

# 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!