

O God of earth and altar

Hymnal 1982 no. 591, Melody: Llangloffan

G. K. Chesterton
(1874-1936)

Welsh hymn melody

The musical score consists of four staves of music, each in common time (indicated by a '4') and featuring a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The top two staves are for the treble clef voice, and the bottom two are for the bass clef voice. The music is divided into four sections, each corresponding to a stanza of the hymn. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding musical staves.

I. O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry,
2. From all that ter - ror teach - es, from lies of tongue and pen,
3. Tie in a liv - ing teth - er the prince and priest and thrall,

our earth - ly ru - lers fal - ter, our peo-ple drift and die;
from all the eas - y speech - es that com-fort cru - el men.
bind all our lives to - geth - er, smite us and save us all;

the walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide,
from sale and prof-a - na - tion of hon - or, and the sword,
in ire and ex - ul - ta - tion a - flame with faith, and free,

take not thy thun - der from us, but take a - way our pride.
from sleep and from dam - na - tion, de - liv - er us, good Lord!
lift up a liv - ing na - tion, a sin - gle sword to thee.