Christ Jesus Lay in Death’s Strong Band 367

 1 Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,

 for our offenses given;

 but now at God's right hand he stands

 and brings us life from heaven:

 therefore let us joyful be

 and sing God's praises thankfully

 with songs of alleluia!

 Alleluia!

 2 It was a strange and dreadful strife

 when life and death contended;

 the victory remained with life:

 the reign of death was ended.

 Stripped of pow'r, no more it reigns,

 an empty form alone remains;

 death's sting is lost forever!

 Alleluia!

 3 So let us keep the festival

 to which the Lord invites us;

 Christ is himself the joy of all,

 the sun that warms and lights us.

 Now his grace to us imparts

 eternal sunshine to our hearts;

 the night of sin is ended.

 Alleluia!

TEXT: Martin Luther (1524). Tr. Richard Massie (1854), alt.

TUNE: Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn (1524). Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (c. 1707)

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