

April 20, 2025
EASTER SUNDAY

Leading Worship Today:

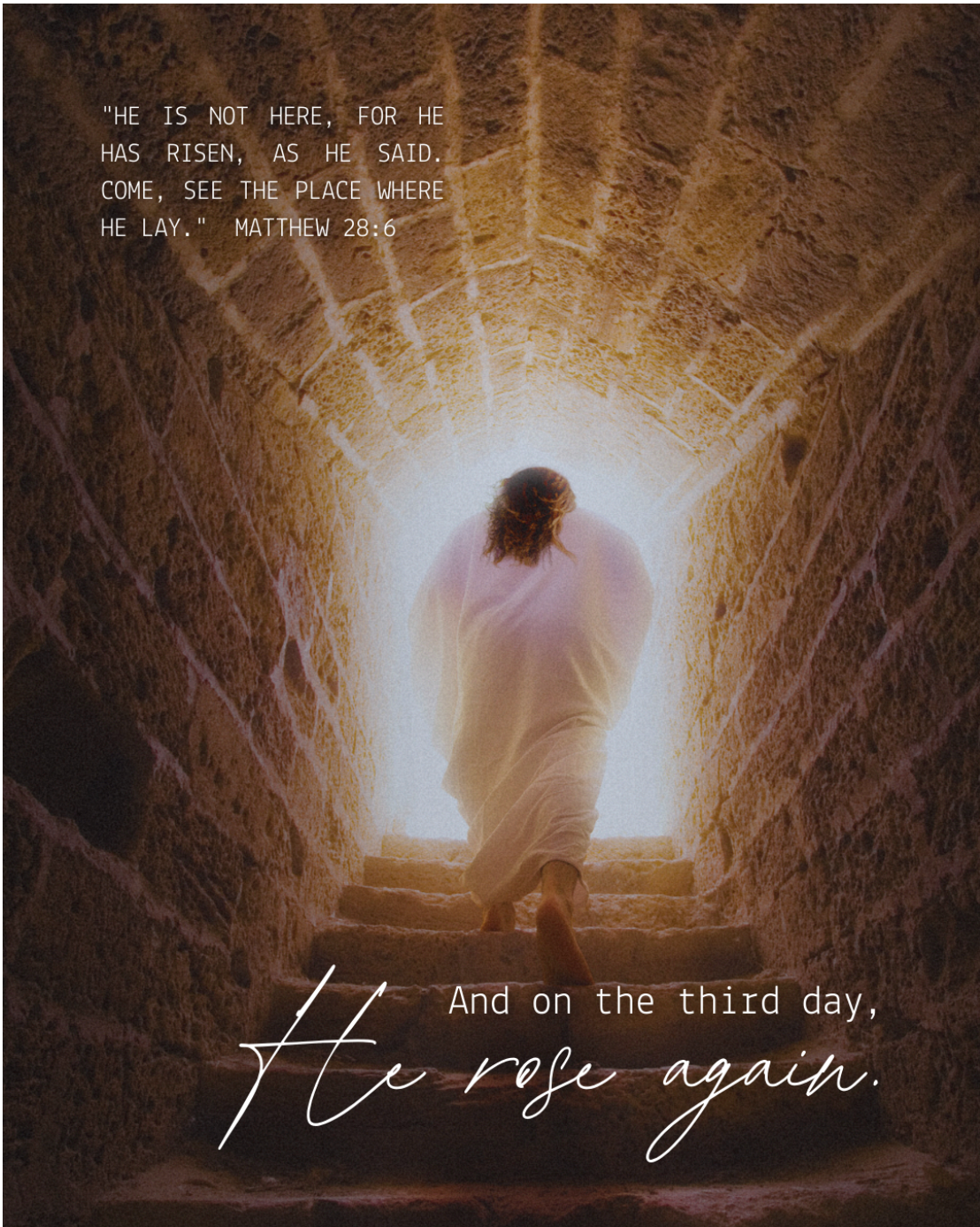
Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Kathy Quady

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

"HE IS NOT HERE, FOR HE
HAS RISEN, AS HE SAID.
COME, SEE THE PLACE WHERE
HE LAY." MATTHEW 28:6

And on the third day,
He rose again.



