

O God of Earth and Altar

KINGS LYNN (7 6. 7 6. D.)

Gilbert Keith Chesterton, 1906

Traditional English melody

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

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 rul - ers 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.