

CONFESSING AND RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of the empty tomb,

*When we are afraid to speak our faith in the world,
forgive us and help us to find our voice.
When we are afraid to forgive and to love again,
forgive us and give us the power to forgive.
When we are afraid to stand up to misguided authority,
join with the weak to make us all strong.
When we are confined by our hurts,
touch us with your wounded hands and set us free.
When we are locked behind our doubts and fears,
pass through our barricades, open our hearts, and give us peace.*

(We silently confess our sins.)

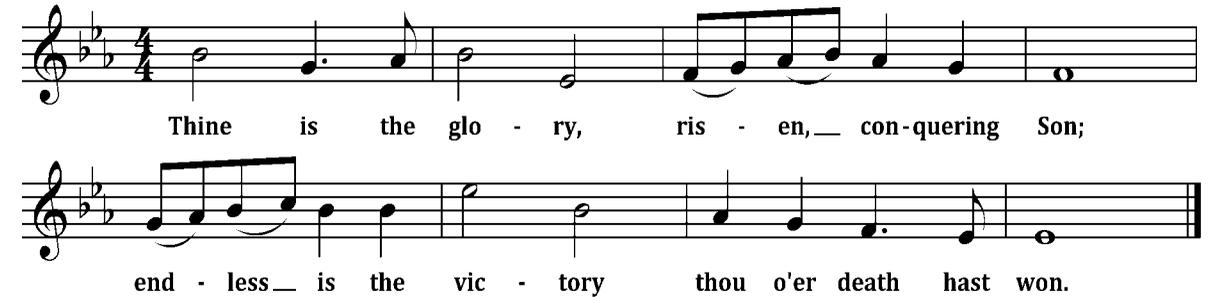
WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,
the power of death has been defeated.
God's love is stronger still.
This is good news!

*In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God!*

*GLORIA #300

E. Budry/G.F. Handel



Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, con- quering Son;
end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE

Acts 5:27-32

SERMON

A Surprising Turnaround

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand,
and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast:*

*That Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures,
that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and
that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter,
and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.*

*We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end;
he is our Lord and our God.*