

BEHIND THE WORSHIP – Matt Maher

Matt Maher on 'Christ Has Risen'



"Christ Has Risen" was inspired by a third-century sermon by John Chrysostom. The concept is very simple: God used death to destroy death. He didn't even have to lift a finger. He literally tricked death into destroying itself; Jesus used the process of death to completely eradicate it. So now it just becomes a process of transformation, and death is a window or a doorway.

It became this chorus: "Christ has risen from the dead, trampling over death by death." I wrote it and then Mia Fieldes from Hillsong helped finish it.

I love to read works by theologians. Saint Augustine, John Chrysostom, Henri Nouwen and C.S. Lewis are some of my favorites. At the time I wrote this song, it was my goal that the record would have a theme, that it would be a record someone could listen to from start to finish and have been taken on a journey—the journey of transformation because of what Christ has done for us.

The reality is that the conception, birth, life, death and resurrection of Christ is a journey that, if we allow it, takes place in our hearts every year, every day and, if we let it, every moment.