

# The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter: Sun., April 7, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod**

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**Hymns: 474, 470, 848, 849, 481, 818, 467; Liturgy: 208, 210**

## Easter Makes a Difference



Easter made a difference in the lives of so many people! In the core community of believers, it wasn't a matter of something to believe but how to make a difference in the way a person lived. The other disciples had let Thomas stay with them until Jesus reappeared. It must have been a tense time, but uniquely bearable because they had met their Lord, alive. That change,

the difference that Easter made, wasn't limited to the apostles; the entire group shared all they had, living testimony of Jesus' presence with them. How will you be different after hearing this great Good News?

### 474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen *sts. 1, ref*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Je - sus is ris - en! Trum - pets re -  
sound-ing in glo - ri - ous light! Splen-dor, the Lamb, Heav - en for -  
ev - er! Oh, what a mir - a - cle God has in sight!

*Refrain*  
Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:  
Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

## Invocation, Confession and Absolution *1 John 1:5:10; 2:1b-2*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth.

**C** **But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.**

**P** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** If anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. Therefore as a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

## Psalm 148 *I. is spoken by left side; II, by the right.*

**P** Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise Him in the heights!

**I** *Praise Him, all His angels;*

**II** *praise Him, all His hosts!*

**I** *Praise Him, sun and moon,*

**II** *praise Him, all you shining stars!*

**I** *Praise Him, you highest heavens,*

**II** *and you waters above the heavens!*

**C** **Let them praise the name of the LORD!**

**P** For He commanded and they were created.

**C** **And He established them forever and ever; He gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.**

**P** Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

- I** fire and hail, snow and mist,
- II** stormy wind fulfilling His word!
- I** Mountains and all hills,
- II** fruit trees and all cedars!
- I** Beasts and all livestock,
- II** creeping things and flying birds!
- I** Kings of the earth and all peoples,
- II** princes and all rulers of the earth!
- I** Young men and maidens together,
- II** old men and children!
- P** Let them praise the name of the LORD, for His name alone is exalted; His majesty is above earth and heaven.
- C** He has raised up a horn for His people, praise for all His saints, for the people of Israel who are near to Him. Praise the LORD!
- P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
- C** as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

**474 Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen** *sts. ref, 3-5*

3 Je - sus the vine, We are the branch - es; Life in the  
 4 Weep-ing, be gone; Sor - row, be si - lent: Death put a -  
 5 Cit - y of God, Eas - ter for - ev - er, Gold - en Je -

Spir - it the fruit of the tree; Heav - en to earth, Christ to the  
 sun - der, and Eas - ter is bright. Cher - u - bim sing: "O grave, be  
 ru - sa - lem, Je - sus the Lamb, Riv - er of life, Saints and arch -

peo - ple, Gift of the fu - ture now flow - ing to me.  
 o - pen!" Clothe us in won - der, a - dorn us in light.  
 an - gels, Sing with cre - a - tion to God the I AM!

*Refrain*

Je - sus is ris - en and we shall a - rise:

Give God the glo - ry! Al - le - lu - ia!

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## Salutation & Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, grant that our Easter faith not be only a matter of Sunday tradition,

**C** **but will change how we care for one another and share our joy in active love and service each day;**

**P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## First Reading *Acts 4:32-35*

<sup>32</sup>The full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. <sup>33</sup>And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. <sup>34</sup>There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold <sup>35</sup>and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Epistle *1 John 1:1-2:2*

<sup>1</sup>That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— <sup>2</sup>the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— <sup>3</sup>that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

<sup>5</sup>This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup>If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. <sup>7</sup>But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup>If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from

all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup>If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

<sup>1</sup>My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. <sup>2</sup>He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Verse** *Romans 6:9; John 20:29b*

**P** Alleluia. We know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him.

**C** **Alleluia. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Alleluia.**

**Holy Gospel** *John 20:19-31*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>19</sup>On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup>And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven; if you withhold forgiveness from anyone, it is withheld."

<sup>24</sup>Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe."

<sup>26</sup>Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

<sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Children's Message

### 470 O Sons and Daughters of the King *sts. 1, 5-8*



1 O sons and daugh - ters of the King, Whom heav'n - ly  
 5 When Thom - as first the tid - ings heard That they had  
 6 "My pierc - ed side, O Thom - as, see, And look up -  
 7 No long - er Thom - as then de - nied; He saw the  
 8 How blest are they who have not seen And yet whose



hosts in glo - ry sing, To - day the grave has lost its sting!  
 seen the ris - en Lord, He doubt-ed the dis - ci - ples' word.  
 on My hands, My feet; Not faith-less but be - liev - ing be."  
 feet, the hands, the side; "You are my Lord and God!" he cried.  
 faith has con-stant been, For they e - ter - nal life shall win.



