Go in peace.

*R/. Thanks be to God.*