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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