

## SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EASTER

April 27, 2025

Acts 5:27-32

### Resurrection Witness

There once was a church sign that read, “Easter Is Over, Now What?” Good question. We have received the promise of new life, but how are we living that promise? Do our lives look different from that of a week ago when we joined our voices in singing “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today.”

For starters, let’s point out the error of that church sign. Easter is NOT over. Easter is not a one-day celebration in which the memory grows as stale as a left-over marshmallow Peep. Easter is our invitation to live as resurrection people, always seeing the God possibilities amid the impossibilities.

The early church embraced Easter as a 50-day celebration that led to the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. During the days of Eastertide, also known as The Great 50 Days, it was a tradition to read through the Acts of the Apostles, where among the pages are stories of faith and courage — and persecutions — as Jesus’ followers boldly tell of the Risen Christ among them.

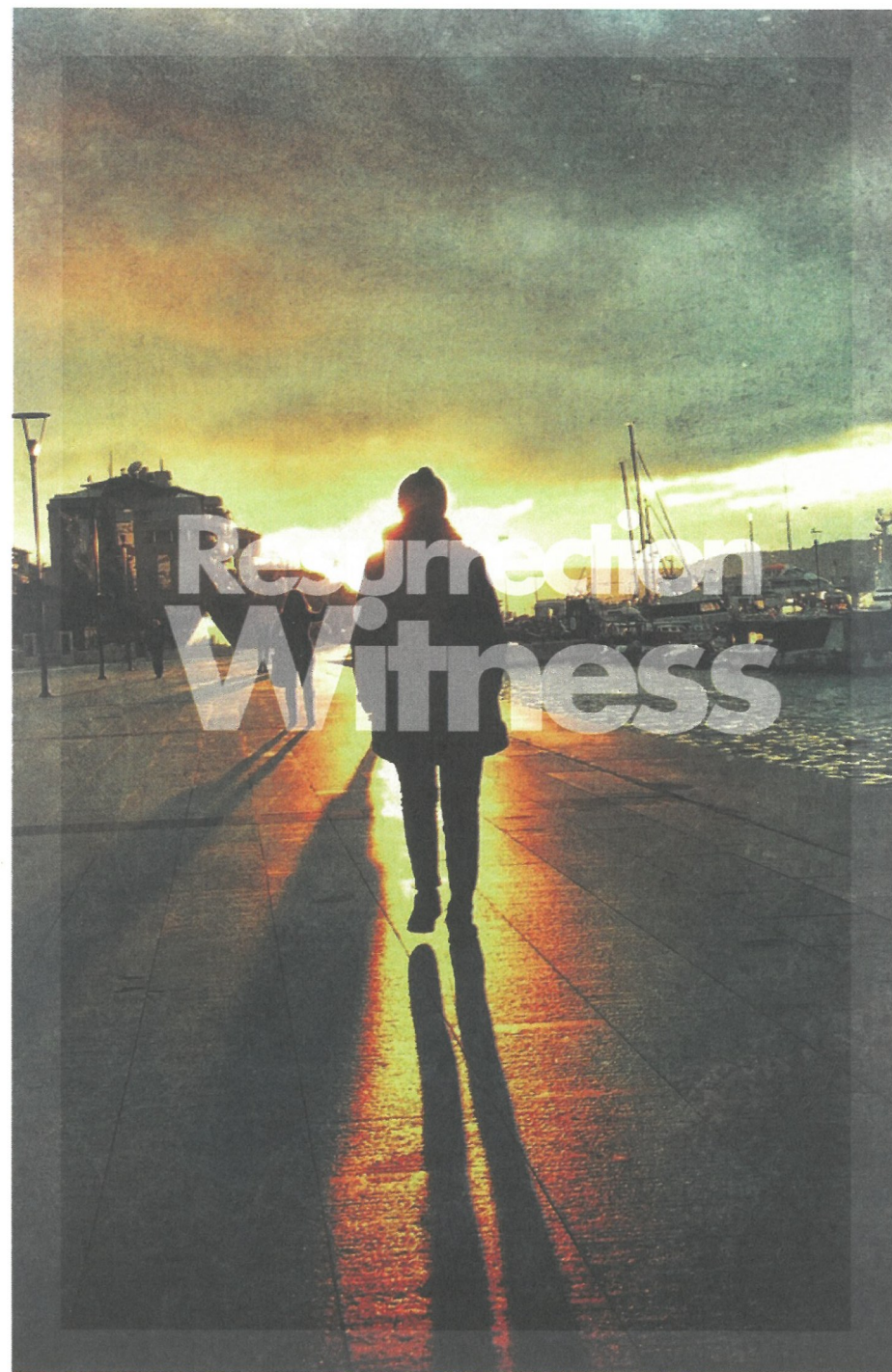
In today’s reading from Acts we see Peter in trouble with the Sanhedrin all because he called upon the name of Jesus to heal a crippled beggar. The Sanhedrin are angry for they warned Peter and his friends to not invoke Jesus’ name in their healing and teaching. But Peter cannot stop. Nor can his friends. Nor can we. For the Easter moment was the moment when we all became witnesses to the resurrection power that is among us.

