

God of Easter and New Life

Call to Prayer During this Easter season, let's join with one another and with our God, mindful of Jesus, our Risen Lord, and Mary who are here with us. Let's quiet our inner selves. (pause)

ALL: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn Be Joyful, Mary all verses



1. Be joy - ful, Ma - ry, heav'n-ly queen, *Gau - de, Ma - ri - a:* Your
2. The Son you bore by heav-en's grace, *Gau - de, Ma - ri - a:* Did
3. The Lord has ris - en from the dead, *Gau - de, Ma - ri - a:* He

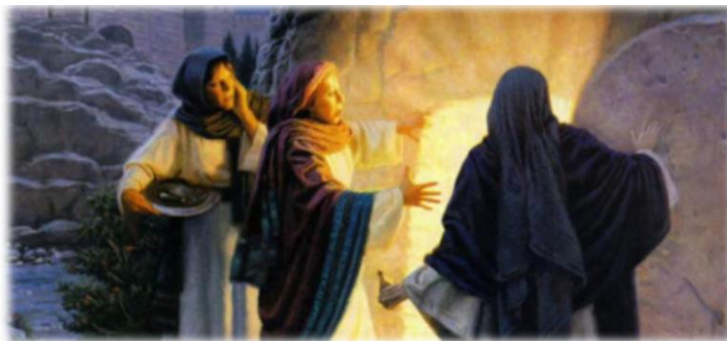


1. Son who died was liv - ing seen, *Al - le - lu - ia, lae - ta - re, O Ma - ri - a.*
2. all our guilt and sin ef - face, *Al - le - lu - ia, lae - ta - re, O Ma - ri - a.*
3. rose with might as he had said, *Al - le - lu - ia, lae - ta - re, O Ma - ri - a.*

Text: 85 84 7; *Regina Caeli, jubila*; Latin, 17th cent.; tr. anon. in *Psallite*, 1901, alt.
Music: Johann Leisentritt's *Catholicum Hymnologium*, 1584.

Reading Luke 24, 1–8 On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were puzzling over this, suddenly two people dressed in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. The two said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? Jesus is not here, but has risen. Remember how Jesus told you, while still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again.” Then the women remembered his words. The gospel of the Lord.

Response **ALL:** Thanks be to God.



Reflection If growth is to happen, the human spirit must be readied. It must be opened up if God's goodness is to grow there. Open minds and hearts are ready to receive the abundant life God constantly offers. This kind of opening up is at the heart of the Easter story. It begins with a wide-open tomb. Beside it stand messengers of God asking compassionate women to open their inner selves, encouraging them to not be afraid. As they listen they hear a startling message, “*He is not here, for he has risen...*” (Matthew 28, 6) As their minds and hearts struggle to accept this tremendous surprise, they are being readied. The women open their hearts to this profound announcement. They receive the word of resurrection like thirsty soil and hurry away to share the good news with others. adapted Joyce Rupp, [May I Have This Dance](#), page 57

God of Easter and New Life (con't)

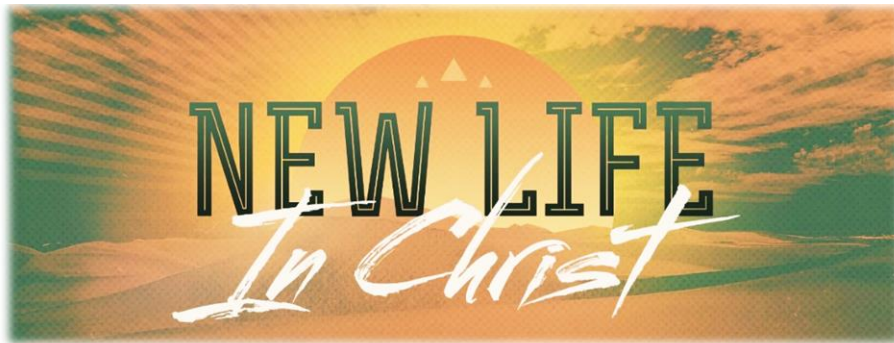
Response God's Grandeur (in unison) (only parts) Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil.
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs
Because the Holy Spirit over the bent world
Broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.



Reflection and Sharing

Have I received the good news of the Resurrection with an open heart and mind?
With whom can I share this tremendous message?



Intercessions

Leader: God of empty tombs, you call us to be open to your Presence in places we least expect. You live and move among us and invite us to transformation through death, urging us to believe that you are indeed leading us to new life.

ALL: Grant us the faith to be open and receptive to your presence in all the events of life.

Leader: God of time, in our dying and endings, we enter a space of conversion. We are summoned to turn away from something in order to turn toward someone.

ALL: Grace us with patience and wisdom as we open ourselves to change, to endings, to new beginnings and to you.

Leader: God of longer days, of budding trees and spring rains, in this season of Easter and spring, you reveal your presence with and among us.

ALL: Change us, transform us, renew us with the awareness that the tomb is not the end, it is the beginning of new life in you.

Closing Prayer **ALL:** God of Easter and spring, you journey with us daily, nurturing, showing, revealing your presence among us and in us. May we be open to newness as we welcome those in need, knowing that they are you. May we share what we have and our lives thus being transformed by your presence. Please, be love in us as we move forward. Thank you for the gift of being able to rise each day with the assurance that you accompany us. God of Resurrection, we praise and glorify you in Jesus and Mary, through your Spirit. Amen.

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Prayer Texts

John 10: 10 "... have life and have it to the full."

John 11: 25-26 "I am the Resurrection and the life..."

