

“Where All Are Welcome . . . No Exceptions!”

# The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 9, 2021

## The Holy Eucharist The Word of God



#657 | “Love Divine”

**Prelude** “All Glory Be to God on High” **Sherri Hansen**  
*Hymn Tunes: Allein Gott in der Höh & Hyfrydol*

**Opening Hymn** (*Please stand as able*) *Please see page 8*

**Children’s Chat** - *Robert Freeman*

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen!

*People* **The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Canticle of Praise:** *This Is the Feast*

*Celebrant*  
 This is the feast of vic-tory 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-tory for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

2. Sing with all the people of God and join in the  
hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing and hon - or and glor - ry and  
might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.  
*Final refrain*  
This is the feast of vic - tory for our God, for the Lamb who was slain  
has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### The Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* ***And also with you.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant prays the Collect*

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

*People* ***Amen.***

### First Reading *(Please be seated)*

*Reader* A Reading from Acts:

#### *Introduction to the First Reading*

*As Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit fills them. Recognizing that the Spirit calls both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in Christ's name.*

*Acts 10:44-48*

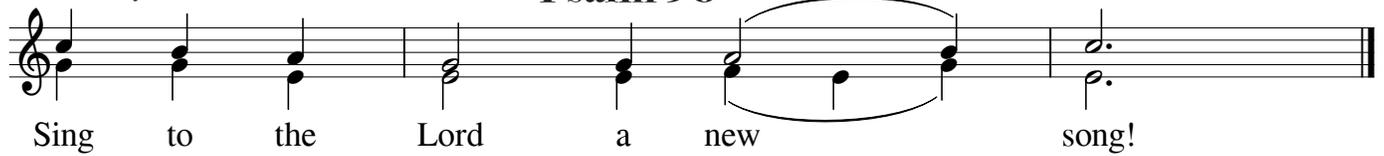
While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 98



Sing to the LORD a new song,  
 for he has done marvelous things.  
 With his right hand and his holy arm  
 has he won for himself the victory. [ANT.]

The LORD has made known his victory;  
 his righteousness has he openly shown  
 in the sight of the nations.  
 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness  
 to the house of Israel,  
 and all the ends of the earth have seen  
 the victory of our God. [ANT.]

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;  
 lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.  
 Sing to the LORD with the harp,  
 with the harp and the voice of song.  
 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
 shout with joy before the King, the LORD. [ANT.]

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,  
 the lands and those who dwell therein.  
 Let the rivers clap their hands,  
 and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
 when he comes to judge the earth.  
 In righteousness shall he judge the world  
 and the peoples with equity. [ANT.]

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Second Reading -

Reader A reading from the First Letter of John, the First Chapter:

*Introduction to the Second Reading*

*The central theme of the First Letter of John is that God is love. As the children of God, Christians are called to love God and one another, and so fulfill the commandments. By our faith in this God of love, we conquer the world.*

1 John 5:1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Sequence Hymn (Please stand as able) - Please see page 9

#529 | "In Christ There is No East or West"

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John:

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Holy Gospel (The Gospel is carried into the congregation so that we remember it is our Good News to hear and to share.)

John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples, "As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard

from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

*Celebrant*        The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

## THE SERMON

**The Nicene Creed** (*Please stand as able*)

*We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.*

*We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.*

*For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

## The Prayers of the People

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

Alive in the risen Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, we bring our prayers before God who promises to hear us and answer in steadfast love.

Loving God, you call us to be your fruit-bearing church. Strengthen the bonds among all Christian churches. We pray for your faithful people and our leaders, that your love may be the foundation of our life together and be at the heart of our ministries.

Hear us, O God.

