Staff Easter Reflection 2022

When finest aspirations fail
and dreams become dismay,
and all the hopes tomorrow held
lie felled by yesterday,
what can we do, where do we turn,
what can we say?

We hurt for what has happened
and we fear for what's to come;
and easy consolation leaves us
negative and numb,
and wondering whether deeper depths
are yet to plumb.

Shall they control our destiny
who, deaf to our demands,
are ruled by other values
and defer to their commands?
And are our futures safe
in these unwanted hands?

Oh Christ, you lost control
or so it seems, when to a tree
they nailed you and regaled you
and refused to set you free;
and all because you showed
how life was meant to be.

Then must our hopes, like you,
be broken down beyond repair;
must we be lost and powerless,
befriended by despair,
in order somehow to be saved
and sense God's care?

And shall our hopes, life you,
arise from where they ceased to be;
and shall the spirit that was crushed
be transformed and set free?
if that's God's will, then we await
what's yet to be.

Station 1: Jesus is condemned to death

The people of Ukraine are condemned. it has been decided that their lives can be done without. Their aspirations and dreams are nulled.

The health and well being, their very existence is worthless.

Liberty to captives? Freedom for the oppressed? Why, in the name of God?

Station 2: Jesus carries His cross

This is not Jerusalem. This is Mariopol, Kviv. It is every place in Ukraine.

The journey has begun. Where will it end.

The noise of sirens warning of death and destruction.

Explosions, the smells of war and destruction.

The journey has begun.

Station 3: Jesus falls the first time

A man struggles to walk a plank and carries his home in a bag. Life's work and dreams. It's all that's left.

He slips into the river and finds the strength to get up and keep walking. To wear? For what?

The instinct to live gives him strength to go on.

Station 4: Jesus meets his mother

A mother carries her infant child. Two more walking by her side and a trolley suitcase with wheels.

She has left her husband and elderly parents for the sake of her children. What sacrifices our mother would make for the sake of her children.

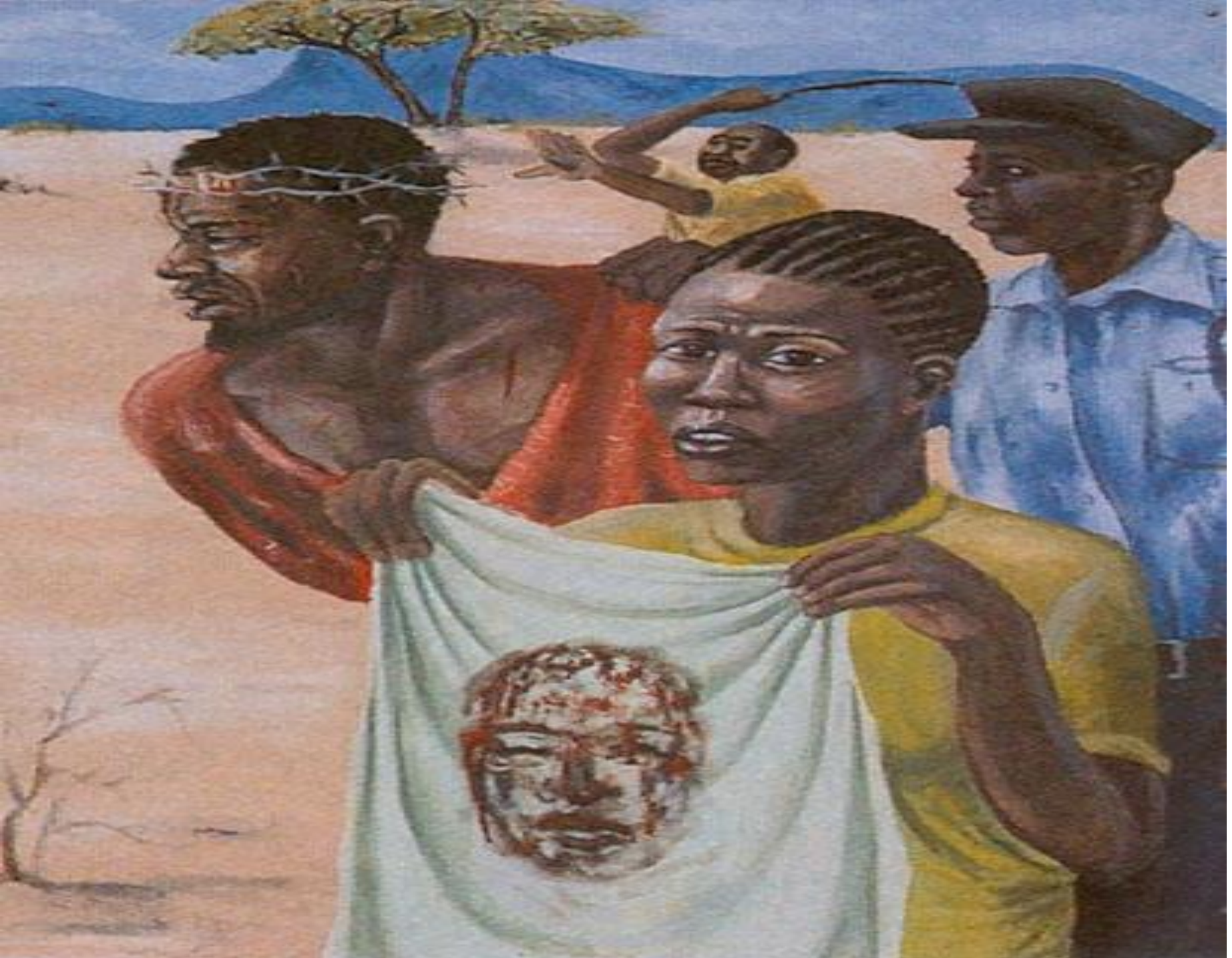
The cost of war is being paid in broken hearts and shattered lives.

