Westminster
Presbyterian Church

353 E. Pine St., Wooster, OH 44691
330-263-2398 / wpcwooster@gmail.com

Easter Sunday and Communion
March 31, 2024

Welcome and Announcements **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Let us open our hearts and minds to the rhythm of the gathering music as it centers us in God's presence for worship.

Prelude **"Improvisation on "Duke Street"** **Michael Burkhardt**

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run:
The weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.

***Gathering Words** **Erica Ewing**

*The * in the liturgy indicates that you are invited to stand in body or in spirit.*

Christ is risen!
Alleluia!
God lives.
God is alive in us.
Beauty, love, joy, passion, justice - despite everything, they persist!
No spirit of destruction,
no forces of violence,
no means of everyday evil can steal our hope.
The stone has been rolled away.
The Spirit of Life cannot be contained.
Christ is risen!
Alleluia! Alleluia!

Opening Prayer **Erica Ewing**

Let us pray…

Holy One,
through you the impossible becomes possible.
You birth hope into inconceivable places:
In our greatest pain.
In our heaviest grief.
In our weightiest battles with injustice.
Even when we cannot yet perceive it, your Spirit is at work.
Give us the faith, O God, to trust in the mystery of your redemptive hand. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 232** **"Jesus Christ Is Risen Today"** ***Easter Hymn

Call to Confession **Erica Ewing**

Friends, it's not enough to hear of God's grace once. We need to hear it over and over again, week after week. We need to be reminded that God's grace and mercy will never run out.

So let us run to God like the women ran to the tomb.
Let us tell the truth of our lives so that once again we can be reminded that our God is a God of grace, mercy, and love. Let us pray so that we can remember. Join me in the responsive prayer of confession:

Prayer of Confession **Erica Ewing**

The stone is rolled away!
We assume it is a mistake.
The angels say, "He is not here!"
We assume their news is fake.
The women tell the story,
but we do not want to hear it.
Peter runs to the tomb,
but we do not understand.

Forgive us, God, for thinking an empty tomb
is nothing more than a prank.
Forgive us for seeing discarded burial cloths
and still holding tight to death.
Forgive us for pushing away reasons to hope
when you are alive and well in the world.
Teach us to see what you see.
Unravel the threads of our unbelief. Amen.

Silent Confession

Musical Response No. 544** **"Bless the Lord"** ***Taizé/Bless the Lord
(sung multiple times)

***Assurance of Forgiveness** **Erica Ewing**

The angels tell the women, "*Remember* what Jesus told you."
So, family of faith, let us remember this:

We are seen.
We are forgiven.
We are held in God's grace.
All of this is true.
Grace and mercy abound for us.
We will remember and live this truth. Amen!

Musical Offering **"I Know That My Redeemer Lives"** **arr. H.H. Hopson**
(based on a tune from the 1850 edition of The Sacred Harp)
Westminster Choir

We offer our gifts of money, talents, time, and energy—the gifts of our lives in gratitude for God's relentless love and grace for all. These gifts represent our commitment to heed God's call and join God in God's mission of healing and transforming our world.

Prayer of Illumination **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Scripture Reading **Luke 24:1-12 (NRSV)** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

24 But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices that
they had prepared. [2] They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, [3] but when they went in
they did not find the body. [4] While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in
dazzling clothes stood beside them. [5] The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the
ground, but the men said to them,

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen.
[6] Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, [7] that the Son of Man must be
handed over to the hands of sinners and be crucified and on the third day rise again."

[8] Then they remembered his words, [9] and returning from the tomb they told all this to the
eleven and to all the rest. [10] Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James,
and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. [11] But these words seemed to
them an idle tale, and they did not believe them.

[12] But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by
themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

Sermon **Wandering Heart: And We Hope** **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

Hymn **"This Is the Day of New Beginnings"** ***Beginnings***

Communion

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving **Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy**

God of today and tomorrow,
God of the garden and the tomb,
God of our faith and our doubt,
we are running toward you.
Like Peter on that Easter morning, we simply cannot stay away.

With beating hearts and wide eyes, we have arrived in this sanctuary, bringing with us questions, hopes, joys, and concerns. Hear these prayers as we draw closer to you.

God of the dawn, we start with our hopes:
Thank you for the gifts of this world that instill buoyancy in us.
Thank you for the curiosity wonder springing in our soul,
for the sound of your people singing in unison,
for crowded tables and neighborly kindness,
for the sun after the rain, the spring after the frost,
love after loss, and faith that springs even while we doubt.
Like Peter, we have countless reasons to hold onto hope. Highest among them is the joy and promise of this day. Thank you for these holy breadcrumbs on the journey of faith.

