

# Sleepers, Wake!



1. "Sleep-ers, wake!" A voice a-stounds us, the shout of ram-part -  
2. Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing; her heart with joy - ful  
3. Lamb of God, the heav'ns a - dore you; let saints and an - gels



guards sur - rounds us: "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
hope is spring - ing, she wakes and hur - ries through the night.  
sing be - fore - you, as harps and cym-bals swell the sound.



Mid - night's peace their cry has bro - ken, their ur - gent sum - mons  
Forth he comes, her Bride-groom glo - rious in strength of grace, in  
Twelve great pearls, the ci - ty's por - tals: Through them we stream to



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 sight. Al-le - lu - ia!  
Now come, most wor-ty Lord, God's Son, In - car-nate Word, Al-le - lu - ia!  
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de - light: Al-le - lu - ia!



Your lamps pre-prepare and has-ten there, that you the wedding feast may share."  
We fol-low all and heed your call to come in-to the ban-quet hall.  
There-fore we sing to greet our King; for ev-er let our prais-es ring.

Words: 1597 | Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608)  
trans. 1982 | Carl P. Daw (b. 1944)

Music: *Wachet Auf!*, 1597 | Philipp Nicolai  
harm. 1731 | J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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Catherine Winkworth's translation of this chorale was long popular in the United States, but has been described thus: "You can't figure out what it's about unless you already know what it's about." The text committee of the *Hymnal 1982* asked Carl Daw to write a new translation that was more straightforward, and this translation is now highly popular. Carl Daw is one of the top contemporary hymnwriters in the United States; he teaches hymnology at Boston University.