305 Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!



This text was the winner in a hymn competition sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Bicentennial Committee for the 1988–1989 observance, which had the theme "Celebrate the Journey." The late 18th-century tune (first used with Psalm 148) is appropriately celebratory.

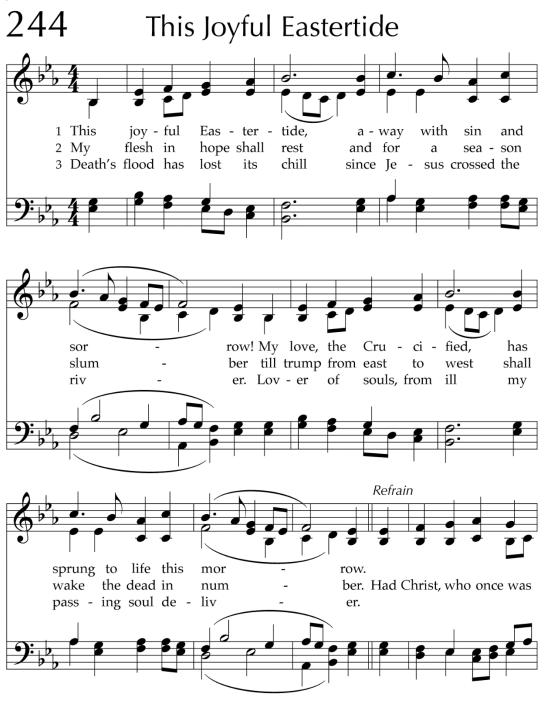
1 Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!

Refrain:
In bold accord,
come celebrate the
journey now
and praise the Lord!

2 Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme, empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream! (Refrain)

3 Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide, as we in mission magnify the Crucified! (Refrain)

4 Come sing, O church, in joy!
Come join, O church, in song!
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long! (Refrain)



The verbal and musical elements of this hymn mesh so well because the words were written to fit this Dutch tune (whose name means "fruits"). The news of Christ's resurrection is joyfully conveyed by the ever-higher phrases and final cascade of notes at the end of the refrain.



1. This joyful Eastertide, away with sin and sorrow!My love, the Crucified, has sprung to life this morrow.

Refrain

Had Christ, who once was slain,
not burst his three-day prison,
our faith had been in vain.

But now has Christ arisen, arisen, arisen.

2. My flesh in hope shall rest and for a season slumber till trump from east to west shall wake the dead in number.

Refrain

3. Death's flood has lost its chill since Jesus crossed the river.Lover of souls, from ill my passing soul deliver.

Refrain

Go, My Children, with My Blessing 547



Because this Welsh melody usually sets evening texts, the author was asked to create one for use in daytime. His recasting of the Aaronic blessing in Numbers 6:22–27 imagines that passage as a benediction that might be spoken by God at the conclusion of a worship service.

1 "Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you, you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing, you are my own."

2 "Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure."

3 "Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me.
Grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here my tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,

joyful and free."