

First hymn:

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
of triumphant gladness;
God hath brought his 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.

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

Now the queen of seasons, bright
with the day of splendour,
with the royal feast of feasts,
comes its joy to render;
comes to glad Jerusalem,
who with true affection
welcomes in unwearied strains
Jesu's resurrection.

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 thine own
thou didst stand, bestowing
that thy peace which evermore
passeth human knowing.

The Choir sing Psalm 116 - we all sing the response

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living,
in the land of the living

Offertory hymn:

Lord, enthroned in heavenly splendour,
first-begotten from the dead,
thou alone, our strong defender,
liftest up thy people's head.
Alleluia, alleluia,
Jesu, true and living Bread!

Here our humblest homage pay we;
here in loving reverence bow;
here for Faith's discernment pray we,
lest we fail to know thee now.
Alleluia, alleluia,
thou art here, we ask not how.

Though the lowliest form doth veil thee
as of old in Bethlehem,
here as there thine angels hail thee,
Branch and Flower of Jesse's stem.
Alleluia, alleluia,
we in worship join with them.

Paschal Lamb, thine Offering, finished
once for all when thou wast slain,
in its fullness undiminished
shall for evermore remain,
Alleluia, alleluia,
cleansing souls from every stain.

Life-imparting heavenly Manna,
stricken Rock with streaming side,
heaven and earth with loud hosanna
worship thee, the Lamb who died,
Alleluia, alleluia,
risen, ascended, glorified!

Communion Hymn

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
love lives again, that with the dead has been:

Love is come again,

Like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid him, love whom men had slain,
thinking that never he would wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain,
quick from the dead, my risen Lord is seen:

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
thy touch can call us back to life again,
fields of our hearts, that dead and bare have been:

JMC Crum 1872-1958

Tune: Noel Nouvelet

Final Hymn

We have a gospel to proclaim,
good news for all throughout the earth,
the gospel of a Saviour's name:
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

Tell of his birth at Bethlehem,
not in a royal house or hall,
but in a stable, dark and dim;
the Word made Flesh, a light for all.

Tell of his death at Calvary,
hated by those he came to save,
in lonely suffering on the cross:
for all he loved, his life he gave.

Tell of that glorious Easter morn,
empty the tomb, for he was free:
he broke the power of death and hell
that we might share his victory.

Tell of his reign at God's right hand,
by all creation glorified:
he sends his Spirit on his Church,
to live for him, the Lamb who died.

Now we rejoice to name him King:
Jesus is Lord of all the earth.
This gospel message we proclaim;
we sing his glory, tell his worth.

E.J. Burns (b.1938)

Tune: Fulda