

Opening Hymn: Jesus lives!

Jesus lives! thy terrors now  
can, O Death, no more appal us;  
Jesus lives! by this we know  
thou, O grave, canst not enthrall us.  
*Alleluia!*

Jesus lives! henceforth is death  
but the gate of life immortal;  
this shall calm our trembling breath,  
when we pass its gloomy portal.

Jesus lives! for us he died;  
then, alone to Jesus living,  
pure in heart may we abide,  
glory to our Saviour giving.

Jesus lives! our hearts know well  
nought from us his love shall sever;  
life, nor death, nor powers of hell  
tear us from his keeping ever.

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.

*St Albinus 112 NEH*

The Collect

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before us you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help we may bring them to good effect;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

The New Testament Reading

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Acts 11: 1-18*

**Gospel Acclamation**

This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!  
My Love, the Crucified, hath sprung to life this morrow.  
Had Christ, that once was slain, ne'er burst his three-day prison,  
our faith had been in vain: but now hath Christ arisen.

*arr. Charles Wood (1866–1926)*

**The Gospel**

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
I am the first and the last says the Lord, and the living one.  
I was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore.

**Alleluia!**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*St John 13: 31–35*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Offertory Hymn: Alleluia! Hearts to heaven and voices raise**

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Hearts to heaven and voices raise;  
sing to God a hymn of gladness,  
sing to God a hymn of praise:  
he who on the cross a victim  
for the world's salvation bled,  
Jesus Christ, the King of Glory,  
now is risen from the dead.

Christ is risen, Christ the first-fruits  
of the holy harvest field,  
which will all its full abundance  
at his second coming yield;  
then the golden ears of harvest  
will their heads before him wave,  
ripened by his glorious sunshine,  
from the furrows of the grave.

Christ is risen, we are risen;  
shed upon us heavenly grace,  
rain, and dew, and gleams of glory  
from the brightness of thy face;  
that we, Lord, with hearts in heaven,  
here on earth may fruitful be,  
and by angel-hands be gathered,  
and be ever, Lord, with thee.

Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Glory be to God on high;  
To the Father, and the Saviour,  
who has gained the victory;  
Glory to the Holy Spirit,  
fount of love and sanctity;  
Alleluia! Alleluia!  
to the Triune Majesty.

*Lux eoi 103 NEH*

**Anthem: A new commandment**

I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.  
If there is this love among you, then all will know that you are my disciples.

*Peter Aston (b.1938)*  
*St John 13: 34–35*

