

Easter Day

4 April 2021 AD

An Easter Celebration of Lessons and Hymns

About this Service

Associated mostly with the Order of Service for Christmas Lessons and Carols, The Reverend Richard Tatlock was approached in the mid 1950s by the British Broadcasting Corporation to design a similar liturgy for Eastertide. A text was created and first published in 1956. A seventh impression was released in 1964, indicating its popular acceptance into the round of worship in the Church of England.

*An Easter service of this sort remains a rarity. However, this era of suspended in-person worship makes this liturgy providential for God's people on Easter. We are grateful for this liturgy to Bethesda Episcopal Church in Saratoga Springs, New York. We are privileged to celebrate the wondrous miracle God has wrought in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This 1962 edition of *An Easter Festival of Lessons and Carols* was found in a priest's library. Thank you, clergy and people of Bethesda Church in Saratoga Springs. It has been adapted for use in the Church of the Messiah.*

Prelude and Lighting the Paschal Candle

Hymn 207 "Jesus Christ is Risen Today"

1. Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia! our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!
2. 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!
3. 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!

The Bidding Prayer

concluding as Officiant and People join in the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn 180 "He is Risen"

1. He is risen, he is risen! Tell it out with joyful voice:
he has burst his three days' prison; let the whole wide earth rejoice: death is conquered, we are free, Christ has won the victory.
2. Come, ye sad and fearful-hearted, with glad smile and radiant brow!
Death's long shadows have departed; Jesus' woes are over now,
and the passion that he bore – sin and pain can vex no more.
3. Come, with high and holy hymning, hail our Lord's triumphant day;
not one darksome cloud is dimming yonder glorious morning ray,
breaking o'er the purple east, symbol of our Easter feast.

4. He is risen, he is risen! He hath opened heaven's gate:
we are free from sin's dark prison, risen to a holier state;
and a brighter Easter beam on our longing eyes shall stream.

The celebrant lights a candle as will be done preceding each lesson.

The First Lesson – Luke 24:1-10

Mary Magdalene and other women visit the holy sepulcher, and find it empty.

Hymn 174 “At the Lamb’s High Feast”

1. At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to our victorious King,
who has washed us in the tide flowing from his pierced side;
praise we him, whose love divine gives his sacred Blood for wine,
gives his Body for the feast, Christ the victim, Christ the priest.

2. Where the Paschal blood is poured, death's dark angel sheathes his sword;
Israel's hosts triumphant go through the wave that drowns the foe.
Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, Paschal bread;
with sincerity and love eat we manna from above.

3. Mighty victim from on high, hell's fierce powers beneath thee lie;
thou hast conquered in the fight, thou hast brought us life and light:
now no more can death appall, now no more the grave enthrall;
thou hast opened paradise, and in thee thy saints shall rise.

4. Easter triumph, Easter joy, these alone do sin destroy.
From sin's power do thou set free souls newborn, O Lord, in thee.
Hymns of glory, songs of praise, Father, unto thee we raise:
risen Lord, all praise to thee with the Spirit ever be.

The Second Lesson – John 20:11-18

Christ appears to Mary Magdalene and talks with her, and she supposes him to be the gardener.

Hymn 199 “Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain”

1. Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness!
God hath brought his Israel into joy from sadness:
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke Jacob's sons and daughters,
led them with unmoistened foot through the Red Sea waters.

2. 'Tis the spring of souls today: Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun hath risen;
all the winter of our sins, long and dark, is flying
from his light, to whom we give laud and praise undying.

3. Now the queen of seasons, bright with the day of splendor,
with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains Jesus' resurrection.

4. Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal hold thee as a mortal:
but today amidst thine own thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing.

The Third Lesson – Luke 24:13-16, 28-35

Christ appears to two of his disciples and walks and talks with them as they journey from Jerusalem to Emmaus.

