

APRIL 2016



THE Albright Mosaic

*Growing a loving, diverse community,
where every voice is valued.*

**Sunday
WORSHIP
SERVICE:
9:30 AM**



PASTOR THOMAS

Pastoral Letter for April 2016

What Does the Resurrection of Christ Mean?

We are a people whose faith hinges on the empty tomb.

No world religious leader has ever made a claim that he will rise from the dead after he dies. David Koresh, leader of the Branch Davidians, set fire to his own fort and died in 1993 in the fires of Waco, Texas. He never rose again. Buddha, born around 563 B.C. as Prince Siddhartha Gautama, son to King Suddhodana Gautama of India. Buddha did not rise from the dead. With his last breath, the Buddha addressed this final advice to his disciples: "Decay is inherent in all compound things. Work out your salvation with diligence." The Prophet Mohammed died and was buried in the Green Dome in the city of Medina, Saudi Arabia. He never made the claim that he will rise from the dead. Neither do Muslims proclaim a risen prophet.

However, Jesus the Christ, has made this claim: "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!" Not only did Jesus make this claim himself, the Old Testament has prophesied hundreds, even thousands of years before Christ was born. His disciples and subsequent generations of followers proclaim his resurrection. In fact, the entire church's faith hinges on the fact that Christ rose from the dead. Without the resurrection, our faith is in vain.

What does Christ's Resurrection Mean? My reflection on Christ's resurrection is this: **Power, Life, and Hope.**

I. POWER

First, we have power in the resurrection of Christ. Victory is already ours, not through our own efforts, but through Christ's death and resurrection.

Romans 1:6 - "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."

His resurrection means victory over sin. Satan thought he won when Christ was crucified. But Satan lost the battle when Christ arose from the dead.



**Joint
Sunday
School:
(all ages)
11:00 AM
(after Coffee
Hour)**

*Christ
is
Risen!*

Inside This Issue:

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Pastor Thomas *Continued:*

When Jesus was on the cross, he bore our sins to the extent that the Father couldn't bear to look down on his son anymore, because it is as if Christ had sinned. For a brief moment, the fellowship between the son and the father was lost. That's why Christ cried out, ***"My God, My God why have you forsaken me.?"*** (Mark 15:34). Jesus bore our sins. This anguished him so much.

Prevenient Grace. The Father initiates the plan of salvation for his people. He prompts us through the Holy Spirit and draws us to come to a saving knowledge of Christ.

Justifying Grace. Jesus volunteers to come into world to die for our atonement. Jesus has saved us from the position of sin by his death and resurrection. We have been justified.

Sanctifying Grace. The Holy Spirit continues to save us from the power of sin. And we are moving on towards perfection as we are sinning less.

Glorifying Grace. God will ultimately deliver us from evil and remove us from the presence of sin. No, he will remove sin from our presence. It will be completely eradicated. This is power.

The resurrection means power. Jesus gives us victory over sin.

1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

Romans 5:6-8 - "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

The Bee's Sting: A little boy was walking with his dad in the park. The dad was stung by a bee. The bee was still flying near by. The boy was afraid of getting stung. But the dad said, "Don't be afraid, my son, for the bee is powerless now. It has left the stinger on me." ... Christ has taken the stinger from Satan. He cannot touch us any more. **Amen!**

1 Corinthians 15:55 - "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

Are you weak and afraid death and sin? Going through a trial? Sins in your life? Physical pain? He has conquered death and was victorious over sin. Don't let the devil fool you. Christ died for ALL of your sins and rose again.

II. LIFE

Secondly, Christ's resurrection means life to me and to you as well.

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

Eternal life is not just the hope of life after we die. It is the abundance of life in this present time.

