

Liturgy

The Third Sunday of Easter Year C

GATHERING

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.

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.

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!

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Alleluia! Christ is risen! The grave is empty!
Alleluia! Christ is risen indeed!

Come, sing praises to the LORD,
O you His faithful ones,
and give thanks to His holy name.

**We extol you, O LORD, for You have lifted us up.
You have turned our mourning into dancing;
You have filled us with joy
So that our souls may praise You and not be silent.**

O LORD, our God, we will give thanks to You forever,
and with the saints of all the ages we proclaim:

**Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and riches
and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and praise!**

– from Psalm 30 and Revelation 5

LECTIONARY for the third Sunday of Easter, Year C

Acts 9:1-20

Psalms 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

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 meaning and significance of the Resurrection not only for us as individual, redeemed members of the Body of Christ, but also its significance for all of creation. In Year C, our special focus is on walking in the joyful truth of the Resurrection as Christ's disciples who seek to follow Him moment by moment, giving witness to that truth through our words and all of our lives.

The third Sunday of Easter is traditionally devoted to the theme of worship—and in particular, worship of the risen Christ. We see this theme in each of the Scriptures, most obviously in the description of heavenly worship found in Revelation 5. Through this lens, we read Paul's dramatic encounter with Christ on the Damascus road, his blindness and subsequent healing and conversion, and his statement of worship—"He [Jesus] is the Son of God!"—that came to define his life and ministry. In Psalm 30 is the joyful declaration that God has turned our mourning into dancing; therefore we will praise and thank Him forever. And in John's narrative of the third time Jesus appeared to His disciples after He rose in victory from the dead, we learn, along with those disciples, that there are innumerable joys and blessings, along with responsibilities and even, perhaps, undesired consequences of living a life of focused worship and discipleship of Christ.

The lovely Haven't You Heard? is available at hymnary.org. This joyful Easter hymn is found in the wonder-

Crown Him With Many Crowns

Crown Him with many crowns,
The Lamb upon His throne.
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns
All music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing
Of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King
Through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of love!
Behold His hands and side –
Rich wounds, yet visible above,
In beauty glorified.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
For Thou hast died for me:
Thy praise and glory shall not fail
Throughout eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of life!
Who triumphed o'er the grave;
Who rose victorious in the strife
For those He came to save.
His glories now we sing,
Who died and rose on high,
Who died eternal life to bring
And lives that death may die.

Public domain. Text: Matthew Bridges, 1851.
Hymn tune: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

ful hymnal, Common Ground, published by Saint Andrew Press. The song is especially appropriate for this Sunday, as it echoes the narrative of John 21.

INVOCATION

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

Let the Peoples Praise

Worthy is the Lamb, worthy is the Lamb.
(Repeat)

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Only One, only One worthy (3x)
Worthy is the Lamb.

Let the peoples praise You, O God. (4x)

Glory to the Righteous One (3x)
From the ends of the earth we hear songs.
(Hallelujah! The Lamb has won).

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PROFESSION OF FAITH

This is the gospel, which we received,
by which we were saved,
and in which we stand:

**Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures;
He was buried, and was raised on the third day
according the Scriptures,
and He appeared to many faithful witnesses.**

*In Christ, the Lamb, we have redemption through His blood,
the forgiveness of our sins
in accordance with the riches of His grace.*

**For the joy set before Him,
He endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

He reigns far above all rule and authority and power and dominion,
and every name that is named, not only in this age,
but also in the age to come –
King of kings, and Lord of lords!

– from 1 Corinthians 15:1-7; Ephesians 1:7, 20-21, Hebrews 12:2

Reading:

Revelation 5:11-14

Crown Him with Many Crowns (sung)

Crown Him the Lord of lords,
Who over all doth reign,
Who once on earth, th'incarnate Word,
For ransomed sinners slain,
Now lives in realms of light,
Where saints with angels sing
Their songs before Him day and night,
Their God, Redeemer, King.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Thus says the high and exalted One who inhabits eternity,
whose name is Holy, "I dwell in the high and holy place,
and with the contrite and lowly of spirit,
in order to revive the spirit of the lowly
and to revive the heart of the contrite."

