

# O God of earth and altar

Hymnal 1982 no. 591, Melody: Llangloffan

G. K. Chesterton  
(1874-1936)

Welsh hymn melody

1. 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.