

Together

AT THE EMPTY TOMB

PRELUDE

Christ Is Arisen

Lee Dengler

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

EASTER GREETING

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

I will exalt you, LORD,

for you lifted me out of the depths.

LORD my God, I called to you for help,

and you healed me.

O LORD, you brought me up from the grave;

You spared me from going down into the pit.

Sing to the LORD, you saints of his;

Praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,

But his favor lasts a lifetime.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, you form the minds of your faithful people into a single will.
Make us love what you command and desire what you promise,
that among the many changes of this world,
our hearts may ever yearn for the lasting joys of heaven;
through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.



Jesus Christ Is Risen Today is an anonymous 14th century Latin hymn. It is widely considered the most popular Easter hymn in American Christianity. The tune is titled EASTER HYMN.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



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



- Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



- Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Praise him, now his might con - fess, Al - le - lu - ia!



- Suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest. Al - le - lu - ia!

READING

Isaiah 12:1-6 (NIV)

Easter is a day to praise the Lord, for it proves that God's anger has now passed. His glorious resurrection means he is our salvation.

¹In that day you will say:

“I will praise you, LORD.

Although you were angry with me,
 your anger has turned away and you have comforted me.

²Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid.
 The LORD, the LORD himself, is my strength and my defense;
 he has become my salvation.”

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

⁴In that day you will say:

“Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name;
 make known among the nations what he has done,
 and proclaim that his name is exalted.

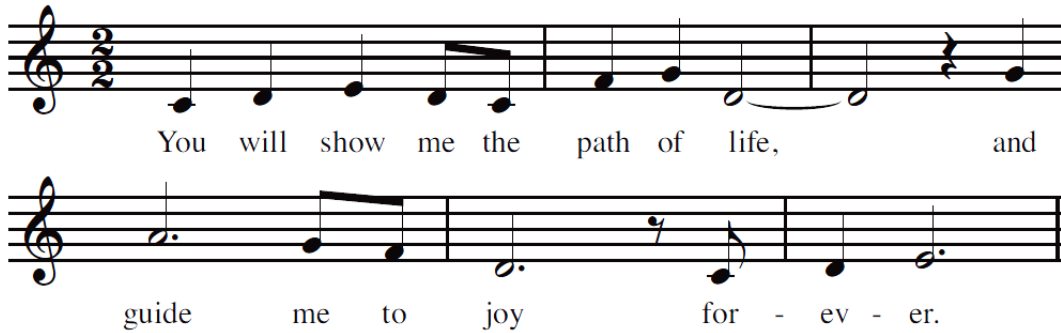
⁵Sing to the LORD, for he has done glorious things;
 let this be known to all the world.

⁶Shout aloud and sing for joy, people of Zion,
 for great is the Holy One of Israel among you.”

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 16

Cantors: *Refrain*



You will show me the path of life, and
guide me to joy for - ev - er.

Cantors: Keep me safe, O God. You are my hope.
You alone will be my saving God.

ALL: *Refrain*

Cantors: My portion and my cup, you hold me fast.
With you at my side I abide in peace.

ALL: *Refrain*

Cantors: I will bless you, LORD; you counsel me.
Even in the night you will guide my heart.

ALL: *Refrain*

Cantors: Now my heart is glad; my soul is filled with joy.
Never will my God abandon me.

ALL: *Refrain*

Cantors: You have guided me on the path of life.
In your presence, LORD, I am filled with joy.

ALL: *Refrain*

This Messianic psalm describes the security and eternal life of God's Holy One. It refers first of all to the resurrection of Christ. However, we can use this psalm as our personal prayer, because Christ has won all the blessings described in this psalm for us.



The risen Savior appears first not to the disciples but to Mary Magdalene.

The Gospel of St. John is the assigned gospel reading for Easter dawn.

GOSPEL

John 20:1-18 (NIV)

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance. ²So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don’t know where they have put him!”

³So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb. ⁴Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter, who was behind him, arrived and went into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there, ⁷as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus’ head. The cloth was folded up by itself, separate from the linen. ⁸Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed. ⁹(They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

¹⁰Then the disciples went back to where they were staying, ¹¹but Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb ¹²and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus’ body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

¹³They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”

“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” ¹⁴At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

¹⁵“Woman,” he said, “why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”

Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

¹⁶Jesus said to her, “Mary.”

