

Christ, Thou Who Art Both Day and Light

Christe, der du bist Tag und Licht

Attr. Ambrose of Milan, 4th c.

German Version: Wolfgang Musculus, 1527

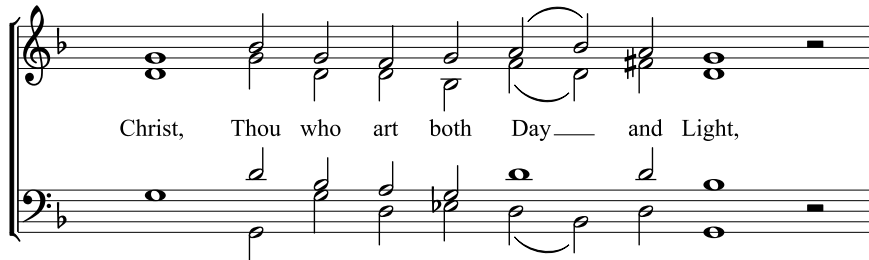
Tr. Christopher J. Neuendorf, 2014

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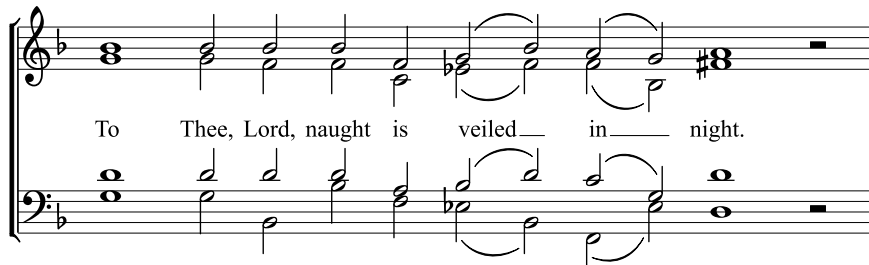
Christe qui lux es et dies

Plainchant, 4th c.

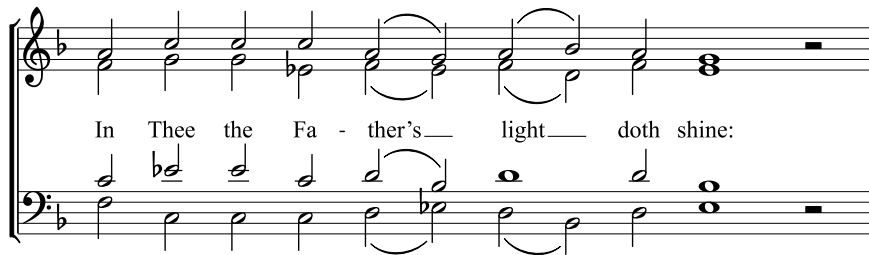
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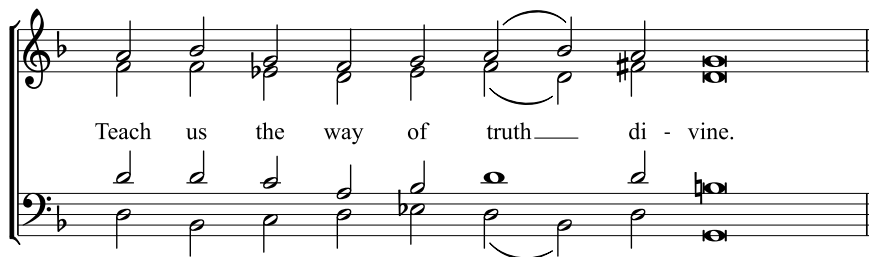
Christ, Thou who art both Day — and Light,



To Thee, Lord, naught is veiled — in — night.



In Thee the Fa - ther's — light — doth shine:



Teach us the way of truth — di - vine.

- 2 We pray Thee in Thy heav'nly might
That Thou wouldst keep us, Lord, this night.
Preserve us, Lord, from all distress,
God Father, in Thy kindness.
- 3 Drive off, Lord Christ, all troubled sleep;
The foe's devices from us keep;
In decency our flesh be pure;
Then we'll be free of ev'ry care.
- 4 Though closed in sleep our eyes may be,
Grant that our hearts may wake to Thee.
Be God our Shield with His right hand,
And loose us from the bonds of sin.
- 5 O Lord, Thou Shield of Christian folk,
Be ever ready with Thy help;
Deliver us, Lord God, from dread,
Through Thy five holy wounds of red.
- 6 Remember, Lord, the troubled times
In which our body bounden lies;
To souls which Thou hast justified,
Thy comfort, Jesus, be supplied.
- 7 To God the Father be all praise,
Which also to His Son we raise,
And to the Spirit praises be
From now unto eternity.

“Christ, Thou Who Art Both Day and Light” (*Christe, der du bist Tag und Licht*) is a translation by Reformed theologian Wolfgang Musculus from the fourth-century Latin Ambrosian hymn, “*Christe qui lux set et dies*,” which was traditionally sung during compline at the close of the day. The German version made its way into Lutheran hymnals, where it was accompanied at times by the original plainchant melody, and at times by a simplified version of the melody. In Valentin Babst’s *Geystliche Lieder*, Leipzig, 1545, it is included among those ancient hymns “which we have also included as a witness to certain pious Christians who lived before us in the great darkness of false doctrine, that one may see that there have always been people who rightly confessed Christ, and were wonderfully kept by God’s grace in the same confession.”

For the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book, we have chosen to use the form of the plainchant melody as it appears in Babst’s *Geystliche Lieder*. Elements of arrangements by Lucas Osiander, 1586, and Friedrich Layriz, 1854, have been combined to yield the present result, but great liberty had to be taken, since neither source agrees entirely with the melody as found in Babst. This may therefore be considered a new arrangement.

“*Christe qui lux est et dies*” appears in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, no. 559, as “O Christ, Who Art the Light and Day,” translated by William J. Copeland from the Latin original. For the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book, we have chosen to translate instead from the German version. The text and music here provided may be freely used and reproduced for any purpose whatever, and are offered with the prayer that they may serve for the edification of Christian people everywhere. For more information, visit the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book at:

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The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book

presents

Christ, Thou Who Art Both Day and Light

by

Wolfgang Musculus

and translated by

Christopher J. Neuendorf

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