# Preface

## The Historico-Liturgical Background

Introduction

A Leise is a non-polyphonic folk-hymn that ends with a melodic formula whose text is "kyrie eleison," "kyrio-leis," "kirleis," or "krles." The earliest existing Leise that we know of comes from Europe during the Middle Ages.

Leisen were first used for processions. The earliest forerunners of the Leisen, the isolated "Kyrie" cries, were used throughout the Middle Ages, particularly during the transportation of a body to a tomb. For example, in the year 819, the fervent disciples of St. Boniface carried his sarcophagus from Mainz to Fulda singing "Kyrie eleison," and in the year 836, upon the removal of the body of St. Liborius from Mans (France) to Paderborn (Germany), the people sang "Kyrie eleison" while the monks chanted Latin psalms and hymns. Leise-like songs were also sung during the processions of the Geissler, a penitential lay-confraternity. In a report of 1349 we find:

They had the most precious banners of velvet cloth, raw and smooth, and of canopy, the best ones which one might have. They had maybe ten or eight or six banners and maybe as many candles, which people carried in front of them. Wherever they went, to towns or villages, they were greeted with the bells ringing. They followed the banners in couples or in pairs, wearing coats, and two or four of them sang a Leise. The Leise was:

Nu ist die betevart so her, Crist reit selber gen Jerusalem, Er vuert ein Kreuze an siner hant: Nu helfe uns der heilant: Kyrioleis. 4

Although there are Leisen in the Dutch and Czech languages, most are in German, and it is with these German Leisen that this edition is concerned. During the Reformation and Counter Reformation some of the medieval "kyrie eleison" formulae (both melodies and texts) were retained. However, some Leisen were changed by the substitution of such endings as "Alleluia," "Alleluia, gelobet sey Gott und Maria," and "Herr Gott erbarme dich unser." These and many other endings were the re-

sult of contemporary Reformation and Counter Reformation needs.9

The German Leisen repertory consists of the following twelve hymn tunes and the texts that are always associated with them:

Also heilig ist der Tag (1)
Christ ist erstanden (3, 4, 5, 13, 14, 18)
Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot (2)
Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ (8)
Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet (7, 10)
In Gottes namen faren wir (17)
Jesus Christus Vnser Heiland, der den Tod
überwand (14)
Mensch willst du leben seliglich
Mitten wir im leben sind (6)
Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist (9, 15)
O du armer Judas
Sei willkommen Herre Christ

The present edition is concerned with the polyphonic Renaissance settings of the Leisen texts and tunes in which the Leise melody functions as a cantus firmus. For example, the settings of "Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot" (2) and "Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet" (10) in this edition illustrate a straightforward presentation of the Leise cantus firmus in the tenor parts. In both of these settings, the Leise tenors present nothing but the Leise tune itself; moreover, in order to accentuate the importance of the Leise tenor, its entrance is delayed by a number of measures while the other voices initiate their statements. Renaissance polyphonic settings of Leisen are typically for four or more voices, and in all of the polyphonic settings of this edition, the melodic material for all voices is derived from the Leise tunes. Sometimes, however, this melodic material shows a certain motivic independence from the cantus firmus, as may be seen in the initial statement in the bass part of "Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet"

The Leise settings presented in this edition were chosen for the following reasons. (1) To include settings of the Leisen that have not been previously published, such as, "Also heilig ist der Tag"[1], "Es giengen drey frauen" [5], "Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet" [10], "Christus surrexit" [12], "Jesus Christus Vnser Heiland" [14], and "In Gottes na-

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men faren wir" [17]. (2) To include settings that contain simultaneous use of Leisen texts and Latin texts (see below). (3) To include compositions by composers whose works are not easily available in modern practical editions, such as Braetel, Daser, Hemmel, Rasch, Raselius, and Regnart. Therefore, together with settings of such relatively wellknown Leisen as "Christ ist erstanden," this edition also includes typical cantus firmus settings of lesserknown Leise texts and tunes by lesser-published composers of the Renaissance era. That they are lesser known does not imply that these texts and tunes are of lesser significance or that the lesserpublished composers are of secondary importance. It means only that the Leise texts and tunes connected with the main church festivals-"Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ" (Christmas), "Christ ist erstanden" (Easter), and "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" (Pentecost)-have been sung more frequently than, for instance, the processional Leisen ("Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet" and "In Gottes namen faren wir") or the didactic Leisen ("Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot" and "Mensch willst du leben seliglich"). The transcription of such lesserknown Leise settings in the present edition is in-tended to fill the gap created by the fact that they are not included in existing historical editions in modern notation. (Such modern transcriptions do include settings of "Mensch willst du leben seliglich," "O du armer Judas," and "Sei willkommen Herre Christ," the three Leise texts and tunes not represented in the present edition.)

# The General Leise Repertory

As has been stated above, the German Leise repertory consists of twelve hymn tunes and their associated texts. The following musical examples give monophonic statements of each melody in the German *Leise* repertory.™ The melody of "Also heilig ist der Tag" is:11



The melody of "Christ ist erstanden" is:12



The melody of "Dys synd die heylgen zehn ge-



The melody of "Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ" is:14



The melody of "Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet" is:18



The melody of "In Gottes namen faren wir" is:16



The melody of "Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der den Tod überwand" is:17



The melody of "Mensch willst du leben seliglich"



The melody of "Mitten wir im leben sind" is:10



The melody of "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" is:30



The melody of "O du armer Judas" is:21



The melody of "Sei willkommen Herre Christ"



The above melodies are distinguished by musical qualities that pertain to the entire medieval and Renaissance repertoire of "songs of laudations" (i.e., the *Leisen*) and chorales. These qualities include pentatonicism, modality, bar form, and other melodic aspects that will be discussed below.

# PENTATONICISM

Some Leise tunes have specific pentatonic qualities. Such qualities result when a melody uses very few or no half-tones. For instance, the monophonic example of "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" (see above) shows a half-tone progression (e' to f') only in the final "Kyrieleis." Moreover, the use of a succession of a major and minor third (g'-b'-d") in this Leise gives it a pronounced "pentatonic" flavor. "Nun bitten wir" is not the only *Leise* to show pentatonic qualities. The melody of the first phrase of "Christ ist erstanden" is characterized by the absence of the half-tone progression b' to c".

#### Modes

All of these Leise melodies, whether they show pentatonic features or not, can be classified within the ecclesiastical mode system. "Christ ist erstanden" is in the Dorian mode. "Also heilig ist der Tag," "Mensch willst du leben seliglich," and "Mitten wir im leben sind" are in the Phrygian mode. "Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot," "Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ," "In Gottes namen faren wir," and "O du armer Judas" are all in Mixolydian, while "Gott sei gelobet vnd gebenedeiet" is in Hypomixolydian. "Jesus Christus, unser Heiland, der den Tod überwand" in the Aeolian (minor) mode, and "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" and "Sei willkommen Herre Christ" are in the Ionian (major) mode.

#### THE BAR FORM

As in the majority of the "songs of laudations" and chorales, the *Leise* tunes show the use of different types of musical structures. Many of these structures resemble the bar form, which is based on a principle of repetition and contrast. In its simplest manifestation, the bar form consists of two musical phrases and their repetition (known as the *Stollen*) and a concluding, contrasting section called the *Abgesang.*<sup>27</sup>

There are three different types of bar forms:

	Stollen	Abgesang
Repetition bar form	:a-b:	cab
Serial bar form	:a-b:	cde
Repetition serial bar form	:a-b:	cdab

Only three of the *Leisen* use the bar form proper, and when they do, it is the Repetition serial bar form. These *Leisen* are "Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet" (with the scheme :a b: c a d e c), "Mitten wir im leben sind" (with the scheme :a b: c d b e e a f a b g), and "Christ lag in Todesbanden" (:ab: c a'd b').

b').

"Also heilig ist der Tag" shows characteristics of the Serial bar form, but the Stollen (a b) is not repeated literally. Its scheme is a b a' b' b" a" c d. "Jesus Christus Vnser Heiland, der den Tod überwand" is also in a form that closely resembles bar form, but the Abgesang is placed between the two Stollen statements in this Leise rather than after them. Its scheme is a a b c a b.

Serial organization that does not make use of the Abgesang of the bar form seems to be a favorite com-

positional procedure in Leise tunes. Thus, a b b' c d is the scheme of both "Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot" and "In Gottes namen faren wir." "Mensch willst du leben seliglich," "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist," and "Sei willkommen Herre Christ" have a scheme (a b c d e) that is almost identical to that of "Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot," and "In Gottes namen faren wir." The Leise "O du armer Judas" is almost monomotivic in that the a-phrase is presented in four different ways. The scheme is: a b a' c a" d a"" b e e' a'".

#### SPECIFIC MELODIC QUALITIES

As in the majority of the repertoire of the chorales, a repeated tone-pattern occurs at the beginning of some of the Leisen. For example, the melodies of "Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot," "Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ," "Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet," "Jesus Christus Vnser Heiland, der den Tod überwand," and "O du armer Judas" begin with from three to six statements of the same tone-pattern.

"Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot," "In Gottes namen faren wir," and "Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ" show the beat of the first tone shortened by half. <sup>28</sup> The time value of the first tone of "Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet," however, is doubled. The doubling of the time value of the first tone also occurs in "Christ ist erstanden," "Mensch willst du leben seliglich" and "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist." <sup>29</sup>

LEISEN ASSOCIATED WITH "CHRIST IST ERSTANDEN"

Five other closely related pre-Reformation Leisen are associated with "Christ ist erstanden." They form the following group:30

Christ der ist erstanden

Christ lag in Todesbanden (11, 16)

Christus surrexit mala nostra texit (3, 12)

Surrexit Christus hodie/Erstanden ist der heilig Christ

Christ fuhr gen Himmel

The various tunes of the "Christ ist erstanden" sub-group are as follows.

"Christ der ist erstanden":33



"Christ der ist erstanden" has a melody that, although it has remnants of the "Christ ist erstanden" melody, is largely a separate tune. Johannes Rasch's four-part settings (no. 9 through no. 13 in his Cantivneviae Paschales) make use of the "Christ ist erstanden" melody."

"Christ lag in Todesbanden":20



"Christus surrexit mala nostra texit" is the same as the melody of "Christ ist erstanden" (see above, p. viii for this melody).

The melody of "Surrexit Christus hodie/ Erstanden ist der heilig Christ" differs from the melody of "Christ ist erstanden." However, the "Surrexit Christus hodie/Erstanden ist der heilig Christ" Leise is included in the "Christ ist erstanden" subgroup because it is related to that group textually (see below). The "Surrexit/Erstanden" melody is as follows:"



"Christ fuhr gen Himmel":35



Again, as in the case of the general Leise repertoire, certain musical and textual qualities exhibited by the Leisen associated with "Christ ist erstanden" will be discussed below.

Pentatonicism in the Leisen of the Subgroup—In "Christ der ist erstanden," the pentatonic quality is stressed by a predominance of major- and minorthird progressions. However, in "Christ lag in Todesbanden," half-steps have filled out the pentatonic gaps of the original "Christ ist erstanden" melody, and the resulting tune is actually more similar to the sequence "Victimae paschali laudes" (see below for a discussion of the relationship of Leisen to sequences). Since "Christ fuhr gen Himel" and "Christus surrexit mala nostra texit" are musical replicas of "Christ ist erstanden," the latter's pentatonic quality prevails in both of them.

Modes in the Leisen of the Subgroup—"Christ der ist erstanden," "Christ lag in Todesbanden," "Christus surrexit mala nostra texit," and "Christ fuhr gen Himmel" are in the Dorian mode. "Surrexit Christus hodie/Erstanden ist der heilig Christ" is in the lonian (major) mode.

The Bar form in the Leisen of the Subgroup—In contrast to "Christ ist erstanden," "Christ lag in Todesbanden" shows a Repetition serial bar form of :a b: d e b. (The second half of d has the same melody as the second half of a, and e is related to b. Only the second half of b is used for the final statement.) "Christ fuhr gen Himmel" and "Christus surrexit mala nostra texit," like the original "Christ ist erstanden," employ a scheme of a b c b d. "Christ der ist erstanden," and "Surrexit Christus hodie! Erstanden ist der heilig Christ" show a serial organization that does not make use of the Abgesang of the bar form.

Textual considerations in the Leisen of the Subgroup— The most distinguished place within the "Christ ist erstanden" group is held by Luther's "Der Lobsanck Christ ist erstanden gebessert," the title he gave to a melody that carried the text "Christ lag in Todesbanden." Luther's "gebessert" version of "Christ ist erstanden" ("Christ lag in Todesbanden") is well represented among the "Christ lag in Todesbanden" settings by Renaissance and Reformation era composers."

Luther's revised enlargement of the "Christ ist erstanden" text uses the word "Todesbanden," which was sung centuries before in connection with "Christ ist erstanden." Another example of an early use of this word occurs in a song attributed to Konrad von Queinfurt (1382), a stanza of which includes

...nun singet: Christus ist erstanden wol hiute von des todes banden.<sup>26</sup>

The first line of text in all three "Christ ist erstanden" settings in the Glogauer Liederbuch (probably written between 1477 and 1488) reads: "Christ [der] ist erstanden von des Todesbanden." Use of the "Todesbanden" text with the "Christ ist erstanden" melody persisted in the seventeenth century. The

third melody (Discantus, Altus, Bassus primus) of the "Christ ist erstanden" appears in the Andernach Gesangbuch, 1608, with the text:

Christus ist erstanden, Kyrie eleison von des Todesbanden, Alleluia, gelobt sey Gott und Maria.<sup>40</sup>

The number of "Christ lag in Todesbanden" settings is increased still more in the baroque era, with Michael Praetorious's and Johann Sebastian Bach's settings being the most outstanding examples of baroque Leise literature."

