

Prepare The Way

Cantata
In Honor of
Bishop Krister Stendahl

Bruce Brolsma

Rehearsal / Piano Reduction Edition

This cantata has been commissioned by University Lutheran Church (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), Cambridge, Massachusetts, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the ordination of Krister Stendahl.

The text is Isaiah 40:1-11 which, in the Revised Common Lectionary, is read on the second Sunday of Advent, Year B.

Krister Stendahl, for many years Dean of Harvard Divinity School, prepared the way for future pastors and leaders. To hear Bishop Stendahl speak is to experience wisdom, and one never fails to come away inspired. He has straightened many a crooked road, and fed his flock like a loving shepherd.

I count myself among those privileged to know Bishop Stendahl, and am honored to contribute this piece in celebration of his life and works.

Bruce Brolsma
Tewksbury, Massachusetts USA

Summer 2005

Performance Notes

Resources, by movement, are as follows:

1. *Aria, solo soprano*
2. *Chorus, SATB*
3. *Aria, solo soprano and alto*
4. *Chorus, SATB*
5. *Aria, solo bass and chorus, SATB*
6. *Chorus, SATB*

Two performance editions have been prepared. The first is for rehearsal and/or piano-only accompaniment. The second is an expanded edition that includes instrumental parts for flute, horn in F, and cello.

1. Soprano Aria

Comfort, Comfort My People

Isaiah 40: 1-2

Bruce Brolsma

June 11, 2005

Solo Soprano

Tranquilly $\text{♩} = 112 - 126$ *mp*

Com - fort, com - fort,

Piano

p *leg.*

S

6

com - fort, com - fort, com - fort my peo - ple,

Pno.

p *leg.*

S

11

mf *f* *mp*

com - fort, com - fort, says your God. O speak

Pno.

p *leg.*

16 *mf* *f*

S ten-der-ly to Je - ru - sa - lem, O speak ten - der - ly to Je - ru - sa - lem, and

Pno. *cresc.* *f* *sfz*

Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea.

20 *ossia* 2nda volta *Fine*

S cry to the ci - ty that it has serv'd its term,

Pno. 2nda volta *Fine* *pp* *sis.*

* *sis.*

24 that its pen - al ty is paid, that it has re - ceiv'd from the

Pno. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea. Lea.

29 *D.C. al Fine*

S Lord's hand dou - ble for all its sins.

Pno. *D.C. al Fine*

Lea. Lea. Lea. *

2. Chorus

Prepare The Way

Isaiah 40: 3-5

Bruce Brolsma
July 7, 2005

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

Solo (freely)

f A voice cries out!

p Pre -

Lively

Lively

Lively

Lively

Lively

p

S

A

T

B

Pno.

6 **A** ♩ = 63-69

pare the way of the Lord in the wil - der - ness, pre - pare the way of the

6 **A** ♩ = 63-69

Pre - pare the way of the

6 **A** ♩ = 63-69

6 **A** ♩ = 63-69

6 **A** ♩ = 63-69

mp

mp

9

S Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre -

A Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre -

T Pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre -

B *mf* Pre -

Pno. *mf*

12

S *cresc.* pare the way of the Lord in the wil - der - ness, pre - pare the way of the

A *cresc.* pare the way of the Lord in the wil - der - ness, pre - pare the way of the -

T *cresc.* pare the way of the Lord in the wil - der - ness, pre - pare the way of the

B *cresc.* pare the way of the Lord in the wil - der - ness, pre - pare the way of the

Pno. *cresc.*

15 *f*

S Lord in the wil-der-ness; Oh, oh, wil-der-ness, pre -

A Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness;

T Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness;

B Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre -

Pno.

18

S pare the way of the Lord in the wil - der-ness, pre - pare the way of the

A Oh, oh, wil - der-ness, pre - pare the way of the

T Oh, oh, wil - der-ness, pre - pare the way of the

B pare the way of the Lord in the wil - der-ness, pre - pare the way of the

Pno.

