

1. At every crossing found on earth
where sun is shining there are those
whose adoration of the birth
expressed the symbol of the Rose.
2. Behold, the One who formed the world
descending to the realms of men,
with banners of a slave unfurled,
to make the earth alive again.
3. Celestial Being found a home
with parents in their lowly place,
by chosen rulers made to roam
and keep the secretness of grace.
4. Domestic life sustained the child,
a temple where our Lord could rest,
a depot for the undefiled,
the Word of God, the honored guest.
5. Elizabeth was blessed as well,
to feel the joy that Mary knew,
the energy of Gabriel
who visited the favored few.
6. Forbearing what the magi sent,
the child slept upon the hay,
remained while feeding so content
as animals were kept at bay.
7. Glissando on the harp and lyre,
where shepherds oversaw their field,
were gathered by the angel choir
that let the Shepherd be revealed.
8. Hymnology on Christmas morn
is meant for giving praise to God,
a halo for the Virgin-born,
a Spirit we can spread abroad. Amen.

1. From east to west, from shore to shore,
let every heart awake and sing
the holy child whom Mary bore,
the Christ, the everlasting King.
2. Behold, the world's creator wears
the form and fashion of a slave,
our very flesh our Maker shares,
his fallen creature, man, to save.
3. For this how wondrously he wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
became, in ways beyond all thought,
the chosen vessel of his grace.
4. She bowed her to the angel's word
declaring what the Father willed,
and suddenly the promised Lord
that pure and hallowed temple filled.
5. That Son, that royal Son she bore,
whom Gabriel's voice had told afore:
whom, in his mother yet concealed,
the infant Baptist had revealed.
6. He shrank not from the oxen's stall,
he lay within the manger-bed,
and he whose bounty feedeth all,
at Mary's breast himself was fed.
7. And while the angels in the sky
sang praise above the silent field,
to shepherd poor, the Lord most high,
the one great Shepherd was revealed.
8. All glory for that bless-ed morn
to God the Father ever be,
all praise to thee, O Virgin-born,
and praise, blest Spirit, unto thee. Amen.

When Jesus came to Jordan

ELW 305

1-20

1. When Jesus reached the river
where God confirmed the Son
not meaning to deliver
from sin the Sinless One,
the drama was repentance
for beings in remorse,
good news the vital sentence
that sped it on its course,
2. the issue was temptation,
our needfulness and loss,
for us and our salvation,
a death upon the cross,
a dove at once descending
to mark the Son of Man,
the hidden era ending
when that of grace began,
3. a Spirit that's sustaining
its children in their vows,
this very moment reigning
o'er all that God allows,
to give us life-direction
when sorely turned and tossed,
the way of resurrection,
the truth of what it cost.

7676 D alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. When Jesus came to Jordan
to be baptized by John,
he did not come for pardon
but as the Sinless One.
He came to share repentance
with all who mourn their sins,
to speak the vital sentence
with which good news begins.
2. He came to share temptation,
our utmost woe and loss,
for us and our salvation
to die upon the cross.
So when the dove descended
on him, the Son of Man,
the hidden years had ended,
the age of grace began.
3. Come, Holy Spirit, aid us
to keep the vows we make;
this very day invade us,
and every bondage break.
Come, give our lives direction,
the gift we covet most:
to share the resurrection
that leads to Pentecost.

Fred Pratt Green 1980

Come, beloved of the Maker
ELW 306

1. Come, beloved of the Maker,
come, behold the Eldest Son,
of the story a partaker,
chronicles of sin undone.
2. See the Morning Star ascending
over doubters in the night;
"Follow me, be ever wending
out of darkness into light."
3. Follow where the Lord is leading,
follow to the upper room,
follow to the place of pleading,
follow to the empty tomb.
4. There we too will be receiving
God's resplendent work begun,
holding all we're now believing,
shining like the glorious sun.
5. Christ, the image of reflection,
God, whose reign is unsurpassed,
Holy Spirit, whose direction
bears us to our home at last!

8787 alt. Chris Nelson 2018

1. Come, beloved of the Maker,
come, behold the First-born One;
see revealed creation's splendor
crowned in glory like the sun.
2. See the Morning-star now beckon
to those bound to doubt and night;
"Follow me," Christ calls in welcome,
"come from darkness into light."
3. Follow to the birth of newness;
follow to the life of peace;
follow to the hill of anguish;
follow to the garden bliss.
4. There we too will burn and brighten,
God's resplendent work begun;
glory will ascend and heighten,
crowning us with glorious sun.
5. Christ, bright image of the Maker,
God, whose glory none may pass,
Spirit, sun of love and splendor,
bear us into light at last.