PRELUDE AND CHORAL INTROIT

Because He Lives

arr. Joel Raney

Pat Olsen, Piano; Ralph Johansen, Organ

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WHENEVER CHRIST IS RISEN IS SAID, PLEASE RESPOND WITH: **CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!**

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Jesus invites us into a story that is bigger than ourselves, bigger than our culture, bigger even than our imaginations, and yet we get to tell that story with the scandalous particularity of our particular moment and place in time. We are storytelling creatures because we are fashioned in the image of a storytelling God. May we never neglect the gift of that. May we never lose our love for telling the tale.

-Rachel Held Evans

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Yesterday we thought death had won.

Yesterday we thought all was lost.

Yesterday we thought Christ was gone.

But not today.

Today we know that love has won.

Today we know that hope is real.

Today we know that Christ is here.

We have a reason to hope.

We have a reason to sing!

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Christ is risen!

Christ is risen indeed!

***OPENING HYMN**

#232 Jesus Christ is Risen Today

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Christ himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, free from sin, we might live for righteousness. Trusting in the grace of God, let us confess our sins.

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we ignore the cries of the oppressed, and are indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made.

Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us to trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant and eternal given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord.

Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Friends, the tomb is empty. Believe the good news that Christ is risen from the dead, having trampled down Death by death! In the risen Christ there is forgiveness, freedom, and life!

Alleluia, Amen!

***RESPONSE**

The Gloria Patri #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their immediate neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of new beginnings, on that first Easter morning, the disciples struggled to hear the good news. Doubt clouded their minds. Negativity took root and hope vanished with a simple shake of their heads. As we return to this familiar text, help us to hear differently this morning. Open our ears that we might hear the sound of Alleluias ringing through this text. Open up our minds that the mystery and joy of Easter might feel within reach. Open up our hearts that we might believe the unbelievable. And like Peter, in this hearing, may we move closer to you. God of the empty tomb, we are hungry for your good news. Speak to us now. With hope in our hearts we listen and we pray, Amen.

1st NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:34-43 (NRSV)

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all.³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced:³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree;⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear,⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead.⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

2nd NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Corinthians 15:19-26 (NRSV)

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every

authority and power. 25For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#233 The Day of Resurrection!

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:1-12 (NRSV)

1But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8Then they remembered his words, 9and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

The Rev. Brian Entz

OFFERING ANTHEM

What Joy! He Lives!

Wetzler

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those
who have been delivered from death to life".*

To give online, please scan the QR code.



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God
above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Scots Confession

**We undoubtedly believe, since it was impossible that the sorrows of death should retain in
bondage the Author of life, that our Lord Jesus crucified, dead, and buried, who descended
into hell, did rise again for our justification, and the destruction of him who was the author of
death, and brought life again to us who were subject to death and its bondage. We know that
his resurrection was confirmed by the testimony of his enemies, and by the resurrection of the**

dead, whose sepulchres did open, and they did rise and appear to many within the city of Jerusalem. It was also confirmed by the testimony of his angels, and by the senses and judgment of his apostles and of others, who had conversation, and did eat and drink with him after his resurrection.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*We pray for the world, our country, our community,
our (and all) families, those in need, and Christ's Church.*

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

THE INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, O Lord... joining the song of the universal Church and the heavenly choir:

SANCTUS

Sanctus

Ho - ly! Ho - ly!