In this season of Easter, we are to sing, dance and celebrate that love wins, love is alive, and love can redeem all things. Are we showing the world that we are walking with our Risen Lord, that we are choosing to live with great joy despite all the world throws our way?

If the Lenten season called for us to observe 40 days of following Jesus to the cross, then shouldn’t we give the same attention to these 50 days of now witnessing to the resurrection?

As Andrew Peterson, a contemporary Christian musician once observed, “the Easter feast far outweighs the Lenten fast.” It is time for us to feast. It is time for us to step into our role as resurrection witnesses.

*God of resurrection hope, we are honored to be witnesses of the redeeming love of our Risen Lord. As we continue the Eastertide celebration, we ask that you strengthen our hearts and make loud our voice so that we have the courage to speak truth to power and show love amid hate. May we truly become your Easter people in the world. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.*



**WESTCHESTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**A United Church of Christ**  
**(708) 865-1282**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**“No matter who you are, or where you are on life’s  
journey, YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!!**

**April 27, 2025**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Welcome on behalf of our pastoral staff**

Rev. Joseph E. Mills, III, Pastor 708/562-0759

Lawrence Underwood, Music Director

Joyce Kelstrom, Bell Choir Director

Pastor Vinod Wesley, Chicago Tamil Church Pastor  
& Associate Pastor

Altar Flowers: Greg and Doris Blomberg’s 53rd Anniversary

Liturgist: Elaine Hempel

Ushers: Bob Von Laven and John Mendoza,

Barb Boyd and Carol Hoppe

Greeter: Ann and Bill McCarthy

Zoom: Sue Becerra

**Westchester Community Church, United Church of Christ**

1840 Westchester Boulevard

Westchester, IL 60154

**708/865-1282**

**[www.westchesterucc.org](http://www.westchesterucc.org)**

**Email: [westcomchurch@hotmail.com](mailto:westcomchurch@hotmail.com)**

**(If you have a prayer request you’d like to share with us,  
go to CHAT on your Zoom page and type it in  
so we can share it with others)**

**\*\*ALSO REMEMBER TO MUTE YOUR ZOOM  
SCREEN SO WE CAN HEAR THE PASTOR  
UNLESS IT’S A TIME TO SHARE**

*Please remember to sign the Red Booklet at the end of every  
pew. If you have any prayer request please put them into the  
offertory plates so Pastor Joe can receive them.*

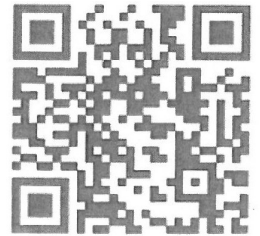
*There are In Touch cards in the pews if you want to fill them out .*

*Please put them in the offertory plates.*

*Thank You, Your Parish Fellowship Board*

**FOR THOSE ON ZOOM AND  
ANYTIME YOU WANT TO MAKE A  
SPECIAL GIFT**

We truly encourage you to use our online giving tool, Which you can access through our website. When you are at home on Zoom, or away on trips, Our bills here at church don’t go away. We need your help!! Remember to give, and if it is a special gift, There is a way to make a note on the Vanco page. Make clear what the donation s for!!! Thank you!!