She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

¹⁷Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”

¹⁸Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.



HYMN OF THE DAY

I Know that My Redeemer Lives



1 I know that my Re - deem - er lives; What com-fort
2 He lives tri - um - phant from the grave; He lives e -
3 He lives to bless me with his love; He lives to
5 He lives to si - lence all my fears; He lives to



this sweet sen - tence gives! He lives, he lives, who
ter - nal - ly to save. He lives all - glo - rious
plead for me a - bove. He lives, my hun - gry
wipe a - way my tears. He lives to calm my



once was dead; He lives, my ev - er - liv - ing Head!
in the sky; He lives ex - alt - ed there on high.
soul to feed; He lives to help in time of need.
trou - bled heart; He lives all bless - ings to im - part.

7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death.
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

8 He lives, all glory to his name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same.
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
“I know that my Redeemer lives!”

SERMON

Let There Be No Doubt!

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives was written by Samuel Medley around 1775. While Medley was born to Christian parents, he wanted little to do with church or religion. He once told his grandfather, “Of what use is all that?” Medley’s opinion changed at age 21 when he nearly died of an infection. Medley meditated upon what he had learned as a child—that because of Easter, there will be life after death. Medley not only physically recovered, he spiritually recovered. Medley was always musical. He turned his talents to hymn writing. His most famous is this Easter hymn. The tune, attributed to John Hatton, is titled DUKE STREET.

All Is Well is a 2012 hymn written by Steve and Vikki Cook. Psalm 34:18 says, "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted." In Hebrews 4:15,16, we are told Jesus can empathize with weakness. In Revelation 21:3-5, Christ promises that he will make everything new.

The Cooks pull these thoughts together in this hymn, which reminds us that no matter our earthly circumstances, because of the love we have in Christ, all is well.

This will be one of the new hymns in the 2021 *Christian Worship* hymnal.

In the Prayer of the Church, God's people do God's holy work by making intercession for themselves, for others, and for the world.

RESPONSE

All Is Well Because of God's Great Love

Cantors: The sun beams on behind the clouds
and in the dark still grace abounds;
all is well because of God's great love.
The road of disappointment runs
where unseen mercies wait for us,
and all is well because of God's great love.

ALL: *Refrain*



How bright - ly shines the love of the Fa - ther in our Sav - ior,
Je - sus Christ. With faith - ful hands he ful - fills ev - 'ry
prom - ise; he will nev - er leave our side.

Cantors: He feels our weakness, knows our need,
and for our good he intercedes;
all is well because of God's great love.
Through ev'ry failure, ev'ry fear
the Lord of comforts draws us near,
and all is well because of God's great love.

ALL: *Refrain*

Cantors: His coming soon will fill the sky
and all that's wrong will be made right;
with newborn eyes we will behold
the glory of the risen Lord.
All will be well because of God's great love;
Yes, all is well because of God's great love.

ALL: *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Risen Savior, we come to you in our weakness. We turn to you in our time of need. We place before you the disease present in our world. Bring wisdom to doctors. Give understanding to scientists. Endow caregivers with compassion. Bring healing to those who are ill. Protect those who are most at risk. Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one. Stabilize our communities. Unite us in our compassion. Remove all fear from our hearts. Fill us with confidence in your care. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Savior, use this pandemic to remind us that sickness and death are symptoms of the greater problem of sin. Fill our hearts with joy that through your death you have healed our souls, and in your resurrection you have granted us the hope of a life that death cannot overcome. Give us the courage to share our Easter faith, so that this news of healing and redemption might spread far and wide. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Savior, in this time of isolation, give us comfort and assurance that you hear our prayers and our praise raised together with the saints and angels. The whole Church in heaven and on earth thanks you for your great victory. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Savior, we ask you to grant strength and wisdom to our president, the Congress of these United States, and all state and local officials. May their labors for our nation's health and welfare not be in vain. May their actions demonstrate compassion for the vulnerable, aging and unemployed. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Savior, fill us with the fire of your love, that in the difficult days and weeks ahead we may see your face in our neighbor's face and serve you by serving them. Grant to us the willingness to bear any burden or make any sacrifice for the well-being of others. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Risen Savior, you have opened up for us the way to eternal life. Embolden us by your resurrection to be fearless in the face of disease, chaos, loneliness and every sorrow of this world. Our Redeemer lives, and so we know that we too shall be resurrected and glorified to live with him and one another in an eternal Kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

