

# St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

Easter April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026



# *WELCOME*

To our **Church Family**

*We're Glad You're Here.*



## St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag. For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

### *You are welcome at the table!*

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

### **Altar Flowers**

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Patty & Bob Long in honor and thanks for Anneliese Daniels on her 91st birthday, April 7th.

The **Throne Flowers** were given today by Carol Stoner, Jesus is Risen, Hallelujah.

### **Introduction**

This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34): Christ's resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God's faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God's endless love.

### **Readings and Psalm**

#### **Acts 10:34-43**

*God raised Jesus on the third day.*

#### **1 Corinthians 15:19-26**

*Christ raised from the dead, the first fruits.*

#### **John 20:1-18** (alternate)

*Seeing the risen Christ.*

**Prelude:**

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today  
The Camarada Brass

arr. Keith Getty (b. 1974)

## **THE CONGREGATION GATHERS AT THE TOMB**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, on this most holy morning when our Savior Jesus Christ passed from death to life, we gather with the church throughout the world in prayer. This is the passover of Jesus Christ. Through light and the word, through water, bread and wine, we proclaim Christ's death and resurrection, share Christ's triumph over sin and death, and await Christ's coming again in glory. We come like the women to the tomb and see the light of the fire shining in the darkness. We come searching for hope. This morning we gather by the fire of a new light. We come seeking God's eternal light found in the Savior of the world.

## **THE DAWN OF EASTER**

Whom do you seek in the tomb, O followers of Christ?

**Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified!**

Let us pray.

Eternal God, in Jesus Christ you have given the light of life to all the world. Bless this new fire, and increase in us a desire to shine forth with the brightness of Christ's rising, until we feast at the banquet of eternal light; through the Son of Righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **GOSPEL John 20:1–10**

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 20th Chapter.

**Glory to you O Lord**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did

not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes.

## **We Process into the Sanctuary**

**GATHERING HYMN**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

ELW 365

### **GREETING**

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

### **FIRST READING: Acts 10:34–43**

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem:**

Like Him We Rise  
Emily Roh, mezzo soprano

Tom Trenney (b. 1977)

*He came down that we may have love. He came down that we may rise. "Come unto me," our Savior said. "Ye weary, come, I'll give you rest." From stable room and manger bed to paradise forever blessed. Made like him, like him we rise! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies; light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings. "Come, all who thirst be satisfied with water I alone can give." Upon the cross, "I thirst," he cried, conqu'ring death that we might live. "When in the shadow, do not fear. I am your light, your lamp, your sun." The sting of death shall disappear. The fight is fought, the battle won.*

## SECOND READING: Colossians 3:1-4

<sup>1</sup> If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, <sup>3</sup> for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## THE CONCLUSION OF OUR GOSPEL FROM JOHN THE 20TH CHAPTER.

<sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me

where you have laid him, and I will take him away." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## SERMON

**Rev. Mark Kreemer**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Thine Is the Glory

ELW 376

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the power of Christ's resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*After each petition the following response is given:*

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you**

## Anthem:

Easter Anthem-

William Billings (1746-1800)

The Lord is ris'n indeed, Hallelujah. Now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept. Hallelujah. And did He rise? Hear, O ye nations, hear it, O ye dead. He rose, He burst the bars of death, He burst the bars of death and triumph'd o'er the grave. Then I rose, then first humanity triumphant passed the crystal ports of light, and seiz'd eternal youth. Man, all immortal hail, hail, Heaven, all lavish of strange gifts to man, Thine's all the glory, man's the boundless bliss.

