

En clara vox redarguit

Hark! A Herald Voice Is Sounding

Edward Caswall

1. Hark! a herald voice sounding;
 "Christ is nigh!" it seems to say;
 "Cast away the dreams of darkness,
 O ye children of the day!"
2. Startled by the solemn warning,
 let the earth-bound soul arise;
 Christ her sun, all sloth dispelling,
 shines upon the morning skies.
3. Lo! the Lamb so long expected
 comes with pardon down from heav'n;
 let us haste, with tears of sorrow,
 one and all to be forgiv'n.
4. So when next he comes with glory,
 shrouding all the earth in fear,
 may he then as our defender
 on the clouds of heav'n appear.
5. Honour, glory, virtue, merit,
 to the Father and the Son,
 with the co-eternal Spirit
 while unending ages run.

Inspiration: "Vox clara ecce intonat", Latin, 5th or 6th century; altered by Pope Urban VIII to "En clara vox redarguit" in 1631.

Lyrics: 87.87; Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, in his "Lyra Catholica", 1849, as "Hark! An Awful Voice Is Sounding"; this version from "The New Living Parish Hymn Book", 1987.