

**Singing Our Faith**  
**3rd Sunday of Easter – April 15, 2018**

Be Joyful, Mary



1. Be joy - ful, Mar - y, heav'n - ly Queen,  
 2. The Son you bore by heav - en's grace, Be joy - ful,  
 3. The Lord has ris - en from the dead, *Gau - de, Ma -*  
 4. Now pray to God, O Vir - gin fair,



Mar - y! Your grief is changed to joy se - rene,  
*rí - a!* Did by his death our guilt e - rase,  
 He rose in glo - ry as he said,  
 That he our souls to heav - en bear,



al - le - lu - ia!  
 al - le - lu - ia! Re - joice, re - joice, O Mar - y!  
 al - le - lu - ia! *Lae - tá - re, O Ma - rí - a!*  
 al - le - lu - ia!

Text: *Regina caeli, jubila*; Latin, 17th C.; tr. anon. in *Psallite*, 1901  
 Tune: REGINA CAELI, 8 5 8 4 7; Leisentritt's *Gesangbuch*, 1584, alt.

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One of the many things that sets Catholics apart from our brothers and sisters from other Christian denominations is our devotion to Mary. We recognize Mary as the Mother of God. Since she is the Mother of God, we know that, unlike other humans, she was conceived without sin to be a worthy vessel for Christ. Because of this, we have many prayers, hymns, and devotions to Mary in our Catholic tradition. It's important to know that we don't **worship** Mary (a common misconception); rather, since she is the greatest Saint among the Communion of Saints, we often ask for her intercession in prayer.

One of the traditional devotions to Mary is the "Four Marian Antiphons" or hymns to Mary. They are sung through the liturgical year at the conclusion of Night Prayer (Compline), a part of the Liturgy of the Hours. The Liturgy of the Hours is another significant part of our heritage that sadly isn't practiced to its full potential – but that's a different article. Anyway, the four Marian Antiphons with their appointed seasons are...

- **Alma Redemptoris Mater (Loving Mother of the Redeemer)**  
sung from Advent through Presentation of the Lord (Feb. 2)
- **Ave Regina Caelorum (Hail, Queen of Heaven)**  
from Presentation of the Lord through Good Friday
- **Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven, Rejoice)**  
during Easter Season
- **Salve Regina (Hail, Holy Queen)**

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from Trinity Sunday until the Saturday before Advent

Where am I going with all this? While we aren't singing the traditional "Regina Coeli" hymn for the Easter season, our closing hymn this Sunday "Be Joyful, Mary" is a translation of this antiphon text. Like the "At the Cross Her Station Keeping" (Stabat Mater) which looks at the Way of the Cross through the eyes of Mary, this hymn views the resurrection from Mary's perspective. It is a prayer that shares in Our Lady's joy of the resurrection; the fourth verse asks for her intercession that all souls will be united with her Son in Heaven.

For those who are interested, [click here for a YouTube video of the traditional Latin hymn "Regina Coeli."](#)

Let us continue rejoicing with Mary throughout the Easter season!

Stephen Eros

Director of Liturgy and Music