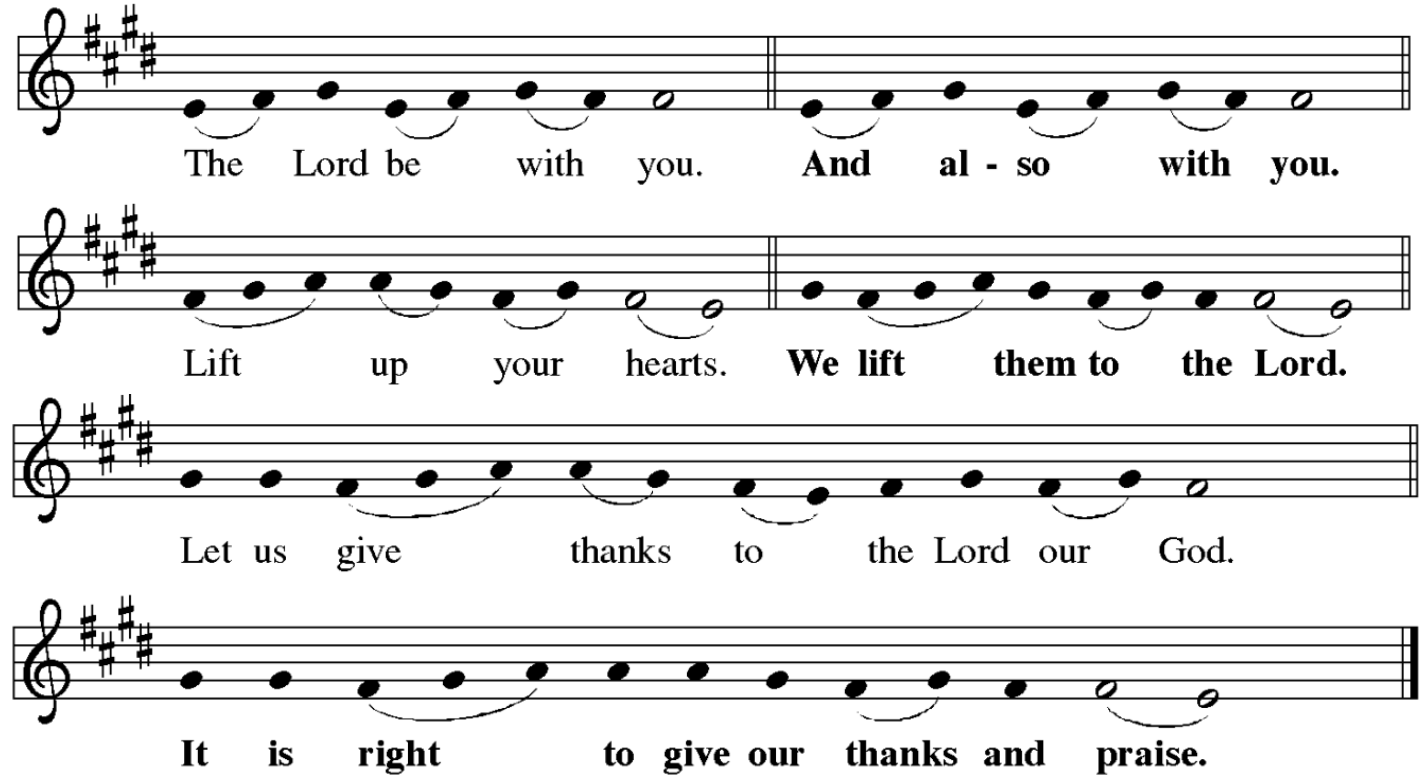
Chancel Choir

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

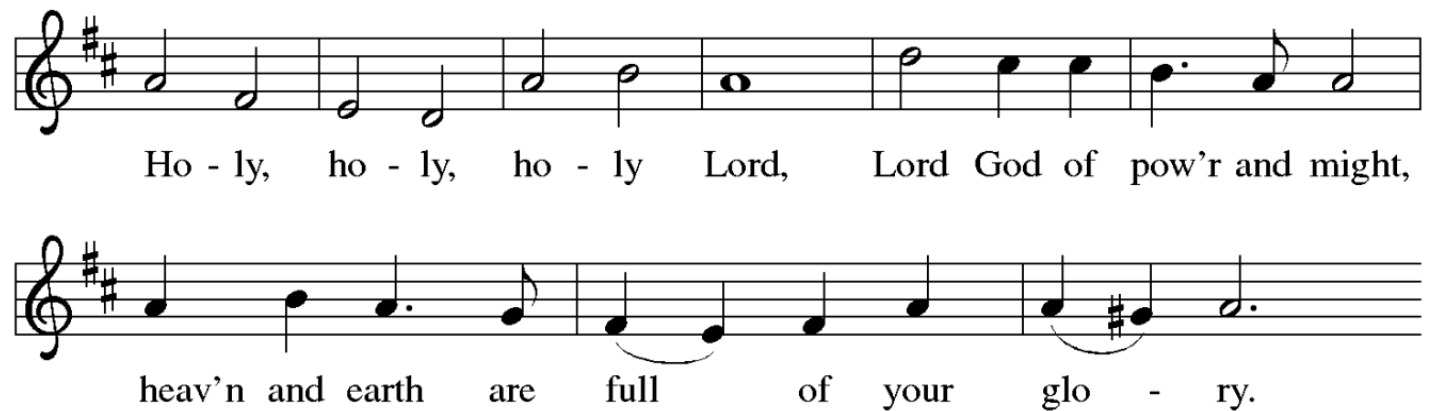
Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

### GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places.... And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Gracious God, in great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to those in need, who preached the good news, who walked with the sick and suffering, and who on the cross opened his arms with love to all.

We ask your Holy Spirit to enter into this bread and wine, so that we may be strengthened and empowered by you to reach out, to preach, to walk and to share your love in our lives of service to others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to all to drink saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Let us pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those**

who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

### Invitation to Communion

Come to the table of new life.  
Receive the risen Lord



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
Amen.

### COMMUNION HYMN

Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379

That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

ELW 384

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus, **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing! ELW 385

## Blessing

God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

## POSTLUDE

Pestival Postlude On “Old 100th”-Bruce A. Stevenson (b. 1954)

The Camarada Brass & Dr. Haake

## Camarada Brass Quintet

Jeff Huston-Trumpet I

Chris Hall-Trumpet II

Phil Tryon-French Horn

Josh Devore-Trombone

Jonathon Stuck-Tuba

## In our prayers today we will remember

*The family of Wendy Hayes, Judee Reed, Linda Wentling, Rick Theiss, Maggie Paul, Amy Williams, Nancy Lint, Steve Kress, Judy Hall, Kenneth & Jean Dexter, Anna Langenfeld, Arthur Barrett, Karen Daily. Troy, Carol, Lynnette, & Mark*

