

Introductory sentences

On the first day of the week the disciples went to the tomb, and they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Alleluia! *Luke 24 v1*

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, Jesus came and stood among the disciples, and said to them, "Peace be with you!" Alleluia! *John 20 v19*

Prayer

Almighty Father, who made the disciples glad with the sight of the risen Lord, give us the knowledge of His presence with us so that we may be strengthened and sustained by His risen life to serve you now and always. Amen.

Hymn

Yours be the glory! risen, conquering Son;
Endless is the victory over death you won;
Angels robed in splendour rolled the stone away,
Kept the folded grave clothes
where your body lay:
*Yours be the glory! risen, conquering Son:
Endless is the victory over death you won.*

See! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb,
Lovingly He greets us, scatters fear and gloom;
Let the church with gladness
hymns of triumph sing!
For her Lord is living, death has lost its sting:

No more we doubt you, glorious prince of life:
What is life without you? Aid us in our strife;
Make us more than conquerors,
through your deathless love,
Bring us safe through Jordan to your home above:
(R.B.Hoyle)

Reflection

Many people have experienced dark times recently. Perhaps you are one of them. Perhaps illness or sadness are daily companions. Perhaps it's difficult to make ends meet. What do we do when all seems fear and gloom? If we turn on the television more unhappiness comes into our room.

Jesus's followers have never been shielded from difficulties and sadness. What could have been worse for the early disciples than to have let Jesus down when he needed them and then not even have had the chance to say sorry because he was brutally killed in front of them. No wonder Judas took his own life.

So, what a surprise it was when Jesus popped up again **ALIVE**.

How difficult it was to get their heads around the fact that **DEATH COULD NOT HOLD HIM**.

Hymn

Jesus lives! - your terrors now
Can, O death, no more appal us:
Jesus lives! - by this we know
You, O grave, cannot enthrall us:
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! - henceforth is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm our trembling breath
When we pass it's gloomy portal:
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! - for us he died:
Then, alone to Jesus living,
Pure in heart may we abide,
Glory to our saviour giving:
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! - this bond of love
Neither life nor death shall sever,
Powers in hell or heaven above
Tear us from his keeping never:
Alleluia!

Jesus lives! - to him the throne
Over all the world is given;
May we go where he is gone,
Rest and reign with him in heaven:
Alleluia!
(Frances E. Cox)

Bible words

Two disciples were on their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus and were talking.
Jesus came up and walked by their side, but something prevented them from recognising him. He explained to them passages of the scriptures that were about himself. When they got to the village he went in to stay with them. At the table he took the bread and said the blessing, he broke it and handed it to them. They recognised him; but he had vanished from their sight. They rushed back to Jerusalem and told their story to the eleven who said to them, "Yes, it is true. The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon."
(from the gospel of Luke chapter 24)

Prayer

God of life and love,
Be with us in our daily struggles.
When life is dark open our eyes, as you opened
those of your followers on the Emmaus road, to
see that you are our companion on the way.
Help us to recognise the fact that you have
overcome death with life,
And help us to live, whatever our circumstances,
to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Blessing

May the Lord bestow on you
the precious gift of his blessing:
That you may know the infinite richness,
the endless goodness of God's love,
A personal love for you, a gift more precious
than all the gifts of this world,
A gift that none of us can earn, for we are
already and always precious to God.
May the Lord bless you, wonderfully bless you,
with this precious gift of his love.
Amen.

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He is Risen!