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

Text: attr. Jean Tisserand, d. 1494; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818-66, alt.; Tune: Melchior Vulpius, c. 1570-1615; Text and tune: Public domain.

## Sermon

### Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

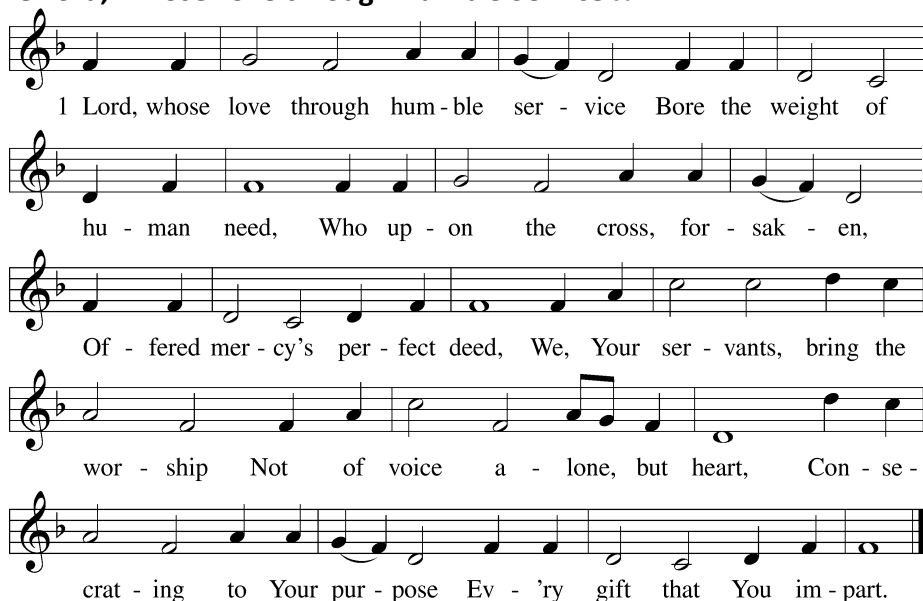
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the

virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

### Prayer of the Church *Acts 4:34-35*

**P** We read again a portion of the First Reading: “There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.” Let us also respond to God’s Word in song and prayer using the hymn “Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service” as a guide.

### 848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service *st. 1*



I Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser-vice Bore the weight of  
 hu-man need, Who up-on the cross, for-sak-en,  
 Of-fered mer-cy's per-fect deed, We, Your ser-vants, bring the  
 wor-ship Not of voice a-lone, but heart, Con-se-  
 crat-ing to Your pur-pose Ev-'ry gift that You im-part.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt.; Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia; Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

**P** Lord Jesus, we pray that You would use us and the gifts You have given to us to serve anyone in need. Open our eyes to see opportunities near

and far in which we may serve Your gracious plans. All that we have and are belongs to You.

- C** **Risen Christ, grant us to be of one heart and soul, sharing not only our common faith but all that we are and have.**

**848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service st. 2**

2 Still Your chil - dren wan - der home - less; Still the hun - gry  
cry for bread; Still the cap - tives long for free - dom;  
Still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, Your deep com -  
pas - sion Healed the sick and freed the soul, Use the  
love Your Spir - it kin - dles Still to save and make us whole.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt.; Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia; Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

- P** We pray for people who are homeless, hungry, captive, and in mourning. Surround them, heavenly Father, with people of faith in our risen Savior, brothers and sisters who will tend to them with compassion and love. We pray for those near and dear to us...  
Wherever Your plans include us, O Lord,

- C** **open our hearts and hands, voices and resources to share the difference Easter makes for all who trust in our risen Savior.**

**848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service st. 3**

3 As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, Till Your love's re -  
veal - ing light In its height and depth and great - ness,



Dawns up - on our quick-ened sight, Mak - ing known the needs and  
 bur - dens Your com - pas - sion bids us bear, Stir - ring  
 us to tire - less striv - ing, Your a - bun - dant life to share.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt.; Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia; Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

- P** We pray for those who are rich and those who are poor, those who influence our nation and those who live unnoticed. O Holy Spirit, be among our brothers and sisters—those who have vast resources; all who make, administer, and judge our laws; and parents, teachers, and counselors—all who know Christ as their living Lord.
- C** Give them courage and caring hearts so that through them Your will shall be done.

