645 Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above



- 1 Sing praise to God who reigns a bove, the God of all 2 What God's al-might y power has made God's gra cious mer.
- 3 The Lord is nev er far a way, but, through all grief
- 4 Thus all my toil-some way a long I sing a loud



cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, cy keep - eth; by morn-ing glow or eve-ning shade dis - tress - ing, an ev - er - pres - ent help and stay, thy prais - es, that all may hear the grate-ful song



With tion. God of our va sleep - eth. With watch - ful God's ne'er and bless - ing, our peace and joy as ried rais voice un - wea





heal-ing balm my soul is filled, and ev-ery faith - less in the king-dom of God's might, lo! all is just and with a moth-er's ten-der hand God gent-ly leads the joy-ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bod - y,



The regal divine imagery here will not be new to most singers, but some may not expect the third stanza's image of God as mother. Yet it is part of God's self-description in Isaiah 66:13. This Bohemian Brethren tune resembles both Genevan psalm tunes and French folk songs.

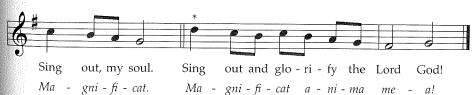




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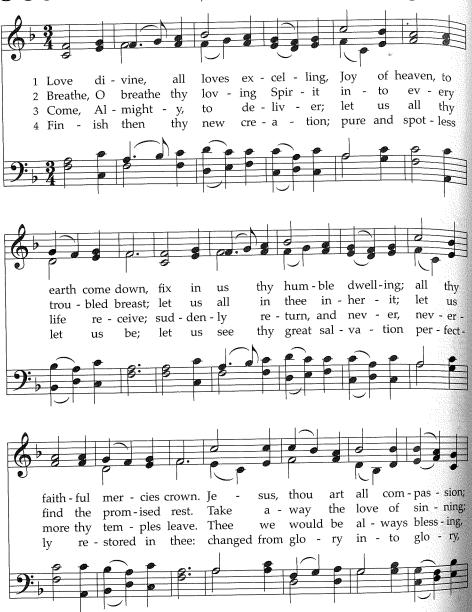




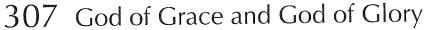
*May be sung as a canon.

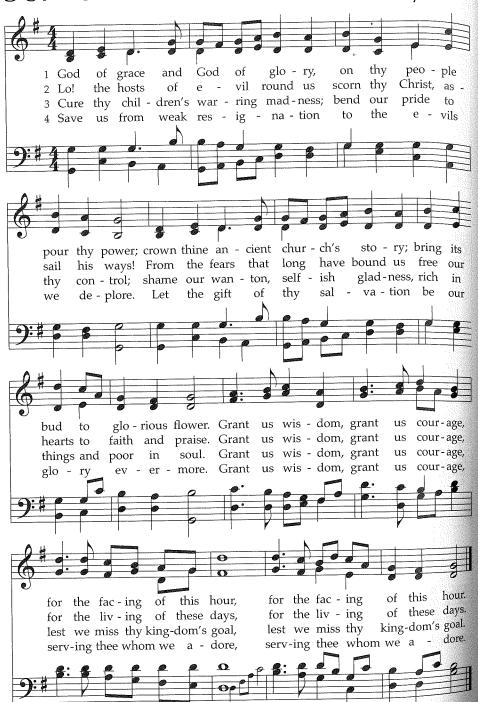
This canonic chant from the Taizé Community is based on the opening phrase of Mary's song when she visited her relative Elizabeth, mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:39–56). Both Eastern and Western churches have used the full text for many centuries as part of daily prayers.

366 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling









This stirring hymn used at the opening of Riverside Church in New York in 1930 was penned by its widely-known and influential pastor, and it has gained a firm place in English-language hymnals around the world.

O God in Whom All Life Begins 308

God in whom all life be-gins, who births the seed to fruit, 2 U - nite in mu - tual min - is - try our minds and hands and hearts

3 Through tears and laugh-ter, grief and joy, en - large our trust and care;



be - stow your bless - ing on our lives; here let your love find root. that we may have the grace to seek the power your peace im - parts. so bind us in com - mu - ni - ty that we may risk and dare.





Bring forth in us the Spir - it's gifts of pa-tience, joy, and peace; So let our var-ied gifts com-bine to glo - ri - fy your Name Be with us when we gath - er here to wor-ship, sing, and pray;





de - liv - er us from numb-ing fear, and grant our faith in-crease. that in all things by word and deed we may your love pro-claim. then send us forth in power and faith to live the words we say.



Although it was written for the installation of a pastor, this text is really about the mutual ministry shared by all members of a worshiping community, both when they are gathered and when they go forth into the world. The tune used here may have Christmas associations for some.