

# An Eyewitness Narrative: The World-Changing Certainty of Jesus' Resurrection

**Scripture for Meditation:** *Luke 24:1-12*

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were perplexed about this, behold, two men stood by them in dazzling apparel. And as they were frightened and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on the third day rise." And they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb they told all these things to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene and Joanna and Mary the mother of James and the other women with them who told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter rose and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; and he went home marveling at what had happened.

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**Hymn of Praise:** *See, What a Morning*

See, what a morning, gloriously bright  
With the dawning of hope in Jerusalem,  
Folded the grave clothes, tomb filled with light  
As the angels announce Christ is risen!  
See God's salvation plan, wrought in love,  
Borne in pain, paid in sacrifice,  
Fulfilled in Christ, the Man,  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

See Mary weeping, "Where is He laid?"  
As in sorrow she turns from the empty tomb;  
Hears a voice speaking, calling her name;  
It's the Master, the Lord raised to life again!  
The voice that spans the years,  
Speaking life, stirring hope, bringing peace to us,  
Will sound till He appears,  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

One with the Father, Ancient of Days,  
Through the Spirit who clothes faith with certainty.  
Honor and blessing, glory and praise  
To the King crowned with pow'r and authority!  
And we are raised with Him,  
Death is dead, love has won, Christ has conquered;  
And we shall reign with Him,  
For He lives: Christ is risen from the dead!

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**Hymn of Praise:** *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne.  
Hark! How the heav'nly anthem drowns all music but its own.  
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,  
And hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Son of God, before the worlds began,  
And ye who tread where He hath trod, crown Him the Son of Man;  
Who every grief hath known that wrings the human breast,  
And takes and bears them for His own, that all in Him may rest.

Crown Him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,  
And rose victorious in the strife for those He came to save.  
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high,  
Who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die.

Matthew Bridges, 1800-1894  
Godfrey Thring, 1823-1903

**Prayer of Blessing**

**Responsive Reading:** *Psalms 118:1, 17-25*

**Oh give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever! . . .**

I shall not die, but I shall live, and recount the deeds of the LORD. The LORD has disciplined me severely, but he has not given me over to death.

**Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.**

This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it. I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.

**The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.**

This is the day that the LORD has made;

**let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success!**

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**Offertory Hymn of Praise:** *Christ, the Lord, Is Risen Today*

Christ, the Lord, is ris'n today; Alleluia!\*  
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; Alleluia!  
Sing, ye heavens, and earth, reply: Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done; Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won. Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids Him rise; Alleluia!  
Christ hath opened Paradise. Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King; Alleluia!  
"Where, O death, is now thy sting?" Alleluia!  
Once He died our souls to save: Alleluia!  
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!  
Foll'wing our exalted Head; Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise; Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788  
\* "Alleluia" means "praise Jehovah."

**Confession of Faith:** *The Heidelberg Catechism*

*Question 45:* What does the resurrection of Christ profit us?

*Answer:* **First, by his resurrection he has overcome death, that he might make us partakers of that righteousness which he had purchased for us by his death; secondly, we are also by his power raised up to a new life; and lastly, the resurrection of Christ is a sure pledge of our blessed resurrection.**

## Hymn of Triumph: *Christ Is Risen\**

# Christ Is Risen

1. Let no one caught in sin re-main in-side the lie— of  
2. Be-neath the weight of all our sin, you bowed to none but

5  
in-ward shame; but fix our eyes up-on the cross, and run to Him, who  
heav-en's will; no scheme of hell, no scof-fer's crown, no bur-den great can

9  
showed great love—and bled for— us, free-ly you— bled for—  
hold you down. In strength you— reign; for-ev-er let your church pro-

13 *Chorus*  
us. Christ is— risen from the dead, tram-pling over death by death; come a-wake, come a-wake, come and  
claim.

17  
rise up from the grave. Christ is risen from the dead, we are one with Him again come a-wake, come a-wake, come and

21 *1st Ending and Final Ending* 3 *2nd Ending*  
rise up from the grave.— rise up from the grave. O death,

26  
where is your sting? O hell, where is your vic-tory? O church, come stand in the light; the

31  
glo-ry of God has de-feat-ed the night. Sing-ing: O death, where is your sting? O hell,

36 *To Chorus*  
where is your victory? O church, come stand in the light; our God is not dead, He's a-live, He's alive! Christis

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\*Children under first grade may leave during this song.

## Ministry of the Word

### Hymn of Praise: *Glorious Day*

One day when Heaven was filled with His praises,  
One day when sin was as black as could be,  
Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin,  
Dwelt among men, my example is He.

The Word became flesh, and the light shined among us,  
His glory revealed.

### *Chorus:*

*Living, He loved me; dying, He saved me.  
Buried, He carried my sins far away.  
Rising, He justified freely forever.  
One day He's coming,  
Oh glorious day, oh glorious day.*

One day they led Him up Calvary's mountain;  
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree.  
Suffering anguish, despised and rejected,  
Bearing our sins, my Redeemer is He.  
The hands that healed nations, stretched out on a tree,  
And took the nails for me.

One day the grave could conceal Him no longer;  
One day the stone rolled away from the door.  
Then He arose, over death He had conquered.  
Now He's ascended, my Lord evermore.  
Death could not hold Him; the grave could not keep Him  
From rising again! [*Chorus*]

### *Bridge:*

*One day the trumpet will sound for His coming.  
One day the skies with His glories will shine.  
Wonderful day, my Beloved One, bringing.  
My Savior, Jesus, is mine!*

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The most important thing in the world is the resurrection of Jesus Christ. If Jesus is alive, then there is hope for the world. If He is still in the grave, then there isn't the slightest glimmer of hope on the horizon. Outside of the resurrection of Jesus, I do not know of any other hope for this world.

German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer