

Little is known of St. John of Damascus, an early Greek theologian, but his writings have survived. Among these are poems that have been made into hymns and some that have been integrated into Greek Orthodox liturgy.

Tune: ST. KEVIN 7.6.7.6.D. Arthur S. Sullivan, 1872

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708 John of Damascus, 8th century Transl. John Mason Neale, 1862; alt. Mark 16:1-6



A Greek canon—an extended poem of eight or nine odes, each based on a scriptural cannele—was the source of this hymn. John of Damascus gave up a high government position to enter a monastery.

Tune: LANCASHIRE 7.6.7 6.D. Henry T. Smart, 1836