***Your mercy is great.***

Creating God, the earth praises you. The seas roar and the hills sing for joy. Fill the earth with your love so that by their song, all creatures of land and sea and sky, burrowing and soaring, may call us to join with them in praise. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Faithful Savior, you conquer the world not with weapons but with undying love. Plant your word in the hearts of the nations' leaders and give them your Spirit, so that the peoples of the world may live in peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Caring Healer, you forget no one and accompany the lonely. Be present with those who are sick or suffering. Provide for those needing homes or medical care and point us towards life-changing responses to these needs in our own communities. Be with the dying. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, as a mother comforts her child, you comfort us. Bless mothers and mothering people in our lives. Comfort those who miss their mothers, mothers who grieve, those who grieve because they cannot be mothers, and those who have never known a loving mother. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Gentle Redeemer, all who die in you abide in your presence forever. We remember with thanksgiving those who shared your love throughout their lives. Keep us united with them in your lasting love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, especially remembering those on our parish prayer list and those we name in our hearts.

*(The congregation may add their own petitions either silently or aloud after the prayer list is read.)*

In the hope of new life in Christ, we raise our prayers to you, trusting in your never-ending goodness and mercy: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.)*

### **The Confession of Sin** *(Please kneel as able or be seated)*

*Reader* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *(Silence may be kept)*

*People* **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

### **The Absolution**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **The Peace** *(Please stand as able)*

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

## **The Holy Communion**

*Being seated, we begin with a time of offering, giving money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and showing our gratitude for God's many blessings.*

*Your faithful tithes and offerings are much needed and can be sent to:  
The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist, PO Box 441, Milton, DE 19968 OR  
Securely online through our website - <https://www.stjohnthebaptistmilton.org/give.html>*

### **Offertory Sentence & Interlude**

**Doxology** *(The offering is presented as the Doxology is sung.  
Please stand as able)*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here be-low; praise him a-bove, ye  
heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Music: Louis Bourgeois, c. 1510-1561.

### **Offertory Hymn**

*(Verses 1, 4, 5, 7) Please see page 10*

**#400** | *"All Creatures of Our God and King"*



All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,  
*People* *Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.*

*And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.*

### The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!*

### A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart and my soul. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you, my Lord and my God! Amen.*

**Distribution Anthem** – “Our Best” Words: & Music: Grant Colfax Tullar

“Thine Is the Glory” Words: Edmond Budry & Music: George Frideric Handel, Hymn Tune: Judas Maccabaeus  
**Vocalist: Robert Freeman Accompanist: Scott Kresge**

**Post Communion Prayer** (Please kneel or be seated)

*Celebrant* Let us pray.  
*People* *Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your presence, that as we lament our separation from one another, we may continually show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

### Benediction

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. *Amen.*

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ for ever. *Amen.*

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true lasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

**Closing Hymn** (Please stand as able)

*Please see page 11*

#191 | “Alleluia, Alleluia!”

### The Dismissal

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the Name of the Risen Christ.  
*People* *Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**Postlude** **Trumpet Finale** Tommaso Albinoni

**The flowers today** are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of their Mothers by Father Tom and Rob Freeman.

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*The Rev. Thomas M. White, Rector  
J. Edwin Stout, Acolyte  
Scott Kresge, Organist/Videography/Streaming  
Robert Freeman, Cantor/Soloist  
Elizabeth Scheer, Videography/Streaming*

# Opening Hymn

"Love Divine"

1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy  
life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -  
let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -

faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,  
more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,  
ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with  
serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee  
till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our

thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

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The Church's Mission

*Unison or harmony*

1 In Christ there is no East or West, in  
 2 Join hands, dis - ci - ples of the faith, what -  
 3 In Christ now meet both East and West, in

him no South or North, but one great fel - low -  
 e'er your race may be! Who serves my Fa - ther  
 him meet South and North, all Christ - ly souls are

ship of love through - out the whole wide earth.  
 as his child is sure - ly kin to me.  
 one in him, through - out the whole wide earth.

Words: John Oxenham (1852-1941), alt.

