

O God of Earth and Altar

words: Gilbert Keith Chesterton (1874-1936)
The Hymnal 1982 # 591

music: Penitence
© 2004 by Edward L. Stauff

1. O God of earth and al - tar, bow down and hear our cry,
2. From all that ter - ror tea - ches, 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 ea - sy spee - ches that com - fort cru - el men,
bind all our lives to - ge - ther, smite us and save us all;

the walls of gold en - tomb us, the swords of scorn di - vide,
from sale and pro - fa - na - tion of ho - nor, 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 - li - ver us, good Lord.
lift up a liv - ing na - tion, a sin - gle sword to thee.