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† Today At Grace †

Organist: Sue Nelson

Elder: Benno Sydow

Ushers: Mark Wales; Joshua Benzer; Pete Fleischer; Jack Kirkham; Ole Olmanson; Clint Welker; Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 5: Mike Dick; Brad Kitzman; Ed Lentz; Roger Ochsner

Hospitality Team 1: Bye for Easter

Church Cleaners: M.&T. Wales School Cleaners: None

† Next Week At Grace †

Ushers: Mark Wales; Joshua Benzer; Pete Fleischer; Jack Kirkham; Ole Olmanson; Clint Welker; Brandt Wendland

Counting Team 1: Dan Degnan; Larry Nelson; Phil Radichel; Ryan Libby

Hospitality Team 2: Janelle Hein; Chris Lentz; Peter Fleischer; Alice Weibye

Church Cleaners: M.&T. Wales School Cleaners: Vandever

† Our Schedule †

Today: 7:30 am – Easter Breakfast

9:00 am – Easter Festival Service

3:00 pm – ILC Tour Choir Concert

Tue., Mar. 25: School Resumes from Easter Break

Wed., Mar. 26: 4:00 pm – Catechism for Public School Students

Fri., Mar. 28: 7:00 pm – Christian Day School History Fair

Sun., Mar. 30: 8:30 am – Choir Practice

9:00 am – Sunday School & Bible Class

10:00 am – Worship Service (Easter 2)

11:00 am – Hospitality

April 2-3: CLC Coordinating Council @ Eau Claire



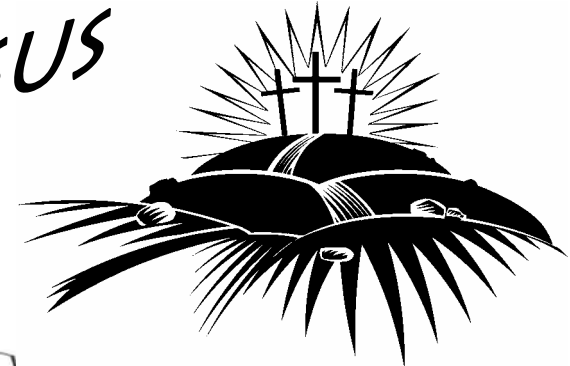
Welcome: We welcome our visitors on this most joyous of Christian holidays. Please sign our guest register located by the entrance of the church. You are certainly welcome to talk with our Pastor to learn more about Grace Lutheran and what we believe Scripture teaches. We cordially invite you to come again, and please let us know how we may provide spiritual ministry to you!



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH EASTER 2008



LET US EVER
WALK WITH JESUS





GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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 Fridley, MN 55432
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 763-784-8784

Pastor: John Hein
Principal: Ryan Libby (Ph. 763-784-6340)
Church Year: Easter

Organists: Sue Nelson
Grades: Kindergarten-8th
Date: March 23, 2008

† The Order of Easter Worship †

Worship Preparation: *Psalm 118, TLH p. 148 f.*

Children's Recitation: *Mark 16:1-8: The Resurrection Account*

Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary *the mother* of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first *day* of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away; for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples; and Peter; that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

Children's Hymn: *We Welcome Glad Easter*

1. We welcome glad Easter when Jesus arose
 And won a great victory over His foes.
 Then raise your glad voices, you children and sing.
 Bring sweet Easter praises to Jesus, our King.
2. And tell how three Marys came early that day,
 And there at the tomb found the stone rolled away.
 And sing of the angel who said: "Do not fear!
 Your Savior is risen again; He is not here!"
3. So think of the promise which Jesus did give,
 That all who believe in Him also shall live.
 Then raise your glad voices, you children, and sing.
 Bring sweet Easter praises to Jesus, our King.



† NO EASTER? †

The age in which we live is bent on eradicating any reference to anything Christian. Even Christian holy-days (holidays) are renamed. We are no longer to mention "Christmas" but are told to use some generic expression in its place. Recently we heard that "Easter" is also coming under attack. Some school out east no longer speaks of the Easter bunny, but the "garden bunny." Easter vacation is no longer that, but "spring break." And of course an Easter egg hunt is too suggestive so now it is simply an "egg hunt." As people who do not buy into the political correctness, we ought continue to speak as we always have!

But we are just as amused if not troubled at the emotion that arises in people who are upset at the loss of the "Easter bunny," the "Easter egg," and "Easter vacation." What do any of these have to do with the meaning of Easter anyway? Will we somehow have lost the meaning of the message we hear at Easter? Do we no longer have Easter because rabbits, eggs, and vacations are no longer prefaced with the word, "Easter?"