The next most frequently set text after "Christ lag in Todesbanden" is the "Surrexit Christus hodie / Erstanden ist der heilig Christ." Although the "Surrexit/Erstanden" tune has no melodic similarities to the "Christ ist erstanden" melody, textual interpolations of the "Christ ist erstanden" text within the "Surrexit/Erstanden" versifications place it within the "Christ ist erstanden" group. For example, Johannes Leisentritt's version of the "Erstanden ist der heilig Christ" text contains, in its second, third, and fourteenth stanzas, direct quotations from the second and third stanzas of the original "Christ ist erstanden" text.42 In Michael Praetorious's threepart setting of the "Erstanden ist der heilig Christ," four stanzas of text are from "Erstanden ist der heilig Christ," and four others are from "Christ ist erstanden."43

A further example of insertion of the "Surrexit' Erstanden" text occurs in a "Christ ist erstanden" Leise from St. Gall (1540), whose third stanza is comprised of the "Surrexit" text." The "Christ ist erstanden" version of the Koeln Gesangbuch (1600) also has the "Surrexit" text in its third stanza. The interchangeability of these two texts is shown in a manuscript from 1478 in which the Latin version of the "Surrexit" alternates with the vernacular "Christ ist erstanden." Such insertions of the "Surrexit Erstanden" text within the "Christ ist erstanden" reassert Hoffmann's thesis regarding the historical coexistence of the "Surrexit/Erstanden" and "Christ ist erstanden" tunes.

The "Surrexit" text is not the only one that is occasionally associated with the "Christ ist erstanden" text. Both in the above example from Leisentritt and in a tenor part book from Eisleben (1598)," the nineteen stanzas of the "Erstanden ist der heilig Christ" setting contain the "Christ ist erstanden" text and melody as well as the text and melody of the Leise of the three Marys, "Es giengen drey frauen." Another outstanding musical example of the insertion of the "three Marys" Leise within a "Christ ist erstanden" setting is no. 5 of this edition (see Critical Notes for sources).

Sometimes polyphonic settings of "Christ ist erstanden" or other Leisen occur in which some of the voice-lines carry a Latin text, while others simultaneously carry a German text. A most interesting example of such simultaneous text-usage occurs in the anonymous six-part setting (no. 14 in the present edition) of "Jesus Christus vero est agnus-Jesus Christus Vnser Heiland/Gratia sit Deo-Christ ist erstanden."59

# Leise Usage

Long before the Reformation era, Leisen were incorporated into liturgies for the Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost seasons of the Church year. Leisen were used both in Roman Catholic and, after the Reformation, in Lutheran churches. Moreover, many Leisen were sung at sacred events not connected with the formal Sunday liturgies; for example, there are Leisen for pilgrimages, processions, burial services, and for church-related teaching purposes.

#### LEISEN IN THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Within the liturgy of the Roman Church, the position of the *Leise* was generally the same as that of any other sacred vernacular song. German songs were permitted at the following places in the liturgy: (1) before the beginning of the service; (2) as an interpolation of a sequence [gradual]; (3) at the sermon; (4) at the Elevation; (5) at the end of the service.

Moreover, as early as the close of the twelfth century, specific liturgical recommendations were given for the singing of the Christmas Leise "Sei willkommen Herre Christ" at the close of Matins and immediately preceeding the "Te Deum laudamus." A Roman Church order of 1519 specifies the singing of the Christmas Leise "Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ" by the congregation; according to the order, this Leise was preceded by a choral performance of the Christmas sequence "Grates nunc omnes." 57

Liturgical recommendations concerning the use of the Leisen were applied also to other Roman Church festivals. The Lenten Leise "O du armer Judas" was used for Matins during Holy Week. "The Easter Leise "Christ ist erstanden" was sung immediately preceeding the "Te Deum Laudamus" at the Easter Eve (vigil) service. A Roman Catholic Church order of 1491 recommends that on Sundays from Easter to Pentecost the congregation sing the

Leise "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" before and after the sermon "

## LEISEN IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

In the Lutheran Mass, Leisen were often sung during or after the Communion service. Favorites for this point in the Mass were: "Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet", ""Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist", "" and "Jesus Christus Vnser Heiland, der den Tod überwand. ""Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" was also often sung after the reading of the Epistle. During the course of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, however, "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" was customarily sung after the sermon in many Lutheran churches. Other favorite post-sermon Leisen in the Reformation and post-Reformation eras were "Mitten wir im leben sind" and "Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot."

