



EASTER

MARCH 31-MAY 18, 2024 | VOLUME 6 | ISSUE 4

PRAYERS
for Morning & Evening

PRACTICES
for Mind, Body & Spirit

GALLERY
for Contemplation

SONGBOOK
for Adoration





DAILY PRAYER PROJECT

ANIMATING A LIFE OF PRAYER THROUGH THE MANIFOLD BEAUTY OF THE CHURCH

Credits

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

ASHLEY WILLIAMS

Greetings this Eastertide!

Now out of the darkness of Lent, we bask in the light of Jesus's resurrection and ascension. His resurrection solidified a myriad of realities for believers both ancient and modern: forgiveness for sin, the promise of new life, and the birth of the most diverse institution to ever exist—his church. Jesus's resurrection also guaranteed a truth that we can all rejoice and hope in: the already and to-come inauguration of God's kingdom on earth.

According to Mark's Gospel, Jesus launches his public ministry with the bold declaration, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). Later, when the apostle Paul is addressing the doubts and questions of some Corinthian believers, he waxes eloquent about the credibility of

Jesus's resurrection. He explains the consequences of this cosmic breakthrough: "Then comes the end, when [Jesus] delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power" (1 Cor. 15:24–25). Jesus and Paul both conflate the good news with the coming of God's kingdom. This kingdom element is a significant contour that outlines the width, length, height, and depth of the gospel, but it is a contour that has become less brilliant and less "good" against the backdrop of modern individualism, self-actualization, and national pursuits of power, domination, and control.

Is it good news to you that this world will come under the total rule and reign of Jesus Christ? From my office desk in Washington, DC, at the beginning of an election year in the United States, I'd say so. And it is good news

to Ukrainian and Russian believers who again, for a tenth year, celebrate the resurrection amid the grief of war, to Israeli and Palestinian Christians who have watched the very soil on which Jesus walked be drenched by the blood of countless men, women, and children, and to millions of others who feel viscerally that the powers of this world are neither redemptive nor restorative. Those who have felt the misuse and abuse of power in their bodies long to see the kingdom of God. Those with their backs against the wall often look up for a heavenly intervention, or, as Eugene Peterson poignantly interprets the Beatitudes, “You’re blessed when you’re at the end of your rope. With less of you, there is more of God and his rule” (Matt. 5:3 MSG). Easter is our reminder that this world is coming to the end of its rope. Jesus promised as much. But it is also an invitation to believe in the God who has no limits and whose rule knows no rival.

This Easter edition is for all of us who have come to the end of ourselves and look up for life. We wash ourselves under the words of eternal life in the scriptures (and we’ve added a helpful layout of this edition’s full lectionary on pages 16–17). We pray with Richard Allen, “O, my God! In all my dangers, temporal and spiritual, I will hope in you who is Almighty power, and

therefore able to relieve me.” We boldly proclaim with the Kenyan Anglicans, “All our problems we send to the cross of Christ.” We encourage our faith in song with Rwandan Christians: “Who can contradict that gift? Christ is mine, I am saved!” We meditate on British artist Michael Cook’s *An Idle Tale*, which depicts the dark of doubt and the persistent invasion of light through the proclamation of good news for all who believe. Such belief consummates in shared joy, and Rick Anderson’s meditation on the practice of celebration highlights how we can embrace the baton of Mary Magdalene and the others, continuing to tell a tale as old as time, a tale truer than time itself, a tale that changed everything.

Is your back against the wall? Is there no slack in your rope? Has your corner of the world left you longing for a better king and kingdom? There is good news, beloved. Theologian N. T. Wright says it well: “The message of Easter is that God’s new world has been unveiled in Jesus Christ and you’re now invited to belong to it.” The kingdom of God is nearer than when we first believed, and the One who ascended will come again. In the meantime, let us hope, celebrate, and pray without ceasing.

INTRODUCTION

The Daily Prayer Project (DPP) is a movement that exists to animate the life of prayer through the manifold beauty of the church. We connect and unify Christians by resourcing them with daily prayers, practices, and music from the global-historical church, and visual art of spiritual and artistic value. All of these rich resources are crafted into a simple, functional, and beautiful product: our Living Prayer Periodicals (LPPs). This is what you are holding in your hands right now.

We produce six LPP editions per year that move with the Christian seasons of Advent, Christmas & Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. These

editions combine dynamic and diverse content with a stable method for morning and evening prayer.

This method not only provides consistency for the life of prayer and practice, but it also forms us all into a life of communion with God and unity with our global and historical family of faith. It is this communal prayer that fuels and forms our own expressions of prayer in the present season of our lives. The DPP is an entrance into the holy, unifying, and empowering experience of praying together in a common way without ceasing throughout the Christian year.



The Daily Prayer Project logo is a monogram crafted into a prayer labyrinth. The mark itself becomes a practice of prayer. Rooted in the ancient Christian tradition of pilgrimage, prayer labyrinths have a history as far back as the fourth century in an Algerian church.

A labyrinth is not a maze. There is one entry point, and a single pathway leading to the center. The journey is a transformative walk toward God, the center of the

labyrinth. Arriving at the center symbolizes union with God. Once a pilgrim has this encounter, they are led back out into the world along the same path.

Walking a labyrinth is a slow, meditative practice. This is a way to embody your prayer. The mark is placed above for you to travel the path of the labyrinth with your finger as a small gesture of this larger practice. We hope that one day you might be able to encounter God as you walk through a physical prayer labyrinth.

Daily Prayer Project Lectionary

A lectionary is a schedule of Bible readings that is meant to help Christians read the whole Bible over a period of time, emphasizing particular themes and narratives during particular seasons of the Christian year. The Daily Prayer Project follows the Sunday (and certain holy day) readings of the Revised Common Lectionary, the largest shared Bible-reading plan in North America. For most Monday–Saturdays, we follow our own Daily Prayer Project Lectionary, which moves through scripture in a slow, three-year cycle. The DPP Lectionary is broken down into three categories of readings from scripture: the Psalms, the Old Testament, and the New Testament. The Old Testament is broken

down into its traditional three parts: (1) **Law & History**, (2) **Wisdom & Poetic Literature**, and (3) **the Prophets**. The New Testament is also broken down into its traditional three sections: (1) **the Four Gospels & Acts**, (2) **the Pauline Epistles**, and (3) **the General Epistles**. Lectionaries are a time-tested tool from the history of the church for maintaining a steady “diet” from the Bible’s different parts. They are specifically designed to lighten the daily load of reading and to help the reader focus in on smaller passages and particular books at a time. This facilitates slower, more meditative reading. Currently, the DPP is in Year B of the lectionary.

	YEAR A	YEAR B	YEAR C
The Psalms	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year	ALL 150 PSALMS 2x/Year
Old Testament	LAW & HISTORY Genesis–Leviticus	LAW & HISTORY Numbers–2 Samuel	LAW & HISTORY 1 Kings–Esther
	WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Job	WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Ecclesiastes	WISDOM & POETRY Proverbs & Song of Songs
	PROPHETS Isaiah & Minor Prophets (Part I)	PROPHETS Jeremiah, Lamentations & Minor Prophets (Part II)	PROPHETS Ezekiel & Minor Prophets (Part III)
New Testament	GOSPEL & ACTS Matthew, Mark & Acts	GOSPEL & ACTS Luke & Acts	GOSPEL & ACTS John & Acts
	PAULINE EPISTLES Romans–Titus	PAULINE EPISTLES Romans–Titus	PAULINE EPISTLES Romans–Titus
	GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews–Revelation	GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews–Revelation	GENERAL EPISTLES Hebrews–Revelation

**Sundays and holy days are from the Revised Common Lectionary*

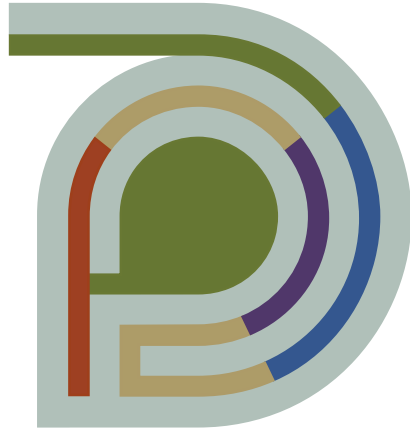
Methods & Elements

Each day of the LPP features morning and evening prayer liturgies framed by seven core elements. Everyone's style of praying is different because every person is different. Beyond that, Christian prayer varies widely across cultures and denominations. No single method can capture this. However, we hope you find within the LPP a rhythm that gives enough structure and freedom to facilitate a diverse community of prayer. Every element is offered as a guiding movement, not as a binding rule. You are encouraged to modify the liturgy based on the context of prayer. Consider establishing rhythms of prayer in your congregation, household, workplace, small groups, or other gatherings so that you might experience the formative reality of common prayer. If doing this liturgy individually, you are encouraged to take your time to soak it in. If doing it as a group, it may be best to alternate leading each element. Also, consider using different postures in prayer (standing, kneeling, lifted or open hands, lying prostrate, etc.) that fit your context.

