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### Earliest Easter Hymn

**T**his is the very day of God,  
Serened with holy light it came,  
In which the stream of sacred blood  
Swept over the world's crime and shame.  
Oh, admirable mystery,  
The sins of all are laid on thee,  
And thou to cleanse the world's deep stain  
He man doth bear the sins of men.  
What can be ever more sublime?  
That grace might meet the guilt of time  
Love doth the bonds of fear undo  
And death restores our life anew.  
—St. Ambrose.

### EASTER—A PROMISE KEPT.

Easter is a promise fulfilled. It stands pre-eminent as a season of renewed hope, endowed with a stupendous significance to a Christian people, symbolizing an open door to immortality through which mankind catches glimpses of life eternal.

Through ages of doubt and idolatry the people looked for a coming Saviour, and even through the agony of the crucifixion Jesus' promise to his followers permeated the darkness, illuminating the gloom with the hope of his resurrection.

Back through the vista of time: The betrayal of Jesus. The crucifixion. Darkness veils the face of the earth. The burial of Jesus. The stone rolled back from the sepulcher. The resurrection. Angelic sentinels stand guard at the deserted tomb of the risen Lord. Mary Magdalene seeking the Lord. Christ's admonition and divine assurance. "Fear not." Calvary interpreted. Death transfigured. Life eternal. Christ triumphant.

Winter, with her hoar frost and biting winds, throws off her icy mantle, and nature substitutes a brighter garb of vivid green, and the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord is ushered in by the gladness of spring.

Joy, joy, joy, come, come, come; resound the melodious voices from the sonorous throats of the church bells. The hospitable church door stands invitingly open to admit the motley throng, wending its ways to the sanctuary, from whose bedecked interior the queenly lily and stately palm nod a welcome to all. The atmosphere pulsates with rejuvenated hope.

The organ throbs with joy and thunder forth her welcome to all in a glad anthem of triumph. The subtle perfume of dora envelops all in commemoration of Christ's glorious resurrection, while worshippers join with the celestial host in a triumphant chorus: "Christ is risen! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Christ is risen!"—Carrie Adele Van Wickles.

### RESURRECTION'S SIGN.

It is told of the great Teacher that he was approached and told that if he would manifest a sign to prove his divine origin he would be accepted. He replied that if the signs and miracles which were in evidence all around were not sufficient no others would be given.

It would seem that then, even as now, man in his egotism demanded more proof of a self evident fact. Today our scientists are trying to explain the phenomena which surround us, and the more they try the more do they demonstrate their own gross ignorance to every one but themselves. We boast that we are the masters of electricity, yet no two of even the most advanced of our scientists are agreed as to the nature, origin or final destination of our so called servant.

We build structures which we fondly believe will endure for all time, and we boast that we have studied and mastered the natural laws, so that we can defy nature herself, and in that moment nature stirs, takes an extra long breath, and these mighty buildings crumble into dust, and man's works disappear from the face of the earth.

It is well that we should have days like this of Easter to check us for even a moment in our headlong course in pursuit of the more sordid things of life. Such days are in the nature of resting places where we can refresh ourselves with the purer, clearer air of better things and gain strength, hope and new life from the realization that there is something more in life besides the sordid daily routine, the struggle for the few dollars which are essential to the continuance of the inestimable privilege of toiling and sweating from one day to another.

### The Easter Text.

Jesus said unto her: I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live, and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.—St. John xi, 25, 26.

### The Comfort of the Lilies

An Easter Poem  
By CORA A. HAYDEN BOLSON

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**T**he golden lilies bloom  
In early fragrance by my  
In my heart when I seek  
Down from it all the burden of my  
grief.

**L**ilies are the comfort of the heart  
Flashing from out the depths  
of morning dawn,  
For never day so hard but  
finds his power  
To lift through it the radiance of a  
flower.

### "Burning Of Judas"

An Easter Rite Among  
Orientals

In some oriental countries among the members of the Greek Orthodox church a feature of the Easter festivities which is never omitted is the burning of an effigy of Judas, the faithless disciple. To show how firm a hold the rite of Judas burning has taken among oriental Greeks the following story is told:

In Thessalonica, a suburb of Constantinople, there lived a poor Greek who earned a scanty livelihood as a porter or "messenger" or "boatman." Every Easter this man made a Judas effigy and burnt it on his own behalf and that of his coreligionists. The necessary money was got by begging.

