

# To Us Is Born This Day a Child

*Uns ist ein Kindlein heut geboren*

8.8. 8.8. 8.8.

*Uns ist ein Kindlein heut geboren*

Anon., c. 1600

Bartholomäus Gesius, 1601

Tr. Christopher J. Neuendorf, 2014

Arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609

To us is born this day a Child, Of chos-en

vir-gin mo-ther mild, True man is He, true

God in-deed, To help us free from ev-ry need.

He shall be called the Prince of Peace;

Through Him we find re-deem-ing grace.

- 2 What more could God for us have done  
Than that He send to us His Son,  
Who from us men did take away  
All sins that o'er us held their sway,  
Redeemed us from all sin and pain,  
Wherein we else would e'er remain?
- 3 Rejoice thou worthy Christendom,  
To God with thanks unending come,  
But hate all sin, each wicked thought,  
Wherefrom thou hast been dearly bought:  
Fear thou thy God, and undefiled  
Bring glory to the newborn child.

The text “To Us Is Born This Day a Child” (“*Uns ist ein Kindlein heut geboren*”), whose author is unknown, first appeared in Bartholomäus Gesius, *Geistliche deutsche Lieder*, Frankfurt an der Oder, 1601, p. 16a, in three stanzas. From there it was adopted into Johann Crüger’s hymnal, *Newes vollkömliches Gesangbuch Augspurgischer Confession*, Berlin, 1640, as well as his popular and influential hymnal for church and home, *Praxis Pietatis Melica*, beginning with the third edition in 1648 and continuing for the nearly one hundred years of that hymnal’s publication.

In Crüger’s hymnals, the tune given for “To Us Is Born This Day a Child” is Luther’s “*Vater unser im Himmelreich*” (“Our Father, Thou in Heaven Above”). For the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book, we have used the melody prepared by Gesius for the hymn’s debut in print. Gesius developed his melody from that for “*Dankt dem Herrn heut und allezeit*,” better known today as the melody for “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide” (“*Ach bleib bei uns*”), adapting the four-line melody for use with the six-line text by repeating the first two lines. Rather than the four-part arrangement provided by Gesius himself, for the Free Lutheran Chorale-Book we have used the beautifully simple arrangement by Michael Praetorius, *Musae Sioniae*, vol. 6, Wolfenbüttel, 1609, No. 49.

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## The Free Lutheran Chorale-Book

*presents*

# To Us Is Born This Day a Child

*by*

## A Pious Christian of Old

*with a musical arrangement by*

Michael Praetorius

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