

CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY



Doesn't this tune SOUND like a CELEBRATION – even before you read the words that tell about the most joyous event of our Christian Year: CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER DEATH – HIS RESURRECTION!

“Alleluias” have been used almost since the beginning of worship as an expression of praise, coming from two Hebrew words meaning, “Praise Ye the Lord; the Lord’s name be Praised”. It was a popular Methodist custom in the 1700’s to add “Alleluias” to hymns, so that Charles Wesley’s original text on the Resurrection was augmented by just such an “Alleluia” refrain.

Sing the Alleluias. How many are alike in pitch? _____

How many of the Alleluias are alike in rhythm? _____

How many are alike in melodic intervals? _____

Try singing the soprano with each of the other parts. Notice especially what happens when the soprano and bass are sung together. Do the frequent thirds give a feeling of strength or weakness to the music?

The music helps to interpret the joy of the Resurrection by using the brightness of major chords, an upward reaching melodic line, and a vital rhythm. If you were attempting to interpret the meaning of the resurrection, how would you do it with music? with words? with art? with movement? Choose one of these means of interpreting the Resurrection event to share with others of your choir.

The last stanza of Wesley’s hymn is often deleted:

“King of glory! Soul of bliss!
Everlasting life is this,
Thee to know, Thy power to prove,
Thus to sing, and thus to love.”

How important do you think it is for lines of hymn texts to rhyme? What strong texts can you think of that do not rhyme? List some of these texts which have been set to music in anthem or hymn form:

Each new day of a Christian’s life should begin with the feeling of RESURRECTION – the certainty that we are God’s – and that God is the master of life and death!

Alleluia!