Yet, we remember that before the joy and the alleluias of this day,
we found ourselves at the foot of the cross.
So for the things that erode our hope,
for the things that stitch doubt and fear into our hearts,
we ask for your comforting hand.
Wrap your arms around all who are still locked in that upper room.
Wrap your arms around all who cannot find healing after their longest night.
Wrap your arms around all who look for reasons to hope, but cannot find those breadcrumbs amidst reasons to grieve.

Holy God, like Peter, fan the flames of our faith.
Like Peter, invite us to step out of our boats.
And like Peter, use us to care for those in need, to tell your story,
and to build a better world.
So with awe-struck, wildly-beating, grateful hearts, we run toward you.

At this Table, may we recognize that in every stage of our wandering,
you are near to us.
Pour out your Spirit on this bread and cup and those gathered here,
Nourish us so that we might remember and trust even when we don't fully understand.
May we live as children of hope until you make all things new.

We pray together using the words you taught us to pray, saying,

Our God in heaven, holy is your name.
Your kin-dom come,
Your will be done, on earth as is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kin-dom, the power and the glory are yours.
Now and forever. Amen.

Words of Institution
Communion of the People
Prayer after Communion

***Closing Hymn No. 246 "Christ Is Alive" Truro**

Benediction Rev. Dr. Enikö Ferenczy

Postlude "Thine Be the Glory" G.F. Handel, arr. L. Smith

"Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son;
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won"

The service continues with fellowship.

****

*Please stand in body or in spirit.
*The Gathering Words and Opening Prayer were adapted from *Enfleshed: Liturgy That Matters.* All other prayers were adapted from the Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
*Hymns are from the Glory to God Hymnal.
*Music: Tom Shaw, organ; Ken Shafer, organ; Westminster Choir

****



To continue to assure the safety of all, the offering plate is located on a table in the back of the sanctuary. If you are moved to support our ministry, we invite you to place your gifts in the plate.

GIVE NOW

You may also give online through our website by clicking on the "GIVE NOW" button at the bottom of the home page. Your generosity helps us to fulfill our calling to engage in God's transformative mission in our community.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, March 31

- **Easter Sunrise Service – 7.30 am Mackey Patio**
- **Easter Breakfast – 8.30 – The Meeting Place**
- **Easter Sunday Worship Service with Communion** – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- **Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place**

Monday, April 1

- Office is closed
- Scout Troop 61 – 6:30 pm – Mackey Hall

Wednesday, April 3

- Wooster Area Interfaith Partners Meeting – 9 am –The Lounge

Thursday, April 4

- Dance and Exercise – 8.30 am – The Meeting Place

Sunday, April 7

- Choir rehearsal – 9 am – Mackey Hall
- Worship Service – 10 am – Mackey Hall
- Wooster Friends Meeting – 10.30 am – The Meeting Place

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Pastor Rev. Dr. Enikő Ferenczy
Minister of Music Rev. Dr. Thomas Shaw
Office Administrator Rev. Dr. James Henery
Tech/Media Administrator Jack Veney
AV Assistant/Event Steward Tony Mendiola