Ho - ly Lord God of power and might. Hea - ven and earth are

full, are full of Your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

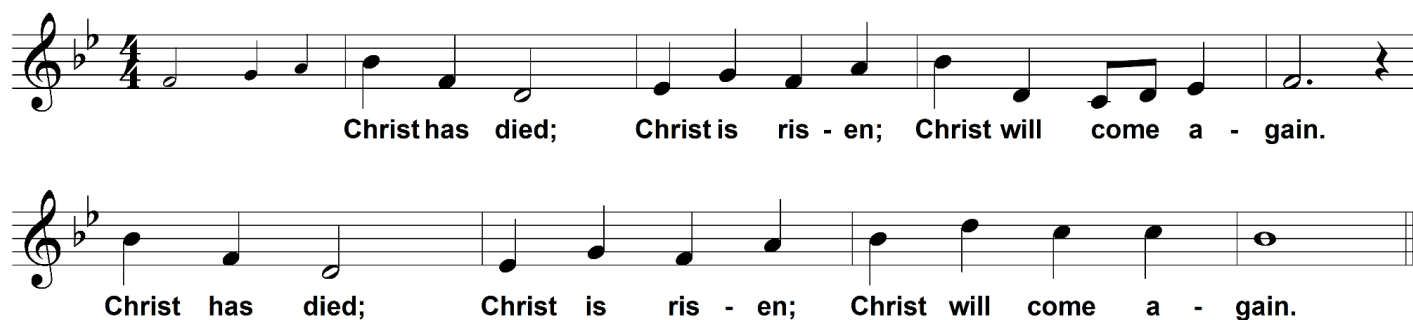
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na!

Ho - san - na! Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Leader: Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast:

Christ Has Died; Christ is Risen

Memorial acclamation



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: And now as Christ our Savior taught we are bold to pray,

People: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SHARING THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Lord's Supper is for the hungry and thirsty. It's a feast for those seeking God, in Christ, to be nourished for the life of love to which God calls us all. So come, eat, drink, and meet our Lord Jesus.

*Holy Communion will be served by passing trays through the pews. The servers will serve the bread first and once everyone has been served we will eat together at the invitation of the pastor. Then the servers will pass out the cups containing grape juice, after all have been served we will drink together at the invitation of the pastor. **All bread is gluten/peanut/tree-nut/dairy/egg free.** We trust that as we are gathered at Christ's table we are also gathered in the Spirit with Christ and surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.*

*COMMUNION PRAYER

Gracious God, we give you thanks that by the witness of your word and the sharing of this meal you have opened our hearts and eyes to the presence of Christ among us. Now send us forth from this place by the power of your Spirit to tell this good news to the world: The Lord has risen indeed! Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

#246 Christ Is Alive!

*BLESSING

CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST IS RISEN INDEED!

POSTLUDE

Toccata from the Fifth Organ Symphony

Charles-Marie Widor

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

The flowers that adorn the sanctuary this morning have been donated by members of our congregation In Memory and In Honor of loved ones....

*If you purchased flowers, please make sure to take these home with you after this service.
Thank you!*

Deb Anderson

In Honor of: *5 Siblings & Parents*

Marlene Aldrich

In Memory of: *Jerry & Bernie Aldrich*

Barb & Larry Janski

In Honor of: *Family & Friends*

Beth Gillis

In Honor of: *Family & 5 Years Cancer Free*

Kevin Spike

In Memory of: *Walter & Katherine Spike*

Mary Markve-Patch

In Honor of: *Lachlan Corvidae & Gavia Louise*

Sharon Stewart

In Memory of: *Our Parents & Brother*

Mary Coleman

In Memory of: *Ken Coleman*

Terry Rajala

In Honor of: *Pastor Sarah, Lori Leathers, & SOJ Members*

Patti Pokorney

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship and Prayer for Illumination were written by Rev. Sarah Speed, A Sanctified Art. All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

Because He Lives Words by Gloria and William Gaither Music by William Gaither Setting by Joel Raney ©1971 and this Arr. ©2011 William J. Gaither, Inc. Sole selling agent of this arrangement Agape (a division of Hope Publishing Company)

#232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today | TEXT: Stanzas 1–3, Lyra Davidica, 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740 Spanish trans. Juan Bautista Cabrera, alt.; Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea | MUSIC: Lyra Davidica, 1708; adapt. from The Compleat Psalmodist, 1749 | Public domain

#233 The Day of the Resurrection! | TEXT: John of Damascus, 8th cent.; trans. John Mason Neale, 1862, alt. | MUSIC: Henry Thomas Smart, c. 1835 | Public domain

#246 Christ is Alive! | TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1995 | MUSIC: Musica Sacra, c. 1778 | Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

What Joy! He Lives! Robert Wetzler ©1977 A.M.S.I

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sponsor a Backpack: TODAY is the last day to sponsor a backpack! We are hoping to donate 150 backpacks with supplies to the Buffalo Food Shelf. These will be given to students in the fall. Each backpack is \$10.00.