CALL: There is an invitation always open to us. The Spirit of God calls us to come into the holy presence, and we respond to this welcome by entering in.

PSALM: The Psalms form the core language of prayer for the people of God and have done so for thousands of years. The Psalms give us language and postures of heart and body to express in the presence of God.

ADORATION: We were created to adore God, and in the place of worship we find the joy of this purpose. This adoration happens in both silence and song. We provide three to four songs per edition in the Songbook found at the back of the periodical. Full recordings and resources for these songs and others can be found at dailyprayerproject.com. You are also encouraged to sing songs from your own community.



LESSON: The scriptures give us the story of the Father's redemption of all things in the Son by the power of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER: We are led across praise, confession, and guided intercessory prayer by our family of faith all over the globe and throughout time. We receive every prayer as a gift as we put them on our own lips and in our own hearts. These prayers range from traditional prayers of the universal church to more modern and meditative prayers.

ABIDING: In response to what we have encountered in the first five elements, Abiding is an opportunity for deeper communion and self-reflection through meditating on the scriptures (*lectio divina*), considering the art in the gallery (*visio divina*), or using our bodies to engage historical Christian practices (*praxis divina*). Out of that place, we are also prompted to pray for the needs of others in different stations of life.

BENEDICTION: We close our time with a word of love and blessing over our lives from God himself, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Our journey of prayer is framed by the Call and the Benediction; God has the first and the last word over all things in our lives.



Hannah Busing

Adapting the LPP for Household Prayer

A Five-Element Method

We have often been asked how to adapt the Living Prayer Periodicals for household prayer, especially when that involves small children. It is an important question and one that we want to provide some suggestions for in this Advent edition. These suggestions come after years of practice and experimenting within our own communities and families. The liturgies can be practiced once or twice a day, depending on your household rhythms. In my house, we practice communal prayer around the table once we finish dinner (almost!) every evening.

Disclaimer: If you have small children, prayer time will probably not always be peaceful and beautiful. These times might involve some chaos, disordered

noise, fighting, arguing, silly laughter, etc. That's OK! Especially as children begin developing new habits and growing in their ability to pay attention, you are encouraged to let them grow in this way and to take your time growing in prayer together. There is no hurry, and things need not be perfect. The Lord is with you and your family and merely desires your presence. The important part is finding a simple rhythm and sticking to it because children (and adults) thrive on rhythms.

The following suggested method takes the seven core elements of the LPP liturgies and reduces them to five:

CALL

LESSON (Psalm, OT, or NT)

ABIDING

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

Here are some practical suggestions for implementing this method:

- Before you begin to pray together, select what your Lesson reading is going to be. For example, if the scripture readings that day are Psalm 62, Leviticus 12, and Mark 10, then choose one or a section of one of those to attend to. It will probably be best for those with small children to begin small. If Mark 10 is chosen, then choose just one of the sections of that chapter.
- Before you begin to pray together, distribute the parts of the liturgy to different members of the household. In my household we have five people, so each member is responsible for one movement of the liturgy. If you have children who can read, they might relish the chance to read a different part each day. We keep a chart on the wall with the day, the five elements, and the person's name, giving each person a chance to do different parts throughout the week.
- If children cannot read, worry not! Children also love to do call-and-response, and this is how their language is formed. For my youngest son, who cannot read, his mother or I whisper the words of the call in his ear and he then gets to say them loudly for the family prayer time. He loves it, and yes, it is often adorable.
- Begin each time of prayer by taking some breaths together as a family (we often do three deep breaths), bringing stillness to your bodies, hearts, and minds.
- **CALL:** Again, children often love call-and-response! If necessary, teach them what their response line is going to be (the words in bold). Then someone should read the call and hear the response of the rest of the table.
- **LESSON:** Read the passage of scripture you selected before, or have one of the children read it (mine fight over this privilege . . .).
- **ABIDING:** This element can be really flexible as far as what is done and how long it takes. Here is a suggested flow:

1. You might begin by actually reading the italicized text in the Abiding section: "Pause at the start/end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God . . ." Or maybe start this time by singing a song together (e.g., a song from the back of the book or one from your church's worship service).
2. Then invite some reflection on the scripture reading you just heard together by asking simple questions: "What did you hear in that passage?" "What stuck out to you?" "What did Jesus do?" "What do you think it meant when it said _____?" You might get asked a question that you don't know the answer to, and that's perfectly fine! We are all always learning together.
3. From here you could pray one of the provided prayers in the LPP for that day, you could pray using one or more of the prompts, you could pray as the passage you heard leads you, or you could practice intercessory prayer.

- **THE LORD'S PRAYER:** Simply pray this together every day as Jesus taught us.
- **BENEDICTION** (feel free to call it a "blessing" or "God's good word"): When we practice this element, the person giving the benediction raises their hands and puts them outward while the rest around the table open their hands, palms up, in a posture of reception. Then the benediction is spoken and the time of prayer comes to an end.

This is merely a suggested method, and you are encouraged to modify, reduce, or expand it as fits the context of your household. Our prayer is that you can find your communal rhythm of communing with the Creator and experience the beauty and shalom that comes from praying together.

Let us pray,
Joel Littlepage

Seasons of the Christian Year

At the Daily Prayer Project we practice the global and historical tradition of the Christian year (sometimes called the liturgical year or church year) as a communal rhythm that forms us—year after year, season after season—to be the people of God and the bearers of God’s story. Human beings are creatures fundamentally and profoundly shaped by stories. Each of our lives will always be following someone’s calendar and bearing someone’s story, but the question is: whose story is it, and what kind of narrative it is telling? The Christian year is an ancient Christian tradition of ordering the 365-day calendar year around the life of Christ. Some dates and celebrations vary by Eastern and Western Christian traditions, but they are generally as follows: Advent,

Christmastide, Epiphany (also called Ordinary Time in some traditions), Lent, Eastertide, and Ordinary Time.

The Daily Prayer Project crafts each edition of the LPP in accordance with the Christian year, with six editions per annual cycle. Most editions average eight weeks, except the Ordinary Time edition, which spans about sixteen weeks in the fall. Christmas and Epiphany (with Epiphanytide extending through the eve of Ash Wednesday) are combined into a single edition, and we celebrate the season of Pentecost for eight weeks, from the day of Pentecost to the eve of the eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time. Each season has been assigned a liturgical color and seasonal icon.



EASTER | MARCH 31–MAY 18, 2024

Easter is the highest feast of the Christian year and the central celebration of the story of our faith as Christians. In addition to fifty days of celebrating Jesus’s resurrection, the church also celebrates the ascension of Jesus on Ascension Day, which occurs forty days after Easter (Acts 1:3).

