

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 6 (1940-1941)
Heft: 10

Artikel: Swiss Psalm
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943035>

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PREAMBLE AND OPENING PARAGRAPHS OF THE

SWISS CONSTITUTION OF 1848/74

IN FORCE TO-DAY.

"IN THE NAME OF GOD ALMIGHTY! THE SWISS CONFEDERATION, WITH THE INTENTION OF STRENGTHENING THE BONDS BETWEEN THE CONFEDERATES AND TO PRESERVE AND FURTHER THE UNITY, STRENGTH AND HONOUR OF THE SWISS PEOPLE, HAS ADOPTED THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTION:

ART. 1.) THE PEOPLES OF THE 22 SOVEREIGN CANTONS, EMBRACED BY THE PRESENT UNION, NAMELY: Zurich, Berne, Lucerne, Uri, Schwyz, Unterwald, Glarus, Zoug, Fribourg, Soleure, Bâle, Schaffhouse, Appenzell, St. Gall, Grisons, Argovie, Thurgovie, Ticino, Vaud, Valais, Neuchâtel and Genève, FORM IN THEIR ENTIRETY THE SWISS CONFEDERATION.

ART. 2.) THE PURPOSE OF THE UNION IS: THE PRESERVATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE FATHERLAND WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES, THE MAINTENANCE OF PEACE AND ORDER AT HOME, THE PROTECTION OF THE LIBERTIES AND THE RIGHTS OF ALL SWISS CITIZENS, AND THE FURTHERANCE OF THE COMMON WEAL."

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SWISS PSALM.

Strolling in the morning's glow,
Thou art bathed in myriad beams,
Thou, August, Omnipotent, Exalted!
When alpine glaciers suffuse in rubic gleams,
Rise, free Swiss, worship and pray, rise and pray;
Your devout souls will presage:
God, alone, reigns o'er Switzerland!

As twilight Heavens embrace,
Thou art in the myriad stars,
Thou, Almighty, Merciful, Lord of Hosts,
Sentinel, guarding the mountain walls.
I can then serenely dream, blessed rest,
'cause the pious souls devine:
God, our Lord, guides Switzerland!

Thou art waft' in veils of mist,
I find Thee in drifting clouds,
Thou, Eternal, Infinite, Sovereign,
In the gray fogs Thou abid'st mysteriously.
When the sunshine filters through cheerily,
Then the faithful soul proclaims:
God in lofty Switzerland!

Riding in the wildest storm,
Thou art our shield and hope,
Thou, Immortal, Guardian, Mastermind.
In the dark and grimness of dismay
We, Thy children, fearlessly trust in Thee,
Yes, the righteous souls perceive:
God's protecting hand o'er Switzerland.

English version of: "Trittst im Morgenrot daher" ("Sur nos monts, quand le soleil annonce...") by the late Eva Weinstein, New Orleans, U.S.A. Adapted to the original melody.

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