Spring Clean-Up Day: Saturday, April 26, beginning at 8:30 am. We'll conclude with lunch together in the Fellowship Hall. Come when you can, stay as long as you want. It will include both indoor and outdoor projects, some very easy ones and some that require a bit more physical effort. We need all the help we can get!

April 27th CCC: Join us for CCC on April 27th to learn about Habitat for Humanity.

Pastor Brian's Sabbatical: Brian will be on Sabbatical from April 29th through July 28th. Please join us for worship on April 27th as we wish him well on his time away!

How can we pray for you?



Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

BPC PRAYER LIST:

- Larry Pattee
- Nancy Gritman
- Dennis Sleetten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodi Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery

UPCOMING THIS WEEK

Today April 20th	8:30am: Easter Breakfast 9:30am: Worship with Holy Communion
Monday April 21st	4:00pm: Deacons Meeting
Tuesday April 22nd	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe
Wednesday April 23rd	7:00pm: Adult Choir
Thursday April 24th	7:30am: People of Faith 10:00am: Women of Faith 5:30pm: Racial Justice Reading Group
Saturday April 26th	8:30am: Spring Clean-Up Day
Sunday April 27th	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC: Habitat for Humanity

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Brian Entz, Pastor

Mike Agre, Choir Director

Ralph Johansen, Organist

Mike Quady, Clerk of Session

Christy Wood, Administrative Assistant

232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

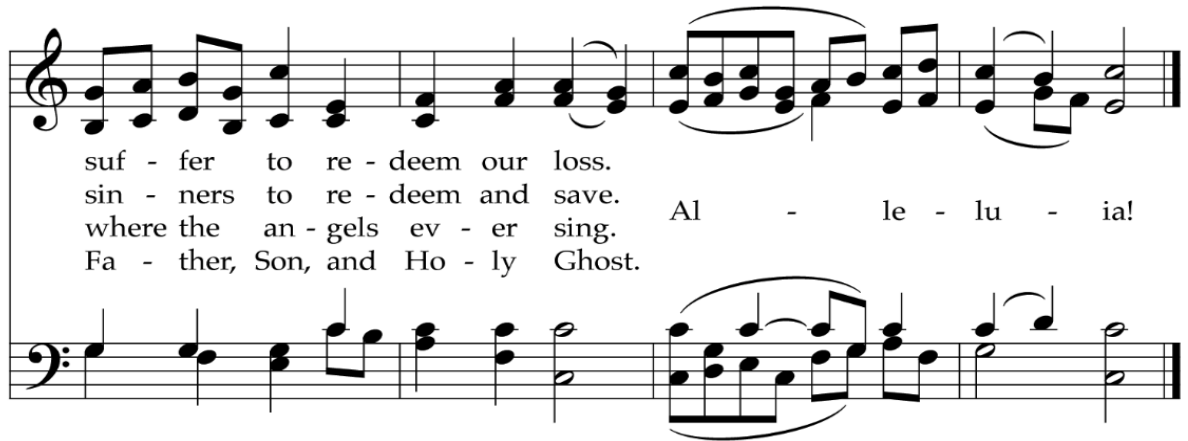
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day,
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured,
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove,

our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured.
 praise e - ter - nal as God's love.

who did once up - on the cross,
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,

It seems likely that this beloved Easter text began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

JESUS CHRIST: RESURRECTION



SPANISH

- 1 El Señor resucitó, ¡Aleluya!
 muerte y tumba ya venció. ¡Aleluya!
 Con su fuerza y su virtud ¡Aleluya!
 cautivó la esclavitud. ¡Aleluya!
- 2 El que al polvo se humilló, ¡Aleluya!
 vencedor se levantó. ¡Aleluya!
 Cante hoy la cristiandad ¡Aleluya!
 su gloriosa majestad. ¡Aleluya!
- 3 Cristo, que la cruz sufrió, ¡Aleluya!
 y en desolación se vio, ¡Aleluya!
 hoy en gloria celestial ¡Aleluya!
 reina vivo e inmortal. ¡Aleluya!
- 4 Cristo, nuestro Salvador, ¡Aleluya!
 de la muerte es triunfador. ¡Aleluya!
 En El hemos de confiar. ¡Aleluya!
 Cantaremos sin cesar. ¡Aleluya!

