

# When The Congregation Learned to Sing: German Hymnody in the Wake of the Reformation

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## Week #2 (September 17): The Song Year and Advances in Congregational Hymns

- Luther's "commentary" on *Christ is Arisen*: Trinity #279: *Christ lag in Todesbanden / Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands* (1524) [Martin Luther, 1483-1546]

<p>2. Den Tod niemand zwingen konnt bei allen Menschenkindern; das macht alles unsre Sünd, kein Unschuld war zu finden. Davon kam der Tod so bald und nahm über uns Gewalt, hielt uns in seim Reich gefangen. Halleluja.</p>	<p><i>LSB:</i> 2. No son of man could conquer death, such ruin sin had wrought us. No innocence was found on earth, and therefore death had brought us into bondage from of old and ever grew more strong and bold and held us as its captive. Hallelujah</p>	<p><i>Literal:</i> 2. No one could subdue death among all of humanity's children; our sin caused all this, no innocence could be found. Hence death came so swiftly and seized power over us, holding us captive in its kingdom. Hallelujah</p>
<p>3. Jesus Christus, Gottes Sohn, an unser Statt ist kommen und hat die Sünd abgetan, damit dem Tod genommen all sein Recht und sein Gewalt; da bleibt nichts denn Tods Gestalt, den Stachel hat er verloren. Halleluja</p>	<p>3. Christ Jesus, God's own Son, came down His people to deliver. Destroying sin, he took the crown from death's pale brow forever. Stripped of power, no more it reigns; an empty form alone remains; its sting is lost forever. Hallelujah</p>	<p>3. Jesus Christ, God's Son, came in our stead and did away with sin, thus taking from death all its rights and power; now nothing remains but the form of death, it has lost its sting. Hallelujah</p>

- A Protestant *Leis* that never made it into a Luther hymnal: Trinity #102: *Allein Gott in der Höh' sei Ehr' / All Glory Be To Thee, Most High* (1522) [Nicolaus Decius, 1483-1546]
- A Christmas sequence and Luther's expansion of it: *Grates nunc omnes* Christmas sequence and *Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ* as Luther's appropriation. *O Jesus Christ, All Praise to Thee* [handout] and Trinity #219 *All Praise to Thee, Eternal Lord* (alternate texts and melody)

Latin sequence (11 <sup>th</sup> c.)	English:	Low German <i>Leis</i> (late 14 <sup>th</sup> c.)	High German rendering (16 <sup>th</sup> c.)	English
Grates nunc omnes reddamus Domino Deo, qui sua nativitate nos liberavit de diabolica potestate. Huic oportet ut canamus cum angelis semper gloria in excelsis	Let us now all return thanks to the Lord God, who by his nativity freed us from the devil's power, For this it is right that we sing with the angels, "Forever let there be glory in the highest	Lovet sistu Ihesu Crist dat du <b>hude</b> [=today] ghebaren bist, van eyner maghet. Dat is war. Des frow sik alde hemmlische schar. Kyrieleis	Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ, dass du Mensch geboren bist, von einer Jungfrau, das ist wahr. Des freuet sich der Engel Schar! Kyrieleis	May you be praised, Lord Jesus Christ, that you were born a human being, from a virgin, that is true. Therefore the host of angels rejoices! Kyrie eleison

- Building a corpus of vernacular hymns and early hymnals
  - Luther's *Ein neues Lied wir heben an* (~August 1523)
  - The *Achtliederbuch*; Jobst Gutknecht, Nuremberg, 1524 – 8 hymns, half by Luther
  - The Erfurt *Enchiridia*; Mattes Maler and Johannes Loersfeld (25 hymns, 18 by Luther; 16 tunes, 1524 ); Erfurt, 1524
  - Johann Walter's *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyen* aka *Chorgesangbuch*; Joseph Klug, Christian Döring, Lucas Cranach; Wittenberg, 1524

Two (actually four!) texts, one melody:

- From depths of woe I raise to Thee / the voice of lamentation / Lord, turn a gracious ear to me and hear my supplication
- Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice, / with exultation springing, / and with united heart and voice / and holy rapture singing

- From the Lutheran chorale to the cantata: Johann Sebastian Bach's *Christ lag in Todesbanden* (BWV 4)

# O Jesus Christ, All Praise to Thee

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L M with Alleluia

Gelobet seist du, Jesu Christ

Latin, 11th cent.

German, 1370, st. 1; M. Luther, 1483-1546, sts. 2-7

Tr. A. T. Russell, 1806-74

GELOBET SEIST DU, JESU CHRIST

German melody, 15th cent.

1. O Je - sus Christ, all praise to Thee, Thou who art pleased a  
2. Th'e - ter - nal Fa - ther's on - ly Son Now takes a man - ger  
3. He whom the world can - not en - close In Mar - y's bos - om  
4. Th'e - ter - nal Light to us de - scends, Its bright - ness to the

Man to be; To dwell with men Thou dost not scorn, And  
for His throne: The ev - er - last - ing fount of good, As -  
doth re - pose; To be a lit - tle Child He deigns Who  
earth it lends, And pure - ly shines up - on our night, To

an - gels shout to see Thee born, Al - le - lu - ia.  
sumes our mor - tal flesh and blood. Al - le - lu - ia.  
all things by Him - self sus - tains. Al - le - lu - ia.  
make us chil - dren of the light. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

5. The only Son, true God confessed,  
To His own world now comes a Guest;  
And through this vale of tears our Guide,  
Doth in His heav'n our home provide.  
Alleluia.

6. In poorest guise to us He came,  
Himself He bears our sin and shame,  
That, as His heirs in heav'n above,  
We may with angels share His love.  
Alleluia.

7. His love to show, surpassing thought!  
God's Son this wondrous work hath wrought;  
Then let us all unite to raise  
Our song of glad, unceasing praise.  
Alleluia.