

Liturgy

Resurrection of the Lord
Year A

CALL TO WORSHIP

GATHERING

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His steadfast love endures forever.

**The LORD is my strength and my song;
He has become my salvation!**

There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous,
proclaiming what the LORD has done:

**The right hand of the LORD does valiantly;
the right hand of the LORD is exalted!**

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His steadfast love endures forever.

**Open the gates of righteousness;
we shall enter through them
and give thanks to the LORD.**

Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;
His steadfast love endures forever!

**The stone the builders rejected
has become the chief cornerstone;
This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes!**

This is the day the LORD has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

— from Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Christ the Lord is risen today. Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high. Alleluia!
Sing ye heav'ns and earth reply: Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King. Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Dying once He all doth save. Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done. Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise. Alleluia!
Christ has opened paradise. Alleluia!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: EASTER HYMN, from *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

*LECTIONARY for Easter Sunday:
Resurrection of the Lord, Year A:*

Acts 10:34-43

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Psalm 118: 1-2 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

John 20:1-18

The Easter Song

CCLI song #12279
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Anne Herring

Today is the highest day of the entire Christian year, when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead and His triumphant victory over sin, death, and all manner and power of darkness. Our long journey of Lent—as we have walked with Christ in His own footsteps on the way to the cross, that we might become ever more like Him, taking on His likeness and His heart for the world—is completed. The Lenten journey is finished, but the things we have learned and the transformations God has worked in us will remain and grow.

And now, on this Resurrection Sunday, along with Christ's disciples we rejoice in amazement and gratitude at the love, power, and salvation of God!

The contemporary classic—The Easter Song—is a wonderful Call to Worship either played as an instrumental setting or sung, because of its exuberant expression and declaration of the resurrection of the Lord..

Christ the Lord Is Risen today is perhaps the best-known of the traditional Easter anthems. There are many wonderful arrangements available in a wide variety of styles. And many hymnals have added features such as alternately harmonized verses and/or descants. This is a Sunday to be creative in your musical choices!

INVOCATION

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

Lord, open our lips;

And our mouths shall proclaim Your praise.

Alleluia! The lovingkindness of the Lord is everlasting.

Easter Doxology (Jesus Christ Is Risen Today)

Hymns of praise, then, let us sing:

Alleluia!

Unto Christ, our heavenly King:

Alleluia!

Who endured the cross and grave:

Alleluia!

Sinners to redeem and save:

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; transl. in Lyra Davidica, 1708, Hymn tune: Robert Williams
Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us together profess the faith of the church of all ages
in these words based on the epistles of the Apostle Paul:

Christ died for all,
in order that they who are alive may live no longer for themselves
but for Him who died for them and rose again.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

If then any are in Christ, they are new creations.

The former things have passed away; behold, they are made new!

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

For God, who commanded light to shine out of darkness,
has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge
of the glory of God in the face of Christ Jesus.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*For once you were darkness,
but now you are light in the Lord.*

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Walk, then, as children of light –
for the fruit of the light is in all goodness and righteousness and truth –
trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*For if we live, we live to the Lord;
and if we die, we die to the Lord.*

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

We were buried with Christ in baptism,
in which we also were raised with Him through faith
in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

Whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.

"Death is swallowed up in victory!

O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

**Thanks be to God, who has given us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ! Amen.**

– from Romans 14:8; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57;
2 Corinthians 4:6; 5:15-17;
Ephesians 5:8-10; Colossians 2:12

We use this doxological verse of another well-known and beloved Easter hymn to close this time of corporate prayer and praise.

The lead sheet is available by request.

You may email us at:

clerestorynotes@gmail.com

The Profession of Faith weaves together passages from the epistles of the Apostle Paul that strongly declare the power of the cross and the ultimate victory won by Jesus Christ—Christus Victor—through His death and resurrection.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

Gracious and merciful God,
for our redemption You gave Your only-begotten Son to the death of the cross,
and by His resurrection You destroyed the power of sin and death.
Yet we confess that we do not always live as Your redeemed covenant people.

Too often we have not done Your will. [silence]

We have rebelled against Your love. [silence]

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. [silence]

We have not trusted in Your promises. [silence]

Forgive us, we pray.

**Grant that we, who celebrate with joy Christ's raising from the dead,
may so die daily to sin that we may evermore live with Him in the joy
of His resurrection, walking in Your ways to the glory of Your name.
Amen.**

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Have mercy on us.
O Lamb of God,
You take away the sins of the world;
Grant us peace, Grant us peace.

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ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here is the good news of God's salvation and His promise of pardon:

If for this life only we have hope in Christ,
we are of all people most to be pitied.
But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead,
the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

*For since by a man came death,
by a Man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Who then is in a position to condemn? Only Christ.

**But Christ suffered and died for us;
He was raised from the dead for us;
He reigns in power for us and He intercedes for us.**

– from 1 Corinthians 15:19-22; Romans 8:34

In Christ, we are forgiven! In Him we live!
Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

These prayers of confession and repentance are adapted from the Collect for today contained in the Book of Common Prayer.

