

Hymn 277 **“Hail Thee, Festival Day!” v. 1, 2(Easter), 1, 2(Ascension), 5,6**

Refrain: Hail thee, festival day! Blest day to be hallowed forever; day when our Lord was raised, breaking the kingdom of death.

Easter

1 All the fair beauty of earth from the death of the winter arising! Every good gift of the year now with its Master returns: (Refrain)

2 Rise from the grave now, O Lord, the author of life and creation. Treading the pathway of death, new life you give to us all: (Refrain)

Ascension

1 He who was nailed to the cross, is ruler and Lord of all people. All things created on earth sing to the glory of God: (Refrain)

2 Daily the loveliness grows adorned with the glory of blossom; heaven its gates now unbars, flinging its increase of light: (Refrain)

5 Spirit of life and of power, now flow in us, fount of our being, light that enlightens us all, life that in all may abide: (Refrain)

6 Praise to the giver of good! O Lover and Author of concord, pour out your balm on our days; order our ways in your peace: (Refrain)

Song After Children’s Time “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 236 **“The Strife is O’er”**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

1 The strife is o'er, the battle done; the victory of life is won; the song of triumph has begun. Alleluia!

2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their legions hath dispersed: let shouts of holy joy outburst. Alleluia!

3 The three sad days are quickly sped; Christ rises glorious from the dead: all glory to our risen Head! Alleluia!

4 Lord, by the stripes which wounded thee, from death’s dread sting thy servants free, that we may live, and sing to thee: Alleluia!

Hymn 250

“In the Bulb there is a Flower”

1 In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

2 There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

3 In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Look! He is coming with the clouds every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. 'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

John 20:19-29

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.' A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'