

Clarum decus ieiunii
The Glory of These Forty Days

Maurice F. Bell / ERHALT UNS, HERR

The musical score is written for piano in G major and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has five measures, and the second system has five measures. The melody is primarily in the right hand, with a supporting bass line in the left hand. The piece concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

1. The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.
2. Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.
3. So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lion's might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend became
the herald of Messiah's name.
4. Then grant us, Lord, like them to be
full oft in fast and prayer with thee;
our spirits strengthen with thy grace,
and give us joy to see thy face.
5. O Father, Son and Spirit blest,
to thee be ev'ry prayer addressed,
who art in threefold Name adored,
from age to age the only Lord.

Inspiration: "Clarum decus ieiunii"; ascribed to Gregory the Great, ca. 540-604.
Lyrics: 88.88; Maurice Frederick Bell, 1862-1947, from "The English Hymnal", 1906.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR; Joseph Klug's "Geistliche Lieder"; Wittenberg, 1543; adapted by Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685-1750.