We pray in your name and as you taught.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

Now may the glorious Father, who by his power raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, give you the Spirit of wisdom to know the hope to which he has called you. And may he preserve you in body, soul, and spirit until our own resurrection on the day of Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Praying "in Jesus' name" is simply acknowledging that God listens to our prayers only because in Christ's resurrection we were justified, declared by God to be saints for Christ's sake. Thus, God listens to our prayers and answers them gladly.

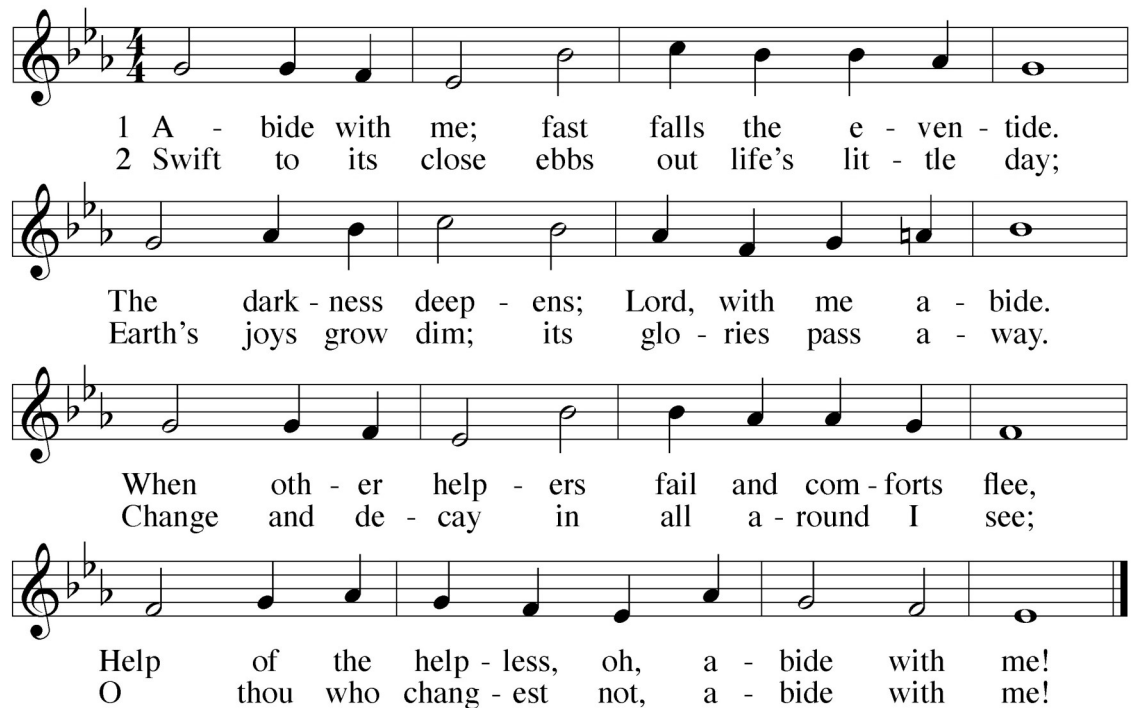
*"Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!": This is known as the *Paschal Greeting*. Using it during the weeks of Easter is one of the oldest and most widespread traditions in the Christian church.*

Abide with Me, written by Henry Francis Lyte, is more than an evening hymn. It is a prayer for the close of life itself.

The tune, written by Joseph Barnby, is titled MERRIAL.

CLOSING HYMN

Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me; fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;

The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
Earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way.

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
Change and de - cay in all a - round I see;

Help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me!
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me!

6 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

7 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

POSTLUDE *Partita on Awake, My Heart with Gladness, IV. Largo* Michael Burkhardt



Serving in Worship

Presiding: Mark Schroeder, President of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
James Huebner, First Vice-President of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Preaching: Earle Treptow, President of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
Music: Aaron Christie, Michael Schultz, Jeremy Bakken
Cantors: Lisa Uttech, Karen Vasatko

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