2023–2024 Christian Year



ADVENT

Dec 3–Dec 24



CHRISTMAS & EPIPHANY

Dec 25–Feb 13



LENT

Feb 14–Mar 30



EASTER

Mar 31–May 18



PENTECOST

May 19



ORDINARY TIME

May 20–Nov 30





PRAYERS

SUNDAY MORNING TO WEDNESDAY EVENING

ATLANTA, GA
Daniel McCullough



EASTERTIDE LECTIONARY

WEEKDAY	DATE	PSALM	OT	NT
EASTER SUNDAY	MAR 31	118	ISA. 25:6-9	JOHN 20:1-18; 1 COR. 15:1-11
MONDAY	APR 1	83	2 KINGS 12	ROM. 1:1-17
TUESDAY	APR 2	84	2 KINGS 13	ROM. 1:18-32
WEDNESDAY	APR 3	85	2 KINGS 14	ROM. 2:1-16
THURSDAY	APR 4	86	2 KINGS 15	ROM. 2:17-29
FRIDAY	APR 5	87	2 KINGS 16	ROM. 3:1-18
SATURDAY	APR 6	88	2 KINGS 17	ROM. 3:19-31
SUNDAY, EASTER II	APRIL 7	133	2 KINGS 18	JOHN 20:19-31; 1 JOHN 1:1-2:2
MONDAY	APR 8	89	2 KINGS 19	ROM. 4
TUESDAY	APR 9	90	2 KINGS 20	ROM. 5:1-11
WEDNESDAY	APR 10	91	2 KINGS 21	ROM. 5:12-21
THURSDAY	APR 11	92	2 KINGS 22	ROM. 6:1-11
FRIDAY	APR 12	93	2 KINGS 23	ROM. 6:12-23
SATURDAY	APR 13	94	EZRA 1	ROM. 7:1-12
SUNDAY, EASTER III	APR 14	4	EZRA 2	LUKE 24:36B-48; 1 JOHN 3:1-7
MONDAY	APR 15	95	EZRA 3	ROM. 7:13-25
TUESDAY	APR 16	96	EZRA 4	ROM. 8:1-11
WEDNESDAY	APR 17	97	EZRA 5	ROM. 8:12-25
THURSDAY	APR 18	98	EZRA 6	ROM. 8:26-39
FRIDAY	APR 19	99	EZRA 7	ROM. 9
SATURDAY	APR 20	100	EZRA 8	ROM. 10:1-13
SUNDAY, EASTER IV	APRIL 21	23	EZRA 9	JOHN 10:11-18; 1 JOHN 3:16-24
MONDAY	APR 22	101	EZRA 10	ROM. 10:14-21
TUESDAY	APR 23	102	NEH. 1	ROM. 11:1-12
WEDNESDAY	APR 24	103	NEH. 2	ROM. 11:13-36

EASTERTIDE LECTIIONARY



WEEKDAY	DATE	PSALM	OT	NT
THURSDAY	APR 25	104	NEH. 3	ROM. 12:1-13
FRIDAY	APR 26	105	NEH. 4	ROM. 12:14-21
SATURDAY	APR 27	106	NEH. 5	ROM. 13:1-10
SUNDAY, EASTER V	APRIL 28	22:25-31	NEH. 6	JOHN 15:1-8; 1 JOHN 4:7-21
MONDAY	APR 29	107	NEH. 7	ROM. 13:11-14
TUESDAY	APR 30	108	NEH. 8	ROM. 14:1-12
WEDNESDAY	MAY 1	109	NEH. 9	ROM. 14:13-23
THURSDAY	MAY 2	110	NEH. 10	ROM. 15:1-13
FRIDAY	MAY 3	111	NEH. 11	ROM. 15:14-33
SATURDAY	MAY 4	112	NEH. 12	ROM. 16
SUNDAY, EASTER VI	MAY 5	98	NEH. 13	JOHN 15:9-17; 1 JOHN 5:1-6
MONDAY	MAY 6	113	ESTHER 1	1 COR. 1
TUESDAY	MAY 7	114	ESTHER 2	1 COR. 2
WEDNESDAY	MAY 8	115	ESTHER 3	1 COR. 3
THURSDAY, ASCENSION DAY	MAY 9	47	ACTS 1:1-11	LUKE 24:44-53; EPH. 1:15-23
FRIDAY	MAY 10	116	ESTHER 4	1 COR. 4
SATURDAY	MAY 11	117	ESTHER 5	1 COR. 5
SUNDAY, EASTER VII	MAY 12	1	ESTHER 6	JOHN 17:6-19; 1 JOHN 5:9-13
MONDAY	MAY 13	118	ESTHER 7	1 COR. 6
TUESDAY	MAY 14	119:1-32	ESTHER 8	1 COR. 7
WEDNESDAY	MAY 15	119:33-64	ESTHER 9	1 COR. 8
THURSDAY	MAY 16	119:65-96	ESTHER 10	1 COR. 9
FRIDAY	MAY 17	119:97-128	HOS. 1	1 COR. 10
SATURDAY	MAY 18	119:129-76	HOS. 2	1 COR. 11



SUNDAY

CALL

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Adapted from Luke 24:34

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

MAR 31

Easter Sunday

PS. 118

ISA. 25:6-9

JOHN 20:1-18;

1 COR. 15:1-11

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51-56.

Lesson

APR 7

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PS. 133

2 KINGS 18

JOHN 20:19-31;

1 JOHN 1:1-2:2

Prayer

It is truly good and right,
with all the powers of our heart and mind,
to praise you, Father,
and your only-begotten Son,
our Lord Jesus Christ.

APR 14

PS. 4

EZRA 2

LUKE 24:36B-48;

1 JOHN 3:1-7

Dear Father, by your wondrous
condescension of loving-kindness
toward us your servants,
you gave up your Son.

APR 21

PS. 23

EZRA 9

JOHN 10:11-18;

1 JOHN 3:16-24

Dear Jesus, you paid the debt of Adam
for us to the eternal Father
by your blood poured forth
in loving-kindness.
You cleared away the darkness of sin
by your magnificent and
radiant resurrection.
You broke the bonds of death
and rose from the grave as a conqueror.
You reconciled heaven and earth.

Our life had no hope of eternal happiness
before you redeemed us.
Your resurrection has washed away our sins,
restored our innocence, and brought us joy.
How inestimable is the tenderness
of your love!

A prayer of Gregory (540-604) of Rome, aka Gregory the Great

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the
scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a vulnerable heart that is
full of resurrection joy
- For the fellow churches that
minister to your place
- For those who do not yet
know the Risen Lord

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

Hear the Lord Jesus say:
"I have said these things to you,
that in me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have overcome the world."
May you take heart and go from
this place in courageous peace.

Adapted from John 16:33



Call

To him who sits on the throne
and to the Lamb
**be blessing and honor and glory
and might forever and ever!**

Revelation 5:13

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

O, my God!
In all my dangers, temporal and spiritual,
I will hope in you who is Almighty power,
and therefore able to relieve me;
who is infinite goodness,
and therefore ready and willing to assist me.
Even if my body is crumbled into dust,
and that dust is blown over
the face of the earth,
even then I undoubtedly know
that my Redeemer lives
and shall raise me up at the last day!
Whether I am comforted or left desolate,
whether I enjoy peace or am
afflicted with temptations,
whether I am healthy or sick,

comforted or abandoned by the
good things of this life,
I will always hope in you,
O, my chiefest, infinite good!

A prayer of Richard Allen (1760–1831), founding bishop of
the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, the first
independent Black denomination in the United States. Adapted
from *Conversations with God*.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the
scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church,
neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

All our problems
We send to the cross of Christ.
All our difficulties
We send to the cross of Christ.
All the devil's works
We send to the cross of Christ.
All our hopes
We set on the risen Christ.
Christ the Sun of Righteousness
shine upon you
and scatter the darkness
from before your path:
and the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

The benediction from the Eucharistic Rite of the Anglican
Church in Kenya

APR 28

PS. 22:25–31
NEH. 6
JOHN 15:1–8;
1 JOHN 4:7–21

MAY 5

PS. 98
NEH. 13
JOHN 15:9–17;
1 JOHN 5:1–6

MAY 12

PS. 1
ESTHER 6
JOHN 17:6–19;
1 JOHN 5:9–13



MONDAY

Call

Exalt the LORD our God,
and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!

