

# Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands

Harmony by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750

Christ lag in Todesbanden  
87.87.78.74

The first system of musical notation consists of five measures. It features a treble clef on the upper staff and a bass clef on the lower staff. The key signature has one sharp (F#). The melody in the treble clef begins with a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. There are various accidentals and phrasing slurs throughout the system.

The second system of musical notation consists of five measures, starting with a measure rest in the treble clef. The bass line continues with quarter notes D4, E4, F4, and G4. The treble clef has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

The third system of musical notation consists of five measures, starting with a measure rest in the treble clef. The bass line has a half note G3, followed by quarter notes A3, B3, and C4. The treble clef has a half note G4, followed by quarter notes A4, B4, and C5. The system concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Christ Jesus lay in death's strong bands,  
For our offenses given;  
But now at God's right hand He stands,  
And brings us life from Heaven.  
Wherefore let us joyful be,  
And sing to God right thankfully  
Loud songs of Alleluia! Alleluia!

It was a strange and dreadful strife  
When life and death contended;  
The victory remained with life;  
The reign of death was ended.  
Stripped of power, no more it reigns,  
An empty form alone remains  
Death's sting is lost forever! Alleluia!

So let us keep the festival  
Where to the Lord invites us;  
Christ is Himself the joy of all,  
The Sun that warms and lights us.  
By His grace He doth impart  
Eternal sunshine to the heart;  
The night of sin is ended! Alleluia!

Then let us feast this Easter day  
On the true Bread of Heaven;  
The Word of grace hath purged away  
The old and wicked leaven.  
Christ alone our souls will feed;  
He is our Meat and Drink indeed;  
Faith lives upon no other! Alleluia!

Martin Luther