

# Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today". It consists of four systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The music is written in common time (C) and features a mix of chords and melodic lines. The first system shows the beginning of the piece with a treble staff starting on a C4 and a bass staff on a C3. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The third system includes a key signature change to one sharp (F#) in the treble staff. The fourth system concludes the piece with a double bar line.

1. "Christ the Lord is risen today," *Alleluia!*  
sons of men and angels say. *Alleluia!*  
Raise your joys and triumphs high; *Alleluia!*  
sing, ye heavens, and earth reply! *Alleluia!* (♩)

2. Love's redeeming work is done,  
fought the fight, the battle won.  
Death in vain forbids him rise;  
Christ has opened paradise.

4. Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
unto Christ, our heavenly King,  
who endured the cross and grave,  
sinners to redeem and save.

3. Lives again our glorious King;  
where, O death, is now thy sting?  
Dying once, he all doth save;  
where thy victory, O grave?

5. Soar we now where Christ has led,  
following our exalted Head,  
made like him, like him we rise,  
ours the cross, the grave, the skies.

Words: st. 1-3, 5 1739 | Charles Wesley (1707-1788); st. 4 1749 | John Arnold, trans. from 14th c. Latin Music: *Easter Hymn* 1708 | *Lyra Davidica*, adapt. 1749 | *The Compleat Psalmist* 77. 77 with Alleluias  
In 1739 Wesley came across *Lyra Davidica*, a hymn collection "set to easy and pleasant tunes," aiming to provide music "a little freer than the grave movement of the psalm tunes." In it Wesley found *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*, a mediaeval Easter hymn, from the Latin *Surrexit Christus Hodie*, and he discovered with it the glorious tune called *Easter Hymn*. Wesley kept the tune, and wrote his own text, using the one he had found as a model. Both hymns are in wide use today (see Trinity hymnal no. 273).