

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Charles Wesley · 1739 · Tune: Easter Hymn (Lyra Davidica (anon.))
Meter: 7.7.7.7 with Alleluias

Verse 1

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!
Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!
Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!
Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

Verse 2

Love's redeeming work is done, Alleluia!
Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia!
Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia!
Christ hath opened paradise, Alleluia!

Verse 3

Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia!
Where, O death, is now thy sting? Alleluia!
Once He died our souls to save, Alleluia!
Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!

Verse 4

Soar we now where Christ hath led, Alleluia!
Following our exalted Head, Alleluia!
Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia!
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!

History

Written by Charles Wesley in 1739, less than a year after his evangelical conversion, for the first service in the Wesleyan Foundery Chapel in London. The 'Alleluia' refrains were added by an editor to fit the anonymous tune from the 1708 collection 'Lyra Davidica.'

Scripture References (KJV)

Matthew 28:6

He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

1 Corinthians 15:55

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?