The festival of Easter "is celebrated soon after the spring equinox, when in the world of nature daytime has caught up with and already even overtaken night time: the sun has won the victory. Darkness and cold have been overtaken by light and warmth."

The light of nature is but a shadow of the real light and warmth in which the Christian is confirmed at Easter. The dank, cold grave has lost its sting. The darkness of condemnation and judgment has been overcome. The grip of sin and death has been broken for "Christ, the Lord is Risen today!" Easter and the Easter season is the church's great season of joy because the Lord Who was "crucified, dead and buried," has risen from the dead to live forever. His resurrection from the dead is the Father's confirmation of our forgiveness, our redemption, and our salvation. Its message of the restoration of life and hope of heaven leads us to say, "But chiefly we are bound to praise Thee for the glorious resurrection of Thy Son Jesus Christ, our Lord; for He is the very Paschal (Passover) Lamb which was offered for us and hath taken away the sins of the world; Who by His death hath destroyed death and by His rising to life again has restored to us everlasting life."

The world can take away the Easter bunny, the Easter egg, the Easter vacation if it makes them feel good. They can mock Easter. Such callousness toward Easter and its message only betrays an ignorance of what gives Easter its meaning. They can take away all references to "Easter" but they cannot change history, or destroy the joy of Christ believers. As Luther said in another context, "Let these all be gone, they yet have nothing won," for nothing can erase the reality of God's love spoken in the angel's message, "He is not here; for He is risen as He said ..." (Matthew 28; 6). Our whole life and hope and joy are predicated on the resurrection of the Lord Jesus from the dead. Paul gives it all meaning for those who believe in the risen Lord Jesus:

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1Corinthians 15:51-57).

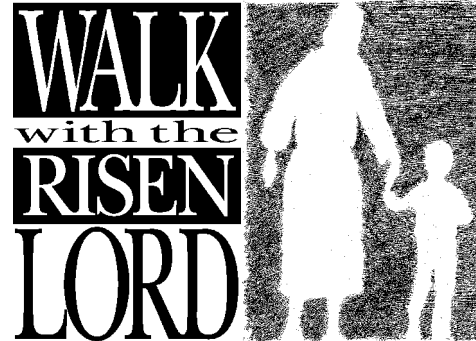
Call Easter what they will, deny it if they will, "Christ the Lord is risen today." Consequently when this world is passed away they who are alive in Christ will join the saints before the throne of God in heaven. "Amen, Amen, that is Yea, Yea, so shall it be!" Easter? Yes! A blessed Easter to all in the risen Lord Jesus!

Written by Rev. Daniel Fleischer, 3/27/2005

Hymn: TLH 199: *Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!*

Note: Everyone sings unless noted otherwise.

- 1. Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!**
Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!
Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
- [Note: Men only; Everyone on Alleluia]*
Hymns of praise, then, let us sing, **Alleluia!**
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, **Alleluia!**
Who endured the cross and grave, **Alleluia!**
Sinners to redeem and save. **Alleluia!**
- [Note: Women only; Everyone on Alleluia]*
But the pains which He endured, **Alleluia!**
Our salvation have procured. **Alleluia!**
Now above the sky He's King, **Alleluia!**
Where the angels ever sing. **Alleluia!**
- 4. Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!**
Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!
Praise Him, all you heav'nly host, Alleluia!
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Amen.



† The Announcements †

- ♦ **Easter Thanks:** Thanks to all those who contributed to the gathering of Easter lilies at the front of the church. Another thanks to all who helped make the breakfast a special occasion.
- ♦ **ILC Tour Choir:** On Easter afternoon, at 3 pm, the ILC Tour Choir will be coming to Grace for a concert of sacred music. Committee #3 will be hosting the event. Members are asked to bring cookies, bars, or fruit. A free-will offering will be collected to defray travel costs for the choir.
- ♦ **Easter Greeting:** The Hein family would like to express their joyous Easter greetings to all of you. May you have a blessed Easter season! - Pastor, Janelle, Christina, Abbie, Emily, David, Julianna, & Daniel.
- ♦ **Family Camp:** The members of Faith Lutheran in the St. Louis area and Living Word Lutheran in the Kansas City area are making plans for the 9th annual Living~Faith Family Bible Camp. The dates for this years camp are June 28 - July 1, cost being \$125.00 per family. Contact Pastor Todd Ohlmann before June 9 at toddohlmann@clclutheran.com for registration.
- ♦ **ILC Announcement:** The following names have been placed in nomination for the office of ILC president for a two-year term beginning June 1, 2008: John Pfeiffer, Michael Sydow, John Ude. Comments regarding these candidates may be sent by May 1 to: Pastor Ted Barthels; 2200 16th St. SW; Austin, MN 55912; 6sletrab@charter.net.
- ♦ **CLC News:** Teacher Heidi Nelson resigned her call as the lower grade teacher of Gethsemane in Saginaw, MI, effective the end of 07-08 school year. From President Schierenbeck: The Call Committee on Graduates will meet Wednesday, April 2, at 7:00 pm. Any calls need to be in the hands of the president by April 1, 2008.