21 **B**

S Lord in the wil-der-ness.

21 **B**

A Lord in the wil-der-ness.

21 **B** *mp*

T Lord in the wil-der-ness. Make a straight road in the des-ert for our

21 **B**

B Lord in the wil-der-ness.

21 **B**

Pno.

25 *mp* *mf*

S Pre-pare the way! Make a

25 *mp*

A Make a straight road in the des - ert for our

25 *mp*

T God. Make a straight road in the des - ert for our

25 *mp*

B Pre-pare the way!

25

Pno.

29

S straight road in the des - ert for our God. Make a straight

A God, for our God. Make a

T God, for our God. Make a

B Make a straight road for our God. Make a

Pno.

32

S road, in the des - ert. Make a straight road, straight road,

A straight road, in the des - ert. Make a straight road,

T straight road, in the des - ert. Make a straight,

B straight road, in the des - ert. Make a

Pno.

36 C

S
straight road for our God.

A
straight road for our God.

T
straight road for our God.

B
straight road for our God.

Pno. C

mf

40 *mf*

S
Ev' - ry val - ley will be raised,

A *mf*
Ev' - ry val - ley will be raised,

T *mf*
Ev' - ry val - ley will be raised,

B *mf*
Ev' - ry val - ley will be raised,

Pno.

44

S
Ev' - ry moun-tain and hill made low.

A
ev' - ry moun-tain and hill made low.

T
Ev' - ry moun-tain and hill made low.

B
ev' - ry moun-tain and hill made low.

Pno.

48

S
Ev' - ry val - ley, ev' - ry moun-tain and ev' - ry val - ley will be raised,

A
Ev' - ry moun-tain and hill made low,

T
Ev - ry val - ley, ev' - ry moun-tain and ev' - ry val - ley will be raised,

B
Ev' - ry moun-tain and hill made low,

Pno.

52 *mp* **D**

S will be raised, will be raised.

A and made low, and made low. *mp* **D** Un -

T will be raised, will be raised. *mp* **D**

B and made low, and made low. *mp* **D**

Pno. *mp* **D**

57

S Un - ev - en ground will be

A ev - ven ground will be lev - el.

T

B

Pno.

62 *mf* Un - ev - en

S lev - el. Un - ev - en

A Un - ev - en

T Un - ev - en ground will be lev - el. Un - ev - en

B Un - ev - en ground will be lev - el. Un - ev - en

Pno. *mf*

67 ground will be lev - el, and rough places, rough places, a plain.

S ground will be lev - el, and rough places, rough places, a plain.

A ground will be lev - el, lev - el, a plain.

T ground will be lev - el, lev - el, a plain.

B ground will be lev - el, lev - el, a plain.

Pno.

74 **E** Freely *mf*

S
Then the glo - ry of the Lord will be re - vealed, and all peo - ple will

A
Then the glo - ry of the Lord will be re - vealed, and all peo - ple will

T
Then the glo - ry of the Lord will be re - vealed, and all peo - ple will

B
Then the glo - ry of the Lord will be re - vealed, and all peo - ple will

Pno. *f*

77 *f* **A tempo**

S
see it. The Lord has spo - ken, spo - - - ken,

A
see it. **A tempo** *f* The Lord has spo - ken, spo - ken,

T
see it. **A tempo** *f* The Lord has spo -

B
see it. **A tempo** *f* The Lord has spo - ken, has

Pno. *f*

82

S
spo - ken, spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken, spo - ken,

A
spo - ken, spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken, has spo -

T
ken, spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken,

B
spo - ken, spo - ken. The Lord has spo -

Pno.

86

S
has spo - ken. Pre **F**pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre -

A
ken, has spo - ken. Pre **F**pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - *mp*

T
has spo - ken. **F** (stagger breathing)

B
ken, has spo - ken. **F** (stagger breathing)

Pno.

