

BYZANTINE GREEK SERIES • VOLUME 7

BYZANTINE HYMNS

ΥΜΝΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΩΙΔΑΙ

Byzantine Hymns

From Gregory of Nazianzus to Kassia

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation
preserving the original word order

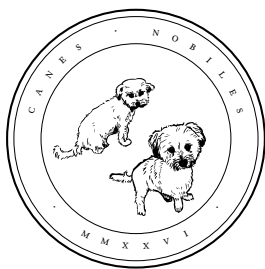


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GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS

ΥΜΝΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΩΔΑΙ

Hymns and Songs

Σὲ τὸν ἄφθιτον μονάρχην

I · A HYMN TO CHRIST

Gregory asks to sing the immortal sole ruler, through whom hymns, angels, the ages, the sun, the moon, and the stars exist, and through whom man, a rational creature, can know the divine. God made all things and holds them in order; his Word, the Son, is consubstantial and equal in honor with the Father, and the Holy Spirit guards all. Gregory names the living Trinity, beginningless, unknowable, and all-seeing, and asks the Father for mercy, a clean conscience, and grace when Christ comes to reign.

Σὲ τὸν ἄφθιτον μονάρχην

You the imperishable sole-ruler

δὸς ἀνυμνεῖν, δὸς αἰεῖδεν,

grant to-hymn grant to-sing

τὸν ἄνακτα, τὸν δεσπότην,

the king the master

δι' ὃν ὕμνος, δι' ὃν αἶνος,

because-of whom (the)-hymn because-of whom (the)-praise

δι' ὃν ἀγγέλων χορεία,

because-of whom of-angels (the)-dance

δι' ὃν αἰῶνες ἄπαυστοι,

because-of whom (the)-ages unceasing

δι' ὃν ἥλιος προλάμπει,

because-of whom (the)-sun shines-forth

δι' ὃν ὁ δρόμος σελήνης,

because-of whom the course of-(the)-moon

δι' ὃν ἄστρον μέγα κάλλος,

because-of whom of-(the)-stars (the)-great beauty

5

10 δι' ὃν ἄνθρωπος ὁ σεμνὸς
because-of whom man the august

ἔλαχεν νοεῖν τὸ θεῖον,
was-allotted to-understand the divine

λογικὸν ζῶον ὑπάρχων·
(a)-rational living-being being

σὺ γὰρ ἔκτισας τὰ πάντα,
you for created the all(-things)

παρέχων τάξιν ἐκάστω,
granting order to-each

15 συνέχων τε τῇ προνοίᾳ·
holding-together and by-the providence

λόγον εἶπας, πέλεν ἔργον
(a)-word you-spoke became (the)-work

ὁ λόγος σοῦ, θεὸς υἱός·
the word your God son

ὁμοούσιος γάρ ἐστιν,
consubstantial for he-is

ὁμότιμος τῷ τεκόντι,
equal-in-honor to-the(-one) having-begotten

20 ὃς ἐφήρμοσεν τὰ πάντα,
who fitted-together the all(-things)

ἵνα πάντων βασιλεύῃ·
that over-all he-might-reign

περιλαμβάνον δὲ πάντα
embracing and all(-things)

ἅγιον πνεῦμα τὸ θεῖον
holy spirit the divine

προνοοῦμενον φυλάσσει.
providing guards

Τριάδα ζῶσαν ἐρῶ σε,

Trinity living I-will-call you

ἓνα καὶ μόνον μονάρχην,

one and only sole-ruler

φύσιν ἄτρεπτον, ἀναρχον,

nature unchangeable beginningless

φύσιν οὐσίας ἀφράστου,

nature of-essence ineffable

σοφίας νοῦν ἀνέφικτον,

of-wisdom mind unattainable

κράτος οὐρανῶν ἄπυστον,

might of-heavens unceasing

ἄτερ ἀρχῆς, ἀπέραντον,

without beginning boundless

ἀκατασκόπητον αὐγὴν,

unsearchable radiance

ἐφορῶσαν δὲ τὰ πάντα,

overseeing and the all(-things)

βάθος οὐδὲν ἀγνοοῦσαν

depth no being-ignorant-of

ἀπὸ γῆς μέχρις ἀβύσσου.

from earth as-far-as (the)-abyss

25

30

35

Πάτερ, ἵλεως γενοῦ μοι,

Father merciful become to-me

διὰ παντὸς θεραπεύειν

through all to-serve

τὸ σέβασμα τοῦτο δός μοι.