Psalm 99:9

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

APR 1

PS. 83

2 KINGS 12

ROM. 1:1-17

APR 8

PS. 89

2 KINGS 19

ROM. 4

APR 15

PS. 95

EZRA 3

ROM. 7:13-25

APR 22

PS. 101

EZRA 10

ROM. 10:14-21

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51-56.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

The Lord is here.

Let us in the stillness of our hearts pray
that we may have the consciousness of his
presence and listen to his voice. *[Pray]*

Let us in the stillness of our hearts pray
that God will reveal to us the things that
hinder our peace. *[Pray]*

Let us in the stillness of our hearts pray
that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit,
and empowered to witness fearlessly
against evil. *[Pray]*

Let us in the stillness of our hearts pray to
be conscious of what it means when we say,
“Thy kingdom come!” *[Pray]*

Amen.

A prayer of Kawai Michi (河井 道) (1877-1953), an educator
and Christian activist in Japan, adapted from *Soul Weavings*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For the submission of all of who
you are to the Lordship of Jesus
- For the children in your life
- For those who work in the
mail and delivery industry

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

“If in Christ we have hope in this life
only, we are of all people most to be
pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised
from the dead, the firstfruits of those
who have fallen asleep.” May you go
throughout the rest of your day grounded
in the reality of the resurrection.

Adapted from 1 Corinthians 15:19-20

MONDAY



Call

Answer me when I call, O God
of my righteousness!
You have given me relief
when I was in distress.

Be gracious to me and hear my prayer!

Psalm 4:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Confession: You alone I follow, Lord
Jesus; you heal my wounds. For what shall
separate me from the love of God, which
is in you? Shall tribulation, or distress,
or famine? I am held fast as though by
nails and fettered by the bonds of charity.
Remove from me, O Lord Jesus, with your
powerful sword, the corruption of my sins.
Secure me in the bonds of your love; cut
away what is corrupt in me. Come quickly
and make an end of my many hidden and

secret afflictions. Open the wound lest
the evil sickness spread. With your purity,
cleanse in me all that is stained. Hear me,
O you earthly people, who in your sins
bring forth drunken thoughts: I have found
a Physician. He dwells in heaven and
distributes his healing on earth. He alone
can heal my pains who himself has none.
He alone who knows what is hidden can
take away the grief of my heart and the fear
of my soul: Jesus Christ. Christ is grace!
Christ is life! Christ is resurrection! Amen.

A prayer of Ambrose (339–397) of Milan, Italy,
taken from *The Ancient Faith Prayer Book*

Assurance: Blessed be the God and Father
of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to
his great mercy, he has caused us to be
born again to a living hope through the
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

1 Peter 1:3

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the
scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church,
neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

May you remember the wondrous,
miraculous works that the Lord has
done and rest tonight in his power.

Adapted from Psalm 105:5

APR 29

PS. 107

NEH. 7

ROM. 13:11–14

MAY 6

PS. 113

ESTHER 1

1 COR. 1

MAY 13

PS. 118

ESTHER 7

1 COR. 6



TUESDAY

Call

Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
**For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!**

Psalm 100:4–5a

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

APR 2

PS. 84

2 KINGS 13

ROM. 1:18–32

APR 9

PS. 90

2 KINGS 20

ROM. 5:1–11

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

APR 16

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

PS. 96

EZRA 4

ROM. 8:1–11

Prayer

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for not abandoning me
when I abandoned you.

APR 23

PS. 102

NEH. 1

ROM. 11:1–12

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for offering your hand of love in my
darkest, most lonely moment.

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for putting up with such a
stubborn soul as mine.

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for loving me more than I love myself.

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for continuing to pour out your blessings
upon me, even though I respond so poorly.

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for drawing out the goodness in

all people, including even me.

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for repaying our sin with your love.

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for being constant and unchanging,
amidst all the changes of the world.

May you be blessed forever, Lord,
for your countless blessings on
me and on all your creatures.

A prayer of Teresa (1515–1582) of Avila, Spain,
adapted from *Soul Weavings*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a reverence, humility, and teachability before the word of God
- For those who work to care for creation
- For doctors, nurses, paramedics, and all medical professionals

THE LORD'S PRAYER

See p. 20 for text.

Benediction

Now to him who is able to keep you from
stumbling and to present you blameless
before the presence of his glory with
great joy, to the only God, our Savior,
through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory,
majesty, dominion, and authority, before
all time and now and forever. Amen.

Jude 1:24–25

TUESDAY



Call

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!

The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

Psalm 33:22

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Now into the keeping of God
I put all doings of today.
All disappointments, hindrances,
forgotten things, negligences.
All gladness and beauty, love,
delight, achievement.
All that people have done for me,
all that I have done for them,
my work and my prayers.

And I commit all the people whom I love
to his shepherding,
to his healing and restoring,
to his calling and making;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*A prayer of Margaret Cropper (1886–1980) of
England, taken from The Oxford Book of Pray*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living

God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in

the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

As you head into your rest this evening,
may you have the eyes of your heart
enlightened, that you may know what is
the hope to which he has called you,
what are the riches of his glorious
inheritance in the saints, and what
is the immeasurable greatness of
his power toward us who believe,
according to the working of his great
might that he worked in Christ when
he raised him from the dead.

Adapted from Ephesians 1:18–20

APR 30

PS. 108

NEH. 8

ROM. 14:1–12

MAY 7

PS. 114

ESTHER 2

1 COR. 2

MAY 14

PS. 119:1–32

ESTHER 8

1 COR. 7



WEDNESDAY

Call

God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:9–11

Psalm

APR 3 *Read the Psalm of the day.*

PS. 85

2 KINGS 14 THE GLORIA

ROM. 2:1–16 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

APR 10 as it was in the beginning, is now,

PS. 91

2 KINGS 21

ROM. 5:12–21

and ever shall be: world without end. Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

APR 17 SILENCE OR SONG

PS. 97

EZRA 5

ROM. 8:12–25

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

APR 24

PS. 103

NEH. 2

ROM. 11:13–36

Prayer

Confession: Lord of truth and mercy, we pray and ask you to take away **Our selfishness** and give us your holiness; **Our indifference** and give us your zeal; **Our smallness** and make us generous; **Our thirst for recognition** and make us thirst for righteousness. **Forgive us, we pray. Amen.**

A prayer of the United Church of North India, adapted from *Morning, Noon and Night*

Assurance: Jesus was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification. Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Adapted from Romans 4:25–5:1

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For integrity in your life
- For those who work as pastors in the church
- For those who work in local government

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word.

2 Thessalonians 2:16–17

WEDNESDAY



Call

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy. . . .
Therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Psalm 116:1–2

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Lord Jesus, risen from the dead
and alive forevermore:
stand in our midst tonight
as in the upper room;
show us your hands and your side;
speak your peace to our hearts and minds;
and send us forth into the world
as your witnesses,
for the glory of your name.

A prayer of John R. W. Stott (1921–2011) of England,
from *The Westminster Collection of Christian Prayers*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

Throughout the history of the church, Christians have incorporated practices of prayer that call to mind God's presence in the moment, humbly and gratefully review the time that has passed, and look forward to the gift of another day. Pray through these prompts slowly, giving time to each step of the practice.

1. Become aware of God's presence.
2. Review the day with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the day and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow.

Benediction

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20–21

MAY 1
PS. 109
NEH. 9
ROM. 14:13–23

MAY 8
PS. 115
ESTHER 3
1 COR. 3

MAY 15
PS. 119:33–64
ESTHER 9
1 COR. 8



Jean Baptiste



PRACTICES



Erwan Hesry



CATEGORY: CELEBRATION

CELEBRATION

Rick Anderson

MEDITATION

Greetings, friend! What shall we celebrate today? What's the occasion? Christ is risen, you are breathing, the sun came up again this morning, you can read, it's Friday—take your pick! How could we as Christians ever truly run out of things to celebrate?