90 *mf*

S
pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the

A
pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the

T
Pre - pare the way of the

B

Pno.

93 *f* *rit.* *ff*

S
Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness. Pre -

A
Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness. Pre -

T
Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness.

B
Pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness.

Pno.

96 **G** **Maestoso**

S
pare the way, pre - pare the way, pre -

A
pare the way, pre - pare the way, pre -

T
Maestoso

B
ff The Lord has spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken.
Maestoso

ff The Lord has spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken.

Pno.
ff

98

S
pare, pre-prepare the way, pre - pare the way.

A
pare, pre-prepare the way, pre - pare the way.

T
98 Pre - pare, pre-prepare the way, pre - pare the way.

B
98 Pre - pare, pre-prepare the way, pre - pare the way.

Pno.
98 **Freely** *mp* **rit.**

3. Soprano / Alto Aria

People Are Like Grass

Isaiah 40: 6-8

Bruce Brolsma

July 17, 2005

Calmly ♩ = 76 - 84

Solo Soprano

Calmly ♩ = 76 - 84

Solo Alto

Calmly ♩ = 76 - 84

Piano *mf*

4 A *mf* 3

S Peo-ple are like grass, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er,

4 A *mf* 3

A Peo-ple are like grass, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er,

4 A *mp* 8va-1 8va-1 8va-1 8va-1

Pno. *mp*

7 3

S per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er of the field. Peo - ple are like grass,

7 3

A per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er of the field. Peo - ple are like grass,

7 *8va-* *8va-*

Pno.

10 3 3

S per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er of the field.

10 3 3

A per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er of the field.

10

Pno.

13 **B**

S the grass with-ers, the flow-er fades, when the Lord's breath blows up-on it.

A the grass with-ers, the flow-er fades, when the Lord's breath blow up-on it.

Pno.

15

S The grass with-ers, the flow-er fades. Sure-ly, the peo-ple are grass.

A The grass with-ers, the flow-er fades. Sure-ly, the peo-ple are grass.

Pno.

17 **C**

S
 Peo-ple are like grass, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er of the

A
 Peo-ple are like grass, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er of the

Pno.

20

S
 field. Peo - ple are like grass, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er,

A
 field. peo - ple are like grass, per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er,

Pno.

23 *3* *rit.* *a tempo*

S per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er of the field. The grass with-ers, the flow-er fades; but the

A per-ish-a-ble like the flow-er of the field. The grass with-ers, the flow-er fades; but the

Pno. *rit.* *a tempo*

26 *f* *rit.* *p*

S word of our God will stand for-ev - er, for-ev - er.

A word of our God will stand for-ev - er, for-ev - er.

Pno. *mf* *f* *mp* *p* *rit.*

4. Chorus

Get You Up To A High Mountain

Isaiah 40: 9-10

Bruce Brolsma

July 23, 2005

Flowing $\text{♩} = 48$



Piano

5 **A** ♩

S

5 **A** ♩

A

Get you up to a high moun-tain, Zi - on, her-ald of good ti - dings;

5 **A** ♩

T

5 **A** ♩

B

Get you up to a high moun-tain, Zi - on, her-ald of good ti - dings;

5 **A** ♩

Pno.



9

S

9

A

lift up your voice with strength, O Je-ru-sa-lem, her-ald of good ti - dings.

9

T

9

B

lift up your voice with strength, O Je-ru-sa-lem, her-ald of good ti - dings.

9

Pno.

13

S

B

Get you up, get you up, O Zi - on,

13

A

B

Get you up to a high moun-tain, Zi - on, her - ald of good

13

T

B

Get you up, get you up, O Zi - on,

13

B

B

Get you up to a high moun-tain, Zi - on, her - ald of good

13

Pno.

