INTRO:  \( \frac{4}{4} \) \( \text{p} \)

VERSES 1, 2:  vs. 1: Unison Choir  
vs. 2: Solo, SATB Choir

1. As the setting sun sinks into the west, and its golden flame fades away,
2. (On our) lips the song all creation sings as it yearns to grow into...

SATB Choir (vs. 2 only):

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As The Setting Sun
&
&
?
&
?
b
b
b
b
b
1.
2.
2.
-
œ Œ œ
way,
birth,
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trod our path, Christ who
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1. - way, we raise our hearts in thankful praise as
2. birth, to Christ, the first-born into life, who

2. Ah

1. evening follows day. When the dying light yields be -
2. shattered death's long curse; (End of solo)

(div.)

2. Ah

Christ who trod our path,
Christ who

poco cresc.

As The Setting Sun
As The Setting Sun

1. Fore the night and our world is lost in deep shade, then
2. Shared our pain, once in silent darkness entombed, whose
2. Path, once in darkness entombed, whose

1. Hear the prayer, O saving God, of those your hand has
2. Rising fills the world with light, and scatters sin's dread
2. Rising light has scattered sin's dread

As The Setting Sun

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As The Setting Sun

 Solo:

 made.

 2. On our

 2. On our

 2. On our

 (unison)

 2. gloom. O radiant light! O

 (unison)

 joyful light! Our Savior Jesus Christ! The glorious shining

 (div.)

 (div.)

 (div.)

 (div.)
VERSE 3:

3. So a - cross the earth, and in ev - 'ry age, count - less hearts and voic - es u -
As The Setting Sun

3. -nite to sing your praise, O Son of God, for peace and joy and

3. light, till the praise of God through cre - a - tion rings, till the

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco

cresc. poco a poco
As The Setting Sun

3. dawn of life’s glorious day, when all will be re-

3. newed in light, in Love’s eternal reign.

rit.

rit.

As The Setting Sun
As The Setting Sun
(Guitar/Vocal)

Peter McGrail

*INTRO: (d = ca. 80)

Capo 3: (Bm7) (Bm7/A)(Gmaj7)(Em7) (D/F#)(Gmaj7) (Asus4) (A)

As The Setting Sun

VERSES:

1. As the setting sun sinks into the west, and its golden flame fades a-

2. On our lips the song all creation sings as it yearns to grow in-

3. So across the earth, and in every age, countless hearts and voices u-

1. way, we raise our hearts in thankful praise as

2. birth, to Christ, the first-born into life, who

3. nite to sing your praise, O Son of God, for

1. evening follows day, When the dying light yields be-

2. shattered death’s long curse; Christ who trod our path, Christ who

3. peace and joy and light, till the praise of God through cre-

1. shared our pain, once in silent darkness entombed, whose

2. a- tion rings, till the dawn of life’s glorious day, when

3. all will be renewed in light, in love’s eternal

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*If keyboard is used, guitars tacet until beginning of Verse 2
As The Setting Sun presents this ancient hymn in a contemporary version; the text has been somewhat expanded (the original is remarkably concise), but the primordial images of light and darkness, day and night are as powerful today as they were when the hymn was originally penned. Such concrete references to the daily cycle render this song best-suited to worship at the close of day — especially during celebrations of Evening Prayer when it can serve as the Office Hymn or during a candle-lighting ceremony.

Whilst the overall tone of the hymn is subdued and gentle, the Bridge, which is based upon the opening lines of the original hymn, is rather more acclamatory in character.

— P.M.

Performance Notes

The impulse to pray at the hour of sunset is common to diverse cultures and religions; each of us knows the rekindling of half-forgotten anxieties and awakening of uncertainties which the onset of darkness can bring — an experience which must have been all the more intense before the development of modern artificial illumination. Within the Christian tradition this hour of prayer has, however, balanced the fear of darkness with an expression of hope in Christ — the true and definitive Light. Sometime before the end of the third century A.D., an unknown author voiced these concepts in an evening hymn entitled “O Joyous Light.” Its popularity was such that it became a constant element in the worship of eastern Christians; for very many centuries it has been sung each evening in churches of the Byzantine Rite.

As The Setting Sun
VERSES:

1. As the setting sun sinks into the west, and its
golden flame fades away, we raise our hearts in thankful praise
yields before the night and our world is lost in deep shade,
then hear the prayer, O saving God, of those your hand has
made.

2. On our lips the song all creation sings as it
years to grow into birth, to Christ, the first-born into life,
Christ who shared our pain, once in silent darkness entombed,
whose rising fills the world with light, and scatters sin's dread
gloom.

3. So across the earth, and in ev'ry age, countless
hearts and voices unite to sing your praise, O Son of God,
through creation rings, till the dawn of life's glorious day,
when all will be renewed in light, in love's eternal
reign.

BRIDGE:

O radiant light! O joyful light! Our Savior Jesus Christ! The
glorious shining of our God, arise up on our night!

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