

Call to Worship

One: And while it was still dark, Mary found the light!

Many: The disciples came running, but they did not understand.

One: Mary stood weeping and saw angels but did not recognize Jesus.

Many: But when Jesus calls our name, then we recognize the way, the truth, and the life.

One: And then there was feasting! And there is feasting to come.
God will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and well-aged wines and will wipe away tears from all faces.

Many: It will be said on that day, “This is our God for whom we have waited;

let us be glad and rejoice. There is peace by Jesus Christ.”

One: Hold firmly to the good news, which you received, in which you stand, through which you are being saved.

All: Let’s open the gates of righteousness to enter through them and give thanks to the Lord.

Hymn: *Christ the Lord is Risen Today (VT 346)*

Verse 1:

Christ the Lord is ris’n today! Alleluia!

All creation join to say: Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high: Alleluia!

Sing, O heav’n, and earth reply: Alleluia!

Verse 2:

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!

Verse 3:

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!

Verse 4:

Soar we now where Jesus led, Alleluia!
foll'wing our exalted Head. Alleluia!
Made like Christ, with Christ we rise, Alleluia!
ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Alleluia!

*Text: Charles Wesley (England), Hymns and Sacred Poems, 1739, alt., trans.
Juan Bautista Cabrera (Spain)*

Affirmation of Faith

Many: Deep calls to deep. We call to you from the depths of our hearts.

One: Once weeping, now proclaiming:
“I have seen the Lord!”

**Many: Once famished, now feasting:
“This is the God for whom we have waited!”**

One: Once divided, now convicted:
“Jesus Christ is Lord of all!”

Many: We shall not die but we shall live and keep telling the deeds of the Lord.

One: Deep calls to deep.
You call to us from the depth of your love, O God.
You have come to us in Jesus Christ.

Many: We answer your call to deep living!

Hymn: *Low in the Grave He Lay (VT 333)*

Verse 1:

Low in the grave he lay, Jesus, my Savior!
Waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord!

Refrain:

Up from the grave he arose, (he arose)
with a mighty triumph o'er his foes! (He arose!)
He arose a victor from the dark domain,
and he lives forever with his saints to reign!
He arose! (He arose!) He arose! (He arose!) Alleluia! Christ arose!

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Verse 2:

Vainly they watch his bed, Jesus, my Savior!
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus, my Lord!

Refrain

Verse 3:

Death cannot keep its prey, Jesus, my Savior!
He tore the bars away, Jesus, my Lord!

Refrain

Text: Robert Lowry (USA), 1874, Brightest and Best, 1875

Scripture Reading

John 20:1-18

¹ 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. ² 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.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned to their homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² 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. ¹³ 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.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?”

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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.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher).¹⁷ 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.’”¹⁸ 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.

Children’s Song: *Your Love is Washing Over Me (VT 166)*

Verse 1:

Your love is washing over me, Your love is washing over me.
Your love is washing over me, and I won’t be frightened any more.

Verse 2:

Your mercy’s washing over me, Your mercy’s washing over me.
Your mercy’s washing over me, and I won’t be frightened any more.

Verse 3:

Your peace is washing over me, Your peace is washing over me.
Your peace is washing over me, and I won’t be frightened any more.

Verse 4:

Your joy is washing over me, Your joy is washing over me.
Your joy is washing over me, and I won’t be frightened any more.

Verse 5:

Your grace is washing over me, Your grace is washing over me.
Your grace is washing over me, and I won’t be frightened any more.

Verse 6:

Your hope is washing over me, Your hope is washing over me.
Your hope is washing over me, and I won’t be frightened any more.

Text: Jaylene Johnson (Canada), © 2015 Jaylene Johnson

Hymn: *Christ is Alive, and Goes Before Us (VT 565)*

Refrain:

Christ is alive, and goes before us to show and share what love can do.
This is a day of new beginnings; our God is making all things new,
our God is making all things new.

Verse 1:

This is a day of new beginnings, time to remember and move on,
time to believe what love is bringing, laying to rest the pain that's gone.

Refrain

Verse 2:

For by the life and death of Jesus, love's mighty Spirit, now as then,
can make for us a world of difference, as faith and hope are born again.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Then let us, with the Spirit's daring, step from the past and leave behind
our disappointment, guilt, and grieving, seeking new paths, and sure to
find.

Refrain

Text: Brian Wren (England), © 1983 Hope Publishing Co.

Isaiah 25:6-9 (NRSV)

⁶ On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

⁷ And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

⁸ 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. ⁹ 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.

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

¹ Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, ² through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain.

³ For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, ⁴ and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me.

¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

Hymn: *Taste and See (VT 467 / SJ 86)*

Refrain: Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Verse 1:

I will bless the Lord at all times. Praise shall always be on my lips;
my soul shall glory in the Lord, for God has been so good to me.

Refrain

Verse 2:

Glorify the Lord with me. Together let us all praise God's name.
I called the Lord who answered me; from all my troubles I was set free.

Refrain

Verse 3:

Worship the Lord, all you people. You'll want for nothing if you ask.
Taste and see that the Lord is good; in God we need put all our trust.

Refrain

Text: based on Psalm 34:1-10; James E. Moore (USA), © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Hymn: *The Risen Christ (VT 345)*

Verse 1:

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet
from garden tomb through darkened city street,
unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear,
and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

Verse 2:

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side,
breathes out his Spirit on them to abide
whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe,
new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

Verse 3:

The risen Christ, who breaks with wounded hand
the bread for those who fail to understand,
reveals himself, despite their ling'ring tears,
enflames their hearts, then quickly disappears.

Verse 4:

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand
with the oppressed in this and every land,
till all are blessed and can a blessing be,
restored in Christ to true humanity.

Text: Nigel Weaver (Canada), © 1993 Nigel Weaver