the worship this grant me

τὰ δ' ἁμαρτήματα ῥύψον,
the and sins wash-away

40 τὸ συνειδὸς ἐκκαθαίρων
the conscience purifying

ἀπὸ πάσης κακονοίας,
from all evil-mindedness

ἵνα δοξάσω τὸ θεῖον,
that I-may-glorify the divine

όσίας χείρας ἐπαίρων,
holy hands raising

ἵνα Χριστὸν εὐλογήσω,
that Christ I-may-bless

45 γόνυ κάμπτων ἱκετεύσω,
(the)-knee bending I-may-entreat

τότε προσλαβεῖν με δοῦλον,
then to-receive me (as)-servant

ὅταν ἔλθῃ βασιλεύσων.
when he-comes to-reign

Πάτερ, ἴλεως γενοῦ μοι,
Father merciful become to-me

ἔλεον καὶ χάριν εὔρω,
mercy and grace may-I-find

50 ὅτι δόξα καὶ χάρις σοι
for glory and grace to-you

ἄχρις αἰῶνος ἀμέτρου.
until (the)-age immeasurable

ᾠ πᾶντων ἐπέκεινα

II · A HYMN TO GOD

A hymn to the God beyond all. No word can hymn him and no mind grasp him, for he made all that is spoken and thought. All things, thinking and unthinking, honor him; all longings and pangs turn to him, and all things utter him a silent hymn. He is the end of all, one and all and none, the only unnamable. Gregory asks him to be merciful, and closes on the hymn's first line.

ᾠ πᾶντων ἐπέκεινα· τί γὰρ θέμις ἄλλο σε μέλπειν;

O of-all beyond(-one) what for (is)-right other(-than-this) you to-sing

πῶς λόγος ὑμνήσει σε; σὺ γὰρ λόγῳ οὐδενὶ ῥήτῳ.

how (the)-word will-hymn you you for by-word no speakable

πῶς νόος ἀθρήσει σε; σὺ γὰρ νόῳ οὐδενὶ ληπτὸς,

how (the)-mind will-gaze-on you you for by-mind no graspable

μῦθος ἐὼν ἀφραστός, ἐπεὶ τέκες ὅσα λαλεῖται,

alone being unutterable since you-begot whatever is-spoken

μῦθος ἐὼν ἄγνωστος, ἐπεὶ τέκες ὅσα νοεῖται.

alone being unknowable since you-begot whatever is-thought

Πάντα σε καὶ νοέοντα καὶ οὐ νοέοντα γεραίρει·

All(-things) you both thinking and not thinking honor

ξυνοὶ γὰρ τε πόθοι, ξυναὶ δ' ὠδῖνες ἀπάντων

common for and longings common and pangs of-all(-things)

ἀμφὶ σε, σοὶ δὲ τὰ πάντα προσεύχεται· εἰς σὲ δὲ πάντα,

around you to-you and the all(-things) pray to you and all(-things)

σύνθεμα σὸν νοέοντα, λαλεῖ σιγώμενον ὕμνον.

(the)-sign your perceiving speak (a)-silenced hymn

Σοὶ ἔνι πάντα μένει· σὺ δ' ἀθρόα πάντα θεάζεις

You in all(-things) remain you and together all(-things) make-divine

καὶ πάντων τέλος ἐσσί, καὶ εἷς καὶ πάντα καὶ οὐδεὶς,

and of-all (the)-end you-are and one and all and none

οὐχ ἓν ἐών, οὐ πάντα· πανώνυμε, πῶς σε καλέσω,
not one being not all all-named(-one) how you shall-I-call

τὸν μόνον ἀκλήϊστον, ὑπερνεφέας δὲ καλύπτρας
the only unnamable above-the-clouds and veils

τίς νόος οὐρανίδης εἰσδύσεται; ἵλαος εἷς·
what mind heavenly will-enter merciful may-you-be

15 ὦ πάντων ἐπέκεινα, τί γὰρ θέμις ἄλλο σε μέλπειν;
O of-all beyond(-one) what for (is)-right other(-than-this) you to-sing

Χριστὲ ἄναξ

III · A HYMN TO CHRIST AFTER THE EASTER SILENCE

Gregory breaks a long silence at Easter and offers his first words to Christ, the pure sacrifice of a priest. He praises the Word, image of the Father and light from light, by whom the sun, the moon, the zodiac, and the stars keep their courses, and whom the minds of heaven and mortal man sing. He gives his life, tongue, and speech to Christ. Today Christ has risen, broken the gates of Hades, and freed the souls; the angels rejoice, and Gregory has loosed his lips to be his lyre.