The Turkish authorities objected to these proceedings on the ground of public safety, as the burning always took place in a small square in the workmen's quarter, quite close to some wooden barracks. Therefore every year just before Easter the good natured bimbashi, the lieutenant of police, would send for the Greek, who was well known to be ringleader in the affair, and threaten him with severe punishment if he should burn a Judas puppet. The Greek always gave the same reply, "Even if you kill me I will burn Judas." The following year, before Easter, the Turkish bimbashi would send to the Greek again and strictly enjoin upon him that this time no Judas was to be burnt. But all the same, the Greek would get a "Judas" ready and burn him.

It happened that the Greek had to row over the Bosphorus to the Asiatic coast. He hesitated for some time in view of the approaching festival, but finally consented on the promise of a good fee, his money being at a low ebb. When he had done his business on the Asiatic side and was getting ready to return a storm arose, so that it was impossible for him to risk crossing in his little boat. He gazed eagerly at the sky, but there was no cessation of wind and tempest. The day of the festival arrived, and the Greek, taking off his clothes, made them into an effigy, stuffed them with leaves and twigs and there on the lonely shore burnt his Judas, according to his usual custom. As soon as the storm was over George, for that was his name, returned without clothing in his boat to Therapia and told what he had done. The Turkish bimbashi, delighted that for once there was no Judas burning among the workmen sheds of Therapia, gave George new clothes and a present of money as well.

### A Day of Spiritual Joy

Easter should be a day of spiritual joy, a day for the celebration of the resurrection of the spirit, a day in which spiritual considerations should be more prominent. Any secular or civil activities that interfere with the pure spiritual observance of the day should be discouraged. There is a tendency to over-emphasize fashions. It should be seriously discouraged.

Jesus Christ announced the important truth that the glory of his resurrection was the fruit of his passion—I mean the accidental glory incident to his humanity not the essential glory inherent in his divinity.

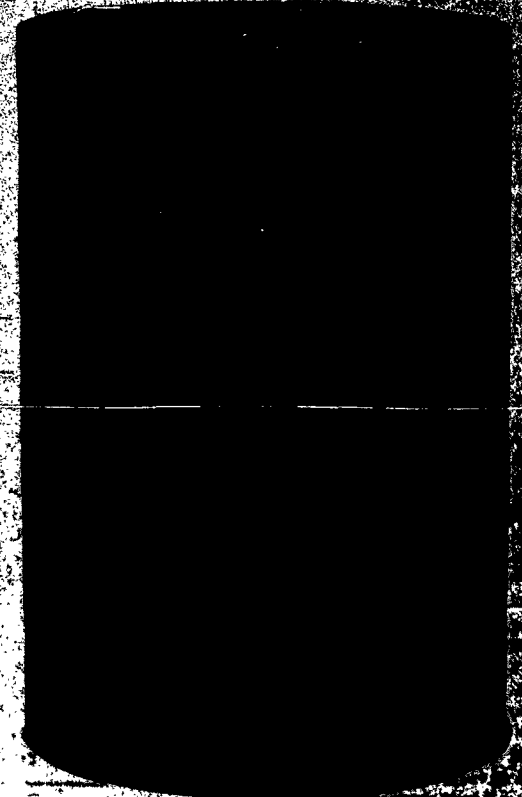
While two of his disciples were going from Jerusalem to Emmaus, discouraging on the crucifixion, Jesus, in the guise of a stranger, joined them, and they said to him: "We had hoped that Christ would redeem Israel from gentile bondage and would re-establish the kingdom on a grander scale and rule as a conqueror. But our hopes are dashed, for he died a shameful death on the cross." And Jesus said to them: "Foolish and slow of heart, to believe in all things which the prophets have spoken. Ought not Christ to have suffered these things and so to enter into his glory?"

If he had not trod the path of suffering and humiliation he would not be the Messiah foretold by the prophets.—Cardinal Gibbons.

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