

Easter Sunday, Year A

- Color:** White
- Scriptures:** [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]
[Acts 10:34–43](#) (God raised Jesus on the third day)
[or] [Jeremiah 31:1–6](#) (Joy at the restoration of God’s people)
[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#) (This is the day the Lord has acted. Rejoice and be glad)
[Colossians 3:1–4](#) (Raised with Christ to seek the higher things)
[or] [Acts 10:34–43](#) (God raised Jesus on the third day)
[John 20:1–18](#) (Mary encounters the risen Christ)
[or] [Matthew 28:1-10](#) (The women find the empty tomb. Jesus has been raised from the dead)
- Themes:** Resurrection, Joy, New Day, Mind of Christ, Mystery, Life
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HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn’s association with the morning’s scriptures or themes.

- [Alleluia! Alleluia! Hearts to Heav’n and Voices Raise](#) (HYMN TO JOY)Easter
- [Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know](#) (HENDON)..... Acts, Colossians
- [Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing](#) (TRURO)John, Matthew, Acts
- [Christ the Lord is Risen Today](#) (EASTER HYMN)John, Matthew
- [Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain](#) (ST. KEVIN; GAUDEAMUS PARITER)Easter
- [Crown Him With Many Crowns](#) (DIADEMATA)John, Matthew
- [The Day of Resurrection!](#) (ELLACOMBE; HERZLICH TUT MICH; LANCASHIRE).....Psalms, Easter
- [The Head That Once Was Crowned](#) (AZMON)Easter
- [I Come to the Garden Alone](#) (GARDEN) John
- [I Know That My Redeemer Lives](#) (DUKE STREET)Easter
- [Look, Ye Saints! The Sight Is Glorious](#) (BRYN CALFARIA)..... Acts, John, Matthew
- [Low In the Grave He Lay](#) (CHRIST AROSE)John, Matthew
- [Now the Green Blade Rises](#) (NOEL NOUVELET) John, Easter
- [O Sons and Daughters, Let Us Sing](#) (O FILII ET FILIAE)John, Matthew
- [Rejoice, the Lord Is King](#) (DARWALL)John, Matthew
- [The Strife Is O’er](#) (VICTORY/PALESTRINA) Acts
- [Thine Is the Glory](#) (MACCABEUS)John, Matthew

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Concertato on "Thine Is the Glory" - EEaster
G.F. Handel, *MACCABEUS*/Robert J. Powell, arr.
© 1988, Choristers Guild, CGA-457
SA(T)B, Children's Choir, Organ, 2 Trumpets, opt.
opt. Congregation, Handbells

An Easter Greeting - E Colossians, Easter
Martin How
© 1978 Theodore Presser Co., PR.312412570
2-Part Mixed, Organ

Easter Morning - MJohn, Matthew
Paul J. Christiansen
© 1948, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-4557-1
SATB, a cappella

Hail Thee, Festival Day - MEaster
Ralph Vaughan Williams/Hal Hopson, arr.
© 1998, MorningStar Music, 60-4004
SATB, Organ, opt. Brass, Timpani, Handbells

Hallelujah - MEaster
G.F. Handel (from *Messiah*)
Public Domain, CPDL.org
SATB, Keyboard

In Thee Is Gladness - MD.....John, Matthew
IN DIR IST FRUEDE/Daniel Kallman, arr.
© 1992 MorningStar Music, 50-9058
SATB, Organ, opt. C Instrument
*[Also available for SATB, Brass Quintet, Organ, opt.
Timpani and Cymbals]*

Mary At the Tomb - MJohn, Matthew
Bradley Ellingboe
© 1997, Augsburg Fortress, 978-0-8006-5694-2
SATB, Piano

O Give Thanks To the Lord - MPsalms
Noel Rawsthorne
© 1989, Kevin Mayhew Ltd., 97666A
SATB, Organ, opt. Congregation

On the Third Day - M.....Easter
Allen Pote
© 1992, Hope Publishing, F 1000
SATB, Keyboard, opt. Handbells, Brass, Timpani

The Rain Is Over and Gone - MEaster
Paul Halley
© 1998, Pelagos Music, PEL2009
Solo, SATB, Piano, opt. Rhythm, Bass and Organ

-- Youth and Children --

Christ Is Alive - E Colossians
Lori True
© 2003, GIA Publications, G-6065
SAB, Piano, opt. Guitar, 2 Flutes

Jesus Lives! - EEaster
Margaret Tucker
© 2009, Choristers Guild, CGA 1181
Unison, Piano, opt. Xylophone, 7 Handbells

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger,
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right.
Faith and Hope triumphant say
"Christ will rise on Easter Day."*

— PHILLIPS BROOKS, 1903, "An Easter Carol"

The resurrection of the dead is the radical insistence that matter matters to God.

— BARBARA BROWN TAYLER, *An Altar In the World*

*My future is unveiled in the open tomb,
embraced by emptiness assuring that everything
in life is my teacher. Even death holds my hand,
instructing me in the way of my Teacher,
risen, unconquerable light amidst the shadows.*

— PETER TRABEN HAAS, from *Centering Prayers*

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CALL TO WORSHIP

(Adapted from Psalm 118:1-2, 23-24)

One: Christ is risen!

All: Christ is risen, indeed!

One: Sing to God a hymn of gladness.

All: Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;

One: Sing to God a hymn of praise.

All: God's steadfast love endures forever!

One: Come worship God, come all, rejoice!

All: This is God's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes!

One: Lift up your hearts! Lift up your voice!

All: This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it!

GATHERING PRAYER

Mysterious Presence, you reveal yourself to us in our darkest hours,
you call to us by our names, you meet us at the point of our own despairing.
Shine on us, and awaken our hearts to your quickening presence. In the Spirit
of the Christ, the Resurrection and the Life we pray. Amen.

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, let light of your Word be a lamp to our feet,
leading us away from lifeless places and toward the
roads where we will meet and follow you. Amen.

— MARIAN McCLURE TAYLOR*

AN EASTER PRAYER
(Based upon John 20:1-18)

Dear God, on this day of new beginnings, we celebrate your goodness and faithfulness. Once again, the story of the empty tomb reminds us Easter is about starting over when we thought all hope was gone.

Far too often, we find ourselves in the cemetery of broken dreams wondering if the clouds of disappointment will lift and the sun will shine again. On days like this, our faith assures us it will.

What you did for Jesus after his crucifixion, you will do for all of us who must walk through the valley of the shadow of death. You will safely accompany us on this journey and welcome us to our new home that has been prepared by your loving hands.

We believe what Jesus did for Mary Magdalene as she wept outside that empty tomb, Jesus does for us. He, too, tenderly calls our name, provides the comfort and hope our grieving hearts need and restores the joy we thought we had forever lost.

How can we thank you enough for an Easter faith that is stronger than our fears? How can we adequately express our gratitude and praise?

Perhaps the best way is to be an Easter people who comfort those who are grieving, share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with all who are bewildered and make hope visible to those who are walking in darkness.

Through the empowering work of the Holy Spirit, help us to live our resurrection faith every day. In the name of our Risen Lord, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

— ROBERT BROWNING

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CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Behold, the Lord is nearer than you knew; whisper "Rabbouni!" and heed his instructions. As you go forth, let the awe and wonder of the empty tomb stay with you, bless you, and turn you toward God's liberating love.

And now, may God's power to roll away that which imprisons you, Christ's power to offer you saving love, and the Holy Spirit's power to lead you into all truth grant you life abundant, both now and forever more, Amen.

*Thanks to Marian McClure Taylor and Robert Browning for contributing this week's liturgies and prayers.

Warren Howell, editor