

Easter People Rejoice

As We Gather

Luke reports that at seeing the resurrected Jesus, the disciples “disbelieved for joy” (24:41). The theme of rejoicing is woven throughout the Scriptures. The psalmist exhorts: “Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!” (66:1–2). The prophet Isaiah assures God’s people that they will have cause for rejoicing as he writes: “For the Lord comforts Zion; . . . joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song” (51:3). Paul writes to people who know of the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ on that first Easter day: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). The season of Easter is a time for joyous praise that begins now!

474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen

LSB 474



1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -
2 Walk - ing the way, Christ in the cen - ter Tell - ing the
3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the
4 Weep - ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -
5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -



sound - ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen - dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -
sto - ry to o - pen our eyes; Break - ing our bread, Giv - ing us
Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the
sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: “O grave, be
ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -



ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!
glo - ry: Je - sus our bless - ing, our con - stant sur - prise.
peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.
o - pen!” Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.
an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!



Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:



Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009

Tune: David N. Johnson, 1922–87

Text: © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001439

Tune: © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001439

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

P This is the day that the LORD has made;

C let us rejoice and be glad in it.

P Christ being raised from the dead will never die again;

C death no longer has dominion over Him.

P Christ has risen from the dead.

C God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.

P He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;

C He has put all things under His feet.

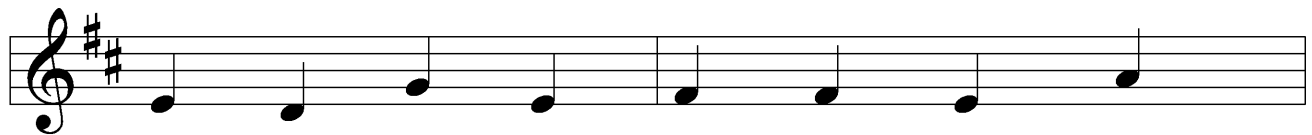
Intro

P We prepare for our time of confession by singing the confession hymn “O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art.” As penitent people, we ask God for His grace and mercy.

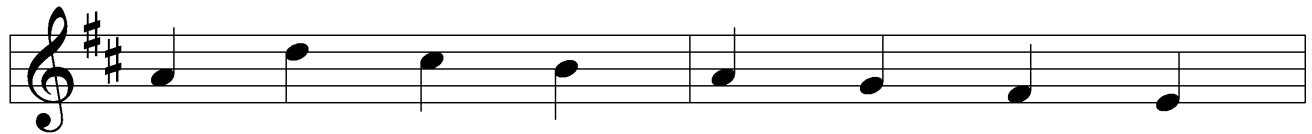
O Jesus, Lamb of God, Thou Art



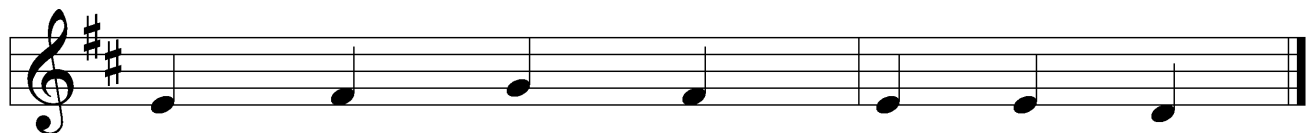
1 O Je - sus, Lamb of God, Thou art The
2 O God, my sin in - deed is great; I
3 Saint John the Bap - tist points to Thee And
4 Help me to mend my ways, O Lord, And



life and com - fort of my heart. A
groan be - neath the dread - ful weight. Be
bids me cast my sin on Thee; For
glad - ly to o - bey Thy Word. While



sin - ner poor I come to Thee And
mer - ci - ful to me, I pray; Take
Thou hast left Thy throne on high To
here I live, a - bide with me; And



bring my man - y sins with me.
guilt and pun - ish - ment a - way.
suf - fer for the world and die.
when I die, take me to Thee.

Text: tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt. ; Bartholomäus Helder, 1585–1635

Tune: Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, 1714–88

Text: Public domain

Tune: Public domain

Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.
- C** **Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all people, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful, and we have not always lived as Your thankful and joyful people. We have indeed turned away from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. We do repent and are truly sorry for these our sins. Have mercy on us, gracious Father; forgive us all that is past, blot out our sins, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, direct our lives so that we serve You in true faithfulness. Grant us steadfastness among all the changes of this world and build Your kingdom among us here through Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
- P** God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. May He keep you in His grace by the Holy Spirit and grant you a victorious life on earth and finally a triumphant life with Him in heaven forever. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father and of the †

Son and of the Holy Spirit. As well-loved Easter people, rejoice and be glad! You are free indeed!

