

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands

Hymnal 1982 no. 185, Melody: Christ lag in Todesbanden

Martin Luther (1483-1546)

tr. Richard Massie (1800-1887)

German, 1524



1. Christ Je-sus lay in death's strong bands for our of - fens-es giv - en;
2. It was a strange and dread - ful strife when life and death con - tend-ed;
3. So let us keep the fes - ti - val to which the Lord in - vites us;
4. Then let us feast this ho - ly day on the true bread of hea - ven;



but now at God's right hand he stands and brings us life from hea - ven;
the vic - to - ry re - mained with life, the reign of death was end - ed;
Christ is him - self the joy of all, the sun that warms and lights us;
the word of grace hath purged a - way the old and wick - ed lea - ven;



there - fore let us joy - ful be, and sing to God right thank-ful - ly
stripped of pow'r, no more he reigns, an emp - ty form a - lone re-mains;
by his grace he doth im - part e - ter - nal sun - shine to the heart;
Christ a - lone our souls will feed, he is our meat and drink in - deed;



loud songs of al - le - lu ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
his sting is lost for ev - er! Al - le - lu - ia!
the night of sin is end - ed! Al - le - lu - ia!
faith lives up - on no o - ther! Al - le - lu - ia!