### 848 Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service *st. 4*

4 Called by wor - ship to Your ser - vice, Forth in Your dear  
 name we go, To the child, the youth, the a - ged,  
 Love in liv - ing deeds to show; Hope and health, good - will and  
 com - fort, Coun - sel, aid, and peace we give, That Your  
 ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom May Your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-84, alt.; Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia; Text: © Oxford University Press. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

- P** We pray for our congregation, its programs of outreach and growth, and all who worship here. Lord over all, be with us and enliven us to do Your will in Easter joy.
- C** **Give us strength to show forth the difference Easter makes for us. Guide and protect us, heavenly Father, that we may serve You and the people around us in the name of our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

## Offering

### Preface & Proper Preface

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should always and everywhere thank and praise You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever-living God. But chiefly do we praise You for the glorious resurrection of our Lord, who not only rose from death but has led the way for us to be with You forever. And so, with all the heavenly host, we raise our voices in thanks, evermore praising You and saying:

### Sanctus *LSB 208*

**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;  
 Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.  
 Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;  
 Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke.

# The Words of Our Lord

## Proclamation of Christ & Lord's Prayer

- P** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- C** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**
- P** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## Pax Domini

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

## Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

**C** 1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke.

## DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

### 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet  
 3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,  
 gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons  
 in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the  
 With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool  
 That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing  
 wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this  
 glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.  
 Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955; Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia; Text: © 1987 Hope Publishing Co. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

### 481 Scatter the Darkness, Break the Gloom



1 Scat - ter the dark - ness, break the gloom; Sun, re - veal an  
 2 Bear - ing the stan - dard from on high As the Lamb of  
 3 Ban - ners of tri - umph, be un - furled! Trum - pets, sound through -



emp - ty tomb Shin - ing with joy for all our sor - rows,  
 God to die; He who for us, so cruel - ly treat - ed,  
 out the world! Cry - ing and sighs, give way to sing - ing:

Hope and peace for all to - mor - rows, Life un - e -  
Lives a - gain— our foes de - feat - ed! Where is your  
Life from death, our Lord is bring - ing! Let there be -

clipped by doubt and dread: Christ has ris - en from the dead!  
sting, O death and grave? Christ has shown His strength to save!  
gin the ju - bi - lee— Christ has gained the vic - to - ry!

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955; Tune: French; Text: © 1995 Stephen P. Starke, admin. Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110003644; Tune: Public domain.

## 818 In Thee Is Gladness

1 In Thee is glad - ness A - mid all sad - ness, Je - sus,  
2 Since He is ours, \_\_\_\_\_ We fear no pow - ers, Not of

sun - shine of my heart. By Thee are giv - en The gifts of  
earth nor sin nor death. He sees and bless - es In worst dis -

heav - en, Thou the true Re - deem - er art. Our souls Thou  
tress - es; He can change them with a breath. Where - fore the

wak - est, Our bonds Thou break - est; Who trusts Thee sure - ly Has built se -  
sto - ry Tell of His glo - ry With hearts and voic - es; All heav' n re -

cure - ly; He stands for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! Our hearts are  
joic - es In Him for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia! We shout for

pin - ing To see Thy shin - ing, Dy - ing or liv - ing  
glad - ness, Tri - umph o'er sad - ness, Love Him and praise Him

To Thee are cleav - ing; Naught can us sev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!  
And still shall raise Him Glad hymns for - ev - er: Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Johann Lindemann, 1549-1631; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.; Tune: Giovanni Giacomo Gastoldi, c. 1556-  
c. 1622; Text and tune: Public domain.

## Post-Communion Thanksgiving

- P** Let us pray... We give You thanks, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this Sacrament.
- C** **We pray that You would strengthen us by it each day to use all that we are and have to the good of others and the praise of Your holy name;**
- P** through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**

## Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

## Dismissal

- P** Alleluia! Christ is risen!
- C** **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**
- P** Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

## 467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness *sts. 1, 3, 5-6*



1 A - wake, my heart, with glad - ness, See what to - day is done;  
3 This is a sight that glad - dens—What peace it doth im - part!  
5 The world a - gainst me ra - ges, Its fu - ry I dis - dain;  
6 Now I will cling for - ev - er To Christ, my Sav - ior true;



Now, af - ter gloom and sad - ness, Comes forth the glo - rious sun.  
Now noth - ing ev - er sad - dens The joy with - in my heart.  
Though bit - ter war it wa - ges, Its work is all in vain.  
My Lord will leave me nev - er, What - e'er He pass - es through.



My Sav - ior there was laid Where our bed must be made  
No gloom shall ev - er shake, No foe shall ev - er take  
My heart from care is free, No trou - ble trou - bles me.  
He rends death's i - ron chain; He breaks through sin and pain;



When to the realms of light Our spir - it wings its flight.  
The hope which God's own Son In love for me has won.  
Mis - for - tune now is play, And night is bright as day.  
He shat - ters hell's grimthrall; I fol - low Him through all.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607-76; tr. John Kelly, 1833-90, alt.; Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662; Text and tune: Public domain.

**Acknowledgments**

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