

# DYING HIS DEATH LIVING HIS LIFE

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SERVICE FOR EASTER SUNDAY

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FRED NIEDNER

# **DYING** HIS DEATH **LIVING** HIS LIFE

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## **HE LIVES TRIUMPHANT**

### **NEWSLETTER NOTICE**

Join us for the Easter Sunday service, “He Lives Triumphant.” We will celebrate that by his resurrection, Jesus was triumphant over sin, death and the grave. Alleluia!

### **BULLETIN NOTICE**

In this service for Easter Sunday, we celebrate that by his resurrection, Jesus was triumphant over sin, death and the grave. Alleluia!

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### COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-illustration/tomb-jesus-christ-crucifixion-resurrection-religion-1931600957](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-illustration/tomb-jesus-christ-crucifixion-resurrection-religion-1931600957)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins.

*Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Corinthians 15:57*

- The **Opening Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Easter Hymn 77 77 and alleluias, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

Jesus Christ is ris'n today, Alleluia!  
 Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia!  
 Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia!  
 Suffer to redeem our loss. Alleluia!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
 Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
 Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
 Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
 Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
 Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
 Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
 Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
 Praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
 Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

- The **Invocation** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

- The **Responsive Reading** from 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.

**C** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

**P** For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:

**C** “Death is swallowed up in victory.”

**P** “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

**C** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

**P** Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

- The **Confession and Forgiveness** are spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation:

**P** As we give thanks and praise to God for the resurrection of our Lord, we come before him in repentant humility to confess our sins.

**C** Almighty God, even as we celebrate our Lord’s resurrection, we remember that it was our sins that he bore in his body on the cross. Forgive us for turning away from your Word and your will to follow our own ways. We have disobeyed your commandments through our thoughts, words and actions. We are poor witnesses for Jesus when we do not love others as we should. Have mercy on us for the sake of our crucified and risen Savior, and forgive our sins.

**P** On the cross, Jesus suffered the penalty of death for our sins. By his wounds, we are healed and forgiven. We were buried with him in Baptism and raised to new life. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Christ is risen!

**C** He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

**P** Mighty Savior, we gather on this first day of the week to celebrate your triumphant resurrection. Crucified and risen Lord, you have conquered in the fight. You have overcome sin, death and Satan, and your victory is our victory. In Baptism, we were united with you in death, and we have been raised to new life, a life that will continue into eternity. Lead us now to walk with you in this newness of life and to follow closely in your footsteps of love and service. Jesus, Lamb of God, accept our grateful praise, today and forever. Amen.

- The **Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Gelobt Sei Gott 888 and alleluias, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

O sons and daughters of the King,  
Whom heav'nly hosts in glory sing,  
Today the grave has lost its sting!  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

That Easter morn, at break of day,  
The faithful women went their way  
To seek the tomb where Jesus lay.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

An angel clad in white they see,  
Who sits and speaks unto the three,  
"Your Lord will go to Galilee."  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

On this most holy day of days  
Be laud and jubilee and praise:  
To God your hearts and voices raise.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

*Needed: tulip bulb or similar bulb, a pot of soil, trowel and a potted, flowering tulip or lily*

- P** Today is Easter morning! This is the day that we celebrate Jesus' resurrection. We have a special Easter greeting that we use today. I say, "Christ is risen!" Then you answer, "He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" Let's practice our greeting. *(Repeat the Easter greeting with the children.)*

Today, Easter Sunday, is a nice spring day, so this is a good day to do some gardening. I brought along a flower bulb *(show the bulb)*. This is like a big seed. Does it look like a flower? *(Let children answer.)* It really isn't very pretty. In fact, it looks kind of dead, like something that could never grow. Let's take this bulb and plant it. *(Plant the bulb in the pot of soil.)* What does a plant need to grow? *(Let children answer.)* We can put this pot of soil and the bulb in a sunny place and make sure it has enough water. Then, when the time is right, God will cause the new plant to grow. Flowers will blossom. Those flowers may look like these flowers *(show the lily or tulip plant)*. Those flowers don't look dead, do they? They are beautiful and living! The bulb and flowers can remind us of Jesus, who died and was buried and then came alive again.

