Jesus, Stand among Us
VU 396
Jesus, stand among us in your risen power; let this time of worship be a hallowed hour.
Breathe the Holy Spirit into every heart; bid the fears and sorrows from each soul depart.
Lead our hearts to wisdom till our doubting cease, and to all assembled speak your word of peace.
We light this flame as a symbol of Jesus’ presence with us. In this light we find our guidance, blessing us with wisdom and courage to face our fears and bringing a new sense of life. Hallelujah!
God of love and life, may the message of resurrection guide us into hope this day so that we might embrace our world of chaos and beauty with courage and love. Amen.
Christ Is Alive
VU 158
Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and home with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.
Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.
In every insult, rift, and war, where colour, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.
Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.
Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.
Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Just then someone showed up and said, "Did you know that the men you put in jail are back in the Temple teaching the people?"
The chief and his police went and got them, but they handled them gently, fearful that the people would riot and turn on them.
Bringing them back, they stood them before the High Council. The Chief Priest said,
"Didn't we give you strict orders not to teach in Jesus' name? And here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are trying your best to blame us for the death of this man."
Peter and the apostles answered, "It's necessary to obey God rather than men. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, the One you killed by hanging him on a cross."
God set him on high at his side, Prince and Savior, to give Israel the gift of a changed life and sins forgiven. And we are witnesses to these things.
The Holy Spirit, whom God gives to those who obey him, corroborates every detail."
Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”
Then he showed them his hands and side. The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were exuberant. Jesus repeated his greeting: “Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you.”
Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. “Receive the Holy Spirit,” he said. “If you forgive someone’s sins, they’re gone for good. If you don’t forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?”
But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, “We saw the Master.”
But he said, “Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won’t believe it.”
Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, “Peace to you.”
Then he focused his attention on Thomas. “Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don’t be unbelieving. Believe.”
Thomas said, “My Master! My God!” Jesus said, “So, you believe because you’ve seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing.”
Jesus provided far more God revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.
ASK ME WHAT GREAT THING I KNOW
VU 338
Ask me what great thing I know that delights and stirs me so, what the high reward I win, whose the name I glory in: Jesus Christ, the crucified.
Who defeats my fiercest foes?  
Who consoles my saddest woes?  
Who revives my fainting heart,  
healing all that grief imparts?  
Jesus Christ, the crucified.
Who is life in life to me? Who the death of death will be? Who holds all my days secure, in God’s heart where love is sure? Jesus Christ, the crucified.
This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so: faith in Christ who died to save, Christ who triumphed o’er the grave, Jesus Christ, the crucified.
Holy One, signs of your abundant life and love surround us and give us hope. Recognizing your many gifts to us we offer the prayers of our hearts.
We ask that you might breathe new life into all of creation. We ask that new paths for cooperation would open up between us. We ask that new possibilities would unfold for all those who face difficulty and despair.
We ask that new visions would emerge to guide us faithfully into the future. Gather all the gifts of this community, we pray, and unite us as we work for the good of all. Amen.
No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife; Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son: Endless is the victory thou o’er death hast won.
Creator of goodness and beauty, we offer our gifts to you. Thank you for all you give us. Grant us courage and wisdom to use your gifts wisely. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.
Rejoice, the Lord is King
VU 213
Rejoice the Lord is King! Your risen Lord adore! Rejoice, give thanks and sing and triumph evermore. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
Jesus the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love; when he had purged our sins, he took his seat above. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
God’s kingdom cannot fail; Christ rules o’er hearth and heaven; the keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice: rejoice; again I say, rejoice!
Rejoice in glorious hope, for Christ, the judge, shall come to glorify the saints for their eternal home. We soon shall hear the archangel’s voice; the trump of God shall sound, rejoice!
We live with faith in God, our Creator; we learn about faith from Jesus the risen Christ; we grow in faith by guidance of the Holy spirit. Let us go from here with the confidence and strength of faith rooted in love. Thanks be to God!