John 10:10 - "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

Here are some of my thoughts about life:

Prescription for prosperity: Worship + Word + Work = Prosperity (***Joshua 1:7-8***)

Meaningless of life: Work – Worship – Word = Vanity (***Ecclesiastes***)

Continued on page 5



APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Tammy Johnson— Apr 5
Wendy Meyers — Apr 6
Barbara Clayton—Apr 9
Julia Ionina—Apr 9
Oni Tate—Apr 10
Gladys Agubama—Apr 10
Ijioma Anyanwu—Apr 10
Juanita New—Apr 11

Toma Ionina—Apr 12
Beverly Patterson —Apr 12
Lynn Powers—Apr 14
Cindy Hurt—White—Apr 19
Frances Koonce—Apr 23
Curtis Moore— Apr 26
Sydnee Plitzner—Apr 28
Kathleen Christian—Apr 28



Enjoy the convenience of reading your Albright Mosaic via the website or through your email? Please call the church office at 414-442-8540, or email us at: office@albrightumc.net if interested in this option. *Help save postage by signing on to the E-Mosaic list! Contact us at: office@albrightumc.net



Please let us know if you have any additions or corrections to this list.

Theodore & Adaku Anyanwu –April (?)
David & Lucille LaChance –April 1
Toua and Maynou Thao— April 3
Bryan & Ellen Johnson—April 12

Albright News Articles
Do You Have a Submission?
SEE: "GOD IS GOOD" below.

~ GOD IS GOOD ~

God is working good in the lives of people through the ministries of Albright Church. If you have a story of how your life or someone else's has been blessed by God or affected by a ministry at Albright Church, please share that witness with us so God can be glorified. Email or leave a note in the office mail slot marked "Office."



FOOD PANTRY FOCUS FOR APRIL is: Canned Pasta. Of course, any non-perishable food items are always needed, and this year more than ever. Please leave your donated items in the basket provided in the parlor.

To Contact Albright Staff, email us at:

Table with 2 columns: Staff Role and Email Address. Rows include Pastor / Rev. Toua (Thomas) Thao, Church Office, Christian Education Team, and Custodian - Frankie Jones.

**Highlights of the Church
Council Meeting
March 8, 2016**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The focus for January, February, and March will be United Methodist Children’s Services.

TRUSTEES

They will be reviewing our building use policy. They will be looking into some storage space downstairs for the New Hope UMW. Chuck is looking into possibly getting a new security camera.

FINANCE

Will be working on a letter to Conference requesting a reduction of our apportionments.

WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday will be a joint service with New Hope with communion and symbolic foot washing. Albright will not have its own Good Friday service but will join the EPIC services at Spirit of Peace Lutheran Church at 7:00pm. Lynne has arranged for two or more donkeys again this year for the Jerusalem Walk prior to the Palm Sunday service. Easter breakfast, organized by Anne, will be at 8:30 prior to the service. The choir will sing for Easter service. There will not be Sunday School that morning.

PASTORAL REPORT

Pastor Thomas will contact Enrique Gonzalez to reschedule our planning meeting and it will be open to the whole church. An Easter letter will go out to the congregation. Pastor Thomas will ask Dick Jones to talk about the Accountable Leadership structure with the Church Council. Bishop Jung will be with us on April 10th to preach and talk about our two point charge. We are looking for two people each from Albright and New Hope to coordinate our Fellowship Coffee Time.

FAITH BASED INITIATIVE

If you want to know what is going on in District 7; come to the next meeting on Monday, March 21st at 6:00p at the Villard Library on 35th & Villard and meet the new District 7 Captain.

Respectfully submitted by Linda Hurt



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ONGOING PRAYER NEEDS: *We come to You in prayer:* For cities and people in strife and all victims of violence; For Ona Barnes, Theresa Robinson, Rev. Mallothi and Esmie Brown; Marilyn Faber, Ronnette Nelson, Marcella Trakel, our sick and shut-in members; Prayers for our Albright and New Hope Families, Pastor Thomas, and our ministries here, as well as the *Daai Christian Fellowship* and *Power of God Christian Ministries* who also worship in this place; and the many unspoken prayers from the congregation. We ask all of this in Jesus’