After Jesus died on the cross for our sins, his dead body was taken down from the cross to be buried. His friends wrapped his body in burial cloths and laid his body in the grave, a cave carved into a hill. A big stone was rolled in front of the door of the grave. Since Jesus' enemies were afraid that his disciples might come at night and steal his body, the stone door was sealed shut, and soldiers guarded the tomb all night. On the first Easter morning, the third day after Jesus had died, some women who followed him came to the tomb. They were going to anoint his body with perfumed oils, a way to show respect and honor to their Lord. They wondered who would roll the big stone away from the door of the tomb. Then they found the tomb open and empty! An angel told them the good news that Jesus was alive! Then Jesus himself met the women on the road as they ran back to tell the good news to his disciples. He had risen from the dead. Jesus is stronger than death! Jesus died, but he came alive again. He lives forever, and because we believe in him, we will live forever with him!

Let's pray: Jesus, you died for us, and you came alive again. You are stronger than death. Help us to share the good news of your resurrection with our friends and neighbors. Amen.

- **The Old Testament Reading**, Malachi 4:1-3, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
  - Ⓟ For behold, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble. The day that is coming shall set them ablaze, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall. And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.
- **The Epistle Reading**, 2 Timothy 2:8-13, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:
  - Ⓟ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him;  
if we deny him, he also will deny us;  
if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself.

- The **Gospel Reading**, Matthew 28:1-10, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

¶ Now after the Sabbath, toward the dawn of the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you.” So they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me.”

- The **Sermon Hymn** is sung by the congregation to the tune Duke Street LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

I know that my Redeemer lives;  
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!  
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;  
He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave;  
He lives eternally to save;  
He lives all-glorious in the sky;  
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with his love;  
He lives to plead for me above;  
He lives my hungry soul to feed;  
He lives to help in time of need.



- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

Ⓟ Every third year, when we hear Matthew's account of the empty tomb as our gospel lesson, it seems the church's musical treasury needs at least one new Easter hymn. The way Matthew tells the story, the cemetery where Joseph of Arimathea had buried Jesus' body was a very busy place on the morning the two Marys went out to see the tomb. Gone were the tens of thousands of pilgrims who had come to Jerusalem for Passover, and, like Jesus and his friends, they stayed overnight on the Mount of Olives, which had been Jerusalem's cemetery for a thousand years by Jesus' time. Now, however, the graveyard was full of soldiers standing guard. Nervous officials didn't expect anyone to break out, but they would surely stop anyone from breaking in. Little did they know they were surrounded by a host of risen saints just waiting for the party to begin. Then came the earthquake and a highly disruptive angel who left the stunned soldiers lying about like corpses. To celebrate all this in song would require a title like "A Whole Lotta Shakin' Going On," although that one has been taken for some decades now.

