GO TO DARK GETHSEMANE

Hymn Devotion - April 1

Scripture – Matthew 27:28-29

Go to dark Gethsemane,

Ye that feel the tempter’s power;  
Your Redeemer’s conflict see,

Watch with Him one bitter hour,  
Turn not from His griefs away;

Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.

See Him at the judgment hall,

Beaten, bound, reviled, arraigned;  
See Him meekly bearing all!

Love to man His soul sustained.  
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;

Learn of Christ to bear the cross.

Calvary’s mournful mountain climb;

There, adoring at His feet,  
Mark that miracle of time,

God’s own sacrifice complete.  
“It is finished!” hear Him cry;

Learn of Jesus Christ to die.

Early hasten to the tomb

Where they laid His breathless clay;  
All is solitude and gloom.

Who has taken Him away?  
Christ is risen! He meets our eyes;

Savior, teach us so to rise.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Although Christ was laid as breathless clay or dirt if we hasten to the tomb early on Easter the tone at the burial and before the discovery of the “missing” body is questions, solitude and gloom then the realization that CHRIST IS RISEN! The phrase “He Meets our eyes” is very humbling and now we know that we too can rise as Christ arose. We can rise from the death that sin has over our lives as well as rise to life after human death as Christ did!

1. Where is Jesus?

2. Whose power is felt?

3. What did our Redeemer have?

4. What are we to do with Him?

5. How long?

6. What did He do when faced with this sadness?

7. What did Jesus do?

8. Verse 2: What happened to Him in the judgment hall?

9. How did He bear all of this?

10. What sustained His soul?

11. What did He not shun?

12. What can we learn from Christ here?

13. Verse 3: How is Calvary described here?

14. At His feet what can we mark?

15. What was complete?

16. What is the cry?

17. What can we learn from Christ here?

18. Verse 4: When should we hasten to the tomb?

19. How was his body laid?

20. What is the tone of the burial?

21. What has happened?

22. What is the contact?

23. Now as Savior what are we to learn from Him?

JESUS LIVE, AND SO SHALL I

Hymn Devotion - April 2

Scripture – I Corinthians 15:51-55

Jesus Lives, and so shall I:

Death, thy sting is gone forever!

He for me hath deigned to die,

Lives the bands of death to sever,

He shall raise me from the dust:

Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives and reigns supreme:

And, His kingdom still remaining,

I shall also be with Him,

Ever living, ever reigning.

God has promised - be it must:

Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives - and by His grace,

Vict’ry o’er my passions giving,

I will change my heart and ways,

Ever to His glory living.

Me He raises from the dust:

Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives - I know full well

Naught from Him my heart can sever,

Life nor death nor pow’rs of hell,

Joy nor grief, henceforth forever.

None of all His saints is lost:

Jesus is my hope and trust.

Jesus lives - and death is now

But my entrance into glory;

Courage, then, my soul for thou

Hast a crown of life before thee.

Thou shalt find thy hopes were just:

Jesus is my hope and trust.

Christian Furchtegott Gellert (1715 - 1769) Translated by Philip Schaff (1819-1893)

Jesus lives is a key truth that is all important to the Christian life because if He doesn’t live then the whole thing is a lie, but we know by the New Testament eye witnesses -Jesus Lives - By putting our faith, hope and trust in Him - we will not be disappointed.

1. Write the first line and really think about it:

2. What is gone forever?

3. Deigned - means to think fit - Who thought it fit to die for me?

4. “Bands” here is like a strangle hold. What is the strangle hold here?

5. From what shall we be raised?

6. What is Jesus?

7. Verse 2: What does Jesus do?

8. What will His kingdom do forever?

9. Where will we be?

10. Doing what?

11. How do we know this?

12. Verse 3: Jesus lives, and we by what?

13. Have victory over our?

14. What will we need to change?

15. What will we ever be living?

16. Who will He raise from dust?

17. Verse 4: What do we know full well?

18. Nothing at all can sever (cut off) our hearts from Him list those from the song:

19. None of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is my \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

20. Verse 5: What is our entrance into glory? Why?

21. What must our soul have?

22. What is before us?

23. What will we find true?

24. What is Jesus to us?

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

Hymn Devotion - April 3

Scripture - I Corinthians 15:17-20, 22

Matthew 28:5-6

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!

Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!

Once He died, our souls to save, Alleluia!

Where’s thy victory, boasting grave? Alleluia!

Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia!

Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!

Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!

Christ hat opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ has led, Alleluia!

Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!

Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!

Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Charles Wesley (1707 - 1788) and others

Note this hymn is in the present tense – a celebration that continues daily – we are in the present tense of the fact that Jesus is risen and is alive TODAY!

Now we can soar to where Christ is because He has lead the way! Following our highly praise leader or Head, we are made like Him so like Him we will rise - Praise God. Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. We will die - maybe not on a cross but it is a cross we are very likely will have to bear - death, the a grave but then the skies!! Praise God!

1. Alleluia means Praise God or God be praised. What is happening today to Praise God about?

2. Who is praising God?

3. What are we to raise high?

4. Who is singing? Who is replying?

5. Verse 2: Who lives again?

6. What has lost its sting?

7. How many times was the sacrifice made?

8. What was saved?

9. What is the grave been able to boast about up until Christ?

10. Verse 3: What work is done?

11. What was fought?

Was the battle won?

12. What did death do in vain?

13. What is opened by this victory over the grave?

14. Verse 4: Where is Christ leading us?

15. Who are we following?

16. How can we rise like Him?

17. What all is ours?

18. What is the resounding word?

BREAD OF THE WORLD, IN MERCY BROKEN

Hymn Devotion – April 4

Scripture – John 6:32, 55-58

Bread of the world, in mercy broken,  
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed,  
By whom the words of life were spoken,  
And in whose death our sins are dead.

Look on the heart by sorrow broken,  
Look on the tears by sinners shed;  
And be Thy feast to us the token,  
That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

Reginald Heber (1783-1826)

Jesus’ body was broken for us in the world and through mercy, through His love for us He died. The wine or blood was shed for us also because of Jesus’ great love for us. Jesus spoke the words of life, the way to eternal life is only through Jesus. Our sins are now dead, forgiven forever by the sacrifice of Jesus. His heart is broken by our sins and we are sorry for our sins by our tears shed, not only because we are sinners but also by the fact that Jesus died that we might live. This feast, Communion, Lord’s Supper however it is named is the remembrance of the payment of for our sins by Jesus. By His grace our souls are fed, our souls are saved, His unmerited favor is how we are forgiven and restored to newness of life because of His sacrifice - His broken body and shed blood

1. What is the Bread of the world?

2. How was it broken?

3. What is wine of the soul?

4. How was it shed?

5. To you what are the “words of life”?

6. Our sins are dead because of what?

7. Verse 2: Whose heart was broken by sorrow?

8. Why are tears shed by sinners?

9. How is the token or payment of sin remembered?

10. How are our souls fed?

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WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS

Hymn Devotion - April 5

Scripture – Philippians 3:7-9

Galatians 6:14

When I survey the wondrous cross  
On which the Prince of glory died,  
My richest gain I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,  
Save in the death of Christ my God!  
All the vain things that charm me most,  
I sacrifice them to His blood.

See from His head, His hands, His feet,  
Sorrow and love flow mingled down!  
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet,  
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
That were a present far too small;  
Love so amazing, so divine,  
Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

The hymn becomes more visual as we see the blood flowing down from His head, His hands and His feet - this is love and sorrow flowing down together - the love of Christ but the sorrow for sin. The question we must answer is in our lives have we met with this love and sorrow - Do we understand what really happened on that cross? That crown of thorns was a rich crown - rich in love.

This hymn is very visual and instructing - we are not saying we will give our soul, our life or our all but if we are to show true appreciation for the sacrifice of Christ for the forgiveness of our sins then there is a “demand” on us to give our soul, our life and our all. Are we prepared to do that starting this very minute? There is no time to waste, we never know what our next breath may bring!

1. Synonyms of survey are contemplated, consider, examine. What do you see; feel when you survey the wondrous cross?

2. Who died there?

3. What is the counted loss?

4. How should we look up on our pride?

5. Verse 2: What are we asking the Lord to forbid?

6. How are we saved?

7. What charm us most?

8. What are we to do with these things?

9. Verse 3: What do we see when we look at the cross? (Use the whole thought)

10. Sorrow and love flowed mingled down - What was that “flow”?

11. What has never met before or since?

12. What was the crown made of?

13. Verse 4: If we had the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

14. That would be a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ far too \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

15. How is God’s love described here?

16. What does this kind of love demand?

\*Note this hymn is very important to our Christian faith – imagine Charles Wesley saying he would give up all his other hymns to have writ­ten this one!