C Amen.

Introit

Psalm 30:1–5; antiphon: Psalm 16:11b

P In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

C I will extol You, O LORD, for You have drawn me up and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

P O LORD my God, I cried to You for help, and You have healed me.

C O Lord, You have brought up my soul from Sheol; You restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

P Sing praises to the LORD, O you His saints, and give thanks to His holy name.

**C For His anger is but for a moment, and His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may tarry for the night, but joy comes with the morning.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Kyrie

LSB 152

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

P The psalmist writes, “Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things! His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him” (98:1). The strains of Easter joy echo through all the services of the Easter season. Each Sunday is a “little Easter” for us to celebrate as together we sing of the victory of

our God. We are amazed Easter people, and our amazement is best expressed in our songs of joy. One of the oldest hymns in our hymnbooks is “The Day of Resurrection,” written by John of Damascus in the eighth century. Together we sing stanza 1 that celebrates “the passover of gladness.”

478 The Day of Resurrection

LSB 478

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad,
The pass - o - ver of glad - ness, The pass - o - ver of God.
From death to life e - ter - nal, From sin's do - min - ion free,
Our Christ has brought us o - ver With hymns of vic - to - ry.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

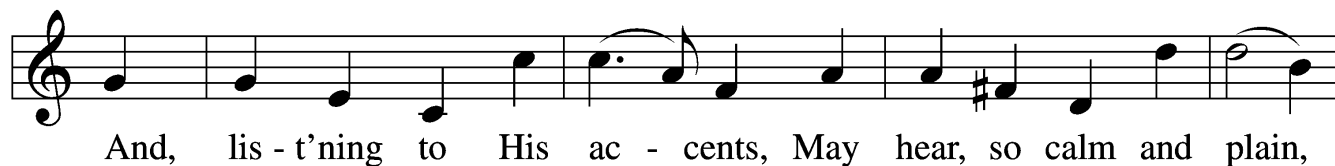
Text and tune: Public domain

P Paul writes: “When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: ‘Death is swallowed up in victory.’ . . . But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:54, 57). The victory of Christ is the lasting source of joy that gives hope to the grieving and assurance to all the faithful. We rejoice as we sing the second stanza of “The Day of Resurrection.”

478 The Day of Resurrection

LSB 478

2 Let hearts be purged of e - vil That we may see a - right
The Lord in rays e - ter - nal Of res - ur - rec - tion light



And, lis - t'ning to His ac - cents, May hear, so calm and plain,



His own "All hail!" and, hear - ing, May raise the vic - tor strain.

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

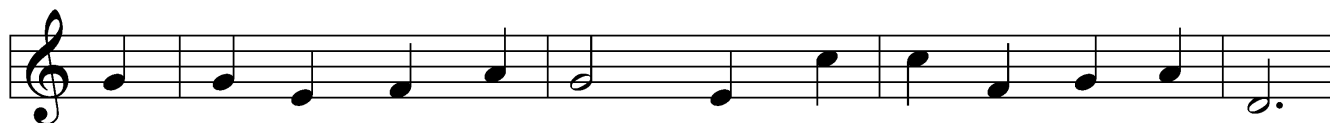
Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

Text and tune: Public domain

P John writes in the book of Revelation: “And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire—and also those who had conquered the beast . . . standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, ‘Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!’” (Revelation 15:2–3). The celebration of the victory of Jesus, the Lamb of God slain for our salvation, goes on throughout eternity. We join in the joyful praise as we sing the third stanza of “The Day of Resurrection.”

478 The Day of Resurrection

LSB 478



3 Now let the heav'ns be joy - ful, Let earth its song be - gin,



Let all the world keep tri - umph And all that is there - in.



Let all things, seen and un - seen, Their notes of glad - ness blend;



For Christ the Lord has ris - en, Our joy that has no end!

Text: John of Damascus, c. 696–c. 754; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66, alt.

