

Opening prayer: Almighty God, who through
 your only Son have overcome death and opened
 unto us the gate of everlasting life, grant, we
 beseech, that we who celebrate our Lord's resur-
 rection may also offer the tribute of praise for
 the everlasting hopes that rise within our hearts.
 We also give thanks for the gospel, which has
 brought life and immortality to life. Receive
 our thanksgiving, reveal your presence, and
 send into our hearts the Spirit of the risen Christ.

Pastoral prayer: Almighty God, who by the
 death of your Son Jesus Christ have destroyed
 death, and who by raising him from the dead
 have delivered us from the kingdom of darkness
 into the kingdom of light, we praise you for the
 hope that because he lives, we shall live also.
 Inspire us by the example of the cross to
 serve you with obedience here on earth and at
 the last to commit ourselves to your eternal
 mercy and care. Take us through the journey
 of life as those who can see beyond the journey's
 end. Give us the faith to surrender our loved
 ones to your safe keeping, in the blessed assur-
 ance that you will raise them to yourself, and
 in sure and certain hope that they and we to-
 gether will share the resurrection of Christ;
 to whom with you, O Creator yet personal
 Friend, and the Holy Spirit we praise and
 glory, now and evermore. Amen.

Opening Prayer: God of grace: In Jesus Christ
you have given a new and living hope. We thank
you that, by dying, he has conquered death; and
that by rising again, he promises eternal life.
Help us to know that because he lives, we
shall live also, and that neither death, nor life,
nor things present, nor things to come, shall be
able to separate us from the love of God, in
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen!

