

Liturgy
Third Sunday of Easter
Year A

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The grave is empty!

Alleluia! He is risen indeed!

God has glorified His servant Jesus!

He is the Holy and Righteous One,

the Author of life, whom God has raised from the dead.

To this we are witnesses.

Let us praise Him forever for what He has done:

The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;

He lifts up those who are bowed down;

He loves the righteous.

How blessed are those whose hope is in the LORD their God!

As for me, I will hope continually,

and will praise Him more and more.

We will go in the strength of the LORD,

and proclaim His righteousness and His saving acts

all the day!

— from Acts 3:13-15, Psalm 146 and 71

Haven't You Heard?

Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?

Mary was there at crack of the dawn.

Weeping, she found Him down in the garden;

Laughter is living and grieving is gone.

Chorus:

Our hearts are glowing, our eyes are showing

That Jesus lives!

Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?

Cleopas told us. Evening drew on.

Walking and talking, traveling with them,

Jesus was present: now grieving is gone.

Chorus

Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?

Peter was fishing. Out of the dawn

Jesus called, "Shoot your net to the starboard" —

Fishing is thriving and grieving is gone.

Chorus

Haven't you heard that Jesus is risen?

Haven't you heard that Jesus goes on?

Haven't you heard that Jesus is with us?

Laughter is living and grieving is gone!

Chorus

*LECTIONARY for the third Sunday of
Easter, Year A:*

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19

1 Peter 1:17-23

Luke 24:13-35

In the liturgical year, the season traditionally known as Eastertide is a distinct period of fifty days, beginning with Resurrection Sunday and culminating on the Day of Pentecost. In this season as we step through each of the Sundays, the Church focuses on the ongoing meaning and significance of Christ's sacrifice and resurrection for the redemption of all of God's creation. In Year A, the lectionary invites us to ponder this theme through several amazing and remarkable encounters and interactions of Christ with His disciples..

The third Sunday of Easter is traditionally devoted to the theme of worship—in particular, worship of the risen Christ. This week the reading from Luke's gospel contains the narrative of the encounter of two disciples with Christ on the Emmaus Road. It was the evening of the day of Resurrection. Did you ever notice that one of these two travelers was Jesus' uncle, Cleopas? (See John 19:25.) At first they did not recognize Him. But their eyes were opened when, after agreeing to go with them to their home, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. "Were not our hearts burning within us," they exclaimed to each other, "while He was talking to us on the road, while He was opening the Scriptures to us?" What a joyous moment of worship!

The lovely Haven't You Heard? is available at hymnary.org. This joyful Easter hymn is found in the wonderful hymnal, Common Ground, published by Saint Andrew Press. The song is especially appropriate for this Sunday, as the second verse echoes the narrative of Luke 24.

INVOCATION

Prayers of adoration, praise, and thanksgiving for God's presence

Open My Eyes That I May See

Open my eyes that I may see
Glimpses of truth Thou hast for me.
Place in my hands the wonderful key
That shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me,
Spirit divine.

Open my ears that I may hear
Voices of truth Thou sendest clear.
And while the wave-notes fall on my ear,
Everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine.

Text and music: Clara H. Scott, 1895. Public domain.

We use the first two verses of this nineteenth-century hymn as a sung prayer to close a time of spontaneous prayer and praise. The second verse is a lovely and natural segue way to the Profession of Faith, which today is based on the epistle reading of the lectionary.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We know that it was not with perishable things,
like silver or gold,
that we were redeemed from the futile way of life
inherited from our ancestors,
but with the precious blood of Christ,
like that of a lamb without defect or blemish.

*He was chosen and destined
before the foundation of the world,
but was revealed in these last days
for our sake.*

**Through Him we believe in God,
who raised Him from the dead
and glorified Him,
so that our faith and hope are set on God.
For we have been born anew,
not of perishable
but of imperishable seed,
through the living and enduring word of God.**

– based on 1 Peter 1:18-23

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

O LORD, I love the habitation of Your house,
and the place where Your glory dwells.
Examine me, O LORD, and try me; test my mind and my heart.
For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes. – Psalm 26:2, 8

Most merciful God, **we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

Eternal Light, **shine into our hearts.**
Eternal Goodness, **deliver us from evil.**
Eternal Power, **be our strength and support.**
Eternal Compassion, **have mercy upon us.**

[Silence]

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, **forgive us and renew us. Grant that we may ever seek Your face with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and be brought by Your infinite mercy to Your holy presence; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

–from a prayer of Alcuin of Tours, 8th C, alt.