Hymn: TLH 203: *Morning Breaks Upon the Tomb*

- 1. Morning breaks upon the tomb; Jesus scatters all its gloom.**
Day of triumph through the skies; See the glorious Savior rise.
- 2. Ye who are of death afraid Triumph in the scattered shade.**
Drive your anxious cares away; See the place where Jesus lay.
- 3. Christians, dry your flowing tears Chase your unbelieving fears;**
Look on His deserted grave, Doubt no more His power to save.

Responsory: With "Welcome, Happy Morning," Tune of TLH 658

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

C: And also with you!

P: The Lord is risen!

C: He is risen indeed!

P: The right hand of God has triumphed!

C: The right hand of God is exalted!

P: Because of the Lord's victory, I will not die.

C: Instead I will live and proclaim what God has done.

P: The Lord has chastened me severely, but has not given me over to death.

C: Open to me the gates of righteousness. I will go in and give thanks to God.

P: This is the gate of God.

C: The righteous shall enter through it.

P: I thank You, God, that You have answered me and have my salvation.

C: The stone which the builders rejected has turned out to be the most important of all.

P: This is the Lord's doing;

C: And it is marvelous in our eyes!

SING [♪]: "Welcome, happy morning!" Age to age shall say;

Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!"

Lo, the Dead is living, God forevermore!

Him, their true Creator, all His works adore.

"Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say;

Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!"

Maker and Redeemer, Life and Health of all,

Thou from heaven beholding human nature's fall,

Of the Father's Godhead, true and only Son.

Manhood to deliver manhood didst put on.

"Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say;

Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!"



Confession of Sins:With "Welcome, Happy Morning," Tune of TLH 658

P: God of love, like the first witnesses of the resurrection, we too come to the empty tomb with a variety of responses. We hear the good news that Jesus has risen, but so often the evidence for this is difficult to detect in our lives.

C: Forgive us when we fail to make the risen Christ evident through our words, our actions, and our lives.

P: For so many people, the only good news of this weekend is that it provides the opportunity for a holiday in pleasant spring weather.

C: Forgive us when we consider this time of worship as an interruption to our planned weekend activities.

P: As we come to the empty tomb seeking forgiveness for all our faults and shortcomings, help us to re-order our priorities so that we put the risen Christ first in our lives at all times.

C: Forgive us when we forget that the tomb is forever empty because Jesus is arisen and is present wherever Christians live and worship.

P: Help us always to remember the costly act of Jesus Christ which led to victory over sin and death, an act which gives us the gift of a new beginning - guilt free and graced by your love. The tomb is empty because Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia! Amen.

P: Jesus "is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10: 42b,43) Hear, believe, and live the good news. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

C: Thanks be to God!

SING [♪]: **Thou, of life the Author, death didst undergo,
Tread the path of darkness, saving strength to show.
Come, then, True and Faithful, now fulfil Thy word;
'Tis Thine own third morning--rise, O buried Lord!
"Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say;
Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!"
Loose the souls long prisoned, bound with Satan's chain;
All that now is fallen raise to life again.
Show Thy face in brightness, bid the nations see;
Bring again our daylight; day returns with Thee.
"Welcome, happy morning!" age to age shall say;
Hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!"**

Choir: Arisen Is Our Blessed Lord

Hymn: WS 799: This Is The Feast of Victory

**Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God,
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-80
Tune and Setting: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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FESTIVAL CANTICLE Irregular with Refrain

Offering, Easter Prayer, Lord's Prayer:

Easter Benediction:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: [♪] Amen. Amen. Amen.

Sermon: Luke 24:13-35

(13) Now behold, two of them were traveling that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was seven miles from Jerusalem. (14) And they talked together of all these things which had happened. (15) So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them. (16) But their eyes were restrained, so that they did not know Him. (17) And He said to them, "What kind of conversation *is* this that you have with one another as you walk and are sad?" (18) Then the one whose name was Cleopas answered and said to Him, "Are You the only stranger in Jerusalem, and have You not known the things which happened there in these days?" (19) And He said to them, "What things?" So they said to Him, "The things concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a Prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, (20) "and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to be condemned to death, and crucified Him. (21) "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened. (22) "Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us. (23) "When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive. (24) "And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see." (25) Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! (26) "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" (27) And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (28) Then they drew near to the village where they were going, and He indicated that He would have gone farther. (29) But they constrained Him, saying, "Abide with us, for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent." And He went in to stay with them. (30) Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke *it*, and gave it to them. (31) Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. (32) And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" (33) So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those *who were* with them gathered together, (34) saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" (35) And they told about the things *that had happened* on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. (NKJV^M)

Let Us Ever Walk with Our Living Lord!