**Preparing for Worship****Sunday, April 3, 2016***Easter 2*Acts 5:27-32; Psalm 150
Revelation 1:4-8; John 20:9-31**Sunday, April 17, 2016***Easter 4*Acts 9:36-43; Psalm 23
Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30**Sunday, April 10, 2016***Easter 3*Acts 9:1-20; Psalm 30
Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19**Sunday, April 24, 2016***Easter 5*Acts 11:1-18; Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1-6; John 13: 31-35**Pastor Thomas *Continued*:**

Matthew 11:28-30 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

My personal experience: Enjoy life and forget about getting rich and trust God to provide for my daily needs. Before coming to Milwaukee in 2006, I had a job with the State of Minnesota in addition to being a pastor, but felt that I wasn't doing what I was really called to do, that is to be a pastor. I resigned my job and came to Milwaukee to do full-time ministry here. Ministry isn't easy; I can tell you that. But it is serving Christ and his people that gives me joy because I want to share the life that I have in Christ with others. I'm not saying that business is bad, or that education is bad, or that a secular career is bad. Whatever you're called to do, do it. But remember that your occupation is a means to serve the Lord. Don't let your job or anything in your life interfere with your service for the Lord. Serve him with joy. I have overcome my anxiety by being obedient to Him. Knowing that I serve a risen Savior, gives me victory over anything the devil throws my way. I am going to enjoy life as Christ has intended it to be: to be lived out in the light of his resurrection.

III. HOPE

Then finally, there is hope. A new hope. A true hope. An everlasting hope.

Because He lives I can face tomorrow, Because He lives all fear is gone; Because I know He holds the future and life is worth the living just because He lives.

The Bible is all about HOPE for the HOPELESS. Hope of everlasting life. (See *1 Cor. 15; Col. 1:5, 23, 27; 1 Peter 1:1-13*.) If you walk any other way, you have no hope. The Way + The Truth + The Life (*John 14:6*) = *The Hope*.

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**April Showers Bring.....Oh, Oh!!!***by Lynne Hines-Levy*

With storms on the way and tornado season right around the corner, protecting your home from severe weather and being prepared can weigh heavily on any home-owner's mind (or anyone else, for that matter). Damaged by wind, hail, rain, or flooding can be devastating, emotionally, physically, and financially. More often than not, services can be extremely difficult to find after a storm, especially if high winds, large hail, or a tornado causes wide scale devastation. Keep in mind that severe storms can overwhelm local resources, causing a shortage of manpower, equipment, and material. This often sets the stage for price gouging, scams, theft, and other problems brought on by the influx of fly-by-night contractors who chase disasters and prey on vulnerable disaster survivors. To avoid the additional stress and trauma to yourself as well as to your family and friends, you need to know who to call in the event that disaster strikes. Here are six of the most common services you may need to have in place:

LESSONS LEARNED: SIX SERVICES NEEDED AFTER A STORM:**1] A Roofing Contractor**

If your roof is damaged by wind, hail, or a tree that falls on it, you'll need a roofer to come out and tarp the roof or make emergency repairs until permanent repairs can be made. Don't try to do it yourself. Let the pros handle it. You don't know how much further damage is underneath.

2] A Tree Service

After a storm, it is common to see fallen trees on roads, yards, and even on homes. And, just because you don't have a tree in your own yard, remember, many of your neighbors do and no one can control the distance and direction one may fall. A professional tree service will have all the right tools and equipment to remove a fallen tree and haul it away. ***TIP: If a tree falls through your roof, any electrical wires and/or gas lines in the attic are likely to get damaged. This can cause a fire or an explosion! Know where and how to shutoff the electricity and gas in your home.

3] A Fencing Contractor

Wood fences don't fare well when it comes to high winds, especially if the fencing is older or if the posts are rotted. If your fence gets damaged, your pets could escape and the security of your yard and home will be compromised.