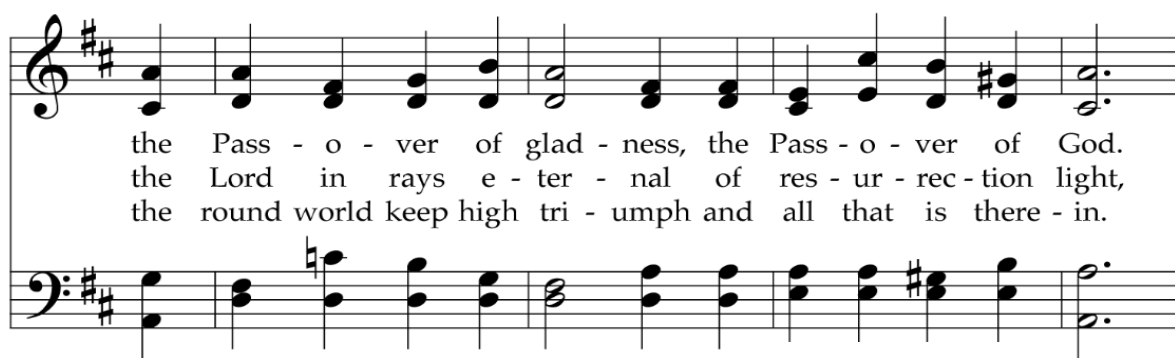
KOREAN

- 1 예수부활 했으니 할렐루야
 만민찬송 하여라
 천사들이 즐거워
 기뻐찬송 부르네
- 2 대속하신 주 예수 할렐루야
 선한싸움 이겼네
 사망권세 이기고
 하늘문을 여셨네
- 3 마귀권세 이긴주 할렐루야
 왕의왕이 되셨네
 높은이름 세상에
 널리반포 하여라
- 4 길과진리 되신주 할렐루야
 우리부활 하겠네
 부활생명 되시니
 우리부활 하겠네

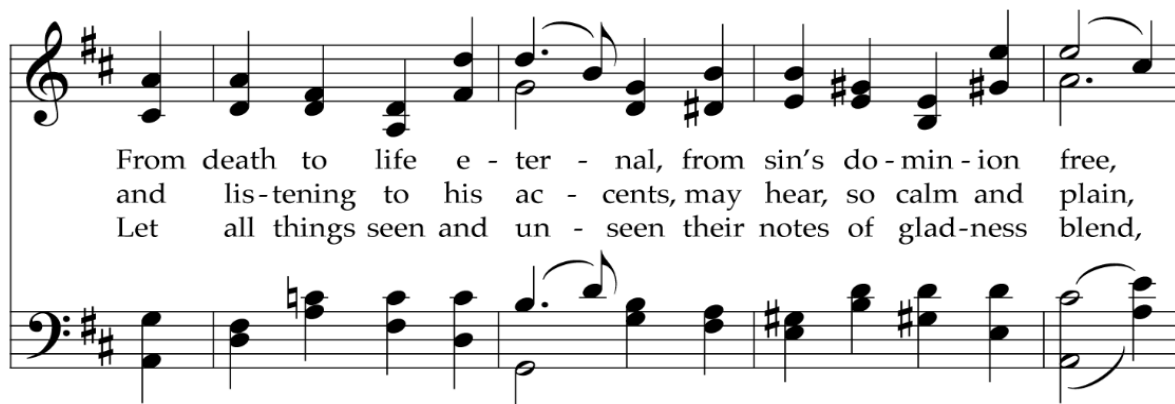
233 The Day of Resurrection!



1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful; let earth its song be - gin;



the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light,
the round world keep high tri - umph and all that is there - in.



From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,
and lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.
his own "All hail!" and hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The roots of this English text come from a mid-8th century Greek hymn that continues to be used in Orthodox churches at the midnight Eucharist marking the beginning of Easter. The tune is named for the county in northwestern England where the composer was then an organist.

Christ Is Alive!

246

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No lon - ger bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.