## 663 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun



These three stanzas (of the original fifteen) convey the essence of the morning hymn that was paired with "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night" (no. 675) in the daily devotions of the boys at Winchester College. This tune was later composed especially for these words.

TEXT: Thomas Ken, 1695, alt.
MUSIC: François Hippolyte Barthélémon, 1785; harm. *The Church Hymnal for the Christian Year*, 1917



The opening phrase here (based on 1 Timothy 6:12) is not a military image but an athletic one, from a Greek verb meaning "struggle" or "grapple" or "wrestle." The sports context continues in later stanzas reflecting the experience of a runner (recalling Hebrews 12:1–2).



It seems odd now to think of singing this text to ADESTE FIDELES, but mainline churches did so well into the 20th century because of a cultural bias against shape note music. The vigor of the present tune seems especially right for the final line's reference to Hebrews 13:5.