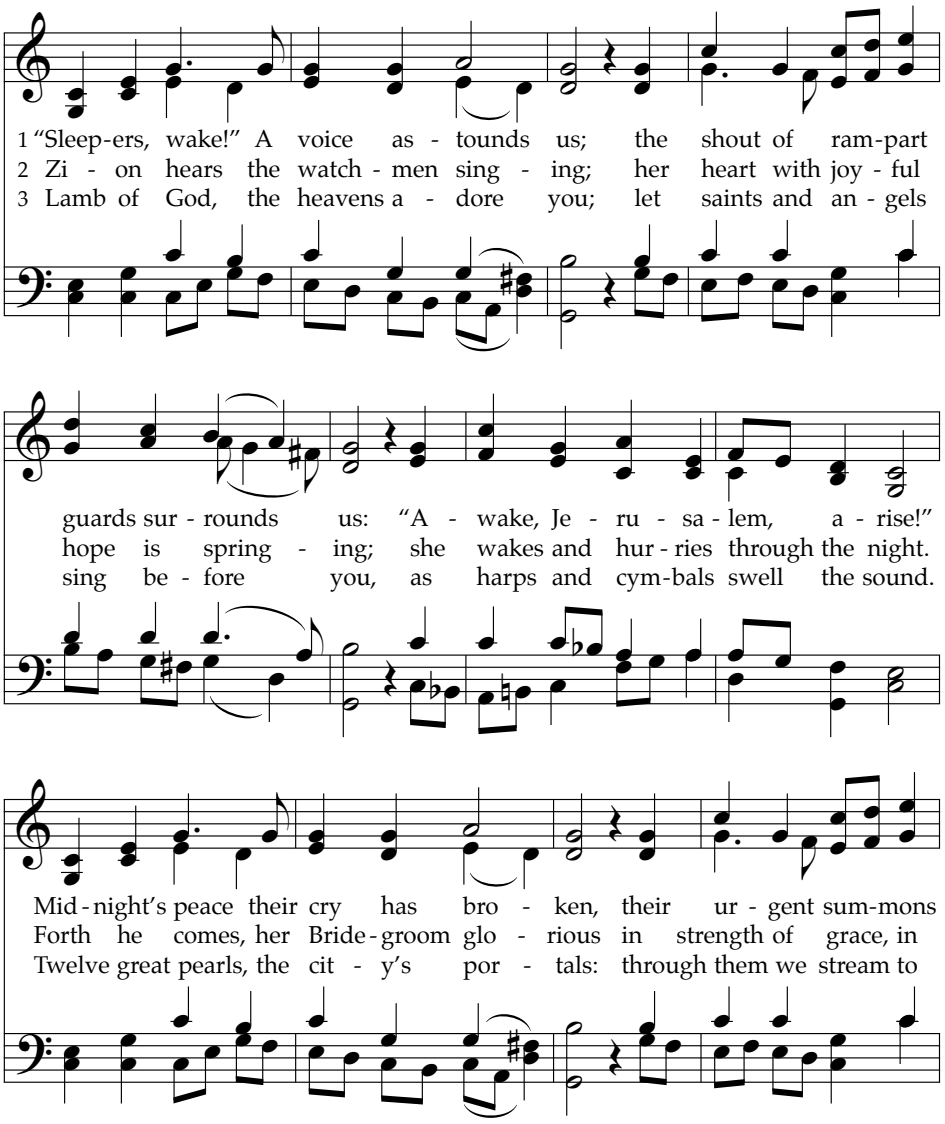
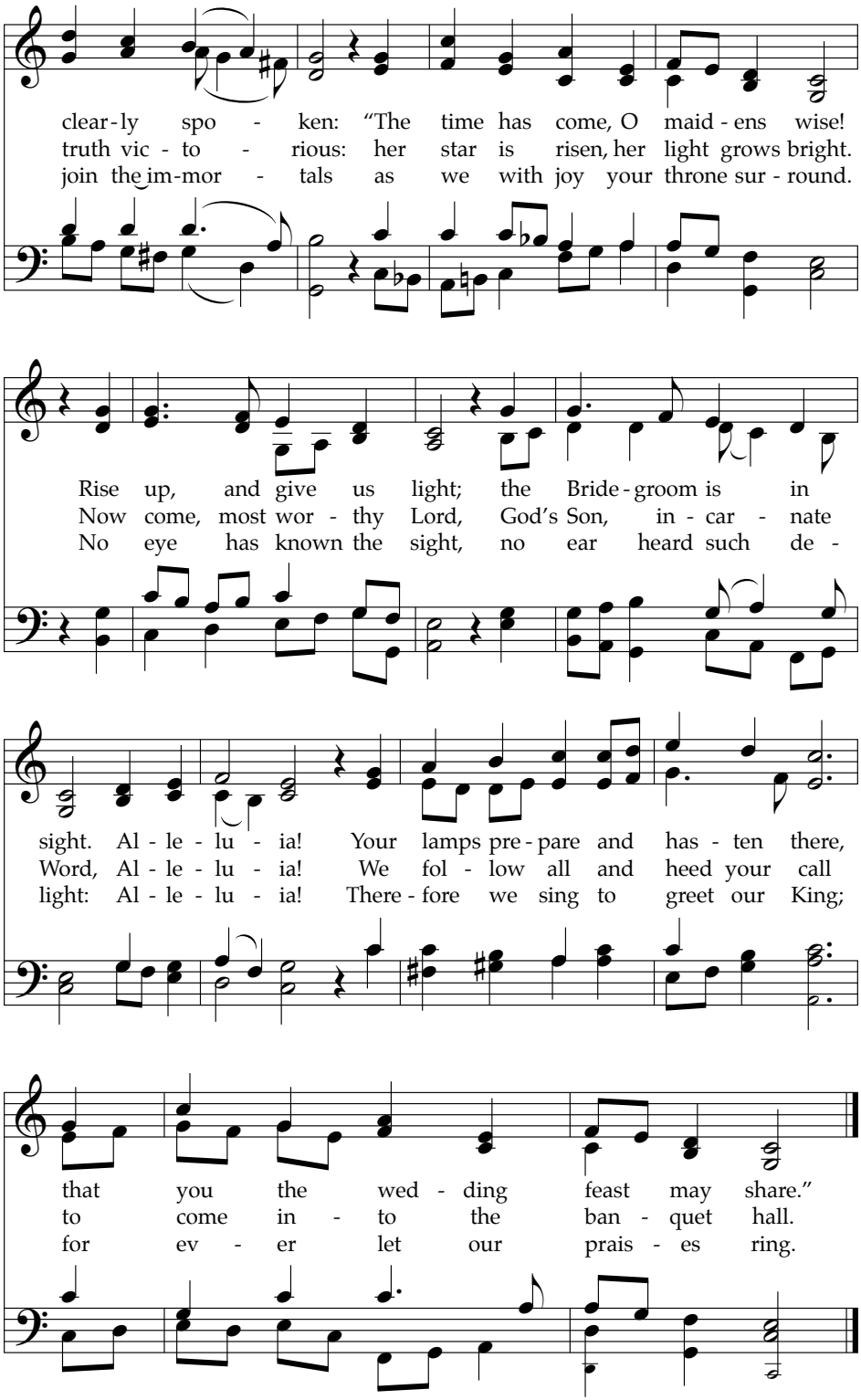
349 "Sleepers, Wake!" A Voice Astounds Us