4] A Flood Mitigation Company

If your home gets flooded or suffers water damages, you'll need someone to come out and extract the water and/or dry out the affected areas. Flood mitigation companies usually have truck mounted water extraction vacuums, drying fans, dehumidifiers, and other specialized drying equipment used specifically for structural drying. They can also be very helpful in reducing the risk of toxic mold growth. Read again that one extremely important word regarding mold growth -TOXIC! It won't go away on it's own and the longer you leave it, the sicker someone can become and the more expensive it will be to clean. ***TIP: If you can't find a flood mitigation company and need someone to extract flood water, consider using a carpet cleaning company.

5] A Moving or Pack Out Company

If your home is seriously damaged by a storm or flood, you may need to have your furniture, clothes, and personal property packed up and moved out. This is usually necessary so the structural repairs or cleaning can be done. ***TIP: Be wary of scams when hiring a moving or pack out company! Plan ahead and check references before the need arises.

6] A Restoration Contractor

These companies usually have the capability to perform most or all of the previously mentioned services. They can also be a valuable asset when it comes time to create an estimate for the repairs and work with your insurance adjuster. A good restoration company can provide the immediate services you may need after a storm, as well as help expedite the restoration and recovery process.

These are all things we all hope to never need, but as they say, forewarned is forearmed and you can ease a great deal of stress and anxiety by being able to say "OK, it's bad. But we've got it covered." If you have your services lined up, references checked, and are ready, even if you don't need them, you can say a prayer of thanksgiving and share the information with someone not so well prepared.

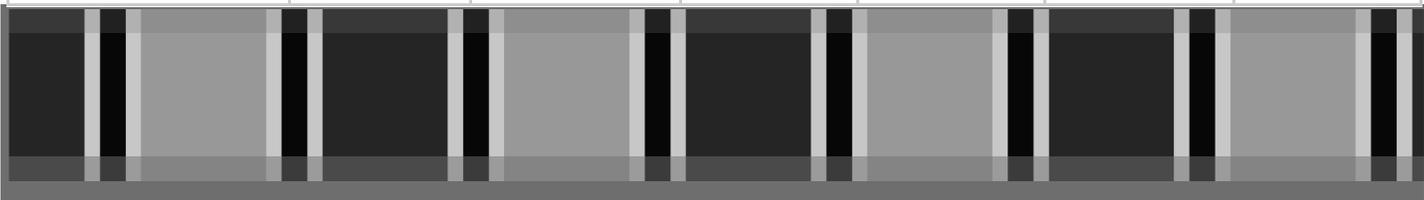




APRIL 2016



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
					1 	2
3 Communion Sun. <i>Easter 2</i> 8:00 am—Bible Study 9:30 am—Albright Worship 11:00 am—Joint Sunday School w/ New Hope 12 Noon—New Hope Worship	4 (NO Worship Committee)	5 (NO Christian Ed.) (NO Board of Trustees) Spring Election — Presidential Preference 	6	7 9:30 am—JAC's -The Joys and Challenges of Aging —Dick Christian: The History of Albright	8	9
10 <i>Easter 3</i> **Bishop Jung  <i>Preaching today</i> 8:00 am—Bible Study 9:30 am— JOINT WORSHIP: Albright / New Hope ==> Joint Fellowship following NO Sunday School	11	12 9:30 am—Stitching Group @ Sherman Perk 6 pm – Finance Committee 6 pm – Church Council	13	14 5 pm— Faith-Based Initiative @ Islamic Da'Wa Center of Milwaukee (5135 N Teutonia Ave.)	15	16
17 <i>Easter 4</i>  8:00 am—Bible Study 9:30 am—Albright Worship 11:00 am—Joint SS w/ New Hope 12 Noon—N H Worship <i>"The Lord is my Shepherd..."</i>	18 6 pm - District 7 Crime & Safety @ Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church (2862 N 53rd St)	19	20 5:30 pm— Grasslyn Manor	21	22	23
24 <i>Easter 5</i> 8:00 am—Bible Study 9:30 am—Albright Worship 11:00 am—Joint SS w/ New Hope 12 Noon—N H Worship	25	26 9:30 am—Stitching Group @ Sherman Perk	27	28	29	30 11am-2pm – Pastor Thomas I in Hubertus (Wedding)





