

This text is so familiar that it is easy to miss all its paradox, mystery, suffering, and beauty; it rewards careful reading and meditation outside corporate worship. The tune's composer, chapel organist at Windsor Castle, had much experience in creating a royal sound.

TEXT: Matthew Bridges, 1851 MUSIC: George Job Elvey, 1868 DIADEMATA SMD JESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN



This 18th-century text celebrating the sovereignty of Christ has been through several expansions and contractions before reaching its present form. It is set here to the oldest American hymn tune in continuous use since first published in 1793, which was written for it.

TEXT: Stanzas 1–3, Edward Perronet, 1779, 1780; stanzas 2–3, alt. John Rippon, 1787; stanza 4, John Rippon, 1787 MUSIC: Oliver Holden, 1793; desc. Michael E. Young, 1979 *Music Desc.* © 1979 GIA Publications, Inc.



Although it is not a direct paraphrase of any particular psalm, this text echoes "great is the Lord and greatly to be praised," found in three of them (Psalms 48:1; 96:4; 145:3). Such songs of adoration lift up the heart and mind to God, asking nothing but to enjoy God's presence.

TEXT and MUSIC: Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith, 1982, alt. Text and Music © 1982 Meadowgreen Music Company (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)



This hymn addressed to a newly-baptized child begins each stanza with a facet of the child's identity, culminating in "child of God." By being directed to one person rather than the whole congregation, this text occupies a special category among the "songs of encouragement."

TEXT: Ronald S. Cole-Turner, 1980 MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1959 Text © 1981 Ronald S. Cole-Turner



The flowering of English hymnody in the 19th century included the rediscovery, translation, and versification of ancient Christian hymns, such as this text from one of the earliest existing Christian liturgies. It is set here to an adaptation of a 17th-century French melody.

TEXT: From Liturgy of St. James, 4th cent.; trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864, alt. MUSIC: French melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906 JESUS CHRIST: ASCENSION AND REIGN



This hymn is a classic example of how Isaac Watts Christianized the Psalms, in this case Psalm 72:5–19, by turning their messianic language to New Testament equivalents. The tune was at first nameless and anonymous, but is now called by the address of the supposed composer.