

# *Now and Forever*

NEW COLLECTS FOR MODERN LECTIONARIES

*Written for the Sunday and Festival themes in the Revised Common Lectionary. Compatible with Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Lutheran Service Book, ILCW, Roman Catholic and Episcopal Lectionaries.*

*by Paul C. Stratman*



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## The Vigil of Easter\*

**A** (with the Gospel: Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18)

Father of Glory,  
this is the night in which your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ  
shook the earth,  
opened heaven,  
and defeated hell.  
Calm our fears  
with the good news  
that he is risen indeed,  
fill our hearts  
with the joy of his resurrection  
and the peace of his forgiveness;  
through Jesus Christ,  
our living Savior,  
who reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [80]

**B** (with the Gospel: Mark 16:1-8)

Father of Glory,  
this is the night in which your Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,  
arose from the tomb,  
conquered death  
and opened up the way to heaven.  
Awaken our hearts  
and shine the light of Christ  
to drive back the darkness of sin and sadness,  
that we may walk in his light now,  
and look forward to being brought  
with all your saints to glory everlasting;  
through Jesus Christ,  
our living Savior,  
who reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [81]

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\* These prayers could also be used for Easter Dawn with the change, "...this is the morning in which..."

**C** (*with the Gospel: Luke 24:1-12*)

Father of Glory,

this is the night in which your Son,

our Lord Jesus Christ,

broke the chains of death

and rose again to life.

Raise us

who have been baptized into his death

from the death of sin

to new life

as we walk in your presence now,

and raise us at the Last Day

to eternal pleasures at your right hand;

through Jesus Christ,

our living Savior,

who reigns in glory with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever. [82]

## The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Dawn

### A

O risen Christ,  
our stronghold,  
our sure defense and our Savior,  
refresh our hearts  
with the living water of your gospel  
and cheer our hearts  
with the shout of your victory.  
Dry our tears  
as we deal with the hardships  
and tragedies of this world  
and lift up our heads  
that we see you  
as our risen Teacher, Savior and Friend.  
You live and reign  
with your Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [83]

### B

God,  
our strength and our song,  
our sure defense and Savior,  
you have given us the victory  
through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Dry our tears with his Word of peace;  
through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [84]

### C

O highly exalted Christ,  
our strength and our defense,  
raise us up,  
and set our hearts and minds where you are,  
seated at the right hand of God.  
Lord, save us! Lord grant us success!  
We will praise and exalt you,  
for you are good, living and reigning forever,  
with your Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [85]

## The Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Day

### A

Jesus, you were crucified,  
but now you are the Living One,  
and you tell us not to be afraid.  
Help us to keep  
the gospel of your resurrection  
as of first importance,  
that living or dying,  
we always have true life in you;  
You, Jesus, are the Lord of Life,  
who died, but now you live forever,  
reigning in triumph  
with your Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one living God, in power and glory,  
now and forever. [86]

### B

Living Redeemer,  
you have indeed been raised from the dead,  
and you have given us hope  
for this life and forever.  
Calm our hearts when we are alarmed,  
trembling and bewildered,  
so that we may rejoice  
and be glad in your salvation;  
You, Christ, are the firstfruits  
of those who have fallen asleep,  
and you will reign  
until you have put all enemies under your feet,  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
you continue to live and reign,  
one living, true, and eternal God,  
now and forever. [87]

## C

Lord Jesus, Son of Man,  
crucified but raised again,  
you have swallowed up death forever  
and have revealed to us the mystery  
of your resurrection  
and of our resurrection that is yet to come.  
Let this good news  
of your victory over death and the grave  
drive out all doubt and unbelief  
and fill us with all eagerness and joy;  
you are the King of Glory  
and the Lord of Life,  
and you live and reign  
with your Father and the Holy Spirit,  
worthy of all power and wealth  
and wisdom and strength  
and honor and glory and praise,  
now and forever. [88]

## Second Sunday of Easter

### A

Lord Jesus Christ,  
precious Savior,  
though we do not see you,  
we love you.  
As we hear your holy Word,  
increase our faith,  
that we may be filled  
with your inexpressible,  
glorious joy;  
you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [89]

### B

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Word of Life,  
give us your gift of peace  
and the assurance of your forgiveness.  
Be at our right hand,  
so that we do not become afraid or doubtful,  
but make our joy complete  
through our fellowship  
with you and the Father;  
together with the Holy Spirit,  
you live and reign,  
one God, now and forever. [90]

### C

Lord Jesus Christ,  
firstborn from the dead,  
and ruler of the kings of the earth,  
come through the locked doors  
of our frightened hearts  
and drive away our fears  
with your word of peace.  
Though we have not seen you,  
open our hearts with your gospel,  
that we may see you with the eyes of faith;  
you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [91]

## Third Sunday of Easter

### A

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you are the true Passover Lamb,  
without blemish or defect.  
Reveal yourself to us  
as we hear your Holy Scriptures,  
that our hearts may burn within us,  
and that we may be saved  
from a world that is perishing;  
you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [92]

### B

God of light,  
in you there is no darkness at all.  
Purify, heal, instruct and forgive us  
through your holy Word,  
that we may be clothed with your power,  
and be witnesses of your Son  
to the ends of the earth;  
through your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [93]

### C

Lord Jesus Christ,  
after your resurrection  
you appeared to your disciples  
and consoled them with your presence alone.  
Since you have given us your promise,  
“I am with you always,”  
give us assurance  
of your constant presence now,  
and the promise of joy  
in your presence forever;  
you live and reign  
with your Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [94]

## Fourth Sunday of Easter

### A

Lord Jesus Christ,  
you are the Good Shepherd,  
and we follow you  
because we know your voice.  
You suffered for us,  
your wandering sheep,  
but you have brought us back to yourself,  
our Shepherd and overseer.  
For this we praise you,  
we follow you,  
and entrust ourselves to you;  
you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [95]

### B

Lord Jesus Christ,  
Good Shepherd,  
in you we lack nothing.  
Preserve us, your flock,  
which you bought with your own blood.  
Give us your Spirit of truth,  
that we may be fed  
by the green pastures of your Word  
and refreshed  
by the quiet waters of your love;  
you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [96]

### C

Good Shepherd,  
let us hear your voice.  
Hold us tight in the palm of your hand  
and lead us on.  
Wipe every tear from our eyes  
and take us at last  
to your Father's house forever;  
you live and reign  
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. [97]

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