

# Life and death



*We review the previous lessons. We establish and emphasize that Jesus Christ gives our life meaning and substance and that we need have no fear of dying and death. Jesus Christ grants true life.*

8

Jesus Christ gives life-sustaining power. He will guide and accompany the children through life.

**1**  
“Y

ou look very sad. Is something the matter,” a priest enquires of an acquaintance. The man sighs heavily: “I can’t tell you my problems, not even some of them. No one can help me. Nothing seems to have any meaning. I would rather not be living, but I am also afraid of dying. Why must my life be so hard?”

The priest looks at him sympathetically: “Yes, I am sure that things are very difficult for you. Why this should be so, I cannot tell you either. I think no one can give you a simple answer to that. I can also understand that you do not want to tell me about the problems which worry you so much. But there is someone you should tell all the same. He also suffered much. He will understand your distress and give you strength to carry on.”

“You are speaking of Jesus of course. Yes, if he were still alive, he could perhaps have helped me. But he died two thousand years ago. How can he still help me now?”

“It is true that he died a long time ago. But don’t you know that he rose again from the dead? At Easter and also later, several people saw and recognized him. This gives us hope and makes us happy. We all still have to die one day, but our soul is immortal, it lives on even when we die. God then

gives our soul a new body. We don’t know yet what this new body will look like. It will be very different from our present body. In this way Jesus lives too. You cannot see him with your natural eyes, but you can experience him. He would like to be of importance to you as well and live in your heart.”

“You mean well, I see that. What must I do to gain such strong belief in Jesus Christ and carry such hope in my heart?”

“Come with me to our divine services! There Jesus is very close to us and strengthens us through the word of his messengers. In him is true comfort and strength, also for you!” The acquaintance promises to think about everything that has been said.

**2**

A priest in the congregation is seriously ill. Sandro knows this as his mother has explained to him that this priest will, most probably, never get well again. Sandro feels great pity for him. He cannot imagine how anyone can cope with such a sad situation. When he visits him one day and hears him laughing heartily, Sandro is most surprised. He asks the priest: “Are you suddenly well again?”

“No, but wouldn’t that be marvellous! It is, unfortunately, not the case, but I have reason to laugh nevertheless.” Sandro is now really intrigued and wants to know why, so he boldly asks: “Are you not very sad that you have such a dreadful illness?”

## Jesus Christ is the resurrection

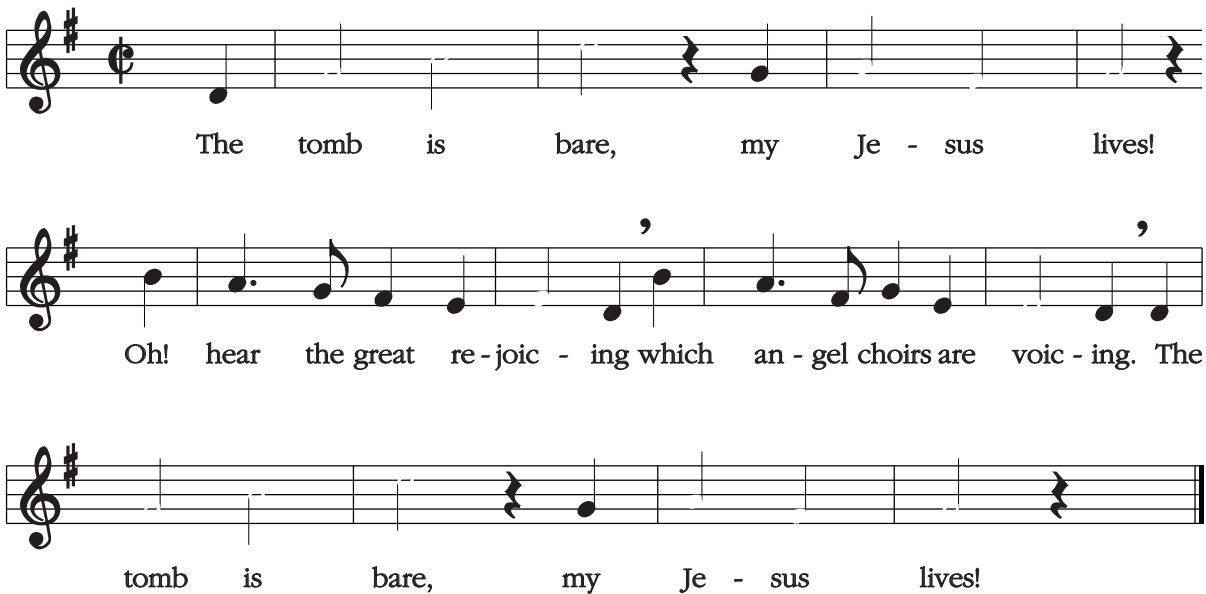
"Yes, I am. Particularly when I have much pain, I often almost despair. But then I pray. That comforts me and strengthens me sufficiently to bear even severe pain for a while. I also often think of our Saviour. Can you imagine how much he had to suffer? I feel that he knows me well. I am also very thankful for the many prayers of the children of God. It makes me feel that I am not alone and opens my eyes to many beautiful things. You know Sandro, the soul is much more important than the body. When one's soul is sick, one becomes unhappy and discouraged. The body must eventually die, then all pain is over. But the soul lives for ever. I look forward to seeing Jesus on the day of the first resurrection!" Although Sandro has listened attentively, he has not understood everything. But he sees that the priest is happy and confident and that, in turn, makes him happy. He resolves to pray for him especially every day. Do you know what he prays for? (That the priest may get well, that he does not lose courage, that his soul remains healthy, etc.)



*Do not be afraid.  
The Lord is with you.*

- 1 We look at the pictures of the previous lessons and ask the children to tell us what appealed to them. When summarizing, we work through the main points once more:  
**The foolish rich man:**  
 What is important in life? How can we become 'rich' in the eyes of God?  
**Mary Magdalene:**  
 Messengers of God (in those days an angel, today the ministers) show us the way. Through them we learn that death is not the end of life. We need not fear death because Jesus Christ lives and has also promised us eternal life.  
**The disciples of Emmaus:**  
 To experience Jesus, brings joy. One who experiences Jesus Christ, receives strength, courage and assurance. Life gets meaning and substance. Christ lives and is with us!
- 2 Illustration of the hymn.  
 In the following story we touch on these thoughts again. However, the children's experiences of a similar nature should have preference.

# Jesus has risen



The musical notation is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: 'The tomb is bare, my Je - sus lives!'. The second staff contains the melody for the second line: 'Oh! hear the great re - joic - ing which an - gel choirs are voic - ing. The'. The third staff contains the melody for the third line: 'tomb is bare, my Je - sus lives!'. The lyrics are printed below the corresponding notes.

The tomb is bare, my Je - sus lives!

Oh! hear the great re - joic - ing which an - gel choirs are voic - ing. The

tomb is bare, my Je - sus lives!

1. The tomb is bare, my Jesus lives!  
Oh! hear the great rejoicing  
which angel choirs are voicing.  
The tomb is bare, my Jesus lives!
2. No further pain, my Jesus lives!  
The Lord from death has risen—  
the joyful news is given.  
No further pain, my Jesus lives!
3. The Lord has won, my Jesus lives!  
For us the way provided  
to heaven to be guided.  
The Lord has won, my Jesus lives!