Χριστὲ ἄναξ, σὲ πρῶτον, ἐπεὶ λόγον ἡέρι δῶκα,
Christ king you first since (my)-word to-(the)-air I-gave

δηναιὸν κατέχων, φθέγξομ' ἀπὸ στομάτων,
long holding(-it) I-will-utter from (my)-mouth

ἀγνοτάτου ἱερῆος ἀγνὸν θύος, εἰ θέμις εἰπεῖν,
of-(the)-most-pure priest (a)-pure sacrifice if (it-be)-right to-say

τόνδε λόγον προχέων ἡμετέριοι νόου.
this word pouring-forth of-our mind

5 Πατροφαῆς μεγάλιο νόου λόγε, φέρτερε μύθου,
Shining-from-the-Father of-(the)-great mind word better than-speech

φωτός τ' ἀκροτάτου φῶς ἄκρον, οἰογόνε,
of-light and highest light highest only-begotten

εἰκὼν ἀθανάτοιο πατρός, καὶ σφρηγὶς ἀνάρχου,
image of-(the)-immortal father and seal of-(the)-beginningless
 πνεύματι τῷ μεγάλῳ συμφαές, εὐρυμέδον,
with-spirit the great equally-shining wide-ruling
 αἰῶνος πείρημα, μεγακλέες, ὀλβιόδωρε,
of-(the)-age (the)-bound great-glorious bliss-giving
 ὑψίθρον', οὐράνιε, πανσθενὲς ἄσθμα νόου,
high-throned heavenly all-powerful breath of-(the)-mind
 νωμητὰ κόσμοιο, φερέσβιε, δημοεργέ
governor of-(the)-world life-bearing creator
 ὄντων, ἔσσομένων· σοὶ γὰρ ἅπαντα πέλει,
of-things-that-are of-things-to-be in-you for all(-things) are
 ὃς κόσμοιο θέμεθλα, καὶ ὅπποσα ἐστί, θέλοντος
who of-(the)-world (the)-foundations and whatever is (you)-willing
 δησάμενος φορέεις νεύμασιν ἀπλανέως.
having-bound carry with-nods unerringly
 Σοὶ μὲν, ἄναξ, Φαέθων ὑψίδρομος ἄστρο καλύπτει,
For-you indeed king Phaethon high-running (the)-stars hides
 κύκλον ὑπερτέλλων ἔμπυρον, ὥς σὺ νόας.
(his)-circle rising-above fiery as you thought
 σοὶ ζῶει φθινύθει τε ἀμοιβαδὶς ὄμμα τὸ νυκτός,
for-you lives wastes and in-turn eye the of-night
 μήνη πλησιφαῆς αὐθις ἐπερχομένη.
(the)-moon full-shining again coming-on
 σοὶ δὲ ζωοφόρος τε κύκλος καὶ μέτρα χορείης
for-you and life-bearing both circle and measures of-dance
 ὥραις μέτρα φέρει ἥπια κιρναμένας.
to-(the)-seasons measures brings gently mingled

10

15

20

ἀπλανέες τε πλάνοι τε παλίμπορον αἴσσοντες

fixed both wandering and backward darting

ἀστέρες ἡγαθέης εἰςὶ λόγος σοφίης.

stars of-holy are (the)-word wisdom

Σὸν φάος εἰσὶν ἅπαντες, ὅσοι νόες οὐρανίωνες

Your light are all as-many-as minds heavenly

μέλπουσιν τριάδος δόξαν ἐπουρανίης.

sing of-(the)-trinity (the)-glory heavenly

25 σὸν βροτὸς αὖ κλέος ἐστίν, ὃν ἄγγελον ἐνθάδ' ἔθηκας

your mortal again glory is whom (an)-angel here you-set

ὑμνοπόλον τῆς σῆς, ὦ φάος, ἀγλαΐης.

hymn-singer of-the your O light splendor

Ἄμβροτέ μοι, βρότέε τε παλιγενές, ὕψος ἄσαρκον,

Immortal to-me mortal and reborn height fleshes

ὑστάτιον θνητῶν πῆμασι σαρκοφόρε,

last of-mortals for-(the)-woes flesh-bearing

σοὶ ζῶ, σοὶ λαλέω, σοὶ δ' ἔμπνοος εἰμὶ θυηλή,

for-you I-live for-you I-speak for-you and breathing I-am (a)-sacrifice

30 ἡ μούνη κτεάνων λείπετ' ἀφ' ἡμετέρων·

which alone of-possession remains from our(-things)

σοὶ καὶ γλῶσσαν ἔδησα, καὶ οὐασι μῦθον ἔλυσα·

for-you both (the)-tongue I-bound and for-(the)-ears (the)-word I-loosed

λίσσομαι, ἀλλὰ πόροις ἀμφότερ' εὐαγέως.

I-pray but may-you-grant both holily

Φθέγξομαι, ὅσ' ἐπέοικεν· ἃ δ' οὐ θέμις, οὐδὲ νοήσω.

I-will-utter what befits what but not right not-even I-will-think

ρέυσω μαργάρεον, βόρβορον ὠσάμενος.

I-will-draw-off pearly mire having-thrust-away

35 χρυσὸν ἀπὸ ψαμάθοιο, ῥόδον κранаῆς ἀπ' ἀκάνθης,

gold from sand (a)-rose rough from thorn

λέξομ' ἀπ' ἀσταχύων σίτον, ἀφείς καλάμην.

I-will-gather from ears grain having-let-go (the)-straw

Ταυτά σοι ἡμετέριοι θαλύσια, Χριστέ, πόνοιο

These to-you of-our harvest-offerings Christ toil

γλῶσσ' ἀπερευγομένη πρῶτον ἀνήψεν ἔπος.

(the)-tongue disgorging first lit (a)-word

Σήμερον ἐκ νεκύων Χριστὸς μέγας, οἷσιν ἐμίχθη,

Today from (the)-dead Christ (the)-great with-whom he-mingled

ἔγρετο καὶ θανάτου κέντρον ἀπεσκέδασε,

woke and of-death (the)-sting scattered

καὶ ζοφεροὺς πυλεῶνας ἀμειδήτου Ἀΐδαο

and gloomy gates of-joyless Hades

ρήξατο καὶ ψυχᾷς δῶκεν ἐλευθερίην.

burst and to-souls gave freedom

σήμερον ἐκ τύμβοιο θορῶν μερόπεσσι φαάνθη,

today from (the)-tomb having-leapt to-mortals appeared

οἷς γένεθ', οἷσι θάνεν, οἷς ἔγρετ' ἐκ νεκύων,

for-whom he-was-born for-whom died for-whom woke from (the)-dead

ὥς κε παλιγενέες τε καὶ ἐκ θανάτοιο φυγόντες

that — reborn both and from death having-fled

σοὶ συναειρώμεσθ' ἔνθεν ἀνερχομένῳ.

with-you we-may-be-raised thence going-up

σήμερον αἰγλήεις σε μέγας χορὸς ἀμφιγέγηθεν

today radiant you (the)-great choir rejoices-around

ἀγγελικός, μέλπων ὕμνον ἐπιστέφιον.

angelic singing (a)-hymn crowning

40

45

σήμερον ἦχον ἔπνευσα μεμυκότα χεῖλεα σιγῇ
today (a)-sound I-breathed closed lips by-silence

50 λύσας, ἀλλὰ μ' ἔχεις ὕμνοπóλον κιθάρην.

having-loosed but me you-have (as)-hymn-singing lyre

Νῶ νόον ἔνδον ἔρεξα, λόγῳ λόγον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα

With-mind mind within I-offered with-word word but then

ρέξω καὶ μεγάλῳ πνεύματι, ἣν ἐθέλῃ.

I-will-offer also with-(the)-great spirit if he-wills

Τί σοι θέλεις γενέσθαι

IV · TO HIS OWN SOUL

Gregory asks his soul what it wants. He asks whether it wants the treasures of Gyges and Midas, stones, lands, and herds, thrones, marriage and children, fame in speeches and lawsuits, war and the crowns of contests, refuses them, and dismisses each as a shadow, a breeze, or a passing noise. The soul's true wish is to become a god, an attendant of God dancing with the angels. He tells the body it shall have a stone house, a hide for clothing, bread, salt, thyme, and water, no luxuries; the wise man seeks the tree of life, the knowledge of the one triple-shining light.

Τί σοι θέλεις γενέσθαι;

What for-you do-you-wish to-become

ψυχὴν ἐμὴν ἐρωτῶ.

soul my I-ask

τί σοι μέγ' ἢ τί μικρὸν

what for-you great or what small

τῶν τιμίων βροτοῖσι;

of-the(-things) prized by-mortals

5 ζήτηι μόνον τι λαμπρόν,

seek only something splendid

καὶ δώσομεν προθύμως.

and we-will-give eagerly

Θέλεις τὰ Γύγεώ σοι

Do-you-wish the(-things) of-Gyges for-you

τοῦ Λυδίου γενέσθαι;

the Lydian to-become

καὶ δακτύλῳ τυραννεῖν,

and with-(a)-finger to-be-tyrant

τὴν σφενδόνην ἐλίσσων,

the bezel turning

κρύπτουσιν, εἰ κρύπτοιτο,

hiding if it-were-bidden

φαίνουσιν, εἰ φαίνοιτο;

showing if it-were-shown

Θέλεις τὰ Μίδεώ σοι

Do-you-wish the(-things) of-Midas for-you

τοῦ πλουσίως θανόντος;

the(-one) richly having-died

ᾧ χρυσὸς ἦν τὰ πάντα,

for-whom gold was the all(-things)

χρυσοῦν φέροντα λιμόν,

golden bearing famine

εὐχῆς δίκην ἀμέτρου.

of-(a)-prayer in-the-manner immoderate

Θέλεις λίθους διαυγεῖς,

Do-you-wish stones translucent

πλάτη τε γῆς λιπώσης,

breadths and of-earth fat

10

15

- 20 καὶ ποιμνίων ἀριθμοὺς
and of-flocks numbers