Station 5: Simon helps Jesus carry the cross

The outpouring of love from total strangers. From Poland, Romania, Slovakia to France, Germany. “I was a stranger and you made me welcome.“

And they keep coming. Food from across the continent, medical help. Fund raising from you positions, pop artists, footballers and sports personalities. To everyday people like you and me.

It is a task and a privilege that has been thrust upon us.



Station 6: Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

To love another person is to see the face of God . Whose face do you see? Spattered with blood and tears, shrapnel wounds, lost limbs, connected to tubes in makeshift cellars.

Who can wipe such tears away, who can bring comfort, who can bring hope? What a basic human touch which brings life.

Station 7: Jesus falls the second time

Just when you thought it was safe, to get more supplies, to look for water and food. It starts again.

The darkness, the despair. No way out. The path ahead seems hopeless.

Love thy neighbour. Is this what our neighbours want for us?

Station 8: Jesus meets the women of Jerusalem

Our homeland, our birth right, our families have toiled the earth and helped us become the people we are today. Our motherland.

A female image, one who has nurtured us and made us the people we are today. Only a mother's eyes can fill the anguish of a people being trodden under foot.

No longer recognisable.

Station 9: Jesus falls for the third time

Crushed by suffering? What sinfulness man inflicts on his neighbour.

When already down, if that is not enough, let us drive him to death. Until there is nothing left.

Power and pride takeover. There is no going back.

There is only one outcome … more pain, destruction and bloodshed.

Station 10: Jesus is stripped

The shame of admitting defeat. The cost of saving face.

Who can understand how this all began and what it has become? What is the naked truth?

The cost of humiliating ones neighbour. What fear and loathing has brought all this about?

Station 11: Jesus is nailed to the cross

The suffering never ends. The casualties of war. By-products of an outrage. The cost of men's ambitions and greed. Children maimed for life.

People scarred from seeing sites that no one should ever witness. How many will cry out that they are the unlucky ones who survive?

Station 12: Jesus dies on the cross

He died on the street and went stiff in the cold. It was not safe to fetch him.

The pregnant mother who died with her unborn child deprived of the joy for which she longed.

The teenager who was looking out of the window when the side of the building was blown away by mortar fire.

The elderly who just gave up, dehydrated and hungry.

Is there no dignity left in life?

Station 13: Jesus is taken down from the cross

Who will keep the dream alive now? Those who cradle the sick and the dying.

Whose narrative will shape the future? Does might win?

Do we learn the lessons? Are we destined to keep repeating the same mistakes again?

Station 13: Jesus is placed in the tomb

Face sneaked out and dug a hole at the side of the pavement where he died.

No one knows who he was.

No gravestone.

Borrowed soil but it is his homeland. Or what is left of it.

A borrowed tomb.