The Cook County Sheriff’s Office and the Westchester Polie Department are pleased to announce **Senior Citizen Safety Series** at the Westchester Village Hall on Roosevelt Rd. They will meet Thursday afternoons on May 8, 15 and June 12 from 4:30pm to 5:30pm. The Three part series educates participants on Sweetheart Scams, Identity Theft and Personal Safety To register or receive more information please call the Sheriff’s Office at 708.865.7341 This program is FREE!

**Westchester Food Pantry 2025 Yard Sale Extravaganza** will be held on May 29th, 30th and 31st. Donation Last Drop-Off Day is Saturday, May 3rd from 9—11am at our church.

All you can eat **Spaghetti Dinner** Sunday, June 1st from 1pm to 6pm at St Michael’s Lutheran Church 500 E 31st St in Lagrange Park. Adults—\$10 Children—\$5 Under 5 are Free Sponsored by St Michael’s Lutheran Church and The Village Church, UCC

The Kirkwood Players Present...**“Buried Child”** by Sam Shepard May 2-4 and 9-11 Friday and Saturday 7p and Sunday 4pm Oakbrook Terrace Heritage center in Villa Park Tickets \$25 [thekirkwood-players.com](http://thekirkwood-players.com)



Please support our **In-Reach Fund**. This money helps our own members in medical emergencies, or rent, or just to make it possible to breathe. Please make out a check or on-line gift, and mark it "**In-Reach**".

#### **Ladies Weekend at Tower Hill.....**

Thinking ahead 5 months to June. Giving you a heads-up to start planning your summer calendar. What a wonderful thought! The dates have been set for June 6-7-8th. This weekend is open to **ALL** ladies of the church. More information to follow! Those interested please sign the sheet in the Narthex. Any questions contact Lou Bender or Barb Mills

**Our Kitchen certification will expire in June.** We need someone willing to take the test and recertify the kitchen in their name. We need to keep our kitchen certified so we can host dinners and such if we have a fish fry again or spaghetti dinner. We otherwise cannot sell to the public. Questions please see Noreen Love.

**WISH LIST for Women's Society Closet**—Paper Towels, Zip Lock Bags (quart and gallon), 8 inch and 10 inch Heavy Duty Paper Plates and Distilled Water. Please if you can donate any of these items bring them to the church office.

**If you are looking for a fun group.....please join Sassy Stitchers!** We invite knitters and crocheters. All materials for service projects are provided. Everyone Welcome! Please contact Barb Boyd for more info at 708.267.2272.

#### **Manna news!!! Easter, Graduations, Mothers Day and Fathers Day are fast approaching so, consider buying a gift cards from Manna!**

Manna is a program where people order gift cards through the church, we order them through a company that gives us a discount on the cards and we keep the discount. So, you pay the value of the card, you GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR, and WE earn money. It's a win, win. With each order the church pays the tax and shipping fees.

**Manna forms** are available in the narthex and on the table outside the office. Manna orders & payment is due the last Sunday of the month, and are distributed by the 2nd Sunday of the month. Manna is great for gifts, donating for In-reach, and for places you shop. Thank you for your consideration. If you have questions, please see Charlene Dolnics or Sue Becerra.

## **WORSHIP SERVICE**

***"Because of the empty tomb, we have peace. Because of His resurrection, we can have peace during even the most troubling of times because we know He is in control of all that happens in the world." -Paul Chappell***

PRELUDE	Lawrence Underwood
GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	Elaine Hempel
OPENING ANNOUNCEMENTS	Pastor Mills

**\*WE PROCLAIM THE EASTER TRUTH #298**  
***"The Day of Resurrection"***

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP Elaine Hempel**  
Leader: He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!  
**People: but too many treat this not at Truth but as just an event; too many say they believe but not really.**

Leader: We believe. And we want to believe it from the depth of our hearts to the point in which we will declare our deepest beliefs.

