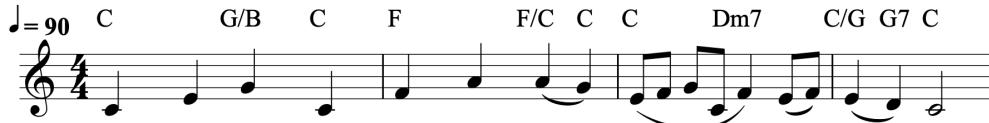


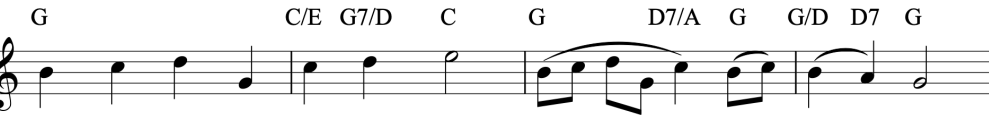
Christ the Lord is Risen Today



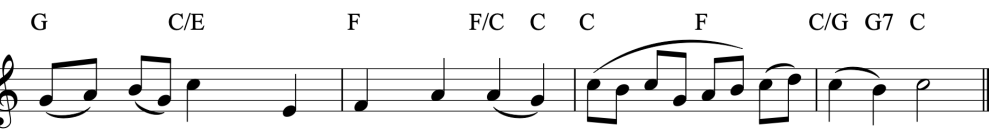
1. Christ the Lord is ris'n to - day. Al - le - lu - ia!
 2. Lives a - gain our glo - rious King. Al - le - lu - ia!
 3. Love's re - deem - ing work is done. Al - le - lu - ia!
 4. Soar we now where Christ has led. Al - le - lu - ia!



Sons of men and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where, O death, is now thy sting? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fol - l'wing our ex - alt - ed Head. Al - le - lu - ia!



Raise your joys and tri - umphs high. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Once He died, our souls to save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Death in vain for - bids Him rise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Made like Him, like Him we rise. Al - le - lu - ia!



Sing, ye heav'ns, and earth, re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!
 Where's thy vic - t'ry, boast - ing grave? Al - le - lu - ia!
 Christ hath o - pened par - a - dise. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies. Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ the Lord is Risen Today is arguably the Easter Sunday hymn. At least, that was hymn-writer Charles Wesley's original title for it in 1739, though he could have never dreamed how popular it would become.

The hymn is intentionally written and designed for Easter Sunday. Its lyrics, of course, don't ponder a moment of suffering or the cross, but boldly celebrate the Resurrection. Wesley wrote the lyrics with an older, very similar hymn and tune in mind: "Jesus Christ is Risen Today, Alleluia!" Though the "alleluia" wasn't included in his original lyrics, it was added back in by the 19th century. The use of that word after every line reveals the joy intended in response to Christ's defeat of death. To highlight that glorious turn from sorrow to joy, some churches still today will avoid singing any songs with "alleluia" or "hallelujah" in them all throughout Lent. Then, on Easter morning, this specific hymn opens the floodgates with praise.

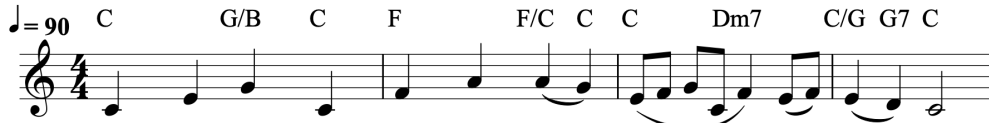
Think also about how the word "today" sets the tone for the whole hymn. "Today" at the beginning makes it seem like we are standing before the empty tomb itself; but in the final verse, "soar we now where Christ has led," and, "like Him we rise." Thus poetically, "today" is both the day of Christ's return and our own resurrection! This hymn brings those truths crashing into what can feel like endless days of waiting and reminds us that our hope in the risen Christ is ever-present and still sure to come.

The music itself soars through a high range and an exciting, triumphant melody. That melodic movement on each "alleluia" is called a melisma, which harkens back to medieval church worship, when a cantor (song leader) would chant a hymn and the people would respond. All together, the music and lyrics help God's people praise Him for Christ's glorious resurrection, without which Paul says "our faith is futile" and "we are most to be pitied...but in fact, Christ has been raised." Alleluia!

Scripture to consider:

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|---------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Job 19:25-27 | Ezekiel 37 | Revelation 19, 21 |
| Psalms 49, 71 | Jonah 2 | |
| Isaiah 26, 53 | 1 Corinthians 15 | |

Christ the Lord is Risen Today



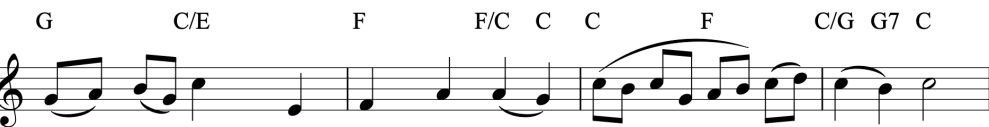
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