Office Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m.-2.p.m.
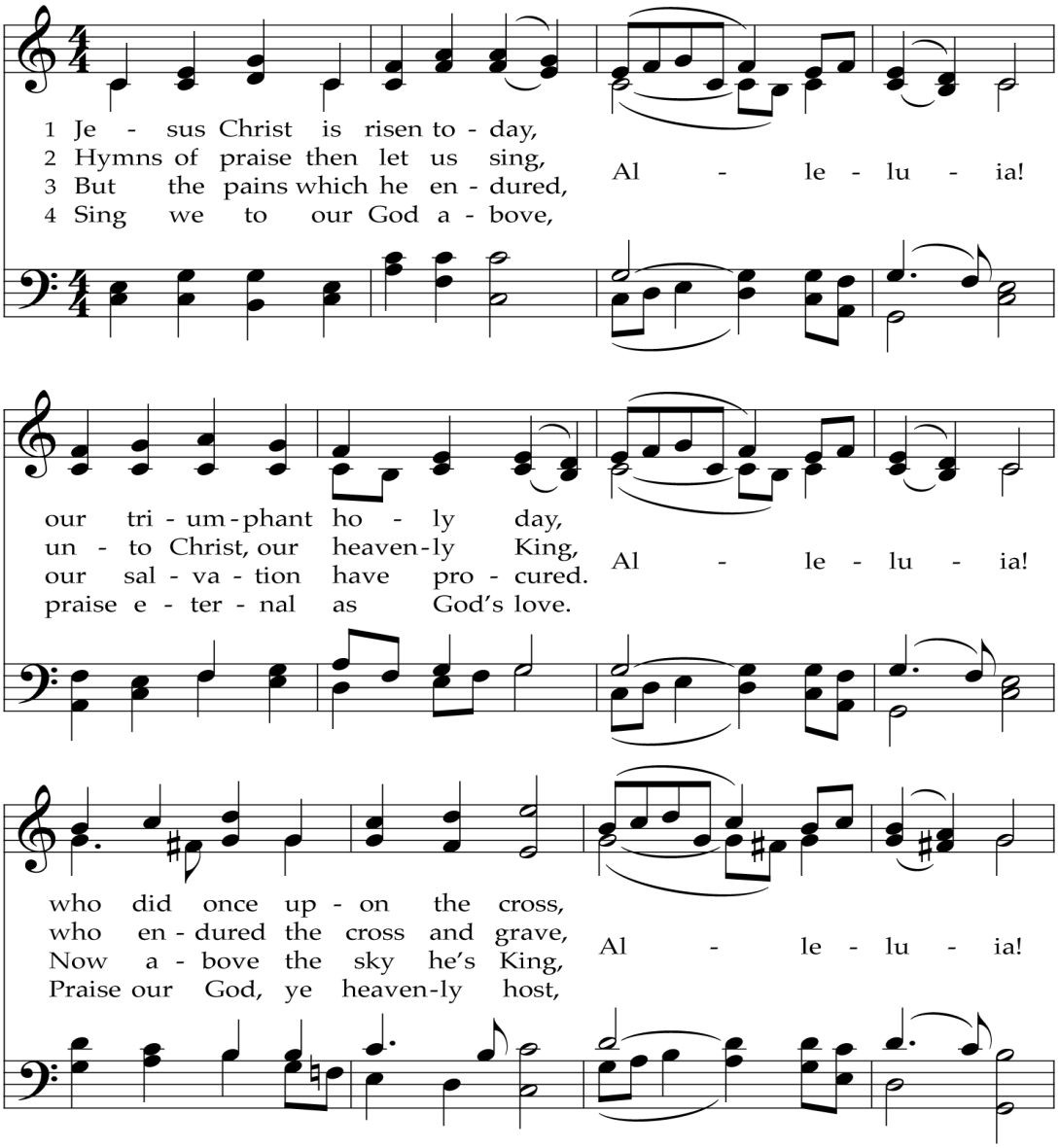
wpcwooster@gmail.com: 330.263.2398
facebook.com/wpcwooster | instagram.com/wpc_wooster/

Our 150th year celebration, May 5, 2024



(link to the WPC 150th Anniversary webpage: **https://wpcwoo.org/150)**

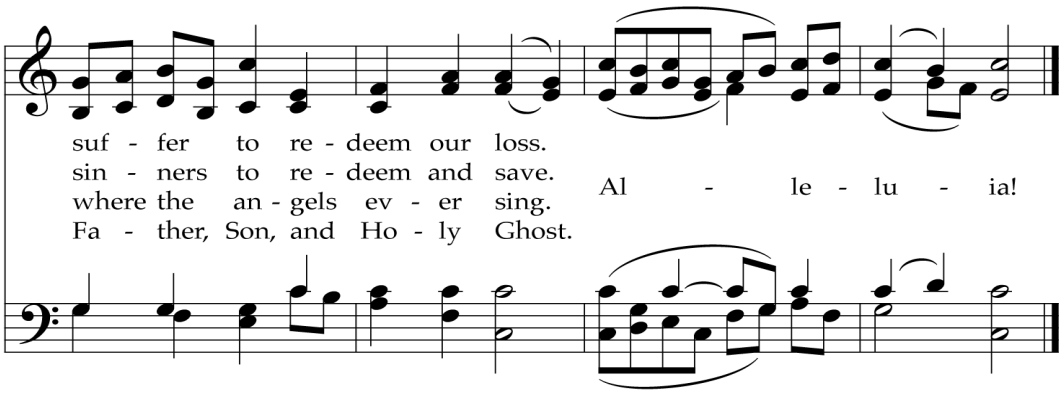
232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



