



– April 24th, 2019 –

*Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia! following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!*

**Christ the Lord Is Risen Today by Charles Wesley**  
{full lyrics on back}

### **Let's be Alleluia People!**

Over the Easter weekend, we attended a 100-year-old Anglican church on Mayne Island for Sunday service. We were greeted warmly, given a bell to ring (every time the word “alleluia” was spoken), sang songs from hymnals, and read scripture and prayers aloud together. When it came time for the priest to share his message, he opened with a question: “Are we Alleluia people?”

Easter was never meant to be a once-a-year celebration. It is, and ought to be, a way of life for us. The resurrection of Jesus is the most important reality of our faith. Paul says; *“If Christ has not been raised, your faith is vain; you are still in your sins.”* Jesus’ resurrection changes everything for us. We are a freed people, and this is reason enough for us to shout “Alleluia!”.

N.T. Wright says; *“if Lent is a time to give things up, Easter ought to be a time to take things up.”* Because we have accepted and embraced our salvation, and in doing so have joined with Jesus in living resurrected lives, we ought to embrace Easter so fully that those around us might ask, “What is the meaning of all of this?” We are called to be Light Bearers. Are we shining a light for the world to see? Do our lives look different to the people around us?

And so I ask you; Are you an Alleluia people? Take some time to think on this. Invite the Holy Spirit into this question. Ask Him how you can be a better light bearer to the world. Ask Him what this looks like for you. What is He calling you to do?

#### **Questions to ask yourself this week:**

- Are you discouraged or lacking motivation right now? How can you encourage yourself with the truths of the resurrection?
- Identify a brother or sister who can be encouraged by these truths. How will you reach out to them before the week is over?
- Make it a goal to shout “alleluia” in the coming days. Praise is glorifying to Him, especially in the midst of our troubles.
- Remind yourself every morning that Jesus Christ is currently risen from the dead, today, just as He was on the first Easter Sunday.
- Pray that the Lord would show you how to walk in the victory that Christ has won for you, regardless of the current circumstances of your life.
- Know that Christ is not only risen, but He is ascended to the Father where He is always appealing to God on your behalf. ([Rom 8:34](#))

**Christ the Lord Is Risen Today**  
by Charles Wesley

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 thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!  
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!  
Death in vain forbids His rise, Alleluia!  
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!  
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!  
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!  
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

Hail the Lord of earth and heaven, Alleluia!  
Praise to Thee by both be given, Alleluia!  
Thee we greet triumphant now, Alleluia!  
Hail the Resurrection, thou, Alleluia!

King of glory, Soul of bliss, Alleluia!  
Everlasting life is this, Alleluia!  
Thee to know, thy power to prove, Alleluia!  
Thus to sing, and thus to love, Alleluia!





**Preparation:** Spend some time in quiet reflection before God now. Ask Him to come and speak His truth. Ask for wisdom, understanding, and faith to believe. Still your body and your mind and listen. Don't worry about 'getting it right', just focus on being with Him. Enjoy His presence with you.

**Scripture: 1 Peter 1: 8-9**

*"Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*

**1st Reading:** Read the scripture quietly to yourself and sit with it in silence. Listen for a word or phrase and focus on that for a few minutes. Write down that word or phrase:

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**2nd Reading:** Read the scripture again and think about how your life is touched by this word or phrase He has given you. Consider what this word is saying to you. Write it here:

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**3rd Reading:** Read the scripture again and think about what God is inviting you to do through this word or phrase. What action does He want you to take? Write it here:

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**In closing:** Take some time now to thank Him for the words He has given you. Ask for the courage to do what He's called you to do.