

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain

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Attrib. to John of Damascus (c. 696-c. 754 C.E.)
 Transl. John Mason Neale, 1872; alt.

Exod. 15; Luke 24

1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness;
 2 Spring has dawned on earth to - day; Christ has burst from pris - on,
 3 Now the joy - ous sea - son, bright with the day of splen - dor,
 4 Nei - ther might the gates of death, nor the tomb's dim por - tal,

God has brought all Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness;
 And from three days' sleep in death as the sun has ris - en;
 With the roy - al feast of feasts, comes its joys to ren - der;
 Nor the watch - ers, nor the seal hold you as a mor - tal;

Loosed from Pha - raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
 All the win - ter of our sins, long and gray, is fly - ing
 Comes to glad Je - ru - sa - lem who with true af - fec - tion
 But to - day a - mid the twelve you still stand, be - stow - ing

Led them with un - moist-ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
 From the Light, to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
 Wel - comes in un - wear - ied strains Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion.
 Peace and joy which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.

Little is known of St. John of Damascus, an early Greek theologian, but his writings have survived. Among these are poems that have been made into hymns and some that have been integrated into Greek Orthodox liturgy.

Tune: ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D.
 Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7. with alleluias
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

The Day of Resurrection

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*John of Damascus, 8th century
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862: alt*

Mark 16:1-6

1 The day of res - ur - rec - tion! Earth, tell it out a - broad;
2 Our hearts be pure from e - vil, that we may see a - right
3 Now let the heavens be joy - ful, let earth its song be - gin,

the Pass - o - ver of glad - ness, the Pass - o - ver of God,
the Christ who reigns e - ter - nal in res - ur - rec - tion light;
the whole world keep high tri - umph, and all that is there - in:

From death to life e - ter - nal, from earth un - to the sky,
We lis - ten for the teach - ings once heard so calm and plain,
Let all things seen and un - seen their notes of glad - ness blend,

our Christ has brought us o - ver with hymns of vic - to - ry,
for we, too, want to fol - low and raise the vic - tor strain,
for Christ a - gain has ris - en, our joy that has no end.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of six systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal lines.

A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural canticle—was the source of this hymn. John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7 6.D
Henry T. Smart, 1836