

Low in the Grave He Lay (Christ Arose!)

Robert Lowry · 1874 · Tune: Christ Arose (Robert Lowry)

Meter: Irregular with refrain

Verse 1

Low in the grave He lay, Jesus my Saviour,
Waiting the coming day, Jesus my Lord!

Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor from the dark domain,
And He lives forever with His saints to reign.
He arose! He arose! Hallelujah! Christ arose!

Verse 2

Vainly they watch His bed, Jesus my Saviour;
Vainly they seal the dead, Jesus my Lord!

Verse 3

Death cannot keep his prey, Jesus my Saviour;
He tore the bars away, Jesus my Lord!

History

Robert Lowry, a Baptist pastor and music editor, wrote both words and music in 1874 while reading Luke 24:6-8 during Easter season. The hushed minor verses give way to a triumphant major-key refrain — a musical depiction of the resurrection itself.

Scripture References (KJV)

Luke 24:6

He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee.

Acts 2:24

Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.