This Day at Thy Creating Word

1. This day at Thy creating Word first
   o'er the earth the light was poured;
   O Lord, this day upon us shine and
   O Spirit, fill our hearts this day with

2. This day the Lord for sinners slain in
   might victorious rose again;
   O Jesus may we raised be from

3. This day the Holy Spirit came with
   fiery tongues of cloven flame;
   O Spirit, fill our hearts this day with

WILLIAM W. HOW (1871)       JOHN H. MAUNDER (ca. 1897)

Tune: MARTHAM
8.8.8.8.
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.