Response:..... TLH 409: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus

Sing [♪]: Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow His example pure,
Flee the world, which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in His footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me; Savior, lead, I follow Thee.

Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since He's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, Thou art now our Head,
We are truly Thine own members; Where Thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as Thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to Thee, Also there eternally.

First Reading:.....John 20:1-9 (With TLH 190: Christ the Lord is Risen Again)

(1) Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. (2) Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." (3) Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. (4) So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. (5) And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. (6) Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, (7) and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. (8) Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. (9) For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

**SING: Christ the Lord is risen again!
Christ has broken death's strong chain!
Hark, the angels shout for joy
Singing evermore on high: Hallelujah!**



Second Reading:..... John 20:10-18

(10) Then the disciples went away again to their own homes. (11) But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. (12) And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. (13) Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." (14) Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. (15) Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, 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, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). (17) Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" (18) Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

**SING: He who gave for us His life.
Who for us endured the strife,
Is our Paschal Lamb today.
We, too, sing for joy and say: Hallelujah!**

Third Reading: John 20:19-20

(19) Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you." (20) When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

**SING: He who bore all pain and loss
Comfortless upon the cross
Lives in glory now on high,
Pleads for us and hears our cry: Hallelujah!**

Fourth Reading: *Colossians 2:6-15*

(6) As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, (7) rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. (8) Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. (9) For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; (10) and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. (11) In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, (12) buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (13) And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (14) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. (15) Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

**SING: He who slumbered in the grave
Is exalted now to save;
Now through Christendom it rings
That the Lamb is King of kings. Hallelujah!**

**Thou our Paschal Lamb indeed,
Christ, today Thy people feed;
Take our sins and guilt away
That we all may sing for aye: Hallelujah!**

Children's Hymn: *WS 733: This Joyful Easter Tide*

1. This joyful Eastertide Away with sin and sorrow!
My love, the Crucified, Has sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain: Had Christ, who once was slain,
Not burst His three-day prison,
Our faith had been in vain:
But now is Christ arisen, arisen, arisen;
But now is Christ arisen.

2. Death's flood has lost its chill Since Jesus crossed the river;
Lover of souls, from ill My passing soul deliver. Refrain

3. My flesh in hope shall rest And for a season slumber
Till trump from east to west Shall wake the dead in number. Refrain



Confession of Faith: *Easter Creed*



C: I believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Man, Lord of lords and Savior of the fallen world. I believe that He came to earth on a mission of salvation, lived a holy life as my Law-fulfilling Substitute, was crucified at the hands of sinful men, and endured the punishment of hell at the hands of a just God. He died and was buried.

And I believe that on the third day He rose bodily from the dead, exactly as it had been prophesied and as He had promised. Attested to by the inspired Scriptures and by many eyewitnesses, Jesus' resurrection verifies that He is God's Son, that His salvation mission is complete, and that He has triumphed over the last great enemy – death.

And in rising and conquering death, Christ has become the first-fruit of all who sleep in Him. Because He rose, I and all who look to Him in faith shall one day rise. Because He lives, I too shall live. For He has promised me: "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though He may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." Amen.

Hymn: *TLH 191: Christ the Lord is Risen Today; Alleluia!*

Note: Everyone sings unless noted otherwise.

1. **Christ the Lord is ris'n today; Alleluia!
Christians, haste your vows to pay; Alleluia!
Offer ye your praises meet Alleluia!
At the Paschal Victim's feet. Alleluia!**
2. **For the sheep the Lamb hath bled,
Sinless in the sinners' stead.
"Christ is ris'n" today we cry;
Now He lives no more to die.**
3. **Christ, the Victim undefiled,
God and man hath reconciled.
While in strange and awefull strife
Met together Death and Life.**
4. *[Note: Women only]*
Christians, on this happy day
Haste with joy your vows to pay.
"Christ is ris'n," today we cry;
Now He lives no more to die.
5. *[Note: Men only]*
Christ, who once for sinners bled,
Now the First-born from the dead,
Throned in endless might and power,
Lives and reigns forevermore.
6. **Hail, eternal Hope on high!
Hail, Thou King of victory!
Hail, Thou Prince of Life adored!
Help and save us, gracious Lord.**