Susan Palo Cherwien 2001

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!

3-24

ELW 308

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You give the multitude a sight
that lets them not be lonely!
Of Jacob's line and David's son,
our Lord and Master, you have won
our hearts to serve you only,
lowly,
holy,
great and glorious,
all victorious,
all observant,
known to Christians as the Servant!
2. Come, precious diamond, jewel divine,
within our being deign to shine
your light of lights undying!
In one true body let us be
as living branches of a tree,
your life to us supplying,
feeding,
leading
through temptation
to salvation,
ever beaming
joy that you're the one redeeming.
3. When Jesus looks on us in love,
at once there falls from God above
a ray of purest pleasure.
Beneath your wings this tiny brood
is nourished with sustaining food,
a 'running-over' measure,
shaken,
taken
for our filling
ever willing,
all together,
solaced by your warming feather.

1. O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's line, King David's son,
our Lord and Savior, you have won
our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly,
holy!
Great and glorious,
all victorious,
rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!
2. Come, precious diamond, light divine,
and deep within our hearts now shine;
there light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
as living branches of a tree,
your life our lives supplying.
Now, though
daily,
earth's deep sadness
may perplex us
and distress us,
yet with heav'nly joy you bless us.
3. Lord, when you look on us in love,
at once there falls from God above
a ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood
refresh our souls with heav'nly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let your
mercy
warm and cheer us!
Oh, draw near us!
For you teach us
God's own love through you has reached us.

(continued)

4. Almighty Father, in your Son
 you loved us though you'd not begun
 to firm the world's foundation.
 With blessings you would freely give
 you ransomed us to truly live
 the way of restoration,
 glowing,
 knowing
 as we're moving
 how you're proving
 life forever
 by your one supreme endeavor.

5. Let concerts be alive with sound,
 our joyfulness with music crowned,
 our voices gladly blending
 that Christ is with us all the way,
 today, tomorrow, as we pray
 for guidance never ending,
 singing,
 ringing
 jubilation,
 exultation
 in the story
 of our Lord, the King of Glory!

6. What joy to know, when life is past,
 the One we love is first and last,
 the end and the beginning,
 when taken by your truth and grace
 into that fair and pleasant place
 beyond all tears and sinning.
 Amen!
 Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Yeilding frees us
 as we're yearning
 for the day of your returning.

887 887 22 44 48

alt. Chris Nelson 2024

4. Almighty Father, in your Son
 you loved us, when not yet begun
 was this old earth's foundation!
 Your Son has ransomed us in love
 to live in him here and above:
 this is your great salvation.
 Alle-
 luia!
 Christ the living,
 to us giving
 life forever,
 keeps us yours and fails us never!

5. Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
 Our joy be all with music crowned,
 our voices gaily blending!
 For Christ goes with us all the way -
 today, tomorrow, every day!
 His love is never ending!
 Sing out!
 Ring out!
 Jubilation!
 Exultation!
 Tell the story!
 Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!

6. What joy to know, when life is past,
 the Lord we love is first and last,
 the end and the beginning!
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
 transport us to that happy place
 beyond all tears and sinning!
 Amen!
 Amen!
 Come, Lord Jesus!
 Crown of gladness!
 We are yearning
 for the day of your returning.

translated by the hymnal committee 1978

The only Son from heaven
ELW 309

9-24

1. The Son of God has striven,
as told by ancient seers,
accepting what is given
to enter human spheres,
no darkness now confining
this star so brightly shining
that over us appears.
2. In times that God appointed,
in places on the earth,
a monarch that's anointed
receives a virgin birth,
that all may be adoring
your coming and restoring
our life to give it worth.
3. Our spirits re-awaken
your love for us to know,
in faith to stand unshaken
with hope that starts to grow,
all hindrances removing,
each glimpse of heaven proving
the length to which you'd go.
4. O Father of the ages,
the Spirit full and free,
with Jesus who engages
your angel-armies, we
before you meek and lowly
cry, "Holy, holy, holy"
and bless the One-in-Three!