Music: McKee, Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and harm. Harry T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

CM

Praise to God



1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voic - es, let us  
 \* 2 Great rush - ing winds and breez - es soft, you cloudsthat ride the heavens a -  
 \* 3 Swift flow - ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to  
 4 Dear mo - ther earth, you day by day un - fold your bless - ings on our  
 5 All you with mer - cy in your heart, for - giv - ing o - thers, take your  
 \* 6 And e - ven you, most gen - tle death, wait - ing to hush our fi - nal  
 7 Let all things their cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -



1 sing: Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Bright burn - ing  
 2 loft, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Fair ris - ing  
 3 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Fire, so in -  
 4 way, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! All flowers and  
 5 part, O — sing now: Al - le - lu - ia! All you that  
 6 breath, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! You lead back  
 7 ness, O — praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God the



1 sun with gold - en beams, pale sil - ver moon that gen - tly gleams,  
 2 morn, with praise re - joice, stars night - ly shin - ing, find a voice,  
 3 tense and fierce - ly bright, you give to us both warmth and light,  
 4 fruits that in you grow, let them his glo - ry al - so show:  
 5 pain and sor - row bear, praise God, and cast on him your care:  
 6 home the child of God, for Christ our Lord that way has trod:  
 7 Fa - ther, praise the Son, and praise the Spi - rit, Three in One:

*Refrain*



O praise him, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*The refrain may be sung antiphonally, by phrase; all join in the final Alleluia.*

Words: Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.

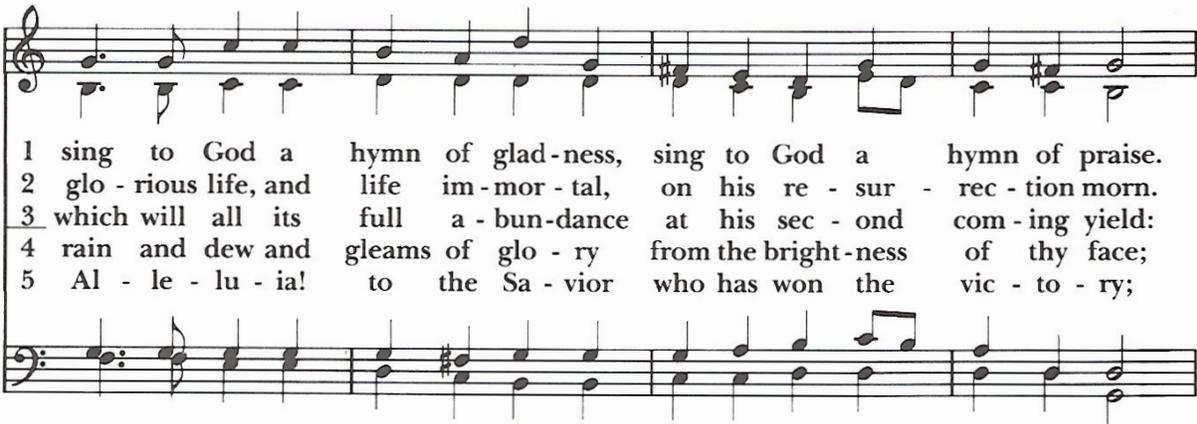
Music: *Lasst uns erfreuen*, melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengeseng*, 1623;  
 adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

# Recessional Hymn

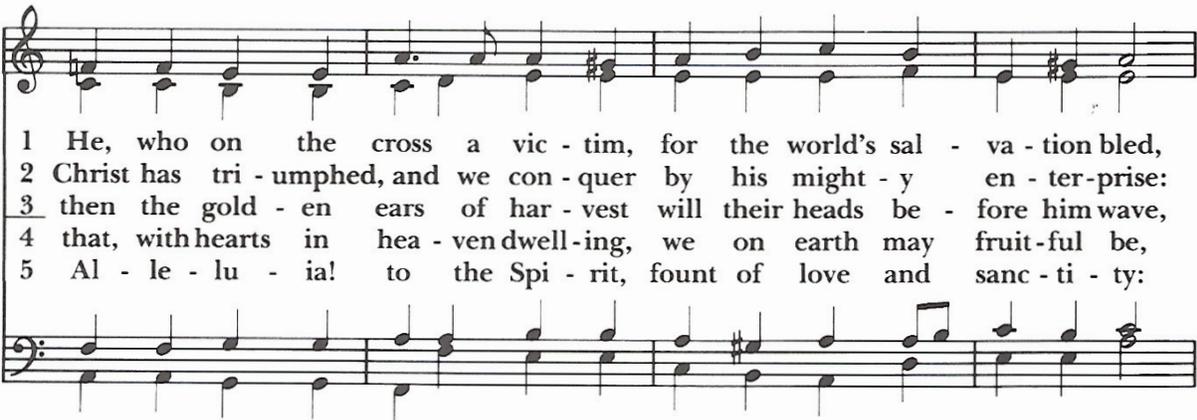
“Alleluia, Alleluia!”



