

Hymn Lyrics

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Alleluia, sweetest anthem

Alleluia, sweetest anthem,
voice of joy that cannot die.
Alleluia is the anthem,
heard amongst the choirs on high;
singing in God's blissful mansion
day and night eternally.

Alleluia, joyful mother,
true Jerusalem and free,
alleluia, now triumphant,
all thy children sing in thee;
but by Babylon's sad waters
mourning exiles still are we.

Alleluia cannot always
be our song while here below;
alleluia our transgressions
make us for a while forego;
for the Lenten-time is coming,
when our tears for sin must flow.

Wherefore in our hymns we pray thee,
blessed, holy Trinity!
Grant us all to keep thine Easter
in our home beyond the sky,
there to thee our alleluia
singing everlastingly.

Latin, eleventh century or earlier; trans. (1792-1866), 1858, based on that of (1818-1866), 1851