7676 776

alt. Chris Nelson 2024

1. The only Son from heaven,
foretold by ancient seers,
by God the Father given,
in human form appears.
No sphere his light confining,
no star so brightly shining
as he, our Morning Star.
2. Oh, time of God appointed,
oh, bright and holy morn!
He comes, the king anointed,
the Christ, the virgin-born,
grim death to vanquish for us,
to open heaven before us
and bring us life again.
3. Awaken, Lord, our spirit
to know and love you more,
in faith so stand unshaken,
in spirit to adore,
that we, through this world moving,
each glimpse of heaven proving,
may reap its fullness there.
4. O Father, here before you
with God the Holy Ghost,
and Jesus, we adore you,
O pride of angel-host:
before you mortals lowly
cry, "Holy, holy, holy,
O bless-ed Trinity!"

Elizabeth Cruciger 1524

translated by Arthur T. Russell 1850

Jesus come! for we invite you ELW 312

1. Jesus, come! For you're invited
to attend with all the rest
as a friend who's never slighted
by our need to be addressed.
As at Cana, we're delighted
to receive what you have blessed.

2. Jesus, come! With purest pleasure
be our guide to realms unknown,
bring your gifts in fullest measure,
let us trust in you alone,
here on earth a hidden treasure,
there above upon a throne.

3. Jesus, come! As at creation
open up domains divine,
over every expectation,
changing water into wine,
where disciples at their station
saw the first revealing sign!

4. Jesus, come! With your surprises,
make us eager to perceive
any challenge that arises
in the threads that you would weave
into robes of different sizes,
when we taste what hearts believe!

1. Jesus, come! for we invite you,
guest and master, friend and Lord;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting.
hope be born and joy restored.

2. Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.

3. Jesus, come! in new creation,
heav'n brought near in pow'r divine;
give your unexpected glory,
changing water into wine;
rouse the faith of your disciples -
come, our first and greatest Sign!

4. Jesus, come! surprise our dullness,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!

87 87 87

alt. Chris Nelson 2024

Christopher Idle 1982

Oh, wondrous image, vision fair
ELW 316

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| <p>1. Oh, wondrous image, vision fair
of glory that the church may share
of Christ arrayed in dazzling white
above the realms of darkest night.</p> <p>2. With Moses and Elijah there
the Lord converses to prepare
a revelation from the cloud
of One to whom all hearts are bowed.</p> <p>3. Yes, this is my beloved Son
made manifest when life is won
for captive slaves becoming free
when perfect love they've come to see.</p> <p>4. So faithfulness will let us in
to mysteries over death and sin,
for which in metered rhyme we raise
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.</p> <p>5. O Father, with our honored Lord,
and Holy Spirit, here adored,
escort us onward to the place
our eyes behold you face to face.</p> | <p>1. Oh, wondrous image, vision fair
of glory that the church may share,
which Christ upon the mountain shows,
where brighter than the sun he glows!</p> <p>2. With Moses and Elijah nigh
th'incarnate Lord holds converse high,
and from the cloud, the Holy One
says, "This is my beloved Son."</p> <p>3. With shining face and bright array,
Christ deigns to manifest today
what glory shall be theirs above
who joy in God with perfect love.</p> <p>4. And faithful hearts are raised on high
by this great vision's mystery;
for which in joyful song we raise
the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.</p> <p>5. O Father, with th'eternal Son,
and Holy Spirit ever one,
we pray you, bring us by your grace
to see your glory face to face.</p> |
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LM alt. Chris Nelson 2024

translated from the Sarum by
John Mason Neale 1850

Jesus on the mountain peak

ELW 317

1-20

1. Jesus on the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing.
Let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising,
Alleluia, alleluia!
2. Trembling at the shrine we saw
Moses and Elijah, meeting.
All the prophets and the law
shout through them their joyful greeting,
Alleluia, alleluia!
3. Swift the cloud of glory came,
God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus by a proper name
as our thoughts are lost in wonder,
Alleluia, alleluia!
4. This is that beloved Son
whom we'd listen to with pleasure
now the passion had begun
when we'll make of this a treasure,
Alleluia, alleluia!

78 78 8 alt. Chris Nelson 2019

1. Jesus on the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing;
let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising.
Alleluia, alleluia!
2. Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law
shout through them their joyful greeting:
Alleluia, alleluia!
3. Swift the cloud of glory came,
God proclaiming in its thunder
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry a loud in wonder:
Alleluia, alleluia!
4. This is God's beloved Son!
Law and prophets sing before him,
first and last and only One.
All creation shall adore him!
Alleluia, alleluia!

Brian A. Wren 1977