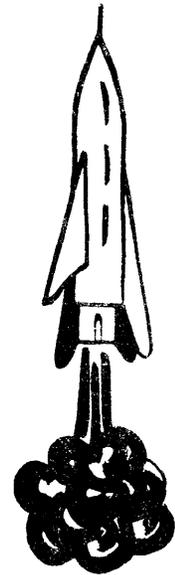


IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE

10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2-1 BLAST OFF!



Do you remember how the astronauts began their long journey to the moon? This is the way the outer space capsules began their journey away from our earth.

We've been busy studying outer space at school so my mind has been full of things like planets, moons, meteors, and stars that are really hot balls of burning gases like our sun!

Just think how great God is to have created a universe such as the one we live in! And this hymn helps to describe God's greatness. It is called, "Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise;" and it is full of big words that you may have to look up in the dictionary:

IMMORTAL _____
INVISIBLE _____
INACCESSIBLE _____
VICTORIOUS _____

ALMIGHTY _____
UNHASTING _____
UNRESTING _____
SPLENDOR _____

Listen to the music. It is major or minor? Which 3 lines are almost alike? Did you say, 1, 2, and 4? What part of the 4th line is different? Did you notice how often the tune moves by 3rds? . . .

After learning the melody, our choir director helped us follow the alto, tenor and bass parts of the music with our fingers. We tried singing some of each part and learned that the alto seems to stay on the same notes the most but it adds HARMONY to the soprano melody. We discovered that by singing the Tenor an octave higher than it is written, we could add a lovely descant to the melody. When we listened to the music without the BASS, it sounded like a house without a floor!

The next week, our choir director played records so that we might listen to the way alto, tenor and bass voices sound. As a surprise, some of our mothers and daddies who sing in the adult choir came to our rehearsal and by listening to them sing, we guessed what PART they were singing. On Sunday, we listened closely to the adult choir anthem to hear all 4 parts. It sounded best when the 4 parts sang evenly so that no one part "stuck out" and our director explained later that BALANCE and BLEND are very important in choir work.

You know, there are 2 things I want to do when I grow up: FIRST, I'd like to ride in a space ship, and SECOND, I'd like to sing in an adult choir. Both ways I believe I will be extra close to God!

Some of the hymnals from different churches name the tune to which this hymn is most often sung "St. Denio." Some other hymnals give the name "Joanna" to it. Which name do you like best?