B

16

S get you up. Lift your voice, lift your voice,

A ti - dings; lift up your voice with strength, O Je - ru - sa - lem,

T get you up. Lift your voice, lift your voice,

B ti - dings; lift up your voice with strength, O Je - ru - sa - lem,

Pno. *L.H.* *L.H.* *simile*

19

S her - ald of good ti - dings. Get you up,

A her - ald of good ti - dings. Get you

T her - ald of good to - dings. Get you up,

B her - ald of good to dings. Get you

Pno. **C** **C** **C** **C**

22
S
get you up, get you up, get you up, get you
A
up, get you up, get you up, get you
T
get you up, get you up, get you up,
B
up, get you up, get you up,
Pno.

25
S
up to a high moun - tain, O Zi - on, O Zi - on. *rit. 2nda volta* **Fine**
A
up to a high moun - tain, O Zi - on, O Zi - on. *rit. 2nda volta* **Fine**
T
get you up to a moun - tain, O Zi - on, O Zi - on. *rit. 2nda volta* **Fine**
B
get you up to a moun - tain, O Zi - on, O Zi - on. *rit. 2nda volta* **Fine**
Pno.

29 **D**

S *f* See, the Lord God comes with might, and rules with a

A *f* See, the Lord God comes with might, and rules with a

T *f* See, the Lord God comes with might, and rules with a

B *f* See, the Lord God comes with might, and rules with a

Pno. *sfz* *sfz* *simile*

32

S migh - ty arm. God comes with the re - ward pre -

A migh - ty arm. God comes with the re - ward pre -

T migh - ty arm. God comes with the re - ward pre -

B migh - ty arm. God comes with the re - ward pre -

Pno.

35

S *ce - ded by the rep - a - ra - tion. See, the Lord God,*

A *ce - ded by the rep - a - ra - tion. See, the Lord God,*

T *ce - ded by the rep - a - ra - tion. See, the Lord God,*

B *ce - ded by the rep - a - ra - tion. See, the Lord God,*

Pno.

E fp fp simile

39

S *comes with might, and rules*

A *comes with might, and rules*

T *comes with might, and rules*

B *comes with might, and rules*

Pno.

42

S with a migh - ty arm.

A with a migh - ty arm.

T with a migh - ty arm.

B with a migh - ty arm.

Pno.

45 **F** *sostenuto*

S God comes with the re - ward pre -

A **F** *sostenuto*

A God comes with the re - ward pre -

T **F** *sostenuto*

T God comes with the re - ward pre -

B **F** *sostenuto*

B God comes with the re - ward pre -

Pno. *sostenuto*

49 *D.S. al Fine*

S
ce - ded by the rep - a - ra - tion.

49 *D.S. al Fine*

A
ce - ded by the rep - a - ra - tion.

49 *D.S. al Fine*

T
ce - ded by the rep - a - ra - tion.

49 *D.S. al Fine*

B
ce - ded by the rep - a - ra - tion.

49 *D.S. al Fine*

Pno.

5. Bass Aria / Chorus

God Feeds the Flock Like a Shepherd

Isaiah 40: 11

Bruce Brolsma

July 24, 2005

Piano

Flowing $\text{♩} = 48$

Pno.

mf

BASS

10

A

God feeds the flock like a shep - herd; God's

Pno.


S.B.

13

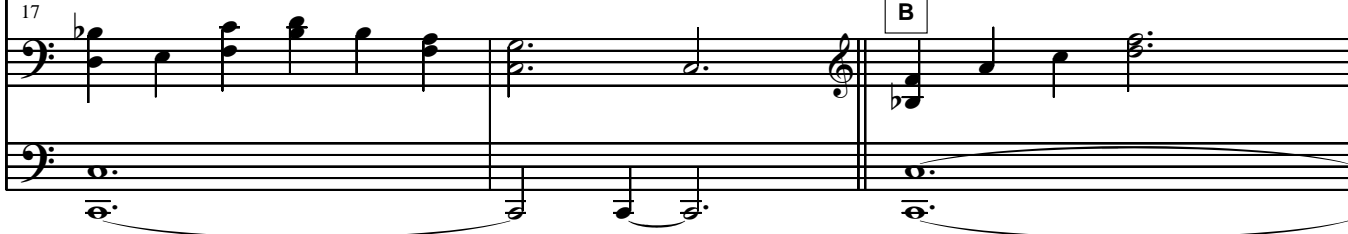
arms gath - er the lambs.