– Isaiah 57:15

*For though the Lord is exalted, yet He regards the lowly,
but the proud He knows from afar.*

– Psalm 130:6

[Silence]

**Righteous God, for our sake You made Christ, who knew no sin,
to be sin, for our redemption. He became what we are so that
we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.**

[Silence]

**Yet we confess that often we ignore our sin.
Too often we do not confess.
We keep silent about the sin that clings to us.
But our sins are too great a burden for us.
Forgive us. In Christ take away our iniquity,
and grant that we may serve You in newness of life
to the glory of Your name.
Amen.**

The prayer of confession is taken from Reformed Worship, a quarterly journal of resources for planning and leading worship. CRC Publications, #34, December 1994. (Resources are declared to be in the public domain.) URL: <https://www.reformedworship.org/article/december-1994/genuine-sorrowwholehearted-joy-why-when-and-how-confession>

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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This setting of the traditional prayer of confession, Agnus Dei, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. You may hear Agnus Dei in the Audio Media Studio.

Here are the links:

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

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, God's faithful ones:
this is the good news of God's salvation:

**By His resurrection He has overcome death
so that He might make us share in the righteousness
He won for us by His death.**

**By His power we too are already now resurrected to a new life.
Christ's resurrection is a guarantee of our glorious resurrection.**

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 45

Since we have been justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Through Him we also have obtained access by faith
into this grace in which we stand,
and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God!

— Romans 5:1-2

Thanks be to God!

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and testimonies of thanksgiving and praise

My Lips Will Praise You

My lips will praise You,
For You are holy.
My voice will ever rise before Your throne.
My heart will love You,
For You are lovely,
And You have called me
To become Your own.

I am Your own,
And I will worship You alone.
I am Your own,
I am Your child.
I am Your own,
And I will worship at Your throne.
I am Your own,
And I will love You.

CCLI Song #2552912 ©1998 Ariose Music/Mountain Spring Music. Twila Paris.

THE WORD

Acts 9:1-20

Psalm 30

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

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.

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

Our Father in Heaven (sung)

Our Father in heaven, Your name is holy,
Your name is holy, our Father.
Your kingdom come,
And Your will be done
Here on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us, we pray, our bread for today,
Our debts forgive and in turn we will live,
Forgiving of what others owe.
Keep us from trials;
Save us from our ancient foe!

As we sing the kingdom, we sing the power,
We sing the glory be Yours –
Forever. Amen. Amen. Amen!

Words: Chris Alford. Music: Chris Alford and Ellen Koehler.
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May the Words of My Mouth

May the words of my mouth
And the thoughts of my heart
Bless Your name, bless Your name, Jesus.
And the deeds of the day,
And the truth in my way,
Speak of You, speak of You, Jesus.

Chorus

For this is what I'm glad to do;
It's time to live a life of love that pleases You.
And I will give my all to You,
Surrender everything I have and follow You,
I'll follow You.

Lord, will You be my vision,
Lord, will You be my Guide?
Be my hope, be my life, and the Way.
And I'll look not for riches,
Nor praises on the earth,
Only You'll be the first of my heart.

Chorus

Music for this setting of the Lord's Prayer, Our Father in Heaven, is available in the sheet music catalog as a lead sheet, and as a solo/melody line with piano accompaniment on request.

Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/our-father-heaven>

Bridge

I will follow; I will follow You. (4x)

Chorus

CCLI Song #3232310 ©2000 Thankyou Music. Tim Hughes, Rob Hill.

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Crown Him With Many Crowns (reprise)

Crown Him the Lord of heav'n!
One with the Father known,
One with the Spirit thro' Him giv'n
From yonder glorious throne.
To Thee be endless praise,
For Thou for us hast died.
Be Thou, O Lord, thro' endless days
Adored and magnified!

Public domain. Text: Matthew Bridges, 1851.
Hymn tune: DIADEMATA, George J. Elvey, 1868.

Benediction:

"I am the resurrection and the life," says the Lord.
Because He lives, and has triumphed over death,
you also live.

Alleluia! Amen.

Since we have been raised with Christ,
let us go forth as His witnesses
in the joy and power of His resurrection.

Alleluia! Amen.

Almighty God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –
bless you now and forever, as you go forth into the world
to love and serve the risen Christ.

Amen. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

A thought about worship...

"The primary metaphor for the Easter season is the church as the resurrected people living a resurrected spirituality. Because of Easter we are in union with Christ and are called to live in our baptismal identity in his resurrection. This essential theme of Easter cannot be communicated in a day. It takes a season. . . . It is in worship that resurrection spirituality is learned and experienced." (Robert E. Webber, *Ancient-Future Time: Forming Spirituality through the Christian Year* [Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2004], 148-151).

Lectionary for next week: Acts 9:36-43
Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17
John 10:22-30

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