

To Scott Stroman and the Choir of the American Church in London

THE WORLD ITSELF KEEPS EASTER DAY

Words by
J. M. Neale* (1818–66)

Ernest Baker

Allegro moderato, con ritmo (♩ = 88)

SOPRANO
ALTO

f 1. The world it - self keeps East - er Day, And
mp 2. There stood three Ma - ries by the tomb, On
mf 3. But ear - lier still the An - gel sped, His
mp 4. But one, and one a - lone, re - mained, With
f 5. The world it - self keeps East - er Day, Saint

TENOR
BASS

3

East - er larks are sing - ing; And East - er flowers are
 East - er morn - ing ear - ly; When day had scarce - ly
 news of com - fort giv - ing; And 'Why,' he said, 'a -
 love that could not var - y; And thus a joy past
 Jo - seph's star is beam - ing; Saint Al - ice has her

6

bloom - ing gay, And East - er buds are spring - ing:
 chas'd the gloom, And dew_ was white and pear - ly:
 -mong the dead Thus seek_ ye for the liv - ing?
 joy she gained, That some - time sin - ner, Ma - ry:
 prim - rose gay, Saint Geor - ge's bells are gleam - ing:

*In Neale's text each verse had a concluding refrain of Alleluias, which has been substituted by 'Hosanna in excelsis.'
 (See his *Carols for Easter-Tide*, 1854, in the British Library.)