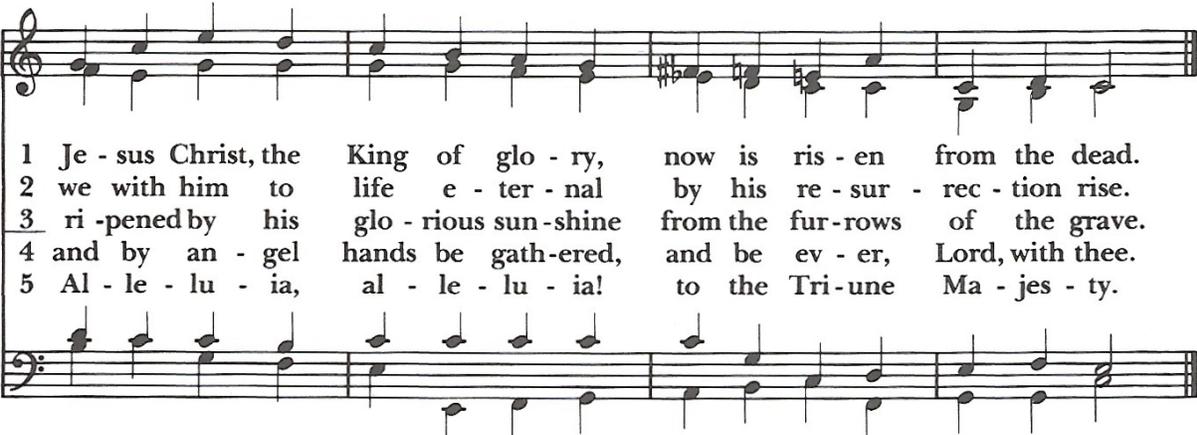
1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts and voic - es heaven - ward raise:  
2 Now the i - ron bars are bro - ken, Christ from death to life is born,  
3 Christ is ris - en, Christ, the first-fruits of the ho - ly har - vest - field,  
4 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Shed up - on us heaven - ly grace,  
5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high;



1 sing to God a hymn of glad - ness, sing to God a hymn of praise.  
2 glo - rious life, and life im - mor - tal, on his re - sur - rec - tion morn.  
3 which will all its full a - bun - dance at his sec - ond com - ing yield:  
4 rain and dew and gleams of glo - ry from the bright - ness of thy face;  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! to the Sa - vior who has won the vic - to - ry;



1 He, who on the cross a vic - tim, for the world's sal - va - tion bled,  
2 Christ has tri - umphed, and we con - quer by his might - y en - ter - prise:  
3 then the gold - en ears of har - vest will their heads be - fore him wave,  
4 that, with hearts in hea - vendwell - ing, we on earth may fruit - ful be,  
5 Al - le - lu - ia! to the Spi - rit, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty:



1 Je - sus Christ, the King of glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.  
2 we with him to life e - ter - nal by his re - sur - rec - tion rise.  
3 ri - pened by his glo - rious sun - shine from the fur - rows of the grave.  
4 and by an - gel hands be gath - ered, and be ev - er, Lord, with thee.  
5 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! to the Tri - une Ma - jes - ty.