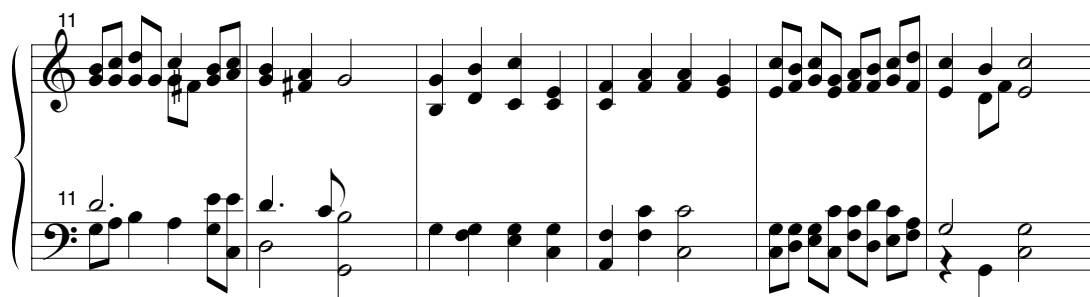
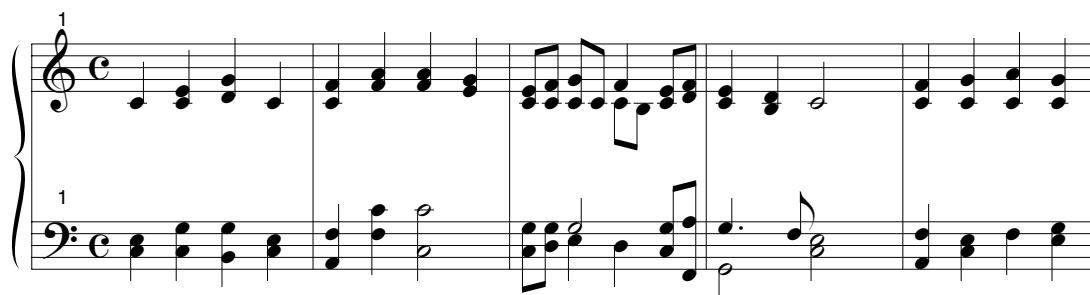
Actually, in Matthew's gospel the earthquakes had begun a week earlier. On the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem astride the donkey and its colt, accompanied by the crowds singing, "Hosanna," the city shook, and everyone asked, "Who is this?" (Matthew 21:10). Then on Friday, in the darkness, as Jesus cried out with a loud voice, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Matthew says, "And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many" (Matthew 27:51-53).

What took place in those few moments on that dark Friday rocked the world and everything we thought we knew about living and dying in the valley of the shadow where our lives play out. As Matthew knew, an ancient prophet, the mysterious and difficult Zechariah, had spoken of something like this (Zechariah 14:3-5). One day, said Zechariah, God will stand with both feet on the Mount of Olives, Jerusalem's ancient cemetery, and split it wide open by kicking half of it up against Mount Zion. The upheaval would greatly enlarge Zion, but it would also open the graves on the Mount of Olives. And the saints will go marching in with God, said Zechariah. Or perhaps he sang it. (It has the sound of a song, right?)

These sights and sounds had stunned the centurion into their startling confession, "Surely this was the Son of God!" And now, this morning, the soldiers on guard duty had felt the aftershock. No giant had come, no terrible foot from the heavens. Only a crucified man, crying out to God in the words of a desperate song he'd likely learned in childhood.

Every soul that had ever lived, and all who ever would live, died on that Friday with that young man crucified on Golgotha, and everyone who ever had sung or ever would sing that song we call Psalm 22, the one that starts, "My God, my God, why. . .?" sang along. With so large a

Tune..... Easter Hymn 77 77 and alleluias



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Hymns of praise then let us sing, Alleluia!  
Unto Christ, our heav'nly king, Alleluia!  
Who endured the cross and grave, Alleluia!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Alleluia!

But the pains which he endured, Alleluia!  
Our salvation have procured; Alleluia!  
Now above the sky he's king, Alleluia!  
Where the angels ever sing. Alleluia!

Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!  
Praise eternal as his love; Alleluia!  
Praise him, all ye heav'nly host, Alleluia!  
Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

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### **HE LIVES TRIUMPHANT**

### **CONTEMPORARY MUSIC SONG SUGGESTIONS**

- The following song suggestions can be used for a more contemporary worship service in place of the more traditional hymns included in this kit. Rights to use these songs in the service must be purchased by your parish through CCLI or other copyright licensing agencies.

“My Savior, My God” by Aaron Shust and Dorthy Greenwell

“Dying to Live” by Stephen Curtis Chapman

“Because He Lives” by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Ed Cash, Gloria Gaither, Jason Ingram, Matt Maher and William J. Gaither

“He Lives” by Anthony Skinner, Chris McClarney and Jonathan Smith

“My Victory” by Darren Mulligan, David Crowder, Ed Cash and Hank Bentley

“He Reigns” by Peter Furler and Steve Taylor

“Risen” by David Binion, Israel Houghton and Joshua Dufrene