

A Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of  
**Stephen Gilchrist Twelves**

May 10, 1955 - May 3, 2021



**All Saints' Episcopal Church**

10 Billerica Road, Chelmsford MA 01824

[www.allsaintschelmsford.org](http://www.allsaintschelmsford.org)

September 11, 2021

*The Liturgy for the Burial of the Dead is an Easter liturgy no matter what time of year. It finds all its meaning in the Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we too shall be raised. The Liturgy is characterized by joy in the certainty that "nothing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

*This joy, however, does not make human grief unchristian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend, Lazarus. So, while we rejoice in the gift of the resurrection for all who believe, we in sorrow support Steve's family and friends in their time of loss with the comfort we ourselves receive from our Lord, Christ Jesus. Your presence here today is deeply appreciated.*

# The Burial of the Dead

(Hymns found at the end of the program)

**Prelude:** *“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us (Wachet auf)* J.S. Bach (1685-1750)  
*Improvisation on the tune “Crimond”*

Alec Rowley (1892-1958) & Eric Thiman (1900-1975)

**Hymn 663** *The Lord my God my shepherd is*

Tune: *Crimond*

I am Resurrection and I am Life, says the Lord. Whoever has faith in me shall have life, even though he die. And everyone who has life, and has committed himself to me in faith, shall not die for ever.

As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth. After my awaking, he will raise me up; and in my body I shall see God. I myself shall see, and my eyes behold him who is my friend and not a stranger.

For none of us has life in himself, and none becomes his own master when he dies. For if we have life, we are alive in the Lord; and if we die, we die in the Lord. So then, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's possession.

Happy from now on are those who die in the Lord. So it is, says the Spirit, for they rest from their labors.

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day our brother Stephen. We thank you for giving him to us, his family and friends, to know and to love as a companion on our earthly pilgrimage. In your boundless compassion, console us who mourn. Give us faith to see in death the gate of eternal life, so that in quiet confidence we may continue our course on earth, until, by your call, we are reunited with those who have gone before; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## The Liturgy of the Word

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Isaiah 25:2-9

**O**n this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 121

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; \*  
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved \*  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel \*  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; \*  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, \*  
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; \*  
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, \*  
from this time forth for evermore.

### A reading from the Epistle to the Romans

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

*People*      **Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn 680: *O God, our help in ages past*

Tune: *St. Anne*

### The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

John 14:1-6

*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to

prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## A Remembrance

by Mark Twelves

## The Homily

The Rev. Paul Kolbet

## The Apostles' Creed

In the assurance of eternal life given at Baptism, let us proclaim our faith and say,

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness  
of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers of the People

For our brother Stephen, let us pray to our Lord Jesus Christ who said, “I am Resurrection and I am Life.”

Lord, you consoled Martha and Mary in their distress; draw near to us who mourn, and dry the tears of those who weep.

**Hear us, Lord.**

You wept at the grave of Lazarus, your friend; comfort us in our sorrow.

**Hear us, Lord.**

You raised the dead to life; give to our brother eternal life.

**Hear us, Lord.**

You promised paradise to the thief who repented; bring Stephen to the joys of heaven.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Our brother was washed in Baptism and anointed with the Holy Spirit; give him fellowship with all your saints.

**Hear us, Lord.**

Stephen was nourished with your Body and Blood; grant him a place at the table in your heavenly kingdom.

### **Hear us, Lord.**

Comfort us in our sorrows at the death of our brother; let our faith be our consolation, and eternal life our hope.

*Silence may be kept.*

Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to you our brother Stephen, who was reborn by water and the Spirit in Holy Baptism. Grant that his death may recall to us your victory over death, and be an occasion for us to renew our trust in your Father's love. Give us, we pray, the faith to follow where you have led the way; and where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, to the ages of ages. Amen.

On this day we also remember those who died on 9/11 twenty years ago:  
Father of all, we pray to you for all those who lost their lives on 9/11. Grant them your peace; let light perpetual shine upon them; and, in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### **The Peace**

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

### **Offertory** *Prelude on St. Anne*

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who rose victorious from the dead, and comforts us with the blessed hope of everlasting life. For to your faithful people, O Lord, life is changed, not ended; and when our mortal body lies in death, there is prepared for us a dwelling place eternal in the heavens. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.\_\_\_\_\_

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN

## The Breaking of the Bread

S-154

*This setting is not used in Lent.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
there - fore let us keep the feast.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## The Communion of the People

