

HYMN 30

Formerly August Hymn 4

Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands

Christ lag in Totesbanden

Latin melody, ca. 1100

1. Christ Je-sus lay in death's strong bands
for our of-fen-ces giv-en;
but now at God's right hand He stands
and brings us life from heav-en;
there-fore let us joy-ful be,
and sing to God right thank-ful-ly
loud songs of al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu-ia!

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff is in treble clef, and the subsequent six staves are in bass clef. The music is written in a simple, medieval style with a Latin melody. The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first line of the score is for the first verse, and the second line is for the second verse. The first verse ends with a double bar line.

2. It was a strange and dreadful strife
when life and death contended;
the victory remained with life,
the reign of death was ended;
Holy Scripture plainly says
His death has swallowed up our death;
its sting is lost forever! Alleluia!

3. Here the true Paschal Lamb we see,
whom God so freely gave us;
He died on the accursèd tree –
so strong His love – to save us;
see, His blood now marks our door;
faith points to it, death passes o'er,
and Satan cannot harm us. Alleluia!

4. So let us keep this holy day
to which the Lord invites us;
Christ is Himself the joy of all,
the Sun that warms and lights us;
by His grace He does impart
eternal sunshine to the heart;
the night of sin is ended. Alleluia!

5. Then let us feast this joyful day
on Christ the bread of heaven;
the Word of grace has purged away
the old and wicked leaven;
Christ alone our souls will feed,
He is our food and drink indeed;
faith lives upon no other. Alleluia!