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CHRIST THE LORD IS RISEN TODAY

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

**“I am the First and the Last, I am the Living one; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!”
(Revelation 1:17, 18)**

What a glorious truth to ponder-Jesus is not the “Great I WAS” but rather the “Great I AM!” He is not only a historical fact but a present-day, living reality. The whole system of Christianity rests upon the truth that Jesus Christ rose from the grave and is now seated at the Father’s right hand as our personal advocate.

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today” has been one of the church’s most popular Easter hymns since it was first written by Charles Wesley just one year after his “heart-warming” experience at the Aldersgate Hall in London, England in 1738. The first Wesleyan Chapel in London was deserted iron foundry. It became known as the Foundry Meeting House. This hymn was written by Charles for the first service in that chapel.

Following his Aldersgate encounter with Christ, Charles began writing numerous hymns on every phase of the Christian experience, some 6,500 in all. It has been said that the hymns of Charles Wesley clothed Christ in flesh and blood and gave converts a belief they could easily grasp, embrace with personal faith, and if necessary, even die for.

If all of our eternity is to be realized on this side of the grave, we are hopeless and to be pitied (1 Corinthians 15:19). But for the Christian, the resurrection assures us of God’s tomorrow. This anticipation makes it possible to live joyfully today, regardless of life’s circumstances.

- ♪ **Christ the Lord is ris’n today, Alleluia! Sons of men and angels say: Alleluia! Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia! Sing, ye hea’ns, and earth reply: Alleluia!**
- ♪ **Lives again our glorious King, Alleluia! Where, O death, is now thy sting Alleluia! Dying once He all doth save, Alleluia! Where thy victory, O grave? Alleluia!**
- ♪ **Love’s redeeming work is done, Alleluia! Fought the fight, the battle won, Alleluia! Death in vain forbids Him rise, Alleluia! Christ has opened Paradise, Alleluia!**
- ♪ **Soar we know where Christ has led, Alleluia! Following our exalted Head, Alleluia! Made like Him, like Him we rise, Alleluia! Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Alleluia!**

For Today: Matthew 28:1-9; Acts 2:24-28; 1 Corinthians 15:4, 20; 55-57

The message of the resurrection is to “come and see” – to personally experience the transforming power of the living Christ. Then – “to go and tell.” Carry this hymn of triumph with you. AMEN.

**~Amazing Grace – 366 Devotional Hymn
by Kenneth W. Osbeck**

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:18 – 20