Tune: Henry T. Smart, 1813–79

Text and tune: Public domain

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, through the humiliation of Your Son You raised up the fallen world. Grant to Your faithful people, rescued from the peril of everlasting death, perpetual gladness and eternal joys; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading

Acts 3:11–21

¹¹While [the lame man who was now healed] clung to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the portico called Solomon's, astounded. ¹²And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: "Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk? ¹³The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified his servant Jesus, whom you delivered over and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he had decided to release him. ¹⁴But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, ¹⁵and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. ¹⁶And his name—by faith in his name—has made this man strong whom you see and know, and the faith that is through Jesus has given the man this perfect health in the presence of you all.

¹⁷"And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, ²⁰that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Christ appointed for you, Jesus, ²¹whom heaven must receive until the time for restoring all the things about which God spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets long ago."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 John 3:1–7

¹See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. ³And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



1 O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the
 2 For God is the Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the
 3 So dance for our God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our
 4 O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our
 5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is



Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, O
 Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the Lord! And
 God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our God And
 God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our God, Who
 Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A -



sing God a new song. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
 God has done won-ders. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
 blow all the trum-pets. And sing to our God, And sing to our God.
 gave us the Spir - it. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
 men! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

Text: tr. Gerhard Cartford, 1923–2016

Text and tune: Brazilian

Text: © Gerhard Cartford. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001439

Tune: Public domain

Gradual

- P** Christ has risen from the dead.
- C** God the Father has crowned Him with glory and honor.
- P** He has given Him dominion over the works of His hands;
- C** He has put all things under His feet.

Verse

Romans 6:9; Luke 24:32

- P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.
- C** Alleluia. Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures? Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Luke 24:36–49

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³⁶As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!” ³⁷But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸And he said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Apostles' Creed

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.**

483 With High Delight Let Us Unite

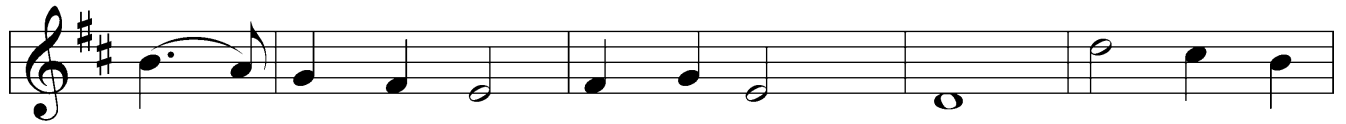
LSB 483



1 With high de-light Let us u - nite In songs of great
2 True God, He first From death has burst Forth in - to life,
3 Let prais-es ring; Give thanks, and bring To Christ our Lord



ju - bi - la - tion. Ye pure in heart, All bear your part,
all sub-du - ing. His en - e - my Doth van - quished lie;
ad - o - ra - tion. His hon - or speed By word and deed



Sing Je - sus Christ, our sal - va - tion. To set us
His death has been death's un - do - ing. "And yours shall
To ev - 'ry land, ev - 'ry na - tion. So shall His



free For - ev - er, He Is ris'n and sends To all earth's
be Like vic - to - ry O'er death and grave," Saith He, who
love Give us a - bove, From mis - er - y And death set



ends Good news to save ev - 'ry na - tion.
gave His life for us, life re - new - ing.
free, All joy and full con - so - la - tion.

Text: Georg Vetter, 1536–99; tr. Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–76

Tune: Cinquante Pseaumes, 1543, Geneva

Text: © 1969 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110001439

Tune: Public domain

Sermon

Offering - We thank the Lord with the Offering

Offertory

LSB 192

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres-ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir-it. A - men.

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the whole church, that the message of salvation may joyfully be proclaimed throughout all the world and the forgiveness of sins be celebrated around the globe. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for the nations of the world, that governments would be a source of blessing to those who are governed and that oppression in all forms may be hindered, bringing a sense of security and well-being in every place. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P We pray for ourselves in this amazing season of our Lord's great victory that we may truly be Easter people all year long, radiating the light of Christ in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for all who serve us through their callings, especially those who deal with special challenges or dangers on a regular basis, including police officers, firefighters, and other emergency personnel. Also, we remember at this time the military forces of our nation, those stationed both at home and abroad, whose efforts serve to defend our nation in challenging times. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized, those who grieve, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill and shut-in, and all others whose needs are known to us. Bless them with Your presence, gracious Father, that they may have a sense of purpose in their lives and find strength and hope for each day. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Merciful God, we bless You for having placed into our lives faithful Christian people to guide us. We remember those no longer among us on earth, who have completed their earthly races and have won the final victory in Christ. Lead us to follow in their way, that we may rejoice together eternally with saints and angels. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

P Many hymns in the hymnal contain the words “joy,” “joyful,” “joyfully,” and “rejoice.” One of these, “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng” was inspired in part by Psalm 20:5, a psalm of David, which exhorts: “May we shout for joy over your salvation, and in the name of our God set up our banners!” As a superscript to the poem from which the hymn text was taken, author Edward Plumptre wrote, “In the name of God, we will set up our banners.” Rejoicing in our salvation, we sing the first four stanzas of “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng.”