Pno.

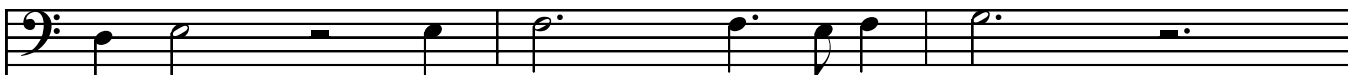
17 B

S.B. 


God feeds the flock like a

Pno. 

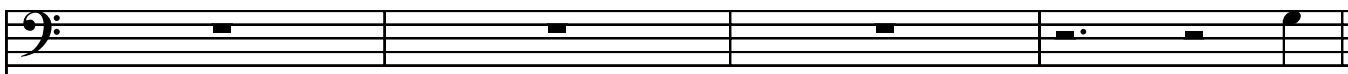
20

S.B. 

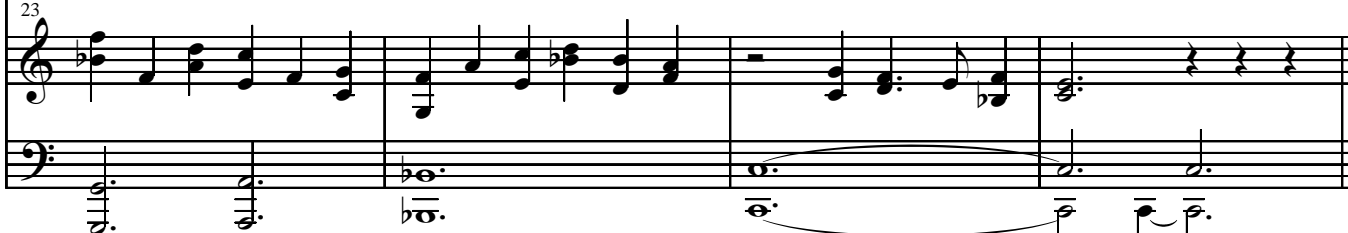
shep-herd; God's arms gath-er the lambs.

Pno. 


23

S.B. 


God's

Pno. 

2C

S.B. 

bos - om car - ries them, God's bos - om car - ries them; God

Pno. 

31

S.B.

gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep. God gent - ly leads the moth - er

Pno.

35

S

God

35

A

God

35

T

God

35

B

God

Pno.

40 **D**

S
 feeds the flock like a shep - herd; God's

A
 feeds the flock like a shep - herd; God's

T
 feeds the flock like a shep - herd; God's

B
 feeds the flock like a shep - herd; God's

Pno.

42

S
arms gath - er the lambs.

42

A
arms gath - er the lambs.

42

T
arms gath - er the lambs.

42

B
arms gath - er the lambs.

42

Pno.

45

S

45

A

45

T

45

B

Pno.

God

God

God

God

48

S

48

A

48

T

48

B

feeds the flock like a shep-herd; God's arms gath - er the

feeds the flock like a shep-herd; God's arms gath - er the

feeds the flock like a shep-herd; God's arms gath - er the

feeds the flock like a shep-herd; God's arms gath - er the

51
S lambs.

51
A lambs.

51
T lambs.

51
B lambs.

51
Pno.

The image shows a musical score for five parts: Soprano (S), Alto (A), Tenor (T), Bass (B), and Piano (Pno.). Each part begins at measure 51. The vocal parts (S, A, T, B) are marked with 'lambs.' and show a whole note in the first measure, followed by rests in the second and third measures. The piano part (Pno.) has a more active melody in the right hand, starting with a half note in the first measure and continuing with eighth and sixteenth notes in the following measures. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with chords and single notes.

