

# CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

*Charles Wesley, Lyrics, 1739; Tune: EASTER HYMN, Anonymous, 1708*

**“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”** is a Christian hymn associated with Easter. Most of the stanzas were written by Charles Wesley, and the hymn appeared under the title, **“Hymn for Easter Day”** in **“Hymns and Sacred Songs”** by Charles and John Wesley in 1739.

The tune most often associated with this hymn, and the one this arrangement is based on, is the hymn tune: EASTER HYMN (either the original published in the **“Lyra Davidica”** or an alternative arrangement by William Henry Monk). However, many, also, list **“Christ the Lord Is Risen Today”** to be sung to one of the following, as well, the anonymous tune: NASSAU (first found in a late 17th-century German book of sacred tunes), to the tune: GWALCHMAI by Welsh composer Joseph David Jones, or to the tune Llanfair, by another Welsh composer,

Charles Wesley wrote this hymn in celebration of the first service of London's first Wesleyan Chapel. This chapel was known as the Foundry Meeting House, as it was a deserted foundry. Charles Wesley purchased the building to house his growing number of converts. It remains a traditional processional hymn on Easter Sunday, having been published in almost 1000 hymnals under many titles to include, **“Resurrection”**, **“Christ is Risen”**, **“Christ Rising”**, **“The Lord is Risen”**, and more.

Both, Charles and his brother, John, were leaders of the evangelical revival in the Church of England in the eighteenth century, which eventually evolved into the Methodist church. Charles wrote over 9000 hymns and poems in his lifetime. Some of his better-known works include **“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”**, **“Amazing Love”**, **“Love Divine All Loves Excelling”**, **“Oh for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”**, and **“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”**.

The **“Lyra Davidica”** (**“the Harp of David”**) was a collection of Divine songs and hymns”, partly newly composed, partly translated from the **“High German and Latin Hymns”**; and set to easy and pleasant tunes. This was put together by John Baptist Walsh in 1708, at a time when the Anglican Church was heavily influenced by German evangelism.

~ Tull