813 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

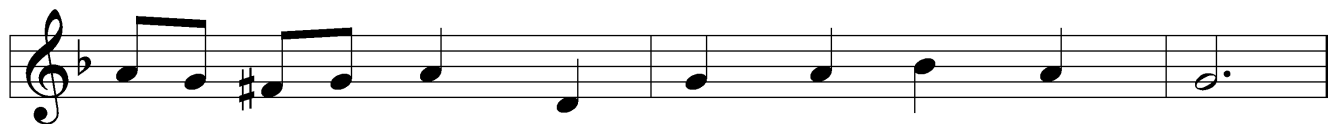
LSB 813



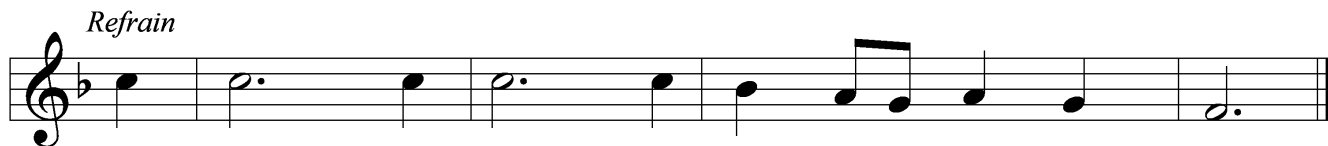
1 Re - joi - ce, O pil - grim throng! Re - joi - ce, give
 2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the
 4 Yet on and on - ward still, With hymn and



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner
 surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy
 saints on earth Pour out the strains of
 chant and song, Through gate and porch and



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.
 hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.
 joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 col - umned aisle The hal - lowed path - ways throng.



Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce, give thanks, and sing!

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.

Tune: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

Text and tune: Public domain

P The hymn text by Edward Plumptre, an English clergyman who lived in the nineteenth century, reminds us that we are part of the much larger assemblage of those who praise God, including “all the angel choirs” and “all the saints on earth.” The hymn writer sees God’s people as part of an endless procession steadfastly proceeding from the darkness of the world to the brightness of heaven. In its final

stanzas, the hymn celebrates the pilgrims reaching their final heavenly destination by God’s grace and gives praise to “the Lord whom we adore.” Together we sing stanzas 5, 6 and 7 of “Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng.”

813 Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

LSB 813



5 Still lift your stan - dard high, Still march in
 6 At last the march shall end; The wea - ried
 Δ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom



firm ar - ray, As pil - grims through the
 ones shall rest; The pil - grims find their
 we a - dore: The Fa - ther, Son, and



dark - ness wend Till dawns the gold - en day.
 home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
 Ho - ly Ghost, One God for - ev - er - more.



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821–91, alt.

Tune: Arthur H. Messiter, 1834–1916

Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide A - way with sin and
 2 Death's flood has lost its chill Since Je - sus crossed the
 3 My flesh in hope shall rest And for a sea - son

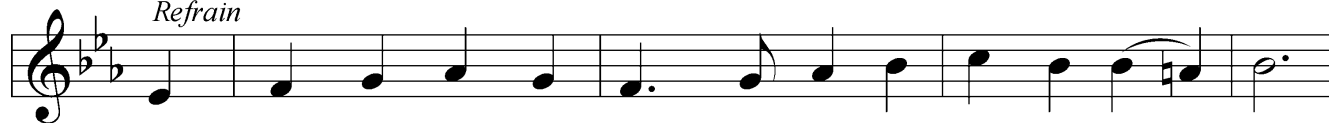


sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,
 riv - er; Lov - er of souls, from ill
 slum - ber Till trump from east to west



Has sprung to life this mor - row:
 My pass - ing soul de - liv - er:
 Shall wake the dead in num - ber:

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, Not burst His three-day pris - on,



Our faith had been in vain: But now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; But now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848-1934

Tune: Davids Psalmen, 1684, Amsterdam

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 2.

Copyright © 2023 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2024 Concordia Publishing House. LSB Hymn License No. 110001439