**People: Help us, Lord, to overcome our blasé responses when we talk about our faith. Help us, Lord, to become deeply excited about what it is to be in Your loving embrace and Your eternal Truth.**

**ALL: MAY YOUR GOOD NEWS BECOME OUR JOYFUL RESPONSE AND THE WORLD'S HOPE AS WE LIVE IN YOUR HOLY REIGN!! COME, LET US PRAISE THE ETERNAL LORD. HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!!**

A Reading from God's Holy Word	Elaine Hempel
<b><i>From the Gospel: John 20:19-31</i></b>	p. 88, NT, Pew Bible
	p. 141, NT, Large Print

**\*A GLORIA PATRI #734**  
***"Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, And to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen."***

## A SPECIAL PLAY (SEE THE INSERT)

### "The Bunny of the Cross"

WE PRAY TO THE LORD #299

**"That Easter Day with Joy was Bright," vv. 3 & 4**

PASTORAL PRAYER Pastor Mills

THE LORDS PRAYER (Please Use Debts/Debtors)

THE MORNING OFFERING Elaine Hempel

AN OFFERTORY

**(THOSE AT HOME, PLEASE SEND IN GIFTS BY CHECK  
OR USE OUR ON-LINE GIVING)**

\*THE DOXOLOGY #34

***"Praise God from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise Him all creatures here below;***

***Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;***

***Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen."***

\*A PRAYER OF DEDICATION (In Unison) Elaine Hempel

**This offering is to open the doors of hope for  
those still shut in by fear and for those who are trapped  
by the evils of others. May our church use these gifts  
to bring justice, mercy, life, and possibility to those  
who come out of the tombs of despair. And this,  
dedicating our gifts to You, in the Name of our Risen  
Lord, Jesus!! Amen.**

THE MEDITATION -"Though We Would Still  
Live in Fear" Pastor Mills

\*WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE EASTER TRUTH #289

***"Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven"***

THE COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION Pastor Mills

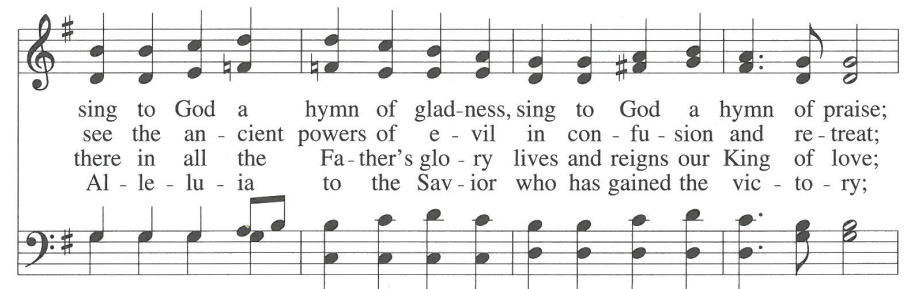
THE POSTLUDE Lawrence Underwood

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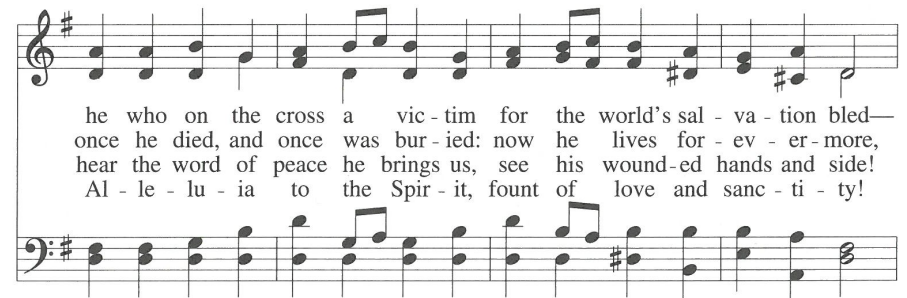
## Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven 289