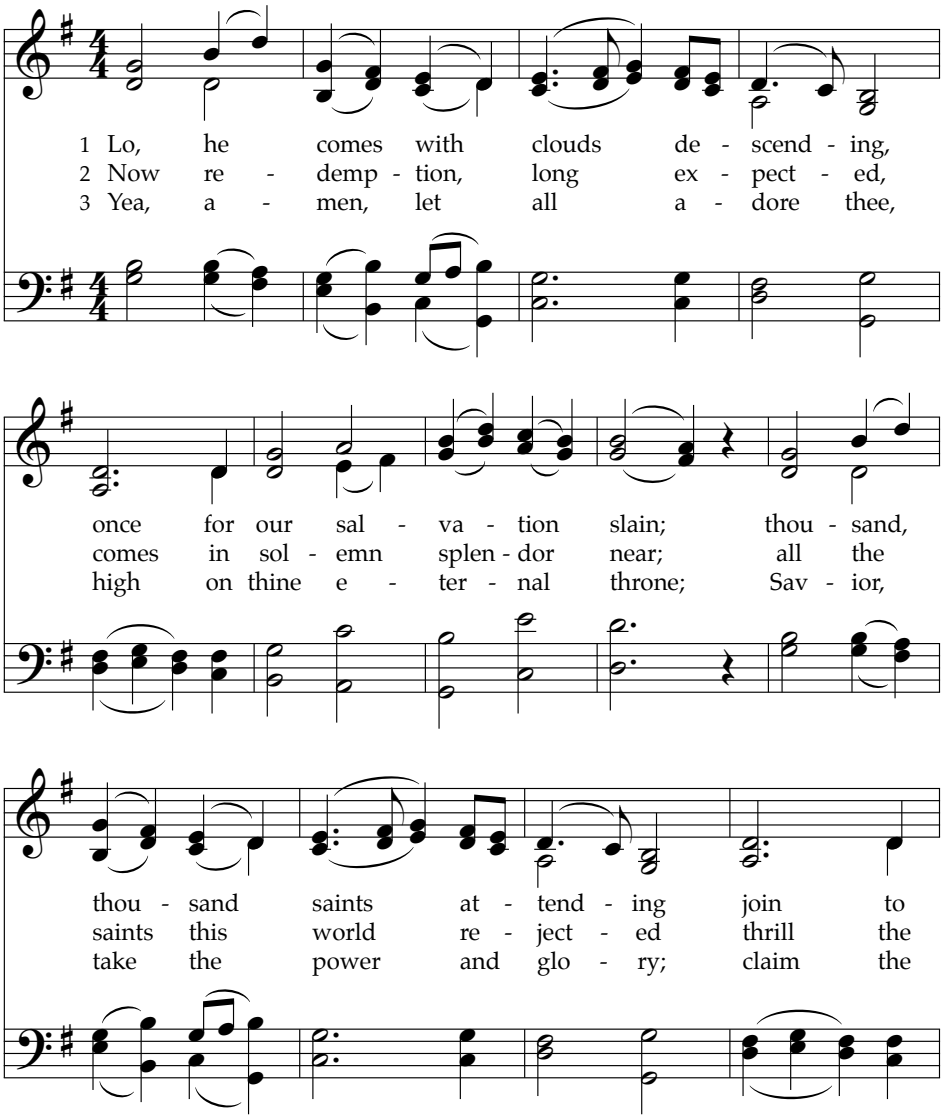
This text is based on the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids (Matthew 25:1–13), but contains allusions to many other New Testament passages. Because one person created both text and tune, they combine majestically to form what is often called "the king of chorales."

