

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your only Son was taken into the heavens and in your presence intercedes for us. Receive us and our prayers for all the world, and in the end bring everything into your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

[Luke writes:] ¹In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning ²until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." ⁹When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. ¹¹They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Psalm: Psalm 47

¹Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with a joyful sound.

²For the Lord Most High is to be feared:
a great king over all the earth,

³who subdues the peoples under us,
and the nations under our feet;

⁴who chooses our inheritance for us,
the pride of Jacob, whom God loves.

⁵God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn.

⁶Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our king, sing praises.

⁷For God is king of all the earth;
sing praises with a song.

⁸God reigns over the nations;
God is enthroned on high.

⁹The nobles of the peoples have gathered as the people of the God of Abraham.
The rulers of the earth belong to God, who is highly exalted.

G. Finzi & Edward Taylor (1646? - 1729), "Meditation Twenty" [paraphrase of a portion of Psalm 47]

God is gone up with a triumphant shout:
The Lord with sounding Trumpets' melodies:
Sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praise, sing Praises out,
Unto our King sing praise seraphicwise!
Lift up your Heads, ye lasting Doors, they sing,
And let the King of Glory enter in.

Methinks I see Heaven's sparkling courtiers fly,
In flakes of Glory down him to attend,
And hear Heart-cramping notes of Melody
Surround his Chariot as it did ascend;
Mixing their Music, making ev'ry string
More to enravish as they this tune sing.

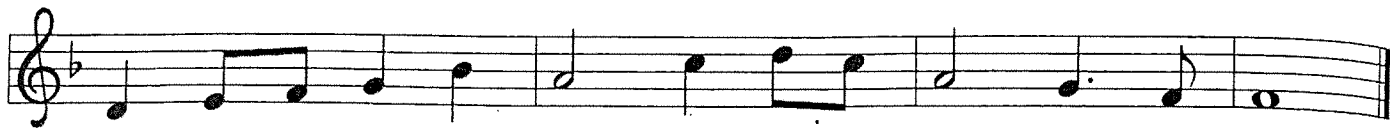
Gospel: Luke 24:44-53

⁴⁴[Jesus said to the eleven and those with 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, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

Refrain

Hail thee, fes - ti-val day! Blest day to be hal-lowed for - ev - er;



day when our Lord was raised, break-ing the king - dom of death.



<i>Easter</i>	1	All	the	fair	beau - ty	of	earth	from the
<i>Ascension</i>	1	He	who	was	nailed	to	the cross	is . .
<i>Pentecost</i>	1	Bright	and	in	like - ness	of	fire,	on . .
	3	God	the	Al -	might - y,	the	Lord,	the . .
	5	Spir -	it	of	life	and	of pow'r,	now . .

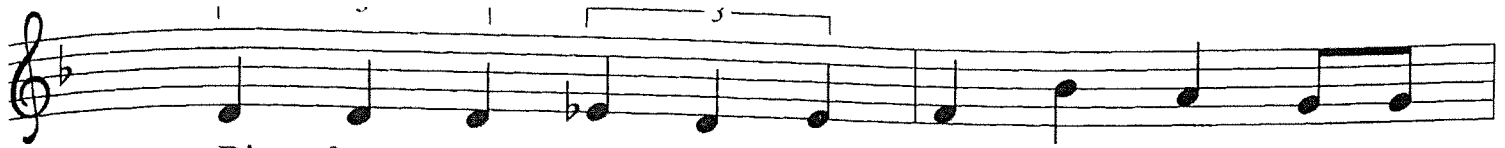


death of the win - ter a - ris - ing! Ev - 'ry good
 rul - er and Lord of all peo - ple. All things cre -
 those who a - wait his ap - pear - ing, he whom the
 rul - er of earth and the heav - ens, guard us from
 flow in us, fount of our be - ing, light that en -

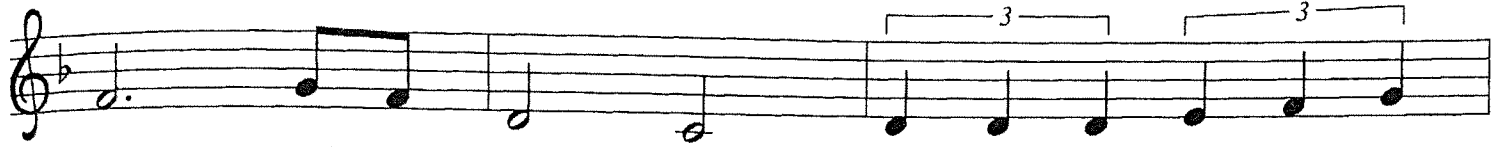


gift of the year now with its mas - ter re - turns:
 at - ed on earth sing to the glo - ry of God:
 Lord had fore - told sud - den - ly, swift - ly de - scends:
 harm with - out; cleanse us from e - vil with - in:
 light - ens us all, life that in all may a - bide:

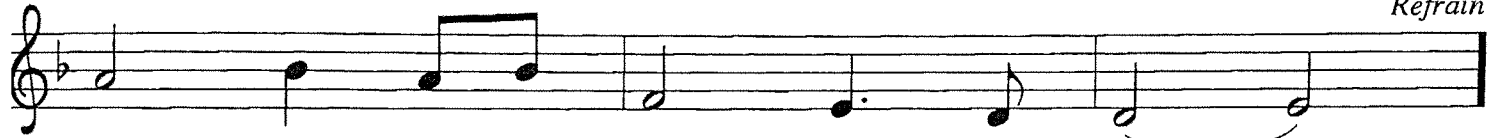
Refrain



Easter 2 Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the au - thor of
Ascension 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the
Pentecost 2 Dai - ly the love - li - ness grows, a - dorned with the
 4 Je - sus, the health of the world, en - light - en our
 6 Praise to the giv - er of good! O Lov - er and



life and cre - a - tion. Tread - ing the path - way of
 glo - ry of blos - som; heav - en its gates now un -
 glo - ry of blos - som; heav - en its gates now un -
 minds, great re - deem - er, Son of the Fa - ther su -
 Au - thor of con - cord, pour out your balm on our



death, new life you give to us all:
 bars, fling - ing its in - crease of light:
 bars, fling - ing its in - crease of light:
 preme, on - ly - be - got - ten of God:
 days; or - der our ways in your peace:

Refrain
Assisting minister

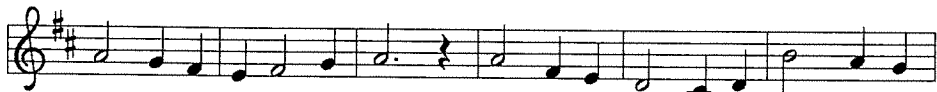


This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

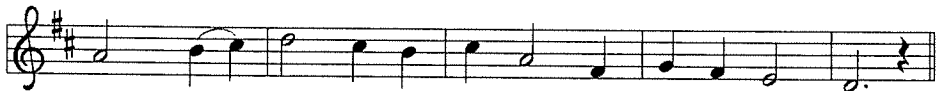
All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

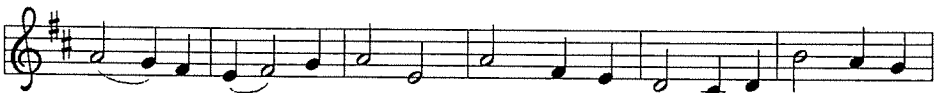
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



1 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the
 *2 Al - le - lu - ia! not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of Hea - ven, thou on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, thee the
 *5 Al - le - lu - ia! sing to Je - sus! his the



1 scap - ter, his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the
 2 left in sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is
 3 earth our food, our stay! Al - le - lu - ia! here the
 4 Lord of lords we own: Al - le - lu - ia! born of
 5 scap - ter his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the



1 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the
 2 near us, faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how: though the
 3 sin - ful flee to thee from day to day: In - ter -
 4 Ma - ry, earth thy foot - stool, heaven thy throne: thou with -
 5 tri - umph, his the vic - to - ry a - lone; Hark! the

1 songs of peace - ful Zi - on thun - der like a
 2 cloud from sight re - ceived him, when the for - ty
 3 ces - sor, friend of sin - ners, earth's Re - deem - er,
 4 in the veil hast en - tered, robed in flesh, our
 5 songs of ho - ly Zi - on thun - der like a

1 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery
 2 days were o'er, shall our hearts for - get his
 3 plead for me, where the songs of all the
 4 great High Priest: thou on earth both Priest and
 5 might - y flood; Je - sus out of ev - ery

1 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.
 2 prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 3 sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 4 Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.
 5 na - tion hath re - deemed us by his blood.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
 Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun doth his suc -
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - ery tongue dwell on his
 4 Bless - ings a - bound where - e'er he reigns: the pris - oners
 5 Let ev - ery crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

1 ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from
 2 throng to crown his head; his Name like sweet per -
 3 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es
 4 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -
 5 hon - ors to our King; an - gels de - scend with

1 shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
 2 fume shall rise with ev - ery morn - ing sac - ri - fice.
 3 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his Name.
 4 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.
 5 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
 Music: *Duke Street*, John Hatton (d. 1793)