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.
(repeat)

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace.
O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
Grant us peace, grant us your peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

This is God's assurance of His love and deliverance:
The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous,
and His ears are open to their cry.
He is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves those who have a contrite spirit.
– Psalm 34:16, 18

I love the LORD,
because He has heard my voice and my supplications.
Because He inclined His ear unto me,
therefore I shall call upon Him as long as I live.
Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
Return to your rest, O my soul,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

He has delivered our souls from death,
our eyes from tears, our feet from stumbling.
We will walk before the LORD in the land of the living.
– from Psalm 116:1-9

This setting of the ancient prayer of confession, Agnus Dei, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also included in the collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1. You may hear Agnus Dei in the Audio Media Studio.

Links:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/agnus-dei>
https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/music_library/agnus-dei-clip

Passing of the Peace

TIME OF OFFERING

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart.
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best thought in the day and the night;
Both waking and sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom, be Thou my true word.
Thou ever with me and I with Thee, Lord.
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

Be Thou my breastplate, my sword for my fight,
Thou my whole armor, and Thou my true might.
Thou my soul's shelter, be Thou my strong tower.
O raise Thou me heavenward, great Power of my power.

Riches I need not, nor man's empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance now and always.
Thou and Thou only, the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure Thou art.

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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Ancient Irish hymn text. Hymn tune: SLANE.
Transl. Mary Byrne, 1905. Versified by Eleanor Hull, 1912.

THE WORD

Acts 2:14a, 36-41
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19
1 Peter 1:17-23
Luke 24:13-35

Open My Eyes That I May See (verse 3)

Open my mouth and let me bear
Gladly the warm truth everywhere;
Open my heart, and let me prepare
Love with Thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for Thee,
Ready, my God, Thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine.

Text and tune: Clara H. Scott, 1895.

THE TABLE

Remembering the Body of Christ

The Lord be with you! **And also with you!**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Ellen's setting of Be Thou My Vision is available in the Music Catalog (Hymn Settings) as a lead sheet, and scored for piano and/or keyboard (on request).

Be sure to read the commentary on this hymn in the Music Room for instrumental suggestions, interesting historical background and suggestions for other usages in worship services.

Here's a link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/be-thou-my-vision>

We sing the third verse of our Invocation song here as a sung prayer of illumination in preparation for the time of teaching.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again!**

The Lord's Prayer (spoken)

**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**

Behold the Lamb

Behold the Lamb who bears our sins away,
Slain for us:
And we remember
The promise made that all who come in faith
Find forgiveness at the cross.
So, we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of peace
Around the table of the King.

The body of our Savior, Jesus Christ,
Torn for you:
Eat and remember
The wounds that heal, the death that brings us life,
Paid the price to make us one.
So, we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of love
Around the table of the King.

The blood that cleanses ev'ry stain of sin,
Shed for you:
Drink and remember
He drained death's cup that all may enter in
To receive the life of God.
So, we share in this Bread of Life,
And we drink of His sacrifice,
As a sign of our bonds of grace
Around the table of the King.

And so with thankfulness and faith we rise
To respond,
And to remember
Our call to follow in the steps of Christ
As His body here on earth.
As we share in His suffering,
We proclaim: Christ will come again!
And we'll join in the feast of heav'n
Around the table of the King.

SENDING FORTH

Be Thou My Vision (verse 5)

High King of heaven, Thou heaven's bright sun;
Grant me its joys e'er the victory is won.
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O ruler of all.

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Benediction:

Beloved, the glorious Lord of life,
by the mighty resurrection of Jesus Christ
overcame the old order of sin and death
to make all things new in Him.

Amen. Thanks be to God!

Now, as He walked with His disciples on the Emmaus road
and was revealed to them in the breaking of bread,
so may our encounter with the living Christ
compel us to go forth into the world
to love and serve the Lord—
with burning hearts, giving joyful witness
to what we have seen and believed,

Amen. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship...

“One of the greatest discoveries of my Christian pilgrimage has come with the realization that the primary importance in worship is not what I do but what God is doing. In worship, God is present, speaking to me, and acting upon me. It is in worship that God feeds, nourishes, and cares for me. And it is in worship that he gives me his grace, surrounds me with his love, lifts me up into his arms, affirms me as a member of his community, and sends me forth into the world with a fresh vision of his work and a new concern to live for him.” (Robert E. Webber, *Worship is a Verb: Celebrating God's Mighty Deeds of Salvation* [Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishing, 1992], 66.)

Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2:19-25
John 10:1-10

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We repeat the final verse of our song of Offering as we are sent out, with joy, into the world to love and serve the risen Lord!