# Adult Sunday School

2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of the Parish Hall

## The Book of Ruth

“...Blessed be he by the LORD, whose kindness has not forsaken the living or the dead.” (Ruth 2:20)

During April we continue our study in the book of Ruth and notice the way God uses the kindness and care of others to show the Lord’s character and reveal God’s ultimate purpose of redemption through Jesus Christ. The faithfulness and compassion of these in the story inspire us to demonstrate the same. The class meets on the top floor of the Parish Hall at 11:30 each Sunday morning. An elevator is available for easy access.

Note: Due to the length of the service typical of Easter Sunday, there will be no class on April 5th.

## Rehearsals to begin for the St. Paul’s Steelband

The St. Paul's Steelband will be rehearsing on **Wednesdays from 6-7 pm**. If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to Eleanor or catch her after service. There's no need to bring anything for the first rehearsal. For those of you that just want to watch and listen, you are free to stay for as long as you like. We can't wait to get started making music together! For more information, please contact Ellie: 330-400-8543.

## Cathedral Concert Series

Sunday, May 3, 2:00 pm

The Canton Symphony Chorus

“A Program dedicated to Mothers”

## Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search “*Massillon Lutheran Churches*”

Facebook

“*St Paul’s Lutheran Church in Massillon*”

or “*Cathedral Concerts at St Paul’s*”

## Capital Campaign Report

With joy and gratitude, we continue to celebrate the completion of our new entrance and bathrooms. For the past nine months, these improvements have already been a blessing—offering a warm welcome and greater accessibility to all who enter. Thank you for the generosity and faith that made this possible.