54

S

54

A

54

T

54

B

Pno.

54

E

God's bos - om car - ries them; God's

God's bos - om car - ries them; God's

God's bos - om car - ries them; God's

God's bos - om car - ries them; God's

E

58

S
bos - om car-ries them; God gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep. God

58

A
bos - om car-ries them; God gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep. God

58

T
bos - om car-ries them; God gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep. God

58

B
bos - om car-ries them; God gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep. Glod

58

Pno.

62 F

S.B. 

S  F
 gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep. God feeds the flock like a

A  F
 gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep.

T  F
 gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep.

B  F
 gent - ly leads the moth - er sheep.

Pno.  F

66

S.B. shep-herd; God's arms gath - er the lambs. God's

66

S Pre - pare. Pre - pare.

66

A Pre - pare. Pre - pare.

66

T Pre - pare. Pre - pare.

66

B Pre - pare. Pre - pare.

66

Pno.

69 G

S.B. bos - om car-ries them. God gent - ly leads the

69 G

S Pre-pare the way.

69 G

A Pre-pare the way.

69 G

T Pre-pare the way.

69 G

B Pre-pare the way.

69 G

Pno.

73

S.B. moth - er sheep.

73

S Pre - pare the way,

73

A Pre - pare the way,

73

T Pre - pare the way,

73

B Pre - pare the way,

73

Pno.

77 *rit.* *attaca*

S.B.

77 *rit.* *attaca*

S
the way of the Lord.

77 *rit.* *attaca*

A
the way of the Lord.

77 *rit.* *attaca*

T
the way of the Lord.

77 *rit.* *attaca*

B
the way of the Lord.

77 *rit.* *attaca*

Pno.

6. Chorus

Epilog

Isaiah 40: 5, 3

Bruce Brolsma

August 1, 2005

Musical score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass, and Piano. The score is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The piano part is marked *f* and *Freely*. The vocal parts have a tempo marking of $\bullet = 96$ and a dynamic marking of *f*. The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes.

Vocal and piano accompaniment for the chorus. The vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) are in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The piano part is marked *f*. The lyrics are: "Lord has spoken, spoken, The Lord has spoken, spoken, The Lord has spoken, has". The piano part features a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes.

9

S
9 spo - ken, spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken, spo - ken,

A
9 spo - ken, spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken, has spo -

T
9 ken, spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken,

B
9 spo - ken, spo - ken. The Lord has spo -

Pno.

13 *mp* **A** ♩ = 63-69

S
13 has spo - ken. Pre **A** ♩ = 63-69 pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre -

A
13 ken, has spo - ken. (stagger breathing) Pre -

T
13 has spo - ken. (stagger breathing)

B
13 ken, has spo - ken. (stagger breathing)

Pno.

17

S *mf*

pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the

A *mf*

pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the

T *mf*

Pre - pare the way of the

B

Pno.

20

S *f* *rit.* *ff*

Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness. Pre -

A *f* *rit.* *ff*

Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness. Pre -

T *f* *rit.*

Lord in the wil-der-ness, pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness.

B *f* *rit.*

Pre - pare the way of the Lord in the wil-der-ness.

Pno. *f* *rit.*

23 **B** **Maestoso**

S

23 **B** **Maestoso** pare the way, pre - pare the way, pre -

A

pare the way, pre - pare the way, pre -

T

23 **B** **Maestoso**

B

23 **B** **Maestoso** *ff* The Lord has spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken.

ff The Lord has spo - ken. The Lord has spo - ken.

Pno.

ff

25

S

25 pare, pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way. *rit.*

A

pare, pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way. *rit.*

T

25 Pre - pare, pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way. *rit.*

B

25 Pre - pare, pre - pare the way, pre - pare the way. *rit.*

Pno.

rit.