TEXT: Philipp Nicolai, 1599; trans. Carl P. Daw Jr., 1982
MUSIC: Attr. Philipp Nicolai, 1599; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1731
Text © 1982 Hope Publishing Company

WACHET AUF
Irregular


clear-ly spo - ken: "The time has come, O maid-ens wise!
truth vic - to - rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
join the im-mor - tals as we with joy your throne sur-round.
Rise up, and give us light; the Bride-groom is in
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God's Son, in - car - nate
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -
sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre-pare and has - ten there,
Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and heed your call
light: Al - le - lu - ia! There-fore we sing to greet our King;
that you the wed - ding feast may share."
to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
for ev - er let our prais - es ring.

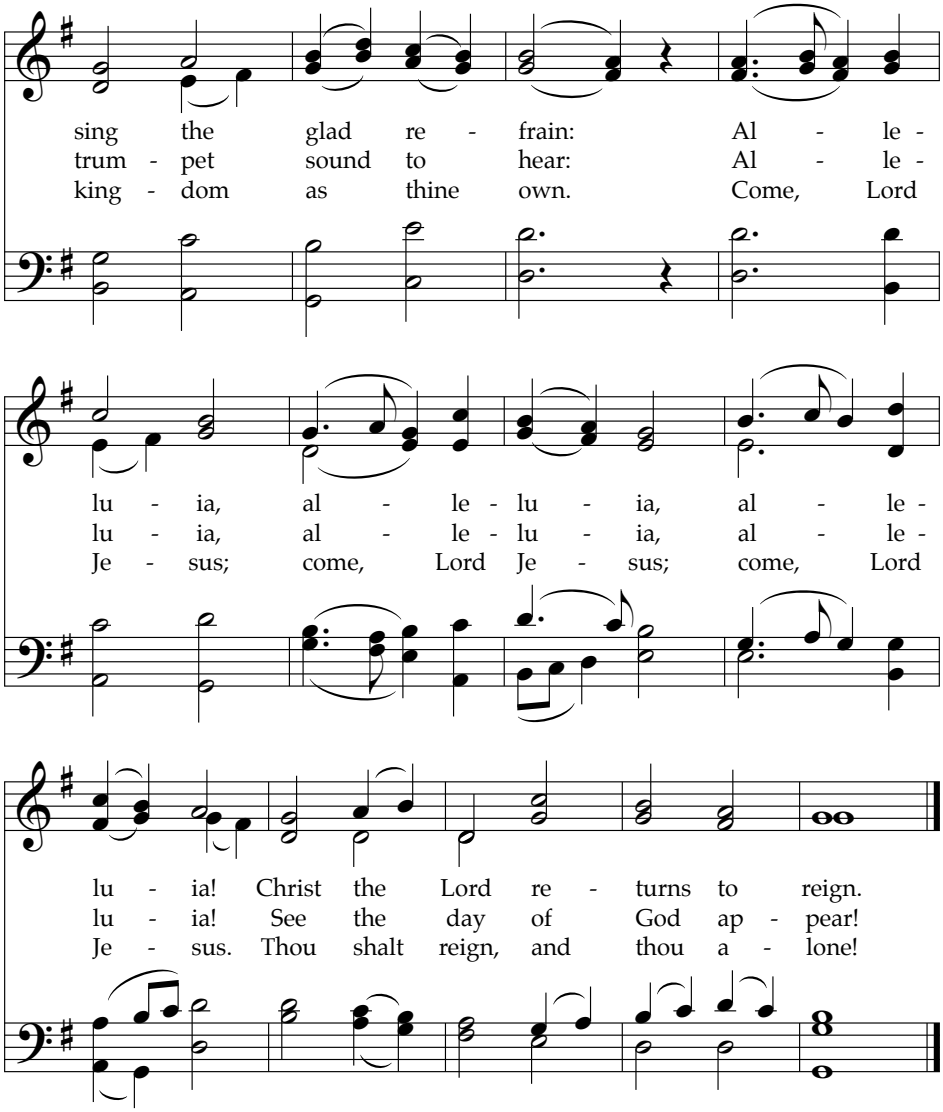
348 Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending



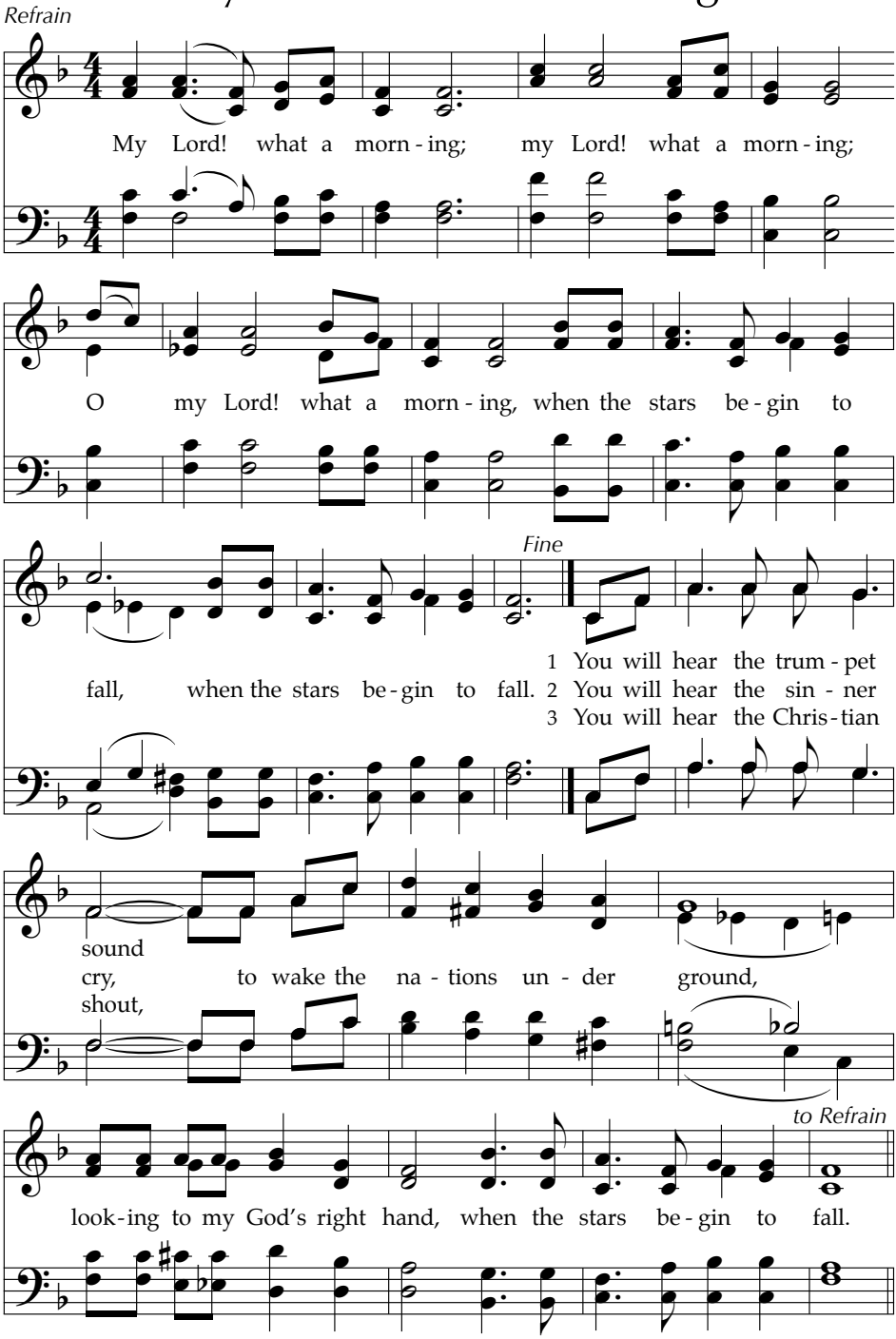
Despite unclear musical origins, the result here is a characteristic early Methodist hymn tune, notable for its breadth and range. It effectively sets a text of similarly mixed sources, one that Charles Wesley regarded as related to "Thy kingdom come" in the Lord's Prayer.

TEXT: Stanzas 1, 3, Charles Wesley, 1758, alt.; stanza 2, John Cennick, 1752, alt.
MUSIC: Thomas Olivers, 1763; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

HELMSLEY
8.7.8.7.4.4.4.7


sing the glad re - frain: Al - le -
trum - pet sound to hear: Al - le -
king - dom as thine own. Come, Lord
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
Je - sus; come, Lord Je - sus; come, Lord
lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
lu - ia! See the day of God ap - pear!
Je - sus. Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone!

352 My Lord! What a Morning



This spiritual reflects on Jesus' saying about the endtimes as recorded in Matthew 24:29–30 / Mark 13:24–26. It belongs to the slower, less common style of spirituals with long, sustained phrases and was among those popularized in concerts by the Fisk Jubilee Singers.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989
Music Arr. © 1990 Melva W. Costen

MY LORD, WHAT A MORNING
Irregular