Hymn 305 “Come, Risen Lord, and Deign to be our Guest”

1. Come, risen Lord, and deign to be our guest; no, let us be your guests and with you dine;
at your own table now be manifest in your own sacrament of bread and wine.
2. We meet as in the upper room they met; now at the table, blessing, yet you stand:
'This is my body': this you give us yet; faith still receives the cup as from your hand.
3. One body we, one body who partake, one church united in communion blessed;
one name we bear, one bread of life we break, with all your saints on earth and saints at rest.
4. One with each other, Lord, and one in you, who are one Saviour and one living head;
open our eyes to see with vision true; be known to us in breaking of the bread.

The Fourth Lesson – John 20:19; Luke 24:37-40; John 20:20-23

Christ talks with his disciples in hiding, and shows them his risen body.

Hymn 193 “That Easter Day with Joy was Bright”

1. That Easter day with joy was bright: the sun shone out with fairer light
when to their longing eyes restored, th'apostles saw their risen Lord.
2. His risen flesh with radiance glowed, his wounded hands and feet he showed;
those scars their solemn witness gave that Christ was risen from the grave.
3. O Jesus, King of gentleness, do thou thyself our hearts possess,
that we may give thee all our days the willing tribute of our praise.
4. O Lord of all, with us abide in this, our joyful Easter-tide;
from ev'ry weapon death can wield thine own redeemed forever shield.

The Fifth Lesson – John 20:24-29

The Apostle Thomas is doubtful of the Resurrection of Christ, and is given convincing proof.

Hymn 179 “Welcome Happy Morning”

1. “Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say:
hell today is vanquished, heaven is won today!
Lo! the Dead is living, God for evermore!
Him their true Creator, all his works adore!

Refrain: “Welcome, happy morning!” age to age shall say.

2. Earth her joy confesses, clothing her for spring,
all fresh gifts returned with her returning King:
bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,
speak his sorrow ended, hail his triumph now. (Refrain)

3. Months in due succession, days of lengthening light,
hours and passing moments praise thee in their flight.
Brightness of the morning, sky and fields and sea, V
anquisher of darkness, bring their praise to thee. (Refrain)

4. 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,
mankind to deliver, manhood didst put on. (Refrain) ...

The Sixth Lesson – Matthew 28:16-20; John 20:30, 31
Christ appears to his eleven disciples and gives them his final charge.

Hymn 210 “The Day of Resurrection”

1. The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the Passover of gladness, the Passover of God.
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ hath brought us over, with hymns of victory.

2. Our hearts be pure from evil, that we may see aright
the Lord in rays eternal of resurrection light;
and, listening to his accents, may hear so calm and plain
his own “All hail!” and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

3. Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth her song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes in gladness blend,
for Christ the Lord hath risen, our joy that hath no end.

The Seventh Lesson – 1 Peter 1:3-9

The indescribable joy and blessing of knowing the risen Christ.

Hymn 208 “The Strife is O’er”

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1. The strife is o’er, the battle done, the victory of life is won;
the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

2. The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions hath dispersed:
let shout of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

3. The three sad days are quickly sped, he rises glorious from the dead:
all glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

... Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Collect of Easter Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Celebrant offers the Collect.

The Prayers of the People

*The Intercessor concludes each petition: Lord of Life,
And the people respond: **Hear our prayer.***

The Blessing

Hymn 175 “Hail Thee, Festival Day”

*[Refrain] Hail thee, festival day! blest day to be hallowed forever;
day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.*

1 Lo, the fair beauty of earth, from the death of the winter arising!
Every good gift of the year now with its Master returns; [Refrain]
2 He who was nailed to the cross is Ruler and Lord of all people.
All things created on earth Sing to the glory of God: [Refrain]
3 Daily the loveliness grows, adorned with glory of blossom;
heaven her gates unbars, flinging her increase of light: [Refrain]
4 Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation.
Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all: [Refrain]

Dismissal

Priest: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us bless the Lord.

*People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Postlude

*To make a Spiritual Communion on this day, please go to the “Library” tab
at our website: www.messiahmb.org.*

*If you would like to support our mission and ministry,
gifts may be sent to the address below.*

*A copy of the sermon offered at our Eucharist on the
Beach may be had by emailing messiahatthebeach@icloud.com.*

We return to limited in-person worship next Sunday in the Chapel. Our worship will be live-streamed. Please watch for announcements on how to continue worshipping with us.



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