

Liturgy

Resurrection of the Lord
Year B

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Easter Song
Anne Herring, ©1974 Latter Rain Music

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 B*

*Acts 10:34-43
Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18
Mark 16:1-8*

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—Anne Herring's The Easter Song—is a wonderful Call to Worship, either as an instrumental setting or sung, because of its exuberant expression of 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)

Sing we to our God above; Alleluia!

Praise eternal as His love; Alleluia!

Praise Him, all you heavenly host; Alleluia!

Father, Son and Holy Ghost; Alleluia!

Text: Latin hymn, 14th century; transl. in *Lyra Davidica*; 1708 (altered);
This verse, Charles Wesley. Hymn tune: LLANFAIR, Robert Williams, 1817.
Setting: Ellen Koehler. Copyright ©2011 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Let us affirm together the testimony of the apostle Peter:

God shows no partiality:

**But in every nation anyone who fears Him
and does what is right is accepted by Him.**

*This is the message God sent, announcing the good news
of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.*

**God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power;
He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed
by the devil, for God was with Him.**

And yet they put Him to death by hanging Him on a tree.

**But God raised Him to life on the third day
and revealed Him to those who were chosen by God as witnesses,
and who ate and drank with Him after He rose from the dead.**

*He is the One ordained by God
as Judge of the living and the dead.*

**Of Him all the prophets bear witness
that everyone who believes in Him
receives forgiveness of sins through His name.**

—based on Acts 10:34-43

Jesus Christ is Risen Today (sung)

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!

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

Music for Ellen's setting of the Easter Doxology is available on request.

You may email us at:

cleestorynotes@gmail.com

The Profession of Faith sets today's reading from Acts for two readers, or groups in the congregation, with the bold text read by all.

This sung response is another verse from the hymn used just above (hymn tune LLANFAIR). We like to sing this verse one key up from the one above (here, in the key of D).

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.

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.**

Holy, Holy Lamb

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Holy, holy Lamb.
Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,
He's worthy of all worship and praise:
Holy, holy Lamb.

Cantor (solo):

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne;
Salvation belongs to our God, and unto the Lamb.

Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,
Who takes away the sin of the world,
Holy, holy Lamb.
Holy, holy Lamb; holy, holy Lamb,
He's worthy of all worship and praise: Holy, holy Lamb.

CCLI Song #1197052 ©1993 Maranatha! Music. Dan Burgess.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Here is the good news of God's salvation, the word of the Lord;

*On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.*

And He will destroy on this mountain the shroud
that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that spread over all nations;
He will swallow up death forever.

*Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of His people He will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.*

It will be said on that day, "Lo, this is our God; we have waited for Him,
so that He might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation!"

– Isaiah 25:6-9

Thanks be to God!

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
is 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 No. 4372956. ©2004 Integrity's Hosanna! Music. Robin Mark

THE WORD

Acts 10:34-43

Isaiah 25:6-9

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-24

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

Mark 16:1-8

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.

Setting: Ellen Koehler Copyright ©2010 Ellen Koehler.
All Rights Reserved.

O Praise the Name (Anástasis)

I cast my mind to Calvary
Where Jesus bled and died for me.
I see His wounds, His hands, His feet;
My Savior on that cursed tree.

His body bound and drenched in tears;
They laid Him down in Joseph's tomb.
The entrance sealed by heavy stone;
Messiah still and all alone.

Chorus

O praise the Name of the Lord, our God,
O praise His Name forevermore.
For endless days we will sing Your praise,
Oh Lord, oh Lord, our God.

Then on the third, at break of dawn,
The Son of Heaven rose again.
O, trampled death, where is your sting?
The angels roar for Christ the King.

Chorus

He shall return in robes of white;
The blazing sun shall pierce the night.
And I will rise among the saints,
My gaze transfixed on Jesus' face.

Chorus

CCLI Song #7037787 ©2015 Hillsong Music Publishing.
Marty Sampson, Benjamin Hastings, Dean Ussher.

The Lord's Prayer is available in the music catalog as a lead sheet and scored for voice and piano. It is also available in the music collection, Singing the Liturgy, Volume 1.

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

Here's the link:

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

An alternative choice for Communion music on Easter Sunday is the well-known 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 4:32-35; Psalm 133; 1 John 1:1-2:2; John 20:19-31

Copyright ©2018, 2021, 2024 Ellen Koehler. All Rights Reserved.

URL: <https://www.clerestorynotes.com>

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.