It seems likely that this beloved Easter text began in Latin and moved through German before reaching English, where it combined with the present tune in the emerging English evangelical style, a reaction to the restrained one-note-per-syllable psalmody that preceded it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–3, *Lyra Davidica,* 1708; stanza 4, Charles Wesley, 1740
Spanish trans. Juan Bautista Cabrera, alt.; Korean trans. The Christian Literature Society of Korea
MUSIC: *Lyra Davidica,* 1708; adapt. from *The Compleat Psalmodist,* 1749
Korean Trans. © The Christian Literature Society of Korea

EASTER HYMN
7.7.7.7 with alleluias



SPANISH

1 *El Señor resucitó, ¡Aleluya!*
muerte y tumba ya venció. ¡Aleluya!
Con su fuerza y su virtud ¡Aleluya!
cautivó la esclavitud. ¡Aleluya!

2 *El que al polvo se humilló, ¡Aleluya!*
vencedor se levantó. ¡Aleluya!
Cante hoy la cristiandad ¡Aleluya!
su gloriosa majestad. ¡Aleluya!

3 *Cristo, que la cruz sufrió, ¡Aleluya!*
y en desolación se vio, ¡Aleluya!
hoy en gloria celestial ¡Aleluya!
reina vivo e inmortal. ¡Aleluya!

4 *Cristo, nuestro Salvador, ¡Aleluya!*
de la muerte es triunfador. ¡Aleluya!
En El hemos de confiar. ¡Aleluya!
Cantaremos sin cesar. ¡Aleluya!

KOREAN

1 예수부활 했으니 할렐루야
만민찬송 하여라
천사들이 즐거워
기쁜찬송 부르네

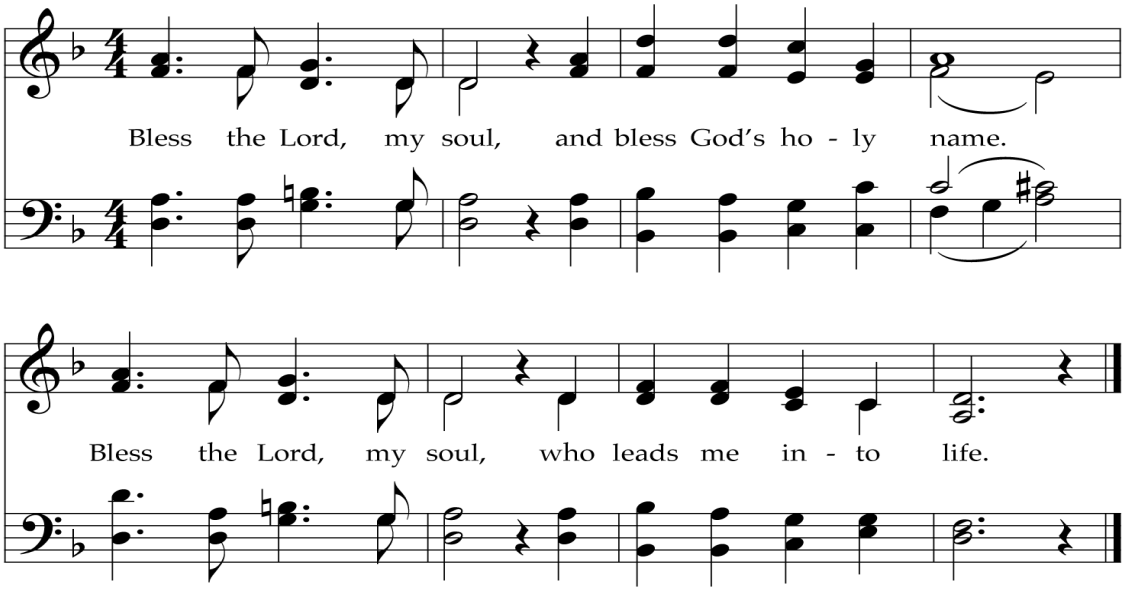
2 대속하신 주예수 할렐루야
선한싸움 이겼네
사망권세 이기고
하늘문을 여셨네

