

# O Sons and Daughters of the King



Easter tide is a season of Alleluias! The highest praise imaginable must be summoned for celebration. The Son of God drank to the dregs the cup of death placed before him and he has overcome it!

Our familial relationship to the King of kings is invoked from the start of this hymn. This close connection should not cloud our awareness of God's majesty. This King is "whom heavenly hosts in glory sing." In Eastertide we join the great choir of celestial beings in the anthem of the ages. Why such unabashed praise? "Today the grave has lost its sting!"

Jesus set his face toward Jerusalem and toward the cross. He journeyed deliberately to his own betrayal, condemnation, and death. But death has become a door through which we travel to greater life! However, there were many disciples who were unable to travel through the shock and pain of this bittersweet doorway.

The second stanza reminds us that death was on the forefront of the disciples' minds that Sunday morning. "The faithful women went their way to seek the tomb." In the aftermath of the shocking death of Jesus most of the would-be disciples of Jesus have scattered. The final task of a disciple is to take care of the burial of his or her Teacher. Yet only the women seem able to bear the tension of their loyalty to Jesus juxtaposed with his disillusioning death.

A divine messenger arrives in the third stanza with a fantastic message. "Your Lord will go to Galilee." This violated everything they knew to be true. But the angel speaks to them in an empty tomb. The fourth stanza tells of the fear, mistrust and suspicion that overcame the other disciples. "That night apostles met in fear." They could not bear the tension of the horrific turn of events leading up to the crucifixion. And so they gather in fear only to encounter the One whose perfect love casts out all fear. Jesus imparts his peace to them all.

Sons and daughters of the King recall "this most holy day of days" with "jubilee and praise." Jesus the Messiah has journeyed through suffering and death so that we might be able to as well. Jesus the Christ has opened the door to new life!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!