TIME OF OFFERING

Words and prayers of thanksgiving and praise

Almighty God, we wonder anew at Your goodness and steadfast love.

**With grateful hearts, we bring Your tithes and our offerings
as expressions of our worship and reflections of Your steadfast love.
We come to the wonderful cross; our whole lives we lay down before You.**

The Wonder of Your Cross

The wonder of Your cross shall be our meditation,
To gather in that shadow as the sun went down;
To weep with those who thought that You were leaving,
You were leaving, Jesus;
The humble King who never wore an earthly crown.

To steal away at night when they took down Your body,
With love and tears to leave You in a borrowed grave;
To go with Mary to that place they laid You,
Where they laid You, Jesus;
And in the morning find the stone was rolled away.

Chorus

The cross, O the wonderful cross; what glory, what vict'ry I've found;
I'll come to the wonderful cross and my whole life I lay down.

Were heaven's praises silent in those hours of darkness?
Your Holy Spirit brooding 'round that empty throne?
Until the declaration, 'He is risen.' You are risen, Jesus;
He is not dead; behold, He lives forevermore!

CCLI Song #4372956. ©2004 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Robin Mark

THE WORD

Acts 10:34-43

Colossians 3:1-4

Jeremiah 31:1-6

Matthew 28:1-10

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

John 20:1-18

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.

...

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!**

...

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

The Lord's Prayer (sung)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heav'n.
Provide each day our daily needs;
Forgive our sins as we forgive others' wrongs;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom, forever and ever;
And Thine is the power, forever and ever;
And Thine is the glory, now and forever,
Amen, amen, amen.

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Turn Your Eyes

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Turn your eyes to the hillside
Where justice and mercy embrace.
There the Son of God gave His life for us,
And our measureless debt was erased,

Chorus:

Jesus, to You we lift our eyes.
Jesus, our glory and our prize.
We adore You, behold You,
Our Savior ever true;
Oh, Jesus, we turn our eyes to You.

Turn your eyes to the morning
And see Christ the Lion awake.
What a glorious dawn, fear of death is gone,
For we carry His life in our veins.

Chorus

Turn your eyes to the heavens;
Our King will return for His own.
Every knee will bow, every tongue will shout:
"All glory to Jesus alone!"

Chorus

CCLI Song #7120053 ©2019 Sovereign Grace Praise | Sovereign Grace Songs |
Sovereign Grace Worship. Original words and music: Helen H. Lemmel.
Add'l words and music: George Romanacce, Nic Trout, Kevin Winebarger, Nathan Stiff

The Lord's Prayer is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano.

Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/sheetmusic/lords-prayer>

You can hear The Lord's Prayer in the Audio Media Studio.

Link:

<https://clerestorynotes.com/live/content/audio-media-studio-clips>

It is also available in the music collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1.

Link:

https://clerestorynotes.com/live/product/sheetmusic_collections/singing-liturgy-volume-1

Alternate choices for Communion music on this Easter Sunday are:

- O Praise the Name (Anástasis)
(CCLI Song #7037787 ©2015 Hillsong Music. Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings, Dean Ussher);
- In Christ Alone (CCLI Song #3350395 ©2001 Thankyou Music. Keith Getty and Stuart Townend.)

SENDING FORTH

The Life of the Body

Christ the Lord is Risen Today (verse 4)

Soar we now where Christ has led.

Alleluia!

Foll'wing our exalted Head.

Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise.

Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Alleluia!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1739. Music: EASTER HYMN, from *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

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 from this place as His witnesses in the joy and power of His resurrection.

And may His resurrection bring you all joy and perseverance so that, as you remember and walk out your baptisms, you may also abound in hope.

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 from the ancient Fathers –

"What sort of garland did Christ Jesus. . . submit to on behalf of humanity? One made of thorns and thistles – a symbol of our sins, produced by the soil of the flesh. However, the power of the cross removed these thorns, blunting death's every sting in the Lord's enduring head. . . . This was so that now you might be crowned with laurel, myrtle, olive, and any famous branch . . . garlands that will rival even the crown Christ obtained afterwards. For after the gall, He tasted the honeycomb. He was not greeted in heaven as the King of Glory until He had been condemned to the cross as King of the Jews. The Father first made Him a little lower than the angels for a time and then crowned Him with glory and honor. If you owe your own head to Him for these things, repay it if you can; He presented His for yours. Otherwise, don't be crowned with flowers at all; if you can't be crowned with thorns, you may never be crowned with flowers." – Tertullian

Lectionary for next week: Acts 2:1-14a, 22-32; Psalm 16; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

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We bookend this service of worship and celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord with this classic Easter hymn of the Church. Here, we sing one of the final verses (there are at least 10!), as we are sent out into the world to love and serve the Lord with the resounding declaration of Christ's victory and the joy of eternal life in Him.

On Easter, remember, we return to the final shouts of praise (from which we have fasted during Lent), "Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!" Especially on this Resurrection Sunday, let's join in the tradition of saying each "Alleluia!" with increasing volume and exuberance.