In the eyes of the world, are we celebrators or wet blankets? The empty tomb we commemorate on Easter morning means we have more to celebrate than anyone! Why, then, are we so often characterized as rigid and somber? We can't help but join in on Teresa of Avila's prayer, "From silly devotions and sour-faced saints, spare us, O Lord." For the fruit of the Spirit is duty, judgment, enforcement . . . wait, that's not our mandate, is it? Love and joy head that list!

Our notion of celebration may be like a bunch of stoic old folks at a tennis match, clapping daintily: "Very good. Most enlivening." Shouldn't it be like a two-year-old who has just had the entire box of Honey Nut Cheerios dumped out in front of her wide-eyed and open-mouthed astonishment at the sheer abundance that is ours in Christ Jesus?

Jesus tells story after story to help us grasp what the kingdom of heaven is like. Stories of a shepherd seeking and finding a lost sheep and a woman seeking and finding a lost coin both end with celebrations in heaven (what must it be like when heaven celebrates?). He's painting a picture for us.

Can we connect the dots to see that Jesus is the very arms of God reaching out to humanity, seeking and finding what belongs to God—and that the result of this is celebration in heaven? The final parable in the lost-and-found trifecta of Luke 15 is called the parable of the lost son, but the story is really about the Father—a Father whose first response at the homecoming of his wayward child is not anger, not disappointment, not a lecture, but a huge celebration.

Engaging in celebration is inherently communal. The Latin root of *celebration* means “to assemble to honor,” which indicates that for celebration to occur, “some assembly is required.” To celebrate, we need each other’s

presence. Leviticus 23 records seven feasts for the Israelites to celebrate on an annual basis. The first of these feasts is Passover, which we celebrate each time we come to the Lord’s Table together. This is a time for confession, to be sure, but most certainly for celebration as well! We celebrate that our confessions are heard and our sins are forgiven because of the price Jesus paid for us at Calvary.

After a long Lenten season of waiting, the Son has risen with the sun—and because of his incredible valor and sacrifice, the veil has been torn in two, death has lost its sting, and we can be adopted as God’s beloved children. Shall we party like it’s 1999, or like we’ve got eternity in Paradise before us?

EXPLORATION

Go forth as an ambassador of joy and celebration, friend! What this lost world needs is not a measuring stick but an invitation to experience the Master’s House Party. How can you embrace the practice of celebration this Easter?

Find ways to intentionally build celebration elements into your Sabbath practices. It doesn’t need to be a big production, but what could you do that would feel celebratory?

Invite God to broaden your view of celebration and joy in the kingdom of heaven. Could you dare to envision the celebration that took place in heaven on the day that you were the lost coin that was found? (Yes, this happened!)

Imagine you are on the hospitality and promotion team for the wedding feast from Matthew 22. How winsome is your personal invitation to come and join the party? Are others drawn to the party because you are going?

Excerpted from *Silencio: Reflective Practices for Nurturing Your Soul* (2019). Used by permission of Leadership Transformations Inc. (LTI).

Rick Anderson is the executive vice president of Leadership Transformations Inc. (LTI), an organization that aims to cultivate vibrant spirituality and attentive discernment among Christian leaders and teams.



CATEGORY: WORSHIP, CHASTITY

HONORING THE BODY

Ruth Haley Barton

MEDITATION

Knowing that God has chosen to make our bodies his dwelling place opens the door to remarkable opportunities for heightening our awareness of God's presence. And isn't heightened awareness of God's presence with us and for us at all times, and our capacity to remain in vital connection with that presence, what the spiritual journey is all about?

Life in the body is, after all, a varied and wide-ranging experience, and some experiences are better than others. As I reflect on life in a body from a midlife vantage point, I can recall moments of gratitude for the particular body that was given to me and moments when I have wished mightily for a different one. There have been moments when touch was shared in loving ways and moments when touch was not so loving.

There have been moments of keeping my body to myself and moments of deep sharing. There have been moments of strength and physical accomplishment as well as moments of physical weakness and vulnerability. Sometimes I do very well at living within the limits and bodily changes that accompany a particular life stage, and at other times I am resistant.

Only in recent years have I become more aware of the many good gifts given to us by way of life in a physical body. Prior to that, I guess I just took it all for granted. In addition, dualisms that are embedded in our religious traditions have created a false separation between the spiritual realm and the material world, leaving us "an ambiguous legacy" regarding the body. On the other hand, excessive and misdirected focus on the "perfect" body in secular culture, coupled with disturbing levels of irreverence regarding human sexuality, has made it all the more difficult to know how to relate to the body in a spiritual way.

These conflicting and ultimately unhelpful perspectives point to our need for learning how to receive the goodness of the

body as part of our life in God that he pronounced good. We are in need of a sacramental approach to life, in which the body is understood to be sacred because it is the place where God's Spirit has chosen to dwell. Given this, all aspects of life in the body have the potential to become places where we meet and know God in unique ways.

All the great themes of Scripture affirm the significance of the body as a place where the presence of God can be known and experienced. The incarnation itself—Christ's choice to take on flesh and inhabit a human body—forever elevates the experience of embodiment to the heights of spiritual significance. Jesus, the supremely spiritual being who has existed for all eternity far beyond the physical, material world as we know it, chose to take the journey into human flesh and to become limited as we are by space and time. The central sacrament of our faith—the ritual and substance around which all Christians gather—is bread and wine that commemorates Jesus's life and death in a body made of flesh and blood. Even now, it is in these earthen vessels that the life of Christ continues to be made visible in our everyday lives. We carry within our body the treasure of the ministry that he has given us. Our bodies will be resurrected on the last day so that we can spend eternity not as disembodied spirits but as glorious, embodied beings, worshiping in God's presence.

The spiritual discipline of honoring the body helps us find our way between the excesses of a culture that glorifies and objectifies the body and the excesses of Christian tradition that have often denigrated and ignored the body. As we become more intentional about finding this middle way, we will be surprised by the spontaneous combustion that comes when aspects of ourselves that were always meant to exist as an integrated whole finally come together in a way that produces great joy and vitality.

EXPLORATION

Paying attention to your breathing is one of the simplest ways of getting in touch with your existence as a body. Settle into a comfortable position, either in a chair or on the floor, and pay attention to your breathing. Notice if your breathing is shallow and take time to breathe deeply. Allow your breathing to release any tension you are holding in your back, your shoulders, your arms. Adjust your body for greater comfort and allow yourself to relax into your chair or cushion as a physical expression of your trust in God.

Gently turn your attention to your body and invite God to speak to you through your body. First, just notice how you feel about life in your body. Are you embarrassed about it? Do you enjoy it? What happens inside you when you consider the idea of honoring your body or meeting God in your body? Is there anything your body is trying to tell you? Any place of tension or discomfort that you have been ignoring? Any medical issue that requires attention? Any feeling of dis-ease that is vaguely unsettling and seems to persist? Listen to see if there is anything you have been keeping outside your awareness, and let it come fully into your awareness in God's presence.

Is there any way your body wants to pray right now? Any way you could express yourself to God physically? Go ahead, follow your body's lead, and pray with your body and soul.

In your solitude times, begin with a few moments for breathing and settling into your body. Notice if any of your spiritual practices might have some connection with physical activities that you enjoy. Notice how you experience God's presence through a greater appreciation for life in your body.



Ahmad Odeh

Excerpted from *Sacred Rhythms: Arranging Our Lives for Spiritual Transformation* by Ruth Haley Barton (2006). Used by permission of InterVarsity Press; permission conveyed through Copyright Clearance Center, Inc.

Ruth Haley Barton is the founding president of the Transforming Center, a spiritual formation ministry to pastors and Christian leaders. A trained spiritual director, teacher, and retreat leader, she is the author of multiple books, including *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*, *Sacred Rhythms*, and *Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership*.



