## THE WORD OF LIFE



- 2. What were earth, if thou wert absent, but a vale of streams unfed?What were heaven without thy presence, but a hall untenanted?What were life, by thee ungladdened, but al long protracted death?What, without thee, would be dying?Night without the morning's breath.
- 3. Word of Life, 'tis thine to light us, but 'tis thine to warn us too; thou a glorious heaven revealest, but bring'st also hell to view: terribly thou wakest sinners from their dull lethargic rest, yet thy mercy sweetly covers sins repented and confessed.
- 4. Taught by thee, we learn to tremble at a Judge who all things weighs, but no less to love a Father, who bears with the child that strays; one who gave his own belovèd for the sin that he reproves, who in him the sin condemneth, yet in him the sinner loves.
- 5. Word of Life, to him that hears thee thou dost promise heavenly rest; yet by him alone who keeps thee shall the jewel be possessed.

  Ah, then! I will ever keep thee,
  Word of God, the Spirit's sword;
  help me here to fight and conquer,
  there to reap a bright reward.

Words: Carl Johann Philipp Spitta. Translation: Richard Massie. Music: Johannes Thomas Rüegg. Copyright © 2010, 2016 Johannes Thomas Rüegg. Source: www.christmysong.com/245/