

(Topics and Lead-in Below)

A Celebration of Life

Ecclesiastes 1:2, 14; 2:12-17; Isaiah 25:7-8;
Matthew 28:1-7; 1 Corinthians 15:20-22, 35-58; Galatians 5:13

♩ = 88

Cm7 B \flat /D Eb6 F⁷_{sus} B \flat B \flat /D Eb F Eb Bb Cm7 F B \flat B \flat

1. Death had mocked our deep - est long - ings,
2. Joy and beau - ty, love and giv - ing,
3. Cel - e - brate our end - less fu - ture!

Eb Cm7 B \flat /D B \flat /F G \flat m G \flat m6 F⁷_{sus} F⁷ Gm Dm Eb B \flat /D F⁷_{sus} F B \flat

Death, the bit - ter end for all; Noth - ing last - ing, noth - ing high - er
Life and light go on and on! All that bound our fear - ful hearts to
Cel - e - brate our here and now! Cel - e - brate our no - ble pur - pose -

Refrain

Cm C^{sus}/D Cm Eb Cm7 F⁷_{sus} F⁷ F⁷_{sus} F⁷ Bb F^{sus}/C E/C B \flat add9/D B \flat /D Ebadd9 Eb/G

Till that Eas - ter call:
Sin and death is gone! He is ris - en! Hal - le -
Love will show us how!

WORDS & MUSIC: Ken Bible

ECCLESIASTES
8.7.8.5.w.Ref.

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F7 $\frac{F7}{A}$ $\frac{E\flat\text{add}9}{G}$ Gm7 $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{E\flat}{F}$ F7 B \flat $\frac{F\text{sus}}{C}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ $\frac{B\flat M7}{D}$ E \flat $\frac{Cm^6}{E\flat}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat $\frac{B\flat M7}{D}$ Cm7 Cm9

lu - jah! Now the death that was our fu-ture Is our des - ti - ny no

Fsus F $\frac{F7}{A}$ $\frac{E\flat\text{add}9}{G}$ Gm7 $\frac{F}{A}$ F $\frac{E\flat}{F}$ F \sharp 7

more! He is ris - en! Hal - le - lu - jah! Now we

Gm Gm9 $\frac{Gm}{D}$ Dm E \flat $\frac{E\flat}{G}$ $\frac{B\flat}{F}$ $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ Cm7 $\frac{B\flat}{D}$ E \flat 6 F $\frac{E\flat\text{sus}}{F}$

1, 2
B \flat

3
B \flat

share the ho - ly maj - es - ty Of Je - sus Christ our Lord! Lord!

TOPICS: Lent-Easter; Resurrection

LEAD-IN: *Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?

Thanks be to God!

He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 15:20, 54b-55, 57, NIV)

LEAD-IN DEVOTIONAL READING:

A Celebration of Life

Read the book of Ecclesiastes. It paints a thoughtful and poignant picture of life that inevitably ends in death. If everyone dies, if after all, death has the final word, what is the point?

*Meaningless! Meaningless!...
Utterly meaningless!
I have seen all the things that are done under the sun;
all of them are meaningless,
a chasing after the wind.*
(Ecclesiastes 1:2, 14, NIV)

All our lofty virtues—wisdom, nobility, hope, love—are reduced to naïve self-deception. They are intended for a broader reality that simply doesn't exist. Embrace the shallow and the temporary, for they are the only things that are real.

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead changes all that. It transforms the entire context and meaning of life on this earth. God's life conquers death. Life and love, light and joy, blessing and beauty are eternal. Goodness makes sense. Self-sacrifice is not only noble but logical. It is turning loose of something good in order to grasp something greater.

As we accept a personal relationship of trust with our almighty, loving God, He shares His life with us. His Spirit becomes one with our spirit. We share His being, and though this body dies, His life, and His life in us, goes on forever. In fact, He guarantees us a new and more wonderful body, one designed for an eternity in His immediate presence.

Easter is the pivotal point of all human existence. As we simply trust our Creator, we become eternal, glorious creatures, sharing His life forever. The tyranny of death is shattered.

*He will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples,
the sheet that covers all nations;
he will swallow up death forever.*
(Isaiah 25:7-8, NIV)

Celebrate! Celebrate Easter every day as it deserves to be celebrated: with praise, thanksgiving, joy, love, and lavish self-giving.