

Hymn No. 244 – “This Joyful Eastertide”

1 This joyful Eastertide, away with sin
and sorrow My love, the Crucified,
has sprung to life this morrow.

2 My flesh in hope shall rest and
For a season slumber till trump
From east to west shall wake
The dead in number. Had Christ,
Who once was slain, not burst his
Three-day prison, our faith had
Been in vain. But now has Christ
Arisen, arisen, arisen, arisen.

3 Death's flood has lost its chill since
Jesus crossed the river. Lover of souls,
From ill my passing soul deliver.

“As Each New Horizon Beckons”

As each new horizon beckons,
May it challenge them anew,
Children of creative purpose,
Helping others love the Lord.
May their dreams prove rich with promise,
Each endeavor well begun.
Great creator, give them guidance,
Till their lives and yours are one.

Hymn No. 506 – “Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table!”

1 Look who gathers at Christ's table!
Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; some are laughing;
some have songs they want to sing.
Others ask why they're invited,
burdened by the wrong they've done.
Christ insists they all are welcome.
There is room for everyone.

2 Clouds of light surround the table;
ancient followers appear,
saints confessing how they wrestled
with their guilt, their doubt and fear.
Peter tells of his denying
Christ was ever in his sight;
Paul relates his fruitless efforts
to obliterate the light.

3 Their sad stories are repeated
in a thousand different ways,
but they share one thing in common:
they all end in thanks and praise
for the host who has invited
north and south and east and west
to converge around this table,
where all life is fed and blest.

4 Bring your joy and bring your sadness,
and prepare to be surprised
by the host whose hands are wounded,
who will open wide your eyes
when he blesses bread and breaks it—
truth and manna from above!—
and then passes wine that wakens
in your heart the taste of love.

Hymn No. 609 “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Hymn No. 507 “Come to the Table of Grace”

1 Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of grace.

This is God’s table; it’s not yours or mine.

Come to the table of grace.

2 Come to the table of peace...

3 Come to the table of love...

4 Come to the table of hope...

5 Come to the table of joy...

Hymn No. 765 “May the God of Hope Go With Us”

May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.

May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace;

singing, share our joy with all;

working for a world that's new,

faithful when we hear Christ's call.

John 10:1-10

‘Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.’ Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

1 John 2:24-3:3; 3:14-16

Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he has promised us, eternal life.

I write these things to you concerning those who would deceive you. As for you, the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and so you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, abide in him.

And now, little children, abide in him, so that when he is revealed we may have confidence and not be put to shame before him at his coming.

If you know that he is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who does right has been born of him. See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death. All who hate a brother or sister are murderers, and you know that murderers do not have eternal life abiding in them. We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another.