**Opening Hymn: The Strife is O’er**

The strife is o’er, the battle done;

now is the Victor’s triumph won;

O let the song of praise be sung.

*Alleluia!*

Death’s mightiest powers have done their worst,

and Jesus hath his foes dispersed;

let shouts of praise and joy outburst.

On the third morn he rose again

glorious in majesty to reign;

O let us swell the joyful strain.

He brake the age-bound chains of hell;

the bars from heaven’s high portals fell;

let hymns of praise his triumph tell.

Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee

from death’s dread sting thy servants free,

that we may live, and sing to thee.

*Vulpius (Gelob’t sei Gott) 119ii NEH*

**The Welcome, Notices, Confession,** *and* **Gloria**

**The Collect**

Almighty Father,

who in your great mercy gladdened the disciples with the sight of the risen Lord:

give us such knowledge of his presence with us,

that we may be strengthened and sustained by his risen life

and serve you continually in righteousness and truth;

through the same Jesus Christ your Son, our 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.

Peter addressed the people, ‘You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you.

‘And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out.

This is the word of the Lord. *Acts 3: 12–19*

**Thanks be to God.**

**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 Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, ‘Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, ‘These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.’ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, ‘Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord. *St Luke 24: 36b–48*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon** *followed by* **The Creed**

**The Prayers of Intercession** *and* **The Peace**

**Offertory Hymn: Alleluia, sing to Jesus!**

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| Alleluia, sing to Jesus!  his the sceptre, his the throne;  alleluia, his the triumph,  his the victory alone:  hark, the songs of peaceful Sion  thunder like a mighty flood;  Jesus out of every nation  hath redeemed us by his blood.    Alleluia, not as orphans  are we left in sorrow now;  alleluia, he is near us,  faith believes, nor questions how:  though the cloud from sight received him,  when the forty days were o’er,  shall our hearts forget his promise,  ‘I am with you evermore’? | Alleluia, bread of angels,  thou on earth our food, our stay;  alleluia, here the sinful  flee to thee from day to day:  Intercessor, Friend of sinners,  earth’s Redeemer, plead for me,  where the songs of all the sinless  sweep across the crystal sea.    Alleluia, King eternal,  thee the Lord of lords we own;  alleluia, born of Mary,  earth thy footstool, heaven thy throne:  thou within the veil hast entered,  robed in flesh, our great High Priest;  thou on earth both Priest and Victim  in the Eucharistic Feast.  *Hyfrydol 271 NEH* |

**Communion Hymn: How deep the Father’s love for us**

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| How deep the Father's love for us,  how vast beyond all measure, that he should give his only Son  to make a wretch his treasure. How great the pain of searing loss;  the Father turns his face away, as wounds which mar the chosen One  bring many souls to glory. | Behold the man upon a cross,  my sin upon his shoulders; ashamed, I hear my mocking voice  call out among the scoffers. It was my sin that held him there  until it was accomplished; his dying breath has brought me life -  I know that ‘it is finished.’ |
| I will not boast in anything,  no gifts, no power, no wisdom; but I will boast in Jesus Christ,  his death and resurrection. Why should I gain from his reward?  I cannot give an answer; but this I know with all my heart,   his wounds have paid my ransom.  *How deep the Father’s love 114 AM* | |

**Anthem: Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness**

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain of triumphant gladness;

God has brought his Israel into joy from sadness;

'tis the Spring of Souls today,

Christ hath burst his prison,

and from three days sleep in death as a Sun hath risen.

Now the Queen of seasons bright with the day of splendour,

with the royal feast of feasts, comes its joy to render;

comes to glad Jerusalem,

who with true affection

welcomes in unwearied strains Jesu's Resurrection.

Neither might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark portal, (Alleluia!)

nor the watchers, nor the seal, hold Thee as a mortal: (Alleluia!)

but today a midst the twelve,

Thou didst stand, bestowing (Alleluia!)

that Thy peace which evermore passeth human knowing. (Alleuia!)

*R S Thatcher (1888 – 1957)*

**Dismissal: Ye Choirs of new Jerusalem**

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| Ye choirs of new Jerusalem  your sweetest notes employ,  the paschal victory to hymn  in strains of holy joy.  How Judah’s Lion burst his chains,  and crushed the serpent’s head;  and brought with him, from death’s domains,  the long-imprisoned dead.  From hell’s devouring jaws the prey  alone our Leader bore;  his ransomed hosts pursue their way  where he hath gone before. | Triumphant in his glory now  his sceptre ruleth all;  earth, heaven, and hell before him bow,  and at his footstool fall.  While joyful thus his praise we sing,  his mercy we implore,  into his palace bright to bring  and keep us evermore.  All glory to the Father be,  all glory to the Son,  all glory, Holy Ghost, to thee,  while endless ages run. Alleluia! Amen.  *St Fulbert 124 NEH* |