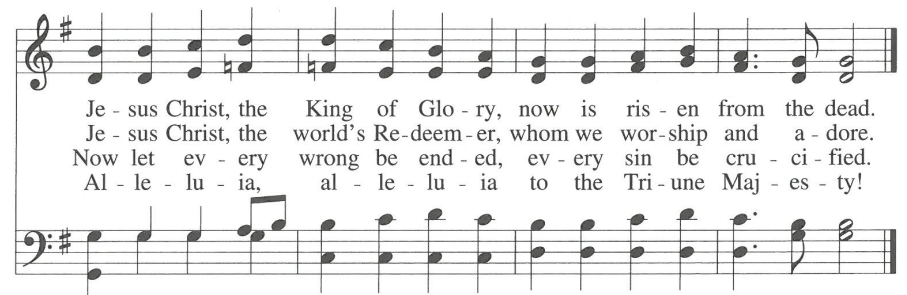
1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise:  
2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:  
3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Set your hearts on things a - bove;  
4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:



sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise;  
see the an - cient powers of e - vil in con - fu - sion and re - treat;  
there in all the Fa - ther's glo - ry lives and reigns our King of love;  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who has gained the vic - to - ry;



he who on the cross a vic - tim for the world's sal - va - tion bled—  
once he died, and once was bur - ied: now he lives for - ev - er - more,  
hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wound - ed hands and side!  
Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!



Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.  
Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, whom we wor - ship and a - dore.  
Now let ev - ery wrong be end - ed, ev - ery sin be cru - ci - fied.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty!

WORDS: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); rev. vss. 2 & 3 Jubilate Hymns, 1982  
MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867)

Words vss. 2 & 3 © 1982 Jubilate Hymns (Admin. Hope Publishing Company)

HYMN TO JOY  
8.7.8.7.D

## That Easter Day with Joy Was Bright 299

1 That Eas - ter day with joy was bright,  
 2 His ris - en flesh with ra - diance glowed;  
 3 O Je - sus, strong in gen - tle - ness,  
 4 Come, ris - en Christ, with us a - bid.

the sun shone out with fair - er light,  
 his wound - ed hands and feet he showed;  
 come now your self, our hearts pos - sess,  
 in this our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide;

when, to their long - ing eyes re - stored,  
 those scars their sol - emn wit - ness gave  
 your we give you all our days shield  
 your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield

the glad a - pos - tles saw their Lord.  
 that Christ was ris - en from the grave.  
 the trib - ute of our grate - ful praise.  
 from ev - ery weap - on death can wield.

## CALENDAR

TODAY

Worship 10 am

Chicago Tamil UCC Worship, 12:30 pm

WEDNESDAY

Zoom Bible Study, 9:30 am THIS WEEK

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/961336622>

FRIDAY-Sun Men's Retreat Tower

Hill Camp

NEXT SUNDAY

10:00 a.m. Worship

Noon - Chicago Tamil Worship

## BIRTHDAYS THRU 5/4/25

4/27 Ethan Kniesel

4/28 David Else

4/30 Mathias Kniesel

5/1 James Patak, Jr

5/2 Amanda Calles, Jacob Wills

5/3 Daniel Kadolph

## ANNIVERSARIES THRU 5/4/25

5/3 William and Laura Leibundguth 44 years

5/3 Robert and Jennifer Tavernier 22 years

5/4 Gerhard and Mary Kniesel 12 years

## THINKING AHEAD...

**Sassy Stitchers**—3rd Tuesday of the month from 9am to 11:30am**Women's Book Club**— Our next Book Club will be Wednesday, April 30th, 4:30pm in the first floor classroom. Bring your own Dinner! Call Barb Mills to join us.**Scrapbooking and Diamond Art Dates:** May 1—3. Please come join us! Contact Barb Mills if you can attend.**Card Making**—Friday, April 25th at 10am in the south basement**Fall Craft Sale**— will be held on November 15. Setup is November 12, 13 and 14th Please mark these dates in your calendar!