Ascension

Laura James, 2000

Acrylic on canvas, 7 × 20 in.

www.laurajamesart.com



GALLERY

HALLELUJAH, CHRIST HAS RISEN

Ovide Joseph Bighetty (1969–2014) was a Cree (Missinippi-Ethiniwak) self-taught artist originally from Pukatawagan First Nation on the Missinippi River in northwestern Manitoba. He was influenced by the Woodland art style of Norval Morrisseau, which is characterized by bold colors, skeletal frames, solid black outlines, and lines of power radiating from heads and bodies.

In 2002 the Indigenous Christian Fellowship, an urban ministry in Regina, Saskatchewan, commissioned Bighetty to create a series of paintings on Christ's death and resurrection, which Bighetty titled *Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin* (The Creator's Sacrifice). According to the ICF, "among North American indigenous peoples, there is the story that, before Europeans arrived on Turtle Island, elders had visions about white people coming from the east with a story from the Creator." One elder even had a vision that corresponds to elements of the biblical passion narratives and Easter story.

Hallelujah, Christ Has Risen is the sixteenth painting in a sequence of seventeen. The ICF offers the following description based on Matthew 28:2–4: "Early on the third day, there was a violent earthquake. A spirit sent by the Creator came down from heaven, rolled the stone away and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothes white as snow. The warriors were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men."

The angel plays a flute with one hand, and with the other he gestures toward the sky, indicating Jesus's impending ascension. Jesus has defeated death, opening up the way to paradise for all who trust in him.

Hallelujah, Christ Has Risen

From the *Kisemanito Pakitinasuwin* (The Creator's Sacrifice) series

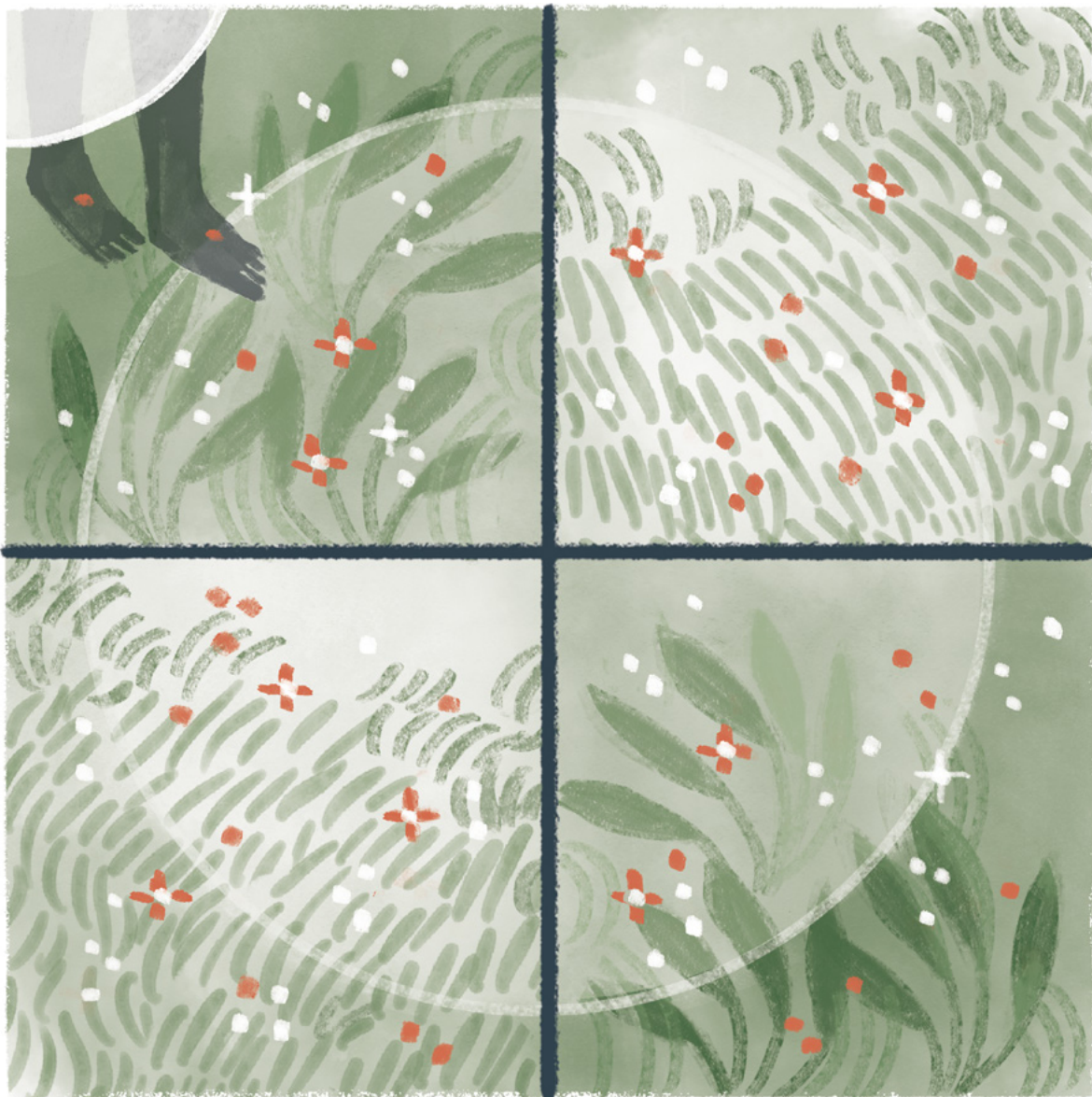
Ovide Joseph Bighetty, 2002

Acrylic on canvas, 54 × 42 in.

© Indigenous Christian Fellowship



*Hallekujah Ginst is Puteh
p710 < Dna-rs
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I wake up early and look into the tomb #5

Madeleine Jubilee Saito, 2022

Digital painting

<https://madeleinejubileesaito.net>



View the whole series.

I WAKE UP EARLY AND LOOK INTO THE TOMB #5

In the 1440s, the Dominican friar-artist known as Fra Angelico frescoed the walls of his and his brothers' convent of San Marco in Florence with scenes from the Gospels, including the risen Christ's appearance to Mary Magdalene (see below), in which he shows Christ approaching his weeping friend with a spade in hand. (John 20:14–15 says Mary mistook him for the gardener.) In Fra Angelico's painting, the garden of the resurrection is dotted with many red flowers, which the art historian Georges Didi-Huberman reads as an extension of Christ's stigmata (nail wounds), "the flowers of his body." Sown in love, his blood "soaks the earth and makes a new humanity grow there, a humanity in the imitation of Christ, a humanity redeemed," he writes.

Inspired by Didi-Huberman's interpretation of this painting, in 2022 the Seattle-based cartoonist Madeleine Jubilee Saito created a twenty-seven-piece series of

one-page "poetry comics" titled *I wake up early and look into the tomb*. Pictured on the opposite page is the fifth from the series. It shows in the upper left corner Christ stepping barefoot into the frame, each foot bearing the red mark of crucifixion. These marks are dispersed across the lawn, where they blossom as flowers—death translated into life. The ground shimmers with the new light of resurrection. A halo widens, sacralizing all the earth.

"The whole precious earth is shining. The whole precious earth is being made new," proclaim two later images in the series, which overall is a reflection on cosmic renewal and God's expansive yet intimate love.



Fra Angelico, *Noli me tangere*, 1440–42

AN IDLE TALE

Having received the good news that Christ is risen, the three Marys run to tell the male disciples. The British artist Michael Cook imagines the scene taking place in the stable on his home property in Melbourne, Derbyshire. Huddled in a shadowy corner, the disciples are a ball of emotions: fear, shame, grief, disappointment. But then the light of resurrection comes streaming in with the women's proclamation, piercing the darkness. A wild-haired Mary Magdalene gestures dramatically in an attempt to convey the immensity of what has just transpired, while a subtler witness lies in the left foreground: a bird's nest with a hatched egg.

