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### Singing the Great Fifty Days

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# Singing the Great Fifty Days

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**Thesis:** The significance of Easter as the church's "Feast of Feasts," a 50-day celebration lasting from Easter Sunday through Pentecost, is often more of a theological/liturgical ideal than a lived experience of a congregation. Church musicians can help their congregations mark the continuity of the festival through musical/liturgical choices that connect its seven Sundays.

## 1. Observe a musical "fast" in Lent that ends in the Easter season.

## 2. Extend the elaborations of Easter Sunday through all seven weeks.

### 2a. Give hymnody the royal treatment.

### 2b. Incorporate instruments.

### 2c. Vary your use of the psalms.

*Christ Is Alive, Let Christians Sing!* – Highben  
*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing* – Busarow  
*Awake, My Heart* – Jennings  
*Christ Is Arisen, Let Us Sing* – Leising/Kosche

## 3. Use a recurring piece of liturgical music.

*Easter Fanfare: Christ the Lord Is Risen* – Fetler  
*Medieval Easter Chant* – Grundahl  
*Gospel Acclamations for Eastertide* – plainsong  
*At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing (SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT)*

## 4. Program hymns and anthems that highlight connections between resurrection and communion.

*In The Breaking of the Bread* – Highben  
*Come, Let Us Eat* – Strommen Campbell  
*Become to Us the Living Bread* – Busarow

## 5. Treat Pentecost and Easter Sunday as musical bookends.

*Hail Thee, Festival Day! (SALVE FESTA DIES)*  
*Come, O Holy Spirit, Come* – Highben

## 6. Connect Easter (backward) to Christmas and (forward) to Pentecost.

*Three Processionals for Four Bells and Voices* – Proulx

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## Repertoire and Hymns Referenced

**Christ Is Alive, Let Christians Sing!** (TRURO) – arr. Zebulon M. Highben. SATB, organ, brass quartet, opt. assembly. Augsburg Fortress 9781451451580.

**Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing/Become to Us the Living Bread** (GELOBT SEI GOTT) – arr. Donald Busarow. SAB, C instrument, keyboard (and opt. assembly). MorningStar Music, MSM-50-4406.

**Awake, My Heart** – Carolyn Jennings. SATB, piano or organ, opt. handbells (8). Augsburg Fortress, 9780806697321.

**Christ Is Arisen, Let Us Sing/Let All the Nations Praise the Lord** – Volckmar Leisring, arr. Kenneth T. Kosche. SATB, brass quartet or keyboard. MorningStar Music, MSM-50-4035.

**Easter Fanfare: Christ the Lord Is Risen** – Paul Fetler. SATB, 3 trumpets or organ. Augsburg Fortress, 9780800645748.

**Medieval Easter Chant** (CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN) – arr. Nancy Grundahl. SATB, French horn or other inst. Augsburg Fortress, 9780800678036.

**Gospel Acclamations for Eastertide** – S495 from *Music Sourcebook for Lent and the Three Days*. Augsburg Fortress, 9780806670409.

**At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing** (SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT) – Text: 17<sup>th</sup> century Latin hymn, trans. Robert Campbell. Tune: Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengesang*, 1566. Found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* #362 (8 stanzas), *The Covenant Hymnal: A Worshipbook* #556 (4 stanzas), *Lift Up Your Hearts: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs* #832 (4 stanzas, with SALZBURG).

**In The Breaking of the Bread** – Zebulon M. Highben. 2-part mixed, organ. MorningStar Music, MSM-50-9937.

**Come, Let Us Eat** – Billema Kwillia, arr. Jonathan Strommen Campbell. SATB. GIA Publications, G-8786.

**Hail Thee, Festival Day!** (SALVE FESTA DIES) – Text: Fortunatus, tr. Lutheran Book of Worship. Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, © Oxford University Press. Found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* #394, *Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal* #277, *The Hymnal* 1982 #175.

**Come, O Holy Spirit, Come** – Zebulon M. Highben. Unison or 2-part treble or mixed, flute or clarinet, piano, opt. assembly, opt. organ. GIA Publications, G-8866.

**Three Processionals for Four Bells and Voices** – Richard Proulx. 2-part treble or men's or mixed, handbells (4), opt. assembly. GIA Publications, G-4982.

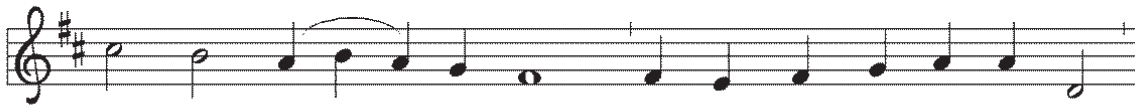
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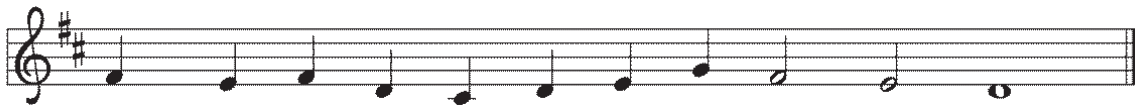
## At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing praise to  
2 Praise we Christ, whose love di - vine gives his  
3 Where the pas - chal blood is poured death's dread  
4 Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, pas - chal



our vic - to - rious king, who has washed us in the tide  
sa - cred blood for wine, gives his bod - y for the feast—  
an - gel sheathes the sword; Is - rael's hosts tri - um - phant go  
vic - tim, pas - chal bread; with sin - cer - i - ty and love



flow - ing from his wound - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
Christ the vic - tim, Christ the priest. Al - le - lu - ia!  
through the wave that drowns the foe. Al - le - lu - ia!  
eat we man - na from a - bove. Al - le - lu - ia!

