



## Rise Again, Ye Lion-Hearted

**Text: Unknown; trans. Martin H. Franzmann (1907-1976)**

**Tune: Bernhard Klein (1793-1832)**

Martin H. Franzmann was a scholar, Seminary professor, and gifted hymnwriter, the author of many texts which continue to bless the Church to this day. His gift of a powerful knowledge of the expanses of the English language have been a blessing to the Church. He has given us many strong texts, both original works and translations, that teach us the faith, encourage us to a faithful life in the Church and world, and prepare us for the life to come.



Martin Hans  
Franzmann

Martin Hans Franzmann was born January 29, 1907 in Lake City, Minnesota. He received his Bachelor's Degree from Northwestern College in 1928 and received his Masters of Divinity from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Franzmann was raised in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) in the time when the fellowship between the Wisconsin Synod and our Missouri Synod had not yet been broken. He began his teaching career in 1933, teaching at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio. In 1936 he was Called to teach at his alma mater, Northwestern. St. Peter's in Shaker Heights always loved Franzmann, and in 1946 he was nominated by St. Peter's for a position in the Exegetical Department at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, a department he chaired as of 1954. However, Franzmann always fostered a love of all things British and eventually found the greatest outlet of that love when he was sent to teach at Westfield House of Theological Studies in Cambridge, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England's theological school. He taught there until his death on March 28, 1976.

Franzmann was a highly gifted man who served his church not only in teaching and scholarship, but in the administration of the Synod itself, as well representing the church abroad at conferences. As a theologian his greatest contribution may well have been his outspoken resistance to the growing popularity of higher-criticism. He was also a gifted preacher, and his finest sermons from his years at the St. Louis Seminary are printed in a collection entitled *Ha! Ha! Among the Trumpets*, published by Concordia Publishing House.

His work with hymnody began in his time in Shaker Heights. In those days, *e Lutheran Hymnal* was under development, and Pr. Arthur Katt of St. Peter's encouraged Franzmann to lend his gifts of translation to the project. Though he produced many fine translations, the hymns committee only used one, his translation of an anonymous 18th century hymn, *Rise Again, Ye Lion-Hearted*. Though Franzmann and Katt lamented the committee's decision to ignore his fine translations (which were subsequently adopted by other English Lutheran hymnals), Franzmann continued to work at his contribution to the Church's song.

*Rise Again, Ye Lion-Hearted* is an excellent hymn for days when saints of the Church, especially martyrs, are commemorated. It is a prayer that we would be granted the same strong faith that the faithful men and women before us have had, the faith to stand firm in the face of persecution from Satan and his evil angels in the world. We thank God for these martyrs of early Christendom because it is proof that Satan, "the lord and prince of Hell" cannot overcome the Church, even when he threatens death (st. 1). No matter how he may rage, how he may try to get them to think only of themselves, "they soar above all that earth would have them love" (st. 2). No matter what forms of torture may await them—even the "bloody sand" and "lion's roaring" of the arena—the Holy Spirit places in in these men and women songs of praise to our God (st. 3). In the last stanza we pray that the helping Hand of Heaven (the Holy Spirit) would cause us to stand bold in the face of battle with the devil. We pray that we would ever be "loyal, staunch, and true" to God, stayed in the combat and preserved to life eternal (st. 4).