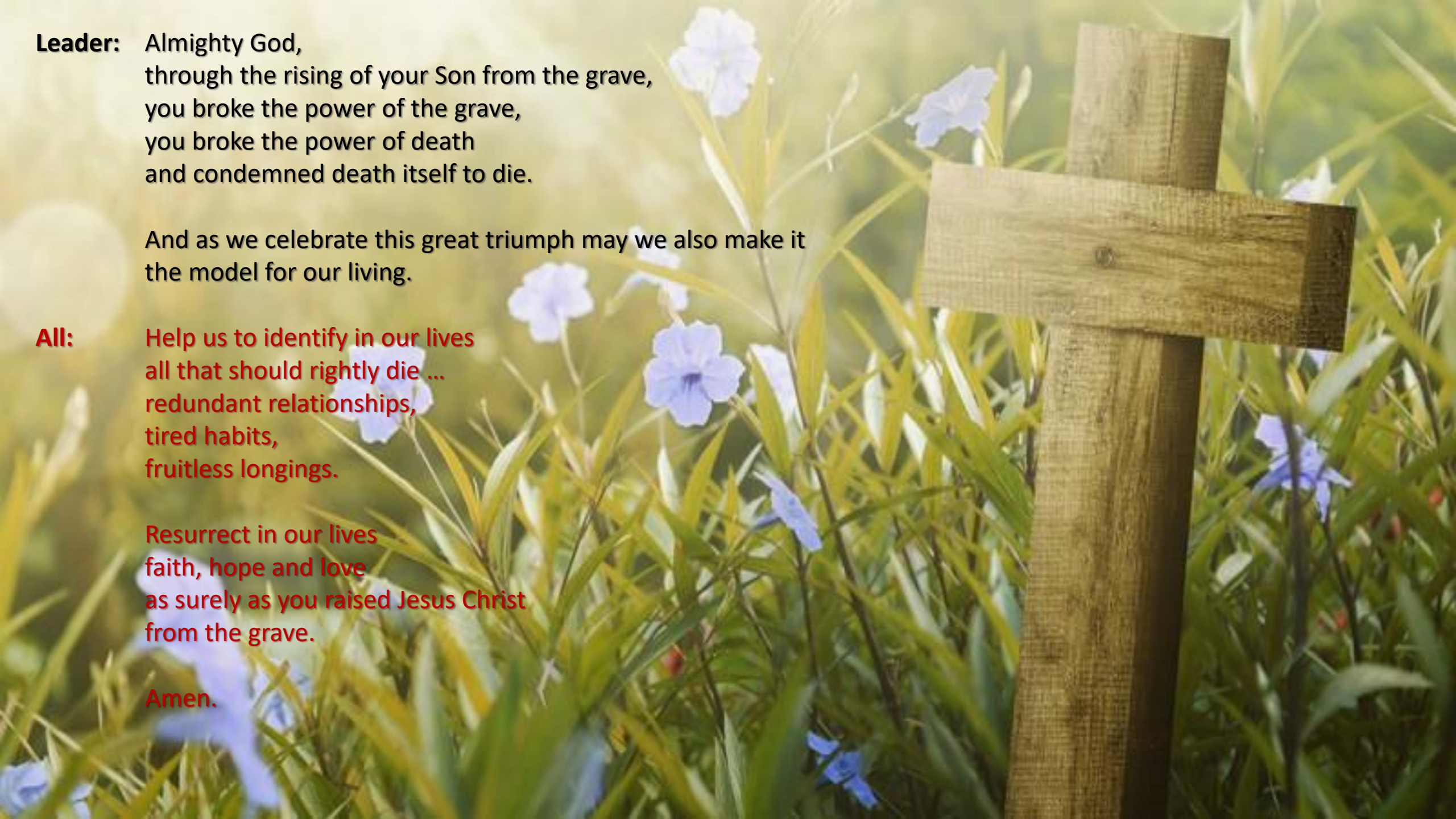
Will someone give him a decent burial?

Station 14: Jesus rises from the dead

Out of the darkness hope and goodness have shown. People of goodwill have mobilised.

Jesus has triumphed over evil and we must go on believing that indeed, the power of love and goodness will overcome the power of evil.

This is our fervent prayer for the people of Ukraine and Russia and for each one of us.



Leader: Almighty God,
through the rising of your Son from the grave,
you broke the power of the grave,
you broke the power of death
and condemned death itself to die.

And as we celebrate this great triumph may we also make it
the model for our living.

All: Help us to identify in our lives
all that should rightly die …
redundant relationships,
tired habits,
fruitless longings.

Resurrect in our lives
faith, hope and love
as surely as you raised Jesus Christ
from the grave.

Amen.