

18.4.68  
13.4.72 ✓

Alleluia - Youth 11/15/196

Haco Dies. (clab)  
B 58

"This day was made by the Lord: we rejoice and are glad Alleluia  
Happiness, gladness, rejoicing are for most human beings  
things that come and go and <sup>seldom</sup> ~~never~~ last <sup>for</sup> very long - not as long as  
sadness, sorrow, unhappiness. I'm talking about the high-points of  
happiness and the depths of sorrow, NOT about our ~~everyday~~ ordinary  
day-to-day life, which goes along quietly at a general level of  
either joy or contentment, or uneasiness and frustration - or somewhere  
in between these. The greatest joys <sup>most of us</sup> we experience from time to  
time come to an end all too soon - beauty fades, faces change;  
love develops or diminishes, music stops: and every day we go to  
bed and sleep, and tomorrow's mood may be different. There comes  
a time for the gayest party to break-up: you destroy by trying to  
preserve it artificially. Simple physical exhaustion puts its own limits  
on the greatest human sorrow and joy. In other words, none of us  
can constantly sustain a high intensity of any extreme of human  
feeling or emotion, without breaking down as human persons. And  
in our present situation, this itself is a blessing, which keeps most  
of us from going mad. But still, it pulls it downwards - it's  
easier, more common to be depressed than elated: there is more  
continuous pain, frustration, loneliness, suffering in the world than there  
is sustained rejoicing, happiness, gladness, lightness of spirit. What

else is the origin of this fact than the nature of man and his  
present situation, under sentence of death in a world of sinfulness and  
selfishness? The good news of Easter, the news (and it's something  
entirely new) that Jesus of Nazareth who lived and suffered and died  
is alive, has risen from death in his human body; this is a  
message of hope, a fact that alters the human situation, that points  
to the solution, that offers a meaning to human life and shows where  
its fulfillment lies. Christ's rising from death in his flesh doesn't  
do away with our sorrows and pain; but it allows us see their  
positive value. It doesn't do away with our present human limitations;  
but it shows us they're not permanent, that they will pass away  
for us, as for Him; that joy and happiness, beauty and love can be  
and for us please God will be permanent, lasting, without the threat  
of boredom or madness we experience now because there is a limit  
to what the human spirit can take in this life. We find it so  
hard to believe this, to realize what Christ's resurrection means for  
us, for whom His <sup>earthly</sup> life was lived! We can rejoice on Easter Day,  
at Christmas... but to keep up the spirit of joy and hope and  
optimism is harder - harder than keeping up a spirit of sorrow,  
repentance, sadness, daring heart and especially Holy Week. But we  
mustn't disconnect the two facets of what Christ has done for us

