SUPPLICATION

O God of Earth and Altar

KINGS LYNN (7 6 7 6. D.)
Traditional English melody
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1936

1. O God of earth and altar, Bow down and hear our cry,
2. From all that terror teaches, From lies of tongue and pen,
3. Tie in a living tether, The prince and priest and thrall;

Our earthly rulers falter, Our people drift and die;
From all the easy speeches That comfort cruel men;
Bind all our lives together, Smite us and save us all;

The walls of gold en-tomb us, The swords of scorn divide;
From sale and prof-a-nation Of honor and the sword;
In ire and ex-ul-tation A-flame with faith, and free,

Take not Thy thunder from us, But take away our pride.
From sleep and from dam-na-tion, De-liv-er us, good Lord!
Lift up a living na-tion, A sin-gle sword to Thee.