

CHRIST Jesus lay in death's strong bands
For our offences given;
But now at God's right hand He stands,
And brings us life from Heaven:
Let us give thanks and joyful be,
And to our God sing gratefully
Loud songs of hallelujah!

2 It was a strange and dreadful strife,
When life and death contended;
The victory was gained for life,
The reign of death was ended:
Stripped of its power, no more it reigns:
An empty form alone remains;
Its sting is lost for ever.

3 Let us obey the gracious call
By which the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the joy of all,
The Sun Who warms and lights us;
In love and mercy He imparts
Eternal sunshine to our hearts;
The night of sin is ended.

4 Let us His people feast this day
On the true Bread of Heaven.
The word of grace has purged away
The old, corrupted leaven;
Now Christ alone our souls will feed,
He is our meat and drink indeed,
Faith lives upon no other.

*Martin Luther, 1483-1546,
tr Richard Massie, 1800-87‡*