However, the disciples are incredulous. "Their words seemed to them as idle tales, and they believed them not" (Luke 24:11 KJV). A man raised from death, and after such a brutal killing? But John starts to doubt his doubts. "I think of the man with his eyes wide open as the Beloved Disciple, who is connecting these things in a sudden realization," Cook says. "I'm interested in those moments of hovering on the edge of illumination, awakening, or realization, and the Easter story is full of them." The tools in the background, he says, signify that now that Christ is alive, "there is work to be done."



An Idle Tale

Michael Cook, 2013

Acrylic on canvas, 48 × 59½ in.

www.hallowed-art.co.uk





PRAYERS

THURSDAY MORNING TO SATURDAY EVENING

NETHERLANDS

Marc Kleen



THURSDAY

Call

I waited patiently for the LORD;
he inclined to me and heard my cry.
**He drew me up from the pit of
destruction, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock.**

Psalms 40:1–2

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

APR 4

PS. 86

2 KINGS 15

ROM. 2:17–29

APR 11

PS. 92

2 KINGS 22

ROM. 6:1–11

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

APR 18

PS. 98

EZRA 6

ROM. 8:26–39

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we pray to you as the One who raised Jesus to the throne of heaven. Please give us what we need in this hour. You are the Heritage of resurrection, the Author of eternal joy. We look to you now, Jesus, as the One who defeated death. In this hour, we look to you, Lord God, as the Firstborn; the Victorious One; the Consummate Life. Pray for us, Jesus, for we do not know how to pray for ourselves. Fill us with your Spirit, and grant us strength, we pray. Grant us trust; grant us renewed faith; and grant us hope, Lord, for we have nowhere else to turn but to you. You alone have the words of eternal life.

See us through that which we cannot see;
tend to that which we cannot control;
manage that which we do not understand.
Supplant fear with faith; supplant doubt
with trust. We lean into you, our
Overcomer, for your legacy to us is joy
and life and faith.

A prayer of Kari Kristina Reeves,

adapted from *Canyon Road: A Book of Prayer*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a heart that is slow to speak and slow to get angry
- For those who work in the construction industry
- For those who have learning disabilities

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, by his great mercy, has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, give you his holy shalom throughout this day.

Adapted from 1 Peter 1:3

THURSDAY



Call

It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to sing praises to your name, O Most High; to declare your steadfast love in the morning, and your faithfulness by night.

Psalm 92:1–2

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Christ is risen!

We give thanks for the gift of Easter that runs beyond our expectations, beyond our categories of reason, even more, beyond the sinking sense of our own lives.

We know about the powers of death, powers that persist among us, powers that drive us from you, and from our neighbor, and from our best selves.

We know about the powers of fear and greed and anxiety, and brutality and certitude, powers before which we are helpless.

And then you . . . you at dawn, unquenched, you in the darkness,

you on Saturday,
you who breaks the world to joy.
Yours is the kingdom . . .
not the kingdom of death,
Yours is the power . . .
not the power of death,
Yours is the glory . . . not the glory of death.
You . . . yours . . . and we give thanks
for the newness beyond our achieving.
Amen.

A prayer of Walter Brueggemann, taken from *Awed to Heaven*,
Rooted in Earth

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church, neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” May you rest now within the fortress of the loving God.

Adapted from Psalm 91:1–2

APR 25

PS. 104
NEH. 3
ROM. 12:1–13

MAY 2

PS. 110
NEH. 10
ROM. 15:1–13

MAY 9

Ascension Day
SEE P. 48

MAY 16

PS. 119:65–96
ESTHER 10
1 COR. 9



FRIDAY

Call

Awake, my glory!
Awake, O harp and lyre!
I will awake the dawn!

Psalm 57:8

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

APR 5

PS. 87

2 KINGS 16

ROM. 3:1-18

APR 12

PS. 93

2 KINGS 23

ROM. 6:12-23

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51-56.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

APR 19

PS. 99

EZRA 7

ROM. 9

APR 26

PS. 105

NEH. 4

ROM. 12:14-21

Prayer

All of my life I've never known you to fail
You remain the same and
wonderful is your name
You woke me up this morning
And you started me on my way
You put food on my table
You brought joy to my day
I'm glad your love has never changed
And wonderful, wonderful
Wonderful is your name

Adapted from the song "Wonderful Is Your Name"

by Melvin Crispell

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For eyes to see the beauty and dignity of all image-bearers of God
- For the elderly in your life
- For those who work in the restaurant industry

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Benediction

"Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades." May the Lord take away your fear and set your heart to hope in him throughout this day.

Adapted from Revelation 1:17-19



Call

Where shall I go from your Spirit?
Or where shall I flee from your presence?

Psalm 139:7

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Be present, O merciful God, and protect
us through the silent hours of this night,
so that we who are wearied by the changes
and chances of this fleeting world may
rest upon thy eternal changelessness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

An ancient prayer used during Compline, the service of
prayer traditionally offered directly before going to sleep

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Pray for the known needs of your church,
neighborhood, city, and world.

Benediction

Hear the Lord Jesus say:
“Behold, I am with you always,
to the end of the age.”
Rest now in Christ's presence.

Adapted from Matthew 28:20

MAY 3

PS. 111

NEH. 11

ROM. 15:14–33

MAY 10

PS. 116

ESTHER 4

1 COR. 4

MAY 17

PS. 119:97–128

HOS. 1

1 COR. 10



SATURDAY

Call

Praise the LORD, all nations!
Extol him, all peoples!

Psalm 117:1

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

APR 6

PS. 88

2 KINGS 17

ROM. 3:19–31

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

APR 13

PS. 94

EZRA 1

ROM. 7:1–12

Lesson

Read the New Testament passage of the day.

CREED

APR 20

PS. 100

EZRA 8

ROM. 10:1–13

We believe

That the Lord Jesus of very love
did give to be man, to be made
like humanity in all except sin;

We believe

That the Lord Jesus came in this
humanity to receive the punishments
of our transgressions and by his death
to make satisfaction to God's justice;

We believe

That by his resurrection the Lord
Jesus destroyed the hold of death
on the world, bringing again life to
this world from which the whole
offspring of Adam was justly exiled.

We believe

No creature is able to comprehend
the length and breadth, the depth and
height, of that most excellent love which

moved God to show mercy, where
none was deserved, to promise and
give life, where death had gotten the
victory, to rescue people in his grace.

We believe! Praise be to God! Amen!

A creed adapted from the 1556 prayerbook of

Scottish pastor John Knox (1514–1572)

Prayer

O God, you have prepared in peace the path
I must follow today. Help me to walk straight
on that path. If I speak, remove lies from my
lips. If I am hungry, take away from me all
complaint. If I have plenty, destroy pride
in me. May I go through the day calling
on you—you, O Lord, who has no Lord.

A prayer of the Oromo people of Ethiopia,

adapted from *An African Prayer Book*

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the start of a new day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God's face.*

PROMPTED PRAYER

- For a resistance to the love of money
and for generosity in all of life
- For those who have suffered from abuse
- For the flourishing of all people in your
place, from the womb to the tomb

THE LORD'S PRAYER

See p. 44 for text.

Benediction

For from him and through him and to him
are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.
Go out in the glorious presence of God.

Adapted from Romans 11:36

SATURDAY



Call

I cry to you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my refuge,
my portion in the land of the living.”

Psalm 142:5

Psalm

Read the Psalm of the day.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Seasonal song selections can be found on pp. 51–56.

Lesson

Read the Old Testament passage of the day.

Prayer

Confession: Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world, grant us peace.

The Agnus Dei

Assurance: Christ, our Passover lamb, has
been sacrificed. Let us therefore celebrate
the festival, not with the old leaven, the
leaven of malice and evil, but with the
unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

1 Corinthians 5:7–8

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

*Pause at the end of this day. Enjoy communion with the living
God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Listen for the voice of God in
the scriptures. Read. Meditate. Pray. Contemplate. Seek God’s face.*

PRAYER OF MINDFULNESS

1. Become aware of God’s presence.
2. Review this past week with gratitude.
3. Pay attention to your emotions.
4. Choose one feature of the week and pray from it.
5. Look toward tomorrow and the beginning of a new week.