As in the Roman Catholic Church, Leisen were often sung in the Lutheran liturgy to mark the seasons of Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost during the Church year. For example, the Christmas Leise "Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ" was sung in both Lutheran and Roman Catholic churches. This is also true for the Lenten, Easter, and Pentecost Leisen. "Jesus Christus Vnser Heiland, der den Tod überwand" was sung at Easter in both churches, and both shared in singing "Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist" at Pentecost.

#### Non-liturgical Leisen

Just as there were certain Leisen appropriate to non-liturgical, but church-related, events in the Roman church, so also were there non-liturgical Leisen in the Lutheran church. Many of these Leisen were associated with the same events in both churches. These events and their associated Leisen are as follows: processions ("Gott sey gelobet vnd gebenedeiet"); pilgrimages ("In Gottes namen faren wir"); burial ("Mitten wir im leben sind"); didactic [based on Ten Commandments] ("Mensch willst du leben seliglich" and "Dys synd die heylgen zehn gebot"); and liturgical plays ("Christ ist erstanden")."

# LEISEN IN RELATION TO LITANIES, KYRIES OF MASSES, AND SEQUENCES

The monophonic Leisen draw their motivic material for the cadential "Kyrie eleison" formulae from litanies rather than from the "Kyrie" of the Mass. The All Saints litany is the source of motivic material for the majority of the "Kyrie" types appearing in the last measures of those Leisen that were put into notation between the fourteenth and eighteenth centuries. The Loreto, St. Joseph, and Sacred Heart litanies and the "Preces" are also im-

portant motivic sources used in the creation of the Leise cry. However, when these monophonic Leisen provide canti firmi for polyphonic settings, the influence of the surrounding voices in these settings causes the traditional Leise melodies to lose some of their original motivic characteristics. Under this influence, then, these Leise canti firmi show characteristics of the Kyries of various Masses. These source Kyries occur in the following Masses: Missa Clemens Rector; Missa Splendor Aeterne; Missa Te Christe Rex Supplices; Missa Firmator Sancte; Missa Cum Jubilo; Missa Dominator Deus; Missa Lux et Origo; Missa Stellifesu Conditor Orbis; Missa Jesu Redemptor; Missa Altissime.

Other Leisen are melodic variants of certain Gregorian sequences. In the following list, the title of the original Latin sequence is given, followed by the title of the Leise derived from that sequence:48 Victimae paschali laudes ("Christ ist erstanden"); Veni sancte spiritus ("Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist"); Grates nunc omnes ("Gelobet seistu Jesu Christ"); Jesse virgam humidavit ("Sei willkommen Herre Christ"). In fact, these Leisen were sometimes sung in conjunction with their "parent" sequences. For example, at the end of the twelfth century the Leise "Christ ist erstanden" was often sung immediately following the sequence "Victimae paschali laudes" in the liturgical play Visitatio sepulchri. " Sequences and their derivative Leisen are in close proximity in some of the polyphonic settings of the Mass, as well. For example, in the Glogauer Liederbuch of the fifteenth century, a polyphonic rendition of the "Victimae paschali laudes" is followed immediately by a three-voice setting of "Christ ist erstanden."20 The Protestant Kirchenordnung of Brandenburg-Nuremberg, 1533, suggests the successive singing of "Victimae paschali laudes" and Luther's revised version of "Christ ist erstanden" (i.e., 'Christ lag in Todesbanden'').71

An Easter Mass, "Prosa de Resurrectione" by Johannes Galliculus (Hehnel), published by Georg Rhaw in 1539 in his Officia paschalia, provides an example of the simultaneous singing of the text and tune of a Leise together with its "parent" sequence; "2 in this example, three melodic phrases from the "Victimae paschali laudes" sequence are combined with a phrase from the "Christ ist erstanden" Leise. An example of a simultaneous combination of a Leise with one of the variants derived from it is Max Greiter's motet (no. 3 in the present edition) in which "Christ ist erstanden" is joined with "Christus surrexit." "Christus surrexit" is one of the five Leisen in the subgroup derived from "Christ ist erstanden."

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