*Following ushers, all who wish to grow closer to God through Christ are invited to receive communion. At this time, the common cup will not be shared, but the consecrated bread will be and it by itself still constitutes what we understand to be communion. If you wish to come forward for a blessing alone, please indicate it by crossing your arms across your chest. Gluten free hosts are available, just ask!*

**Hymn 208:** *The strife is o'er, the battle done*

Tune: *Victory*

## The Post-Communion Prayer

Almighty God, we thank you that in your great love you have fed us with the spiritual food and drink of the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, and have given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. Grant that this Sacrament may be to us a comfort in affliction, and a pledge of our inheritance in that kingdom where there is no death, neither sorrow nor crying, but the fullness of joy with all your saints; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

## The Blessing

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God almighty and all-loving, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you this day and for ever. Amen.

**Hymn 207:** *Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!*

Tune: *Easter Hymn*

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *Triple fugue on "St. Anne"*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

**Leading Our Worship**  
Celebrant: The Rev. Paul Kolbet  
Organist: Dr. Carl Klein  
Homilist: The Rev. Paul Kolbet  
Ushers: Lynne McSheehy and Maggie Marshall

## **Kind Steve**

Steve was a caring person, dating well back into childhood. When Steve was about seven his four year-old sister dropped her ice cream cone on the sidewalk. Tears were plentiful. Steve handed her his ice cream cone. That story of kindness is family legend – and perhaps a reflection of Steve’s life.

A number of Steve’s friends and colleagues were moved to write us after his death, describing what Steve meant to them. There were recurring themes: Steve’s sense of humor, his love for hiking/biking/paddling, his intelligence. But most of all his kindness. Below are some of the kindness comments.

*One who knew Steve when both were teenagers:* “I always sensed the kindness and intelligence of Steve.”

*A skiing and paddling friend, now with spinal cord injury:* “Steve was kind enough to accompany me on very slow rides on the Minute Man Bike path running through Lexington. I will very much miss his kind and supportive friendship”

*A skiing companion:* A skier fell at top of very steep trail... I didn’t think her fall would stop until she hit the parking lot. None of us could move but Steve managed to fly down and get to her. Luckily she was more scared than injured. That was Steve, not only could he not get knocked off his skis but he was the first to come to your aid... He was a quiet person who led by example of his deeds...

*A colleague at work:* Steve was a man who didn’t have to boast or brag about who he was or what he brought to the table, because he just ... brought it. He was present. He was kind. He was incredibly intelligent; with a brilliant sense of humor and timing, and such a wonderful laugh (I can hear it now). A mutual friend referred to him as “genuine”. I think that captures it best, really.... That, good people, was a spectacular gift.

*Companions / hosts for numerous events:* Unassuming, understated, quietly charming, thoughtful, and kind, he fit right into whatever we had going on, an easy to be with, treasured old friend. Steve is still appreciated for how he touched our lives.

*A skiing companion:* Steve was such a kind, fun soul.

Kindness well describes Steve... a quality in short supply in our life today.



Hymn 663 *The Lord my God my shepherd is*

Tune: *Crimond*

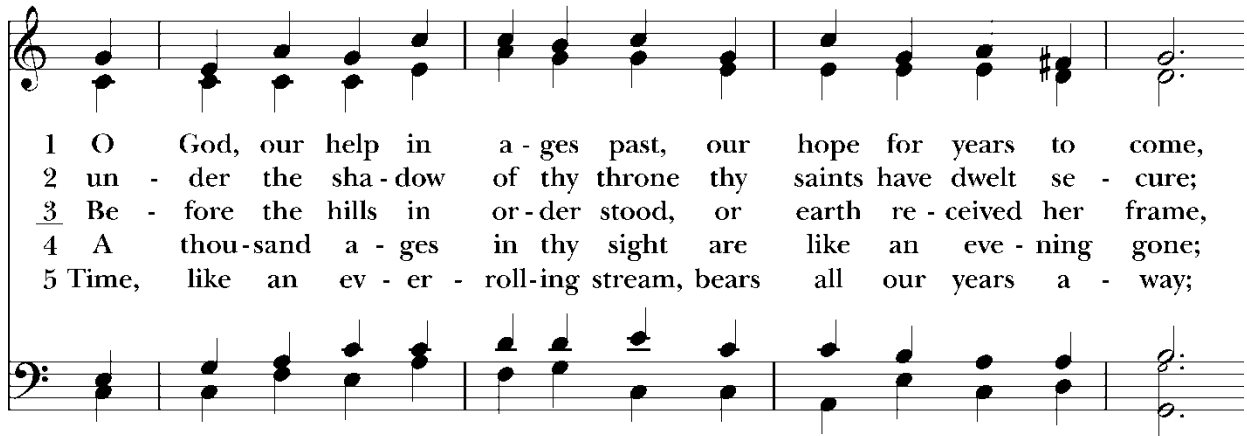
1 The Lord my God my shep - herd is; how  
2 To whole - ness he re - stores my soul and  
3 Yea, e - ven when I must pass through the  
4 Thou hast in grace my ta - ble spread se -  
5 Then sure - ly I can trust thy love for

1 could I want or need? In pas - tures green, by  
2 doth in mer - cy bless, and helps me take for  
3 val - ley of death's shade, I will not fear, for  
4 cure in all a - larms, and filled my cup, and  
5 all the days to come, that I may tell thy

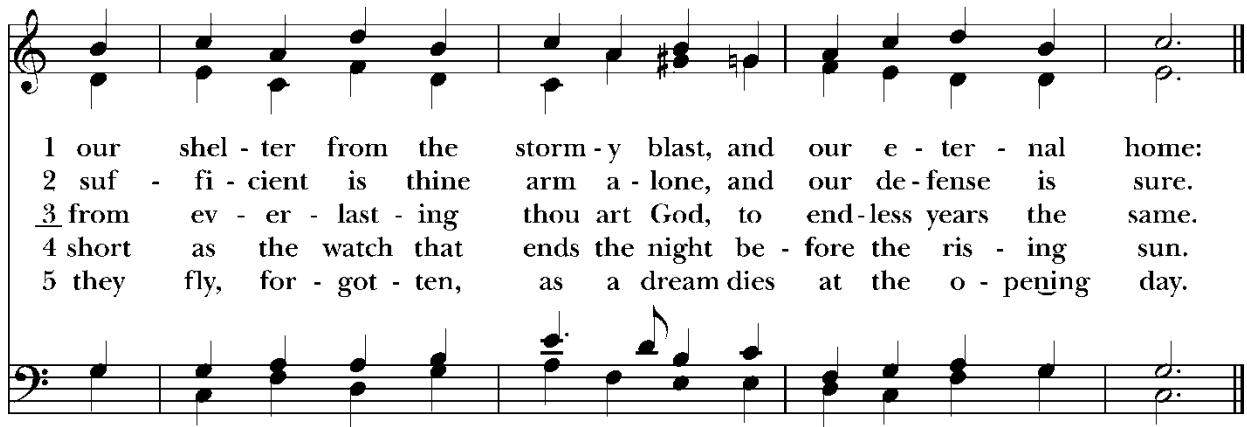
1 streams se - rene, he safe - ly doth me lead.  
2 his Name's sake the paths of right - eous - ness.  
3 thou art here, to com - fort and to aid.  
4 borne me up in ev - er - last - ing arms.  
5 praise, and dwell for ev - er in thy home.

Hymn 680: *O God, our help in ages past*

Tune: *St. Anne*



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;  
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;



1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.  
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,  
and our eternal home.

Hymn 208: *The strife is o'er, the battle done*

Tune: *Victory*

*Antiphon (at the beginning)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Ped.*

1 The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done, the vic - to -  
 2 The powers of death have done their worst, but Christ their  
 \*3 The three sad days are quick - ly sped, he ris - es  
 4 He closed the yawning gates of hell, the bars from  
 5 Lord! by the stripes which wound - ed thee, from death's dread

1 ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph  
 2 le - gions hath dis - persed: let shout of ho - ly  
 3 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our  
 4 heaven's high por - tals fell; let hymns of praise his  
 5 sting thy serv - ants free, that we may live and

1 has be - gun. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 joy out - burst. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 ris - en Head! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 tri - umphs tell! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 5 sing to thee. Al - le - lu - ia! [Ant.]

