

This Day at Thy Creating Word

WILLIAM W. HOW (1871)

JOHN H. MAUNDER (ca. 1897)

1. This day at Thy cre - a - ting Word first
 2. This day the Lord for sin - ners slain in
 3. This day the Ho - ly Spi - rit came with

o'er the earth the light was poured;
 might vic - tor - ious rose a - gain;
 fier - y tongues of clo - ven flame;

○ Lord, this day up - on us shine and
 ○ Je - sus may we rais - ed be from
 ○ Spi - rit, fill our hearts this day with

Tune: MARTHAM
 8.8.8.8.

fill our souls with light di - vine.
 death of sin to life in Thee!
 grace to hear and grace to pray.

4. O day of light and life and grace,
 from earthly toil sweet resting place,
 thy hallowed hours, blest gift of love,
 give we again to God above.
5. All praise to God the Father be,
 all praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
 whom, with the Spirit, we adore
 forever and forevermore.

William Walsham How (1823-1897) captures the multiple layers of our Sunday joy when we delight in God's *new* creation. Sunday echoes the first day of creation when God spoke a word and light filled the cosmos (Genesis 1:3-4, which echoes through John 1:1-4), the first day of the week when Jesus rose in victorious life over death (John 20), and those glad festival days of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit stirred the disciples' worship "with grace to hear and grace to pray" (Acts 2). The final verse is a beautiful praise to the Trinitarian God who continues to bless us on this "day of light and life and grace."

MARTHAM by John Henry Maunder (1858-1920) is a lovely, though neglected melody, which lifts out the buoyant final line in each verse. The well-known, spirited CANONBURY is another good tune for "This Day at Thy Creating Word," and some hymnals wed this hymn to the tune WINCHESTER NEW.