A PRAYER FOR SABBATH

Creator God,
on the seventh day you rested
and were refreshed.
Please help me now to enter into
the rest of your Sabbath,
that I may cease from my work
and delight in your care over my life
both now and forever.
Amen.

Benediction

Lord, you now have set your servants free
to go in peace as you have promised, for
these eyes of ours have seen the savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world
to see: a light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel. Glory
to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Nunc Dimittis (Song of Simeon), based on Luke 2:29–32

MAY 4

PS. 112

NEH. 12

ROM. 16

MAY 11

PS. 117

ESTHER 5

1 COR. 5

MAY 18

PS. 119:129–76

HOS. 2

1 COR. 11



ASCENSION DAY | MAY 9

Call

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises!
Sing praises to our King, sing praises!

Psalm 47:5–6

Psalm

Read Psalm 47. This psalm is traditionally referred to as a psalm of enthronement and has been used on Ascension Day since the early days of the church. The psalm celebrates divine enthronement by using the powerful image of God joyfully mounting his throne as a conquering, liberating ruler to whom all the princes of the earth give their homage (v. 9). During the Easter season, the church sings this psalm to celebrate the Lord Jesus's conquering of the powers of evil and death by his crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension to the throne of heaven.

THE GLORIA

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world without end.
Hallelujah! Amen.

Adoration

SILENCE OR SONG

Sing the song "He Is Lord" on p. 56. "He Is Lord" is a praise chorus that is sung in churches across the globe in many different languages. The recording linked in the songbook is sung in English by Nomusa Dhlomo and Vuka Afrika, a South African music ministry.

Lesson

Read Acts 1:1–11 and Ephesians 1:15–23.

Abiding

LECTIO DIVINA, VISIO DIVINA, OR PRAXIO DIVINA

Pause on this Ascension Day and meditate on the image of the throne of heaven where the Lord Jesus rules and reigns at the right hand of the Father. With joy and longing, anticipate the day when all things are subjected under him, every knee shall bow, and every tongue confess that "he is Lord" (Phil. 2:10).

The head that once was
crowned with thorns
is crowned with glory now;
a royal diadem adorns
the mighty Victor's brow.
The highest place that heav'n affords
is his, is his by right:
the King of kings and Lord of lords,
and heav'n's eternal Light.
—Thomas Kelly

Benediction

May the Lord grant you to be strengthened
with power through his Spirit in your inner
being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts
through faith.

Adapted from Ephesians 3:16–17

The Ascension

Russia, 15th century

Tempera on panel, 18 × 14½ in.
Victoria & Albert Museum, London





USA

Mike Giles

SONGBOOK



NARAKIJJWE

(I AM SAVED)



(A)

C F

Na - ra - ki - ji - jwe — si - ku - bw'i - mi - ri - mo —

C G F C

— Na - ram - wi - ze - ye — Chris - to n'u - wan - jye — Nd'a - ma - ho - ro —

G F C

Na - ram - wi - ze - ye — Chris - to n'u - wan - jye — Nd'a - ma - ho - ro —

(B)

F C F

Ni - ze - ra ko wa - mbye - uy'u - mu - biri Ni - ze - ra na - wa mu - sa - ra -

C F C G

ba Jam - bo w'Imana up - f' urup - fu ru - bi Ntiwa - tin - da mu - mva Ma - ze ura - zu -

F C C F

ka — Byo - se ku - bwan - jye — Oh — Hal - le - lu - jah, ntac -

C F

yan - tan - du - kan - ya N'u - ru - kun - do rwa - we — Oh — hal - le - lu - jah, tac -

C

yap - fum - ba - tu - ra Mu ki - gan - za cya we — Oh — Hal -

le-lu - jah, Hal - le-lu - jah! Na - ra - ki - ji - jwe A - yi

mpan - o y'i - ma - na. Chris - to Wan - gu - z'a - ma - ra - so ya - we Ni-ki

cya - vu - gu - ruz'... i - yo mpa - no? Chris - to n'u - wan - jye n - d'a - ma - ho - ro

A. I am saved, not by works
I believed in him, Christ is now mine
I am safe

B. I believe that you wore a body of flesh
I believe the cross
Word of God, you died the worst death
You did not remain in the grave
You rose from the dead
Just for me

C. Oh hallelujah, nothing can separate me
From your love
Nothing can remove me
From your arms
Oh hallelujah, hallelujah!
I am saved

D. The gift of God is Christ
You purchased me by your blood
Who can contradict that gift?
Christ is mine, I am saved
Who can contradict that gift?
Christ is mine, I am saved

Words and music by James Rugarama of Kigali, Rwanda. © James Rugarama. This song is sung in Kinyarwanda, the official language of Rwanda.

I AM THE RESURRECTION



F Am7 Dm

I am the Res - ur - rec - tion and the Life, —

Gm7 F/A Bbm7 Eb9

I am the Res - ur - rec - tion and — the Life, —

Am9 Dm7 Am9 Dm7 Bb

he who be-lieves in me, be-lieves in me will live

C/Bb Am7 ¹Dm Dm/C Am Dm Gm7

e-ven though he dies, e-ven though he dies,

Bb/C C Bb C ²Dm Dm/C Gm7 F/A

and who - e - ver lives — and be-

Gm7 F/A Gm7 F/A Bbm7 Eb9 F

lieves in — me — will ne - ver, ne - ver, ne - ver die.

Words based on John 11:25–26. Music by James Ward, ©1995 James Ward Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

PASCHAL TROPARION



English: A - men. Christ is ri - sen— from the— dead, tram-pling down



death by— death, and up-on those in the tombs be - stow - ing life.



Arabic: Al-Ma sech - hoo qam-a min bain il— am - wat, wa wa - ti al—



mout - a bil mout, wa wa-ha-bal— ha— yat lil-la-thee-na fil— qu - bur.



Greek: Chris tos— a - ne— stee— ek— ne— kron, tha - na— toh



tha - na— tohn pa - tee— sas, keh tees— en— dees



mnee - ma - see zo— een, kha - ree - sa— meh - nos.

ARABIC:

ت اومأل ا ني ب نم ماق حي س لم
ت و م ل ا ب ت و م ل ا ئ ط و و
ة ا ي ح ل ا ب ه و
ر و ب ق ل ا ي ف ني ذ ل ل

GREEK:

Χριστός Ανέστη εκ νεκρών, θανάτω θάνατον
πατήσας και τοις εν τοις μνήμασιν, ζών
χαρισάμενος.

Text: Traditional Orthodox chant. Music: Byzantine chant, Mode 1 Plagal (Tone 5). The Paschal Troparion is traditionally included in the Easter liturgy of Orthodox churches and has been in use since at least the fifth century. The first part of its text is a paraphrase of 1 Cor. 15:20.

HE IS LORD



D G

English: He is Lord, He is Lord! He is ri - sen from the dead and he is
Spanish: ¡Es Je - sús el Se - ñor! Ya la muer - te do - mi - nó nues - tro Se -

D G C Am G/D D G

Lord! Ev - 'ry knee shall bow, ev-'ry tongue con-fess That Je - sus Christ is Lord.
ñor. To-dos dad lo - or al Se-ñor Je - sús, pes Cris-to_es el Se - ñor.

Words and music by Steve Vest (1969). Based on Phil. 2:10-11. Spanish translation by by Salomón R. Mussiet (1932–2012), ©1997 Editorial Mundo Hispano.

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Earth blooms afresh in joyous dyes;
In Christ's arising all things rise;
A solemn joy o'er nature lies;
Alleluia!

Now peace the sea, the sky doth fill;
Heav'n's breath wakes fair each vale and hill;
Spring pours through barren hearts and chill;
Alleluia!

Life wins from death the glorious prey;
The cherub's sword is turned away,
And Eden's paths are free today;
Alleluia!

ADAM OF ST. VICTOR, 12TH CENTURY