*Antiphon (at the end)*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

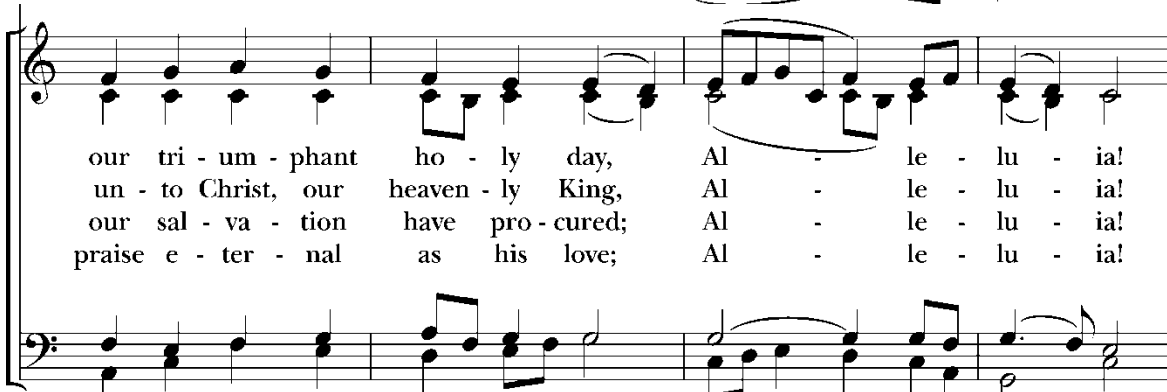
*Ped.*

Hymn 207: *Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!*

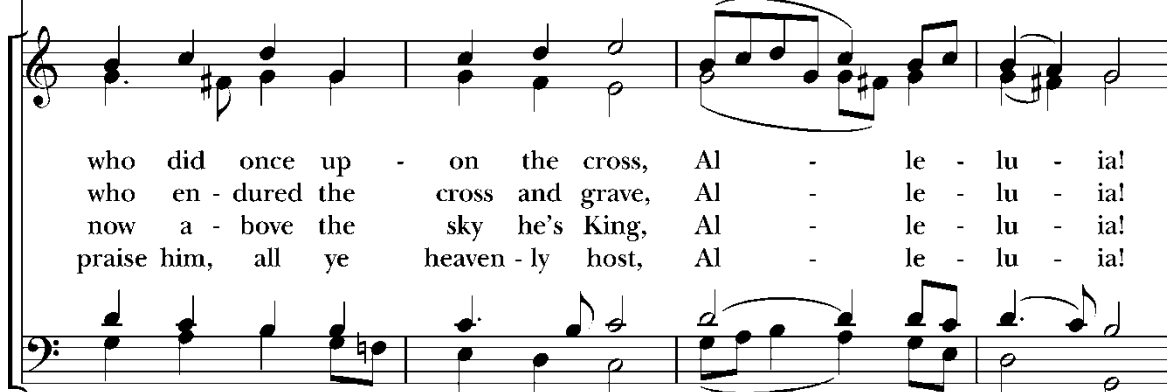
Tune: *Easter Hymn*



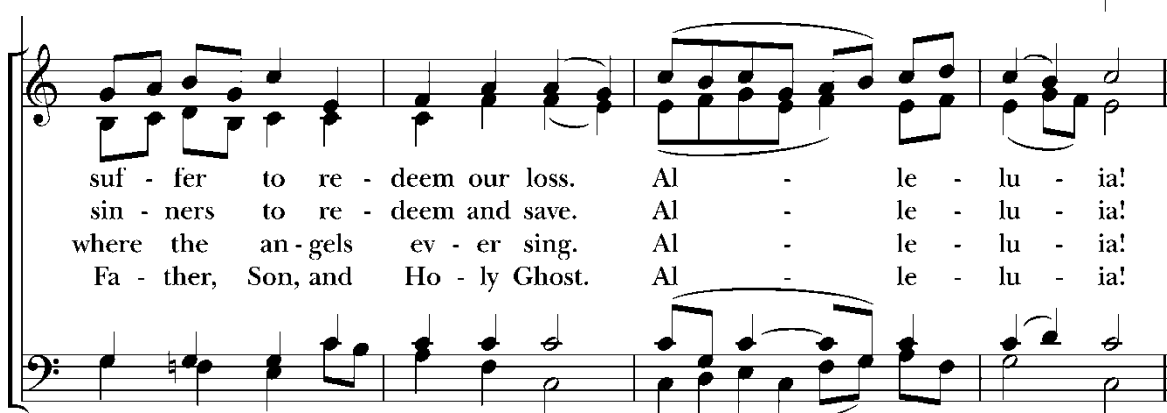
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
3 But the pains which he en-dured, Al - le - lu - ia!  
4 Sing we to our God a - bove Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
un - to Christ, our heaven - ly King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!  
who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!  
now a - bove the sky he's King, Al - le - lu - ia!  
praise him, all ye heaven - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!  
sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!  
where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!