

The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book

presents

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

by

Martin Luther

and translated by

Leonard Woolsey Bacon

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In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin
Martin Luther, 1524
Tr. Leonard Woolsey Bacon, 1884, alt.

8.5.8.4.7.7

Mit Fried und Freud
Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn
Wittenberg, 1524
Arr. Friedrich Layriz, 1854, alt.

In peace and joy I now de - part At

God's dis - pos - ing; For full of com - fort is my

heart, Soft re - pos - ing, So the Lord hath

pro - mised me, My death is but a slum - ber.

- 2 'Tis Christ that wrought this work for me,
My faithful Savior,
Whom Thou hast made mine eyes to see
By Thy favor.
Now I know He is my life,
My help in need and dying.
- 3 Him Thou hast unto all set forth
Their great Salvation
And to His kingdom called the earth,
Ev'ry nation,
By Thy dear and wholesome Word,
In ev'ry place resounding.
- 4 He is the Hope and saving Light
Of lands benighted;
By Him are they who dwell in night
Fed and lighted.
He is Israel's Praise and Bliss,
Their Joy, Reward, and Glory.

Martin Luther wrote “In Peace and Joy I Now Depart” (“*Mit Fried und Freud ich fahr dahin*”) in 1524 as a metrical setting of Luke 2:29–32, the Nunc Dimittis, sung by Simeon upon seeing the infant Christ in the temple. The occasion for writing was probably the Feast of the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord (February 2), the liturgical commemoration of the events of Luke 2:22–39. In later hymnals, “In Peace and Joy I Now Depart” was consistently given as a hymn for the Presentation.

The melody appeared with the text in Johann Walter’s polyphonic hymn collection, *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524. It was probably written by Luther himself. The form of the melody provided here is that found in Valentin Babst, *Geystliche Lieder*, Leipzig, 1545.

The translation here provided is that of Leonard Woolsey Bacon, *Dr. Martin Luther’s Deutsche Geistliche Lieder*, 1884, as slightly altered for *The Lutheran Hymnal*, 1941, in which “In Peace and Joy I Now Depart” is found as #137. I have made one further alteration, changing “And” to “My” at the beginning of the last line of the first stanza.

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