

1930
2168

Morning Prayers - 1340
8.4.91
11.4.94

1340

Stevens Christus (Lesson)

Parcial Kyrie (Shepled) #7

of the Church
"Christ our Lord
has risen
standing in the
midst of his
disciples said
"Peace be with you"

Good morning again, this second week of Eastertide: and welcome to join in these few minutes of "Morning Prayers" which I've started off today with music by John Orlando Lassus, a motet of his on a text for Easter Monday in the Prayer Shepled, his elaboration on a Gregorian chant for the Mass liturgy during the Easter season, a Parcial "Kyrie", "Lord Have Mercy." And I'd like to start this morning with the prayer I also used last Thursday, which I'll talk about again in a minute. For now, then, let us pray: "God our Father, on this solemn feast you give us the joy of recalling the rising of Christ to new life. May the joy of our annual celebration bring us to the joy of eternal life. We make this our prayer thro' Jesus Christ our Lord Amen." That's a prayer from the church liturgy of Easter week. And it's a reminder that the festivals we celebrate are "given" to us as a way of harnessing an of living with the life of Jesus Christ. Eastertide recalls for Christians the rising of Christ to a new life - it's not just the remembrance of one day, but a time of festival, all of it recalling the rising of Christ. Through the days and weeks of this season we're presented with the occasion and opportunity, in the reading of holy scripture, to become familiar with all the different gospel incidents of the appearance of the risen Lord, as well as how the resurrection of Jesus was first preached, in the activities and speeches of his apostles as recorded in the New Testament's other writings. This recalling, the prayer characterizes as a "joy": something happy & delightful to do. And the petition is that this joy would bring us to the eternal joy of life with Christ. And that's one of the things about that prayer that caught my attention last week - the petition that the joy of our celebration, rather than just simply the act or the fact of celebrating Easter, would bring us to the greater, lasting joy of living with the Risen Christ. That, at least, is the prayer as we have it in the English version: and I'm afraid I don't know how well or otherwise it may agree with what I guess is probably a Latin original. "May the joy of our annual celebration bring us to the joy of eternal life". May your celebration indeed be

one of joy this season, a joy-ful Eastertide. The Concise Oxford defines "joy" as a vivid emotion of pleasure, gladness - I take it the operative word there is vivid. Well, how vivid is your pleasure & gladness in the fact of Jesus' resurrection and your celebration of it this year? How much does joy feature in your Christian life? Something like that was the question put to the main protagonist of Flannery O'Connor's [recent] novel, ^{a few years ago,} "Lazarus", the hard-line, rigid future-pope who's about to undergo a serious heart operation: and he finds the word disturbing: joy - It may well be that "Joy to the world" is one of the more popular Christmas carols: but it's been striking me more forcefully this year that "joy" is very much an Easter word - it comes in surprisingly often in Easter poems and prayers of all kinds, and from all sorts of traditions. Maybe it's just a trick of translation: but I suspect it's more than that: the English word & concept of "joy" seems to fit Easter & its meaning --- while the Christmas word is more appropriately "wonder" or "awe" or "mystery". Anyway, in that prayer I quoted, "joy" appears three times: Seeking to insist on being paid attention to --- so, think about it, pray about it these days. After our music include this morning I'll share with you some other writing where joy is the characteristic of Easter praise and prayer. But for now, listen again to those words of Jesus, in St John's gospel where they're given as spoken by him in his last discourse with his apostles: "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy --- you are sad now, but I shall see you again, and your hearts will be full of joy, and that joy no one shall take from you --- In all that I tell you, anything you ask from the Father, he will grant in my name --- Ask and you will receive, and so your joy will be complete." --- from ch 16 of St John's gospel. In music now: This is the Day the Lord has made, "Haece Dies" by Jan Shepleard MUSIC PRAYERS

Jan Shepled #8
1:59

A meditation on the joy of Easter discovery EQ Progress of Easter p 30