SUNDAY SERVANTS APRIL 2016

	April 3 Easter 2 <i>Communion</i> Sunday	April 10 Easter 3 Bishop Jung Preaching	April 17 Easter 4	April 24 Easter 5	
Liturgists	Suzanne Freshley	Suzanne Freshley	Beverly Patterson	Beverly Patterson	
Children's Time	Lynne Levy	Pastor Thomas	Judy Pier-Lybeck	Tamica Johnson	
Greeters	Carol Tate	Margaret Brown	Gary Levy	The Christian Families	
Visitor Center	JoAnn Holtz	Judy Krueger	Adaku Anyanwu	Carol Bensick	
Communion Stewards	Suzanne Freshley Bertha Carlson Royce Taite Mary Nelson-Taite				
Counters	Margaret Brown Debra Hawkins	Carol Tate John Hart	Jean Tippey Judy Krueger	Margaret Brown Liz Cannon	
Ushers	Team #3	Team #4	Team #1	Team #2	
Nursery Helpers	Carol Bensick	Tammy Hart	Rick Plitzner	Lynn Powers	



**M.O.V.E. COMMITTEE
ANNOUNCEMENTS**

CAMPING SEASON IS ALMOST HERE!!!

The United Methodist church has many camps for you to enjoy in the summer. There are week-long camps, week-end camps or camps a few days during the week.. They have many different themes such as horse camp or fishing camp. There are family camps, grandparent camps, child and youth camps.

There is financial assistance if you are interested in going to camp. Please contact Judy Pier Lybeck for a camping brochure or for more information. We hope you will think about having this great experience.



ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN-GATHERING

Remember all those school supplies we purchased last fall? We will use them to assemble school kits for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). We need people willing to sew the school bags ---- fabric and instructions will be provided. We also need people to purchase fabric or donate \$15 for the fabric for 2 bags. 2 yards of 45" wide denim fabric will make 2 school bags. Let a MOVE member know if you can sew some bags or are willing to purchase fabric.

JoAnn Holtz, Linda Hurt, Bob Berg, Marilyn Kruchel, Barb Clayton, Judy Pier Lybeck, Lynne Levy.
Thank you!



THANK YOU to all the people, organized by JoAnn Holtz, who drove and made chili for 100 guests at Repairers of the Breach for their lunch on Friday, March 18th.

Thank you for your ministry of "feeding the poor."



SERVICE TO OUR COMMUNITY --- 2 to 1 times a month on Saturday for an hour---Could you help in this project of the *District 7 Interfaith Initiative*? Several city blocks are selected by the Initiative for trash clean-up and "getting to know the neighbors." The same blocks will be cleaned twice a month. This project improves our city and especially the lives of those living on the selected block.

Let Lynne Levy or someone from the MOVE Committee know if you can help in this Outreach Project.



SAVE THE DATE! ---- JUNE 5

On June 5th there will be a Coffee Hour fund raiser for two graduating seniors to help with their college expenses. There is a senior on both the Albright and New Hope congregations. Watch for details about how you can help besides contributing money.

**Pastor Thomas *Continued:***

"Hope is not the same as joy when things are going well, or willingness to invest in enterprises that are obviously headed for early success, but rather an ability to work for something to succeed. Hope is definitely not the same thing as optimism. It's not the conviction that something will turn out well, but the certainty that something makes sense, regardless of how it turns out. It is the hope, above all, that gives us strength to live and to continually try new things, even in conditions that seem hopeless. "Life is too precious to permit its devaluation by living pointlessly, emptily, without meaning, without love and, finally, without hope." - Vaclav Havel, *Disturbing the Peace*.

Our ultimate hope is that heaven is our home – Christ wants us to live with Him. One day we shall reign with Him forever and be with our loved ones who are in Christ, who have departed this earth. There are so many insecurities: Tsunamis, hurricanes, terrorism, nuclear war threat, joblessness, homelessness, financial insecurity, crime, family and personal problems, health problems, discrimination, persecution.