Yet our work of caring for God’s house continues.

As we look ahead, several significant needs have emerged:

- **Parish Hall Window Wells Repair** – Estimated cost: \$169,000  
Addressing these issues is essential to protect the integrity of the building and prevent further damage.
- **Completion of the Heating & Cooling Conversion (Parish Hall)** –  
Estimated cost: \$150,000  
Finishing this project will ensure a comfortable, efficient, and usable space for ministry year-round.
- **Organ Maintenance and Restoration** – Estimated cost: \$100,000–\$200,000  
Our organ plays a vital role in worship, and necessary maintenance will preserve its voice for future generations.

These are substantial projects, but they are also opportunities—opportunities to care for the spaces where ministry happens, where lives are touched, and where the Gospel is proclaimed.

Through your continued generosity, we can preserve and strengthen this place of welcome, safety, and worship. Together, we are ensuring that our church remains a living witness to God’s grace for generations to come.

Thank you for your faithfulness and your partnership in this shared ministry.

## Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP. Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



## Assisted Hearing Devices Available

Four assisted listening devices are available at the sound system table in the back of the sanctuary at the beginning of worship. Please see Jim Johnson or John Stanko if you need assistance with these devices.



You can also use your smartphone to access the system. Go to your app store and download the **WaveCAST** app. Then connect to the sanctuary Wi-Fi: **Network:** sound media **Password:** Sound127

## **Thank you to those serving today:**

<b>Presiding Minister</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Kreemer</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Dr. Abigail Haake</b>
<b>Assisting Minister</b>	<b>Karl Kalk</b>
<b>Lector</b>	<b>Rev Lynn Williamson</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Sue Ambrosic</b>
<b>Communion Assistants</b>	<b>Shane Jackson &amp; Barb Palmer</b>
<b>Sacristan</b>	<b>Kathryn Myers</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Greg &amp; Lynda Klein Henry &amp; Thomas Haake</b>
<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Scott Larson, Thomas Haake</b>
<b>Soundboard</b>	<b>Jim Johnson</b>
<b>Video/Live-Stream</b>	<b>John Stanko</b>





## **The Day, the Day**

What is Easter anyway? Christians consider Easter to be the “first day.” From Easter comes the practice of worshiping on Sunday morning. It is the first day of the week. It is also the first day of new creation, sometimes called the “eighth day” of the week, for on it Christ restored the image of God in the human and in so doing also brought restoration and renewal to all of creation. The Easter season proceeds from and celebrates this first day. In the resurrected Christ, there is time after the end, life after death, restoration of what was broken, the brightening of what had gone dark. In the fifty days of Easter, Christian communities around the world strive to worship God in a way that illustrates that the body of Christ lives now in the heavenly places and also in the gathered body in the world. Worship is where heaven and earth meet.

# Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

ELW 365



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, all you heav'n - ly host, 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 Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin carol, 14th cent., sts. 1-3; tr. J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708, alt.; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, st. 4  
 Music: EASTER HYMN, J. Walsh, *Lyra Davidica*, 1708

# Thine Is the Glory

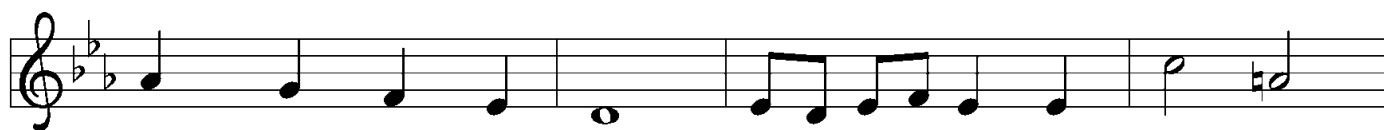
ELW 376



1 Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring Son; end - less is the  
 2 Lo, Je - sus meets thee, ris - en from the tomb! Lov - ing - ly he  
 3 No more we doubt thee, glo - rious Prince of life; life is naught with-



vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won! An - gels in bright rai - ment  
 greets thee, scat - ters fear and gloom; let his church with glad - ness  
 out thee; aid us in our strife; make us more than con-qu'rors,



rolled the stone a - way, kept the fold - ed grave-clothes  
 hymns of tri - umph sing, for the Lord now liv - eth;  
 through thy death - less love; bring us safe through Jor - dan

## *Refrain*



where thy bod - y lay.  
 death hath lost its sting! Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con-qu'ring  
 to thy home a - bove.



Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won!

Text: Edmond Budry, 1854–1932; tr. R. Birch Hoyle, 1875–1939  
 Music: JUDAS MACCABAEUS, George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759

# Now the Green Blade Rises

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

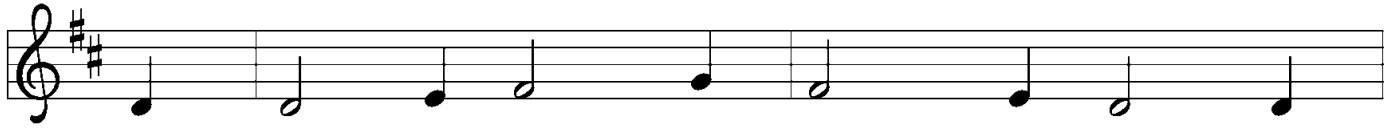
Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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# That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright

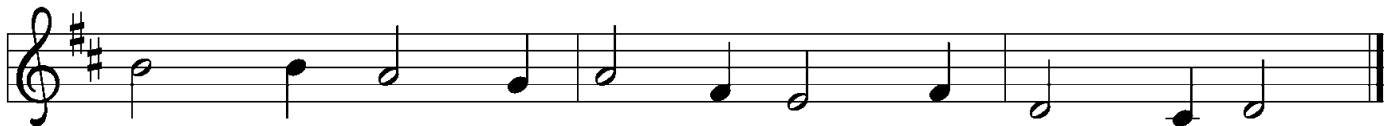
ELW 384



1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright; the  
2 O Je - sus, king of gen - tle - ness, with  
3 O Christ, you are the Lord of all in  
4 All praise, O ris - en Lord, we give to



sun shone out with fair - er light when, to their long - ing  
con - stant love our hearts pos - sess; to you our lips will  
this our Eas - ter fes - ti - val, for you will be our  
you, once dead, but now a - live! To God the Fa - ther



eyes re - stored, the a - pos - tles saw their ris - en Lord!  
ev - er raise the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
strength and shield from ev - 'ry weap - on death can wield.  
e - qual praise, and God the Spir - it, now we raise!

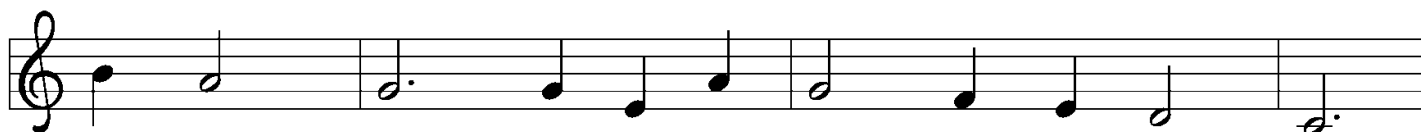
Text: Latin hymn, 5th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
Music: PUER NOBIS, European tune, adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1571–1621

# Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!

ELW 385



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice and sing! Now is the tri - umph  
2 The Lord of life is ris'n this day; death's might-y stone is  
3 Praise we in songs of vic - to - ry that love, that life which  
4 Your name we bless, O ris - en Lord, and sing to - day with



of our king! To all the world glad news we bring:  
rolled a - way; let all the earth re - joice and say:  
can - not die, and sing with hearts up - lift - ed high:  
one ac - cord, the life laid down, the life re - stored:



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Cyril A. Alington, 1872–1955, alt.

Music: GELOBT SEI GOTT, Melchior Vulpius, 1570–1615

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