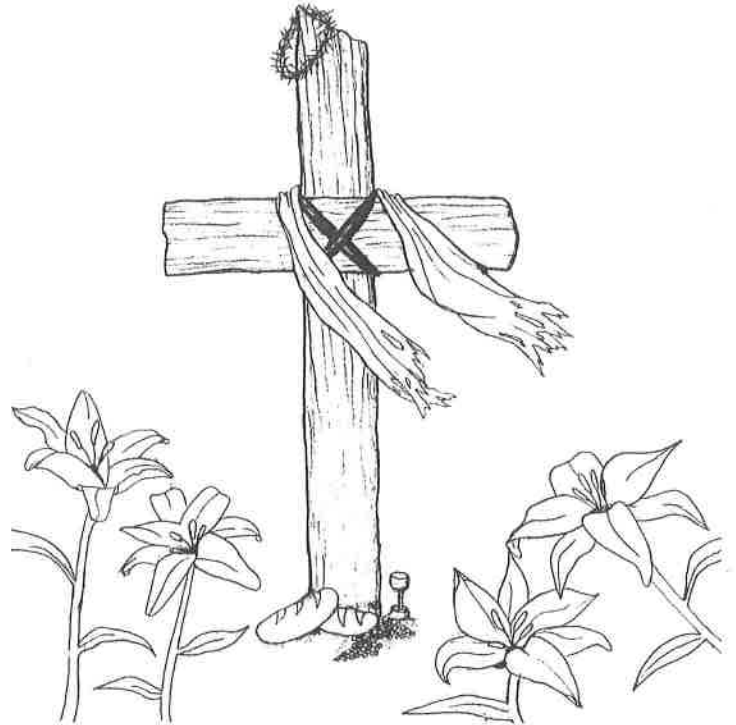


Lifted Up

Lifted Up from Death

- Easter never gets old for me. Never get tired singing these Eas hymns, or hearing these Eas Scriptures, or even getting up early on Eas. It fills me with joy, lifts me up, bec Eas reminds me of the great truth of Scripture: Jesus more powerful than death. On MT: heard how cords of death entangled him, and aguish of grave came upon him, but now Jesus walks in land of living. On GF: heard PDW's graphic imagery of the monster of death swallowing Jesus, but then spitting him out, bec death couldn't stomach Jesus. Jesus more powerful than death. Easter never gets old for me. And seeing you here today: doesn't look like Easter is getting old for you either.
- Ps for today is Ps 30. Sang moment ago; heard it again now. Focus of this Ps is on being lifted up. **Vs. 1a, 3.** Eas is re being lifted up out of depths. Same word used for person drawing water from well: they drop bucket into water, use rope to lift it back up. And that's one picture of res, but kind of a mild one. A more graphic picture, more realistic picture of res is this:
- Back in Aug of 2010, there was terrible accident at copper mine in Chile, in SA. 33 miners were trapped almost half mile underground, when their mineshaft collapsed, leaving them in dark, hot, dirty, cramped, underground cavern, with dusty air to breathe and almost nothing to eat/drink. For over two weeks those miners had no contact with anyone from surface; weren't even sure if anyone was looking for them. But up above, team of engineers from all over world was developing rescue plan, and drilling boreholes deep into the ground, looking for signs of life. Eventually found cavern where those miners were trapped; so contact was established. And finally, after 69 days of imprisonment, and after several mechanical setbacks, engineers were finally able to lower down narrow, torpedo-looking capsule into ground, and, with entire world watching, began lifting up those Chilean miners to surface one at a time. Ordeal lasted from Aug 5 – Oct 13, 2010: 69 days. All 33 miners survived.
- **Vs. 1a, 3.** Lifted up out of depths. What a graphic picture of much greater rescue, when Jesus was lifted up out of depths. On GF, our Savior JC was plunged into deepest, darkest, cavernous pit of death, from which no one had ever permanently escaped, that hopeless pit that engulfs, swallows all people, all life/light, all joy/hope. But on Easter, Jesus was lifted up. God Father bored his hand down deep into ground, deeper than any mining drill could ever reach, and without help of human engineers lifted up his Son, raised him from dead, brought him back to surface, to live forever.
- And now, that mineshaft is opened, and God will not leave us in depths. When we die, God will reach his hand down into that dark cavern of death, and raise us up to surface, as well. Jesus was lifted up in his res; and as Christians, we will be lifted up in the res, as well. That is the hope and joy of Easter: once trapped in pit of death, but lifted up to new life.



Lifted Up in Joy

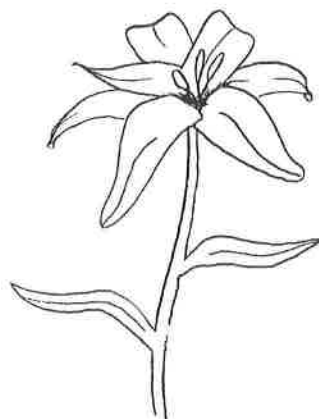
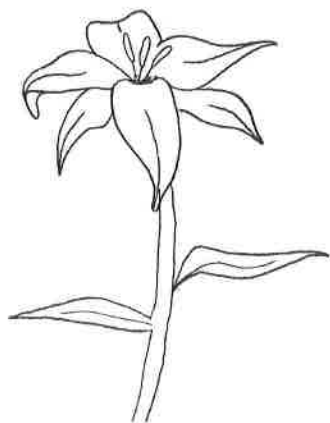
- And this Eas promise of res not only lifts up our bodies from death; also lifts up our hearts in joy. **Vs. 4** – that’s Eas joy! **Vs. 5a**. On GF, God angry; was pouring out the full fury of his wrath on Jesus, for all sins, of all people, who have ever lived – all of that pent up rage was unleashed on Jesus! But **vs. 5a**. That’s bec God’s heart is heart of love. God poured out his wrath on Jesus, and not on you, bec loves you. And Jesus endured the cross for you, bec loves you. And all of Christ’s suffering, death: lasted only moment. Now it is finished, and God’s favor is on you forever.
- Let that lift up your heart, fill you with joy. Listen to this Eas joy: **vs. 5b**, that’s Eas joy. Or **vs. 11a**, or **vs. 11b**; again, that’s Eas joy. “*Awake, my heart, with gladness! See what today is done; now, after gloom and sadness, comes forth the glorious sun*” (CW 156:1). Eas is uplifting, bec when Eas gospel lifts up your heart with joy, nothing in life (no sin, no setback) can ever drag you back down into the depths. Res of Jesus lifts you up.
- Why Easter never gets old for me; hope never gets old for you either. We want to celebrate, week after week in worship, and throughout our entire lives, how Jesus died on cross to pay for our sins, how buried in dark depths of death, and how on Easter Sunday God lifted him up, raised him to life. And going do same for us, too. When we die, we will not be trapped in that deep cavern of death; God will lift us up, raise us to life, as well. And that Eas gospel lifts up our hearts, fills us with true Christian joy, so that **vs. 12; 1a; 3a**. May this Easter celebration today, and your Christian faith in Christ’s Eas gospel, lift you up in joy, bec you know God lifted up Jesus from the dead, and someday he will lift you up from dead, as well.

Psalm 30

A psalm. A song. For the dedication of the temple. Of David. ¹ I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out of the depths and did not let my enemies gloat over me. ² LORD my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me. ³ You, LORD, brought me up from the realm of the dead; you spared me from going down to the pit.

⁴ Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful people; praise his holy name. ⁵ For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning. ⁶ When I felt secure, I said, “I will never be shaken.” ⁷ LORD, when you favored me, you made my royal mountain stand firm; but when you hid your face, I was dismayed.

⁸ To you, LORD, I called; to the Lord I cried for mercy: ⁹ “What is gained if I am silenced, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you? Will it proclaim your faithfulness?” ¹⁰ Hear, LORD, and be merciful to me; LORD, be my help.” ¹¹ You turned my wailing into dancing; you removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy, ¹² that my heart may sing your praises and not be silent. LORD my God, I will praise you forever.



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