But none of those calamities has the power to overcome us, because we have a secure hope, not only in Christ's resurrection, but ours as well. We will be given new, glorified bodies as well (*1 Corinthians 15; 2 Corinthians 5*).

In conclusion, what does the resurrection of Christ mean? The resurrection means: **Power** – to overcome sin and death; **Life** – abundant, eternal; **Hope** – a new home in heaven.

What does Christ's resurrection mean to YOU? If Christ did not rise from the dead, then we have no power, no life, no hope at all. We have believed in vain. Are you overcoming sin by trusting in the resurrection of Christ? Do you have abundant, eternal life by trusting in the resurrection of Christ? Do you have hope by trusting in the resurrection of Christ?





~Please note that the
DEADLINE for ALL
ISSUES IS THE 20th
OF EACH MONTH~
Please try to have
submissions into the
office by the deadlines
published!

On behalf of the entire Anyanwu Family,
 I would like to thank all those who took time off their busy schedules to attend the Service of Songs, Burial Service and Outing Service for our Late mother, Lolo Ezinne Justina Anyanwu. We also thank all those who contributed through visits, phone calls, electronic mails, cards, and gifts in those moments of our grief. The family appreciates and prays the Almighty God to repay your thoughtful demonstration of love. Once again thank you and may God bless you all. ~Theodore Anyanwu

THANK YOU for your cards, phone calls, and well wishes following a recent incident. Your kindness and caring were special to me. I also appreciated the support of Pastor Thomas and members of the New Hope Congregation.
 God's Blessing,
 JoAnn Holtz

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

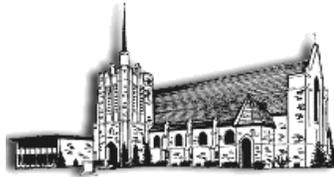
Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands
 For our offenses given;
 But now at God's right hand he stands
 And brings us life from heaven.
 Therefore let us joyful be
 And sing to God right thankfully
 Loud songs of alleluia!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

It was a strange and dreadful strife
 When life and death contended.
 The victory remained with life;
 The reign of death was ended.
 Holy Scripture plainly says
 That death is swallowed up by death;
 Its sting is lost forever.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

So let us keep the festival
 To which the Lord invites us;
 Christ is himself the joy of all,
 The sun that warms and lights us.
 Now his grace to us imparts
 Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
 The night of sin is ended.
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

Then let us feast this Easter
 Day On Christ, the bread of heaven;
 The Word of grace has purged away
 The old and evil leaven.
 Christ alone our souls will feed;
 He is our meat and drink indeed;
 Faith lives upon no other!
 Alleluia! Alleluia!

UMH Hymnal #319
 Words: Martin Luther;
 Tr. By Richard Massie
 Music: Arr. / Harm. J.S. Bach



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THE Albright Mosaic
APRIL 2016
Volume 70 Issue 4

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 am—Adult Bible Class

9:30 am— Albright Worship

10:00 am *Daai Christian Fellowship*

10:30 am — Joint Fellowship w/New Hope

11:00 am Joint Sunday School w/New Hope

12 Noon—New Hope Worship

Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain



1 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness!
God has brought forth Israel
into joy from sadness,
loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
led them with unmoistened foot
through the Red Sea waters.

2 'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ hath burst his prison,
and from three days' sleep in death
as a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins,
long and dark, is flying
from his light to whom we give
laud and praise undying.



3 Now the queen of seasons bright
With the day of splendor,
With the royal feast of feasts,
Comes its joy to render;
Comes to glad Jerusalem, who with true
affection,
Welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesus' resurrection.



4 Neither might the gates of death, nor
the tomb's dark portal,
nor the watchers, nor the seal,
hold thee as a mortal:
but today, amidst the twelve,
thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace, which ever more
passeth human knowing.

UMH #315

Words: John of Damascus, Tr. by John Mason
Neale / **Music:** Sir Arthur S. Sullivan