3 마귀권세 이긴주 할렐루야
왕의왕이 되셨네
높은이름 세상에
널리반포 하여라

4 길과진리 되신주 할렐루야
우리부활 하겠네
부활생명 되시니
우리부활 하겠네

SENDING

544 Bless the Lord
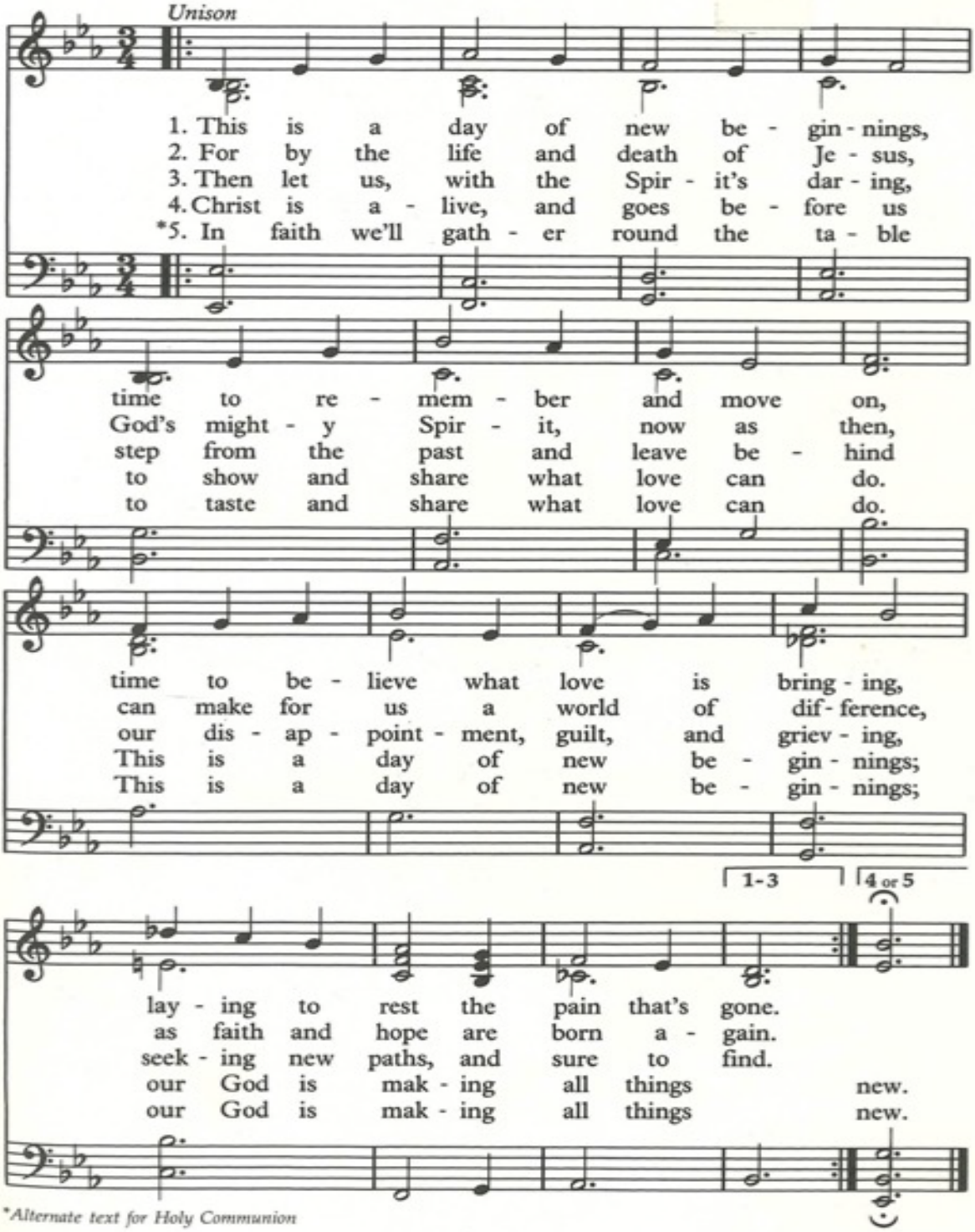


This refrain based on Psalm 103:1 is meant for repeated singing. To "bless God's holy name" (which could not be spoken by observant Jews) is a reminder to be grateful even for what we cannot comprehend, trusting that God's providence will show us "the path of life" (Psalm 16:11).

