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Hymn 2

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NATIVITY of Christ, with Hymns for Christmas



HYMN I,

WILL shepherds watch their flock
All seated on the ground, by night
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around.

Fear not, said he, for mighty dread,
Had seized their troubled mind,
Glad tidings of great joy I bring,
To you and all mankind.

To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's of line,
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign.

The heavenly babe you there shall find,
To human view display'd,
All meanly wrapt in swaddling elothet,
And in a manger laid.

Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith,
Appeared a shining throng,
Of angels praising God,
And thus addressed their song,

All glory be to God God on high,
And to the earth be peace
Good-will henceforth, from heaven
Begin and never cease.

HYMN II.

CHRISTIANS awake! salute the happy morn,
Whereon the Saviour of Mankind was born,
Rise to adore the Mystery of Love
Whose host of angels charmed from above,
With them the joyful tidings first began,
Of God's incarnate and the Virgin's Son

then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
Who heard the angelic Herald's voice— Behold,
" I bring glad tidings of a Saviour's birth
" To you and all nations upon the earth,
" This day hath God fulfilled his promis'd word
" A his day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord,

" In David's city Shepherds ye will find,
" The long foretold Redeemer of Mankind,
" Wrapt in swaddling clothes the Babe divine
" Lies in a manger this shall be your sign,
He spake—and straight the celestial choir,
In hymns of joy unknown before conspire,

thy praise of redeeming love they sung,
And heavens whole orb with hallelujahs rung
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
Peace upon earth—and mutual good will
To Bethlehem straight the enlighten'd shepherds ran
To see the wonder God had wrought for man

And found with Joseph and the blessed maid
Her Son the Saviour in a manger laid,
Amazed the wondrous story they proclaim,
The best spectacles of his holy name
While Mary keeps and ponders in her heart,
The heavenly vision which the swains impart

Then to their flocks still praising God return,
And their glad hearts within their bosom burn
Let us like these good shepherds then employ
Our grateful voices to proclaim the joy,
Like Mary, let us ponder in our mind,
God's wondrous love in saving lost Mankind,

Attless and watchful as their favoured swains
While virgin meekness in their hearts remains,
Trace we the Babe who has retrieved our loss,
From his poor manger to his bitter cross,
Traced in his steps—assisted by his grace
Till Man's first heavenly state again takes place

Then may we hope the angelic throngs among
To find redeemed a glad triumphant throng
He that was born upon this joyful day,
Around us all his glory shall display
Saved by his love incessant we shall sing,
Eternal praise to heaven's all powerful King,

HYMN III,

LET peace her olive wand extend
Let white robd innocence descend
Fly swift ye years, and rise the morn,
O spring to light blest babe be born,
See Nature, hastes her wreath to bring;
With all the incense of the spring;
Hark! a glad voice the Desert cheers,
Prepare the way, a God appears.

A God! a! the groves reply,
The rocks proclaim a Deity,
Lo! Earth receives him from the skies,
Bow down ye hills, ye valleys rise.

The Saviour comes by Seers foretold,
Hear him ye deaf—ye blind behold,
The lame shall leap the dumb shall sing,
and hail the coming of their King.

No sigh, no groan, the world shall hear
From every face he wipes the tear,
Death shall in iron chains be bound,
And Hell's grim tyrant feel the wound,

Arise, imperial Salem, rise,
Exalt thine head and lift thine eyes,
His word is fixed his power remains
Thy realm still lasts Messiah reigns

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

HYMN IV,

ALL glory to God and peace upon earth,
Be published abroad at Jesus's birth
The forfeited favour of heaven we find
Rested in the Saviour and friend of Mankind

Then let us behold Messiah the Lord
By prophets foretold, by angels adord,
Our God's incarnation with angels proclaim
And publish salvation in Jesus's name;

Our newly born King by faith we have seen
And joyful sing of his goodness to men,
That all men may wonder at what we impart
and thankfully ponder his love in their heart

What moved the most High so greatly to stoop
He comes from the sky our souls to rapt up
That sinners forgiven might sinless return
to God and to heaven—the maker is born

Immature's love let sinners confess
Who comes from above to bring us his peace,
Let every believer his mercy adore,
And praise him for ever when a time is no more