Come sing, ye choirs exultant Hymnal 1982 no. 235

Melody: Ach Gott, vom Himmelreiche 7 6. 7 6. D.

British spelling



Come sing, ye choirs exultant,

those messengers of God,

through whom the living Gospels

came sounding all abroad!

Whose voice proclaimed salvation

that poured upon the night,

and drove away the shadows,

and filled the world with light.

In one harmonious witness

the chosen four combine,

while each his own commission

fulfils in every line;

as, in the prophet’s vision

from out the amber flame

in mystic form and image

four living creatures came.

Foursquare on this foundation

the Church of Christ remains,

a house to stand unshaken

by floods or winds or rains.

How blest this habitation

of gospel liberty,

where with a holy people

God dwells in Unity.

Words: Latin, 12th century, translated by Jackson Mason (1833-1889)

Music: Melody by Michael Praetorius (1571-1621), harmony by George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934), based on Praetorius