TEXT: Taizé Community, 1984
MUSIC: Jacques Berthier, 1984
Text and Music © 1984, 1998 Les Presses de Taizé (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

BLESS THE LORD (Taizé)
Irregular

This Is a Day of New Beginnings 383
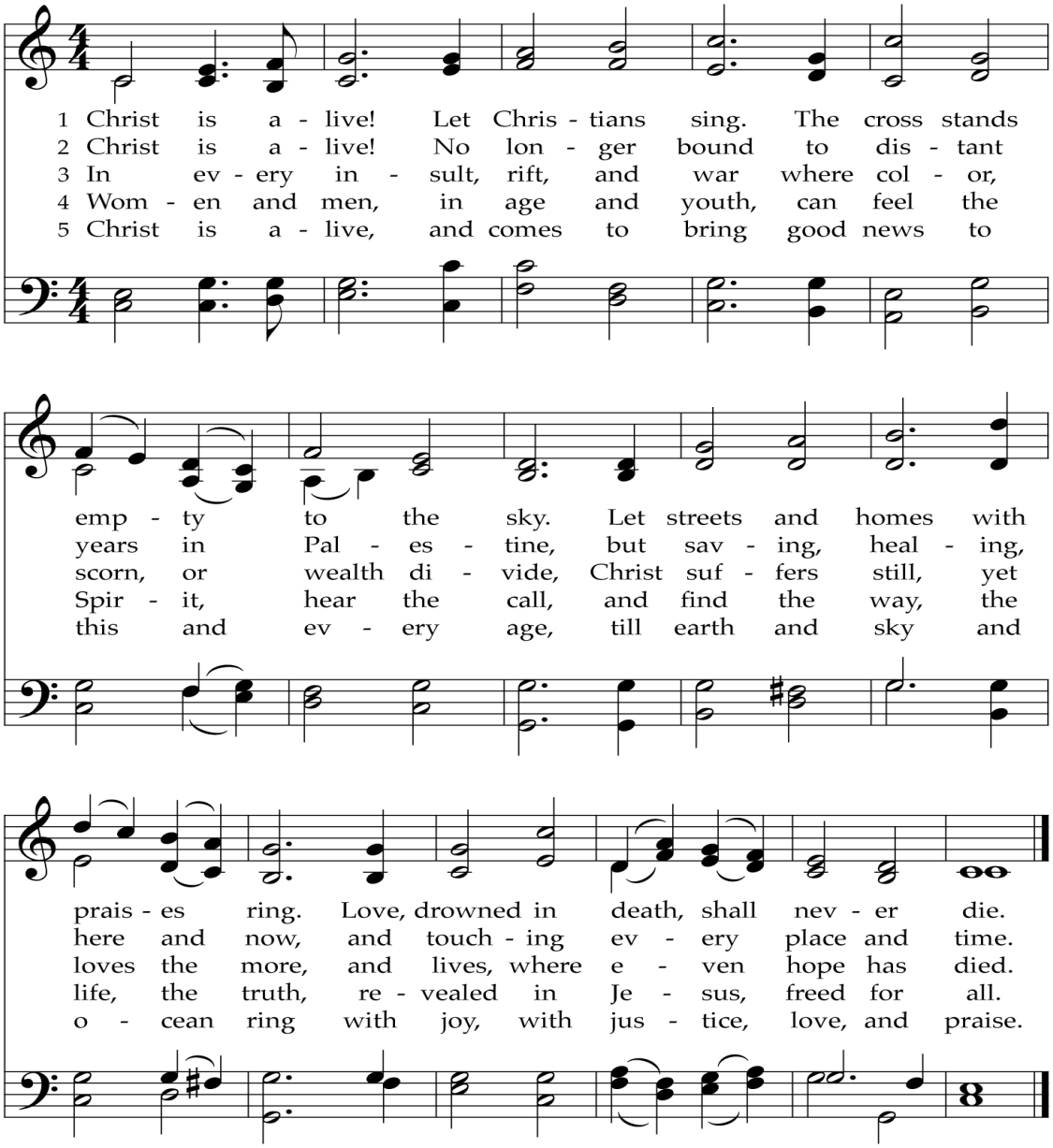


*Alternate text for Holy Communion

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987 (Rev. 21:5)
MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS
98.98

Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

Christ Is Alive! 246



In 1968 Easter fell ten days after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., and this text was written to express an Easter hope while mindful of that terrible event. Buoyed by a triple-arched tune, it affirms the presence of a wounded, risen Christ with all who suffer.

TEXT: Brian Wren, 1968, rev. 1995
MUSIC: *Musica Sacra*, c. 1778
Text © 1975, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company

TRURO
LM