

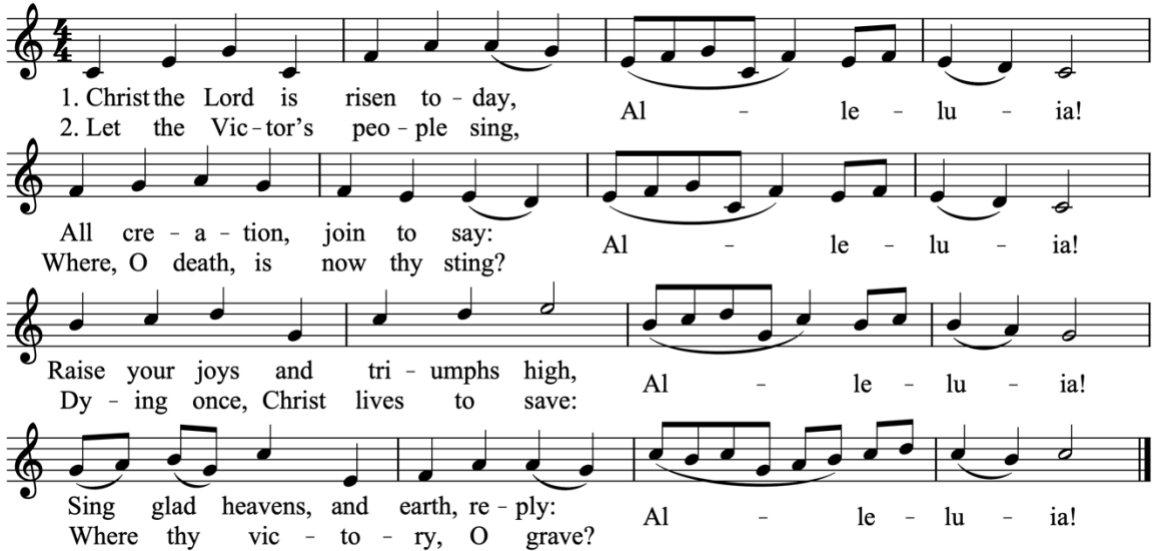


Worship for Easter Dawn

HYMN

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

EASTER HYMN



1. Christ the Lord is risen to-day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2. Let the Vic-tor's peo - ple sing, All cre - a - tion, join to say: Al - le - lu - ia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting?
Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save: Al - le - lu - ia!
Sing glad heavens, and earth, re - ply: Where thy vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

In the gloom of our sin, the grace of God rises like the dawn.

In the weariness of our hearts, hope rises like the sun.

Into all that is bleak and cold in our lives, the light of God shines.

From the sleep of aimlessness and the dust of our death

a new day rises, and with it rise our hearts.

O God of grace, shine your light upon us!

Come to us, and renew us, O God of life!

May the light of Christ, rising in glory,

dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds.

Now we sing the good news: Love is come again!

HYMN

“Now the Green Blade Rises”

NOËL NOUVELET



1. Now the green blade ri - ses from the bu - ried grain;
2. In the grave they laid their Love whom hate had slain,



Wheat that in dark earth for ma - ny days has lain;
Think - ing that their Love would ne - ver wake a - gain.



Love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;



Love is come a - gain like wheat that ri - ses green.

UNISON PRAYER

**Creator of earth and light,
Maker of stardust and loam,
Author of life and love,
we tremble on the threshold of this day
in awe and wonder, lost for words.
Like the disciples, we have often
felt Jesus' life was coming to nothing;
then he startles us with a greeting
and disturbs us with Holy presence.
In the mystery of grace Christ is raised from death,
and suddenly not only one life but all life is made new.
Fill us now with the joy and jubilation of Resurrection Day: Amen!**

GOSPEL READING

John 20:1-18

MEDITATION

Easter Dawn

Thom M. Shuman

early in the day,
through the mourning mist,
we walk . . .

having left our hopes
at the Skull

we come to our friend:
hands full of fragrances,
hearts empty of life.

and

at the very edge
of the mystery:

the hollowness of our world
is filled with the emptiness
of the tomb;

our hearts of stone
are rolled away
that you may enter;

the grave clothes
of our morning
are turned into
garments of praise;

the Gardener tills
the ashes of our hopes,
planting the seeds
of new life,
sprinkled with living water.

and we run . . .

into the silence of fear.

SONG**“’Tis the Spring of Life Today!”**

LANCASHIRE



1. 'Tis the spring of life to - day! Christ has burst his pris - on,
 2. Nei-ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
 and from three days' sleep in death like the sun has ris - en.
 nor the watch-ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal:
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing;
 but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
 from the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

BREAKING THE BREAD OF FELLOWSHIP

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

They lived in a land of shadows,

but now light is shining upon them!” Isaiah 9:2

ONE: Christ is Risen!

MANY: He is risen indeed!

Jesus broke bread with His disciples on many an occasion. He broke bread on the eve of his death. He broke bread on Easter Day. We break this bread as a sign of our fellowship with Christ and with each other. As we share the bread, may we say to our neighbor:

“Peace, my friend: Christ is risen!”

And as we receive the bread, say in a loud voice:

“He is risen indeed!”

HYMN

“Low in the Grave He Lay”

CHRIST AROSE

1. Low in the grave he lay— Je - sus, my Sav - ior; wait - ing the com - ing day—
 2. Vain - ly they watch his bed— Je - sus, my Sav - ior; vain - ly they seal the dead—
 3. Death can - not keep its prey— Je - sus, my Sav - ior; he tore the bars a - way—

Je - sus, my Lord. Up from the grave he a - rose, with a migh - ty tri - umph o'er his
 he a - rose!

foes, He a - rose a vic - tor from the dark do - main, and he lives for - ev - er with the
 he a - rose!

saints to reign! He a - rose! He a - rose! Hal - le - lu - jah! Christ a - rose!
 He a - rose! He a - rose!

AN EASTER AFFIRMATION

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! ALLELUIA!

O God, on the cross we have assaulted you with all of our evil.

**And you have overcome our evil with forgiveness,
and overcome the dealing of death by the giving of life.**

Christ, on the cross you have shared our suffering and shame,

received our sin and died our death.

But the God of Life has raised you up, free from death and sin!

Christ, in your rising, we are brought to life.

All Creation awakens. The earth begins a new song.

HYMN

“The Day of Resurrection!”

LANCASHIRE



1. The day of re - sur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2. Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,



The Pass - ov - er of glad - ness, the Pass - ov - er of God.
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in;



From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,



Our Christ has brought us ov - er with hymns of vic - to - ry.
For Christ a - gain has ri - sen, our joy that has no end!

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

ONE: Lord of life, you walk this journey with us and through us;

MANY: Lead us, Lord, lead on!

Journeying within, and wrestling with the world,

Lead us, Lord, lead on!

Lead us to risk, to grow, and to tread the path you have opened for us;

Lead us, Lord, lead on!

And let us rejoice that every place is your place;

In the name of Christ, the risen one: Amen.

Alleluia.
Christ is risen!