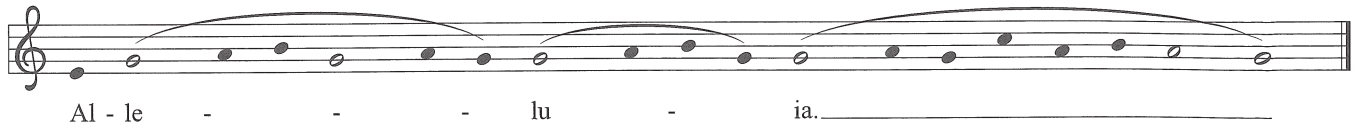
5 Mighty victim from the sky,  
hell's fierce pow'rs beneath you lie;  
you have conquered in the fight,  
you have brought us life and light.  
Alleluia!

7 Easter triumph, Easter joy!  
This alone can sin destroy;  
from sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free,  
newborn souls in you to be.  
Alleluia!

6 Now no more can death appall,  
now no more the grave enthrall;  
you have opened paradise,  
and your saints in you shall rise.  
Alleluia!

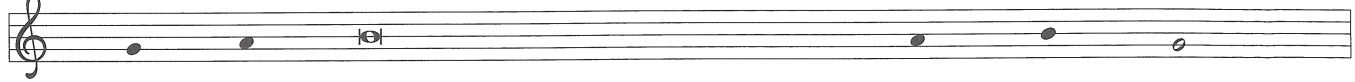
8 Father, who the crown shall give,  
Savior, by whose death we live,  
Spirit, guide through all our days:  
Three in One, your name we praise.  
Alleluia!

Cantor or Choir, repeated by the assembly



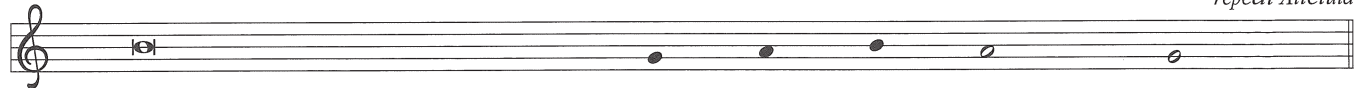
Al - le - lu - ia.

Cantor or Choir



<i>Easter Vigil</i>	1	Let us	sing to the Lord, who has	tri - umphed	gloriously,
<i>Easter Day</i>	2	Christ, our	paschal lamb,	has been	sacrificed.
<i>Easter Monday</i>	3	God _____	raised Jesus, having freed	him from	death,
<i>Easter 2</i>	4	Blessed are	those who	have not	seen
<i>Easter 3</i>	5	Our _____	hearts	burn with	- in us
<i>Easter 4</i>	6	Je - sus	says, I am	the Good	Shepherd.
<i>Easter 5A</i>	7	I _____	am the way, the truth,	and the	life.
<i>Easter 5B</i>	8	I _____	am the vine, you	are the	branches.
<i>Easter 5C</i>	9	Ev - 'ry	one will know that you are	my dis -	ciples
<i>Easter 6</i>	10	Those who	love me will keep my word, and my Fa -	ther will	love them,
<i>Ascension</i>	11	Go and	make disciples of all nations,	says the	Lord;
<i>Easter 7</i>	12	I will	not leave you orphaned,	says the	Lord.
<i>Pentecost Vigil</i>	13	Come, _____	Holy Spirit, fill the hearts	of your	faithful,
<i>and Pentecost</i>					

repeat Alleluia



1	our strength and our might, who has be	-	come	our	sal -	va -	tion.
2	Therefore, let		us	keep	the	feast.	_____
3	because it was impossible for him to be		held	in	its	pow -	er.
4	and yet have		come	to	be -	lieve.	_____
5	while you open		to	us	the	scrip -	tures.
6	I know my own and		my	own	know	me.	_____
7	No one comes to the Father		ex -	cept	through	me.	_____
8	Those who abide in me and in them		bear	much	_____	fruit.	_____
9	if you have love		for	one	an -	oth -	er.
10	and we will come to them and make		our	home	with	them.	_____
11	I am with you always, to the		end	of	the	age.	_____
12	I am		com -	ing	to	you.	_____
13	and kindle in us the		fire	of	your	love.	_____

Music: Plainsong, adapt.

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