We celebrate with **Keith and Maya Weinberger** in the birth of their daughter **Kaya**! Kaya was born April 16, 6 lbs, 13 ozs. And 19.6" long!! Keep them in prayers of joy!!



**PRAYER REQUESTS:  
PEOPLE AT THEIR HOMES:**

Doris Blomberg, Linda Belice, Minnie Rice, Frank Fleming, Marge Nelson, Lorraine Feehan, Chris Stout, Marilyn Sinde, Dave Else, Allen Meskan, Lou Bender, Virginia Hodina, Jeannie Rowe, Caroline Long, Char Schwass, Jimmy Marczuk, Paul Barnes, Bettyann Richeson, Betty Koenig, Isabella Brumwell, Wayne Scharlach, Allan Boyd, Ed Monahan, Karen Hart, Bill & Maggie Smith, George Long, Mary Kay Baca, Chuck Yeiser, Dave Vrablic, Emil Poprawski, Benny Locigno, Ellie Merritt, Barb Sweazey, James Hixon, Judy Frandsen, Don Smith, Mark Henning, Serena Ivers & Chris, Elayne Dalheim, Patricia Ladner, Michael Kelstrom, Patrick McCarthy



**FRIENDS IN PRAYERS:** Joyce Barbee, Marie Brewster, Andee Brown-Roth, Bob Chappell, Bill and Kimble Compton, Bob and Jean, Kathy D'Autino, Dominick DiBrizzii, Sr., Drake Dennis/Family, Father Neil Fackler, Charlie Feehan, Ashley Feeney, Nancy Fiala-Zinn, Ann Franz, Herman Goodloe, Brandon Gumel, Kyle Hall, Karen and Bob; Karen Hekr, Helen Hicks, Ken & Herta, Janice Lombardi, Julie McGee, Julie McLean, Frieda McKinnon, Jane McNamee, Don and Sue Meyer, Joseph Mills Jr., Amy Morlier, Betty Moticka, Eric Odelson, Pat (cousin to Linda Belice), Connie Petrik, Carol Popple (sister to Charlene Dolnics), Diana & Larry Ridener, Scott Rouse, Sammy (niece to Sue Becerra/Sally France), Gary Schultz, Roy Swanson, Marsha Swetin, Jackie Tomany, Patricia Traylor, Ron Tulke, Gwendolyn and Bob Westlund, Monica Wojdziak, Charles Woodman

**OUR MILITARY:** Samantha Brown (overseas), Tyler Kimbler is deployed; Jay Mills (Ft. Bliss, Texas), Bri Mills (deployed; Malik Taylor—Norfolk, VA, Anthony Taylor—Ft. Hood, TX; Nick Weeks -Peace Corp. South Africa

**HOSPITALIZED/Long-Term:** Jim Craver (our Jim's father)—Nursing Facility, Lil Klippel - Radcliffe; Steve Tomporowski – Wisconsin; Rosemarie Kosik (Terra Vista, OakBrook Terrace)

We grieve with all of our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters in the death of **Pope Francis**. May God bless the entire church!

EASTER

298

# The Day of Resurrection!

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;  
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right  
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful! Let earth its song be - gin!

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God.  
the Lord in rays e - ter - nal of res - ur - rec - tion light;  
The world re - sound in tri - umph, and all that is there - in;

From death to life e - ter - nal, from sin's do - min - ion free,  
and, lis - tening to his ac - cents, may hear, so calm and plain,  
let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend;

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry.  
his own "all hail" and, hear - ing, may raise the vic - tor strain.  
for Christ the Lord has ris - en, our Joy that has no end.

WORDS: John of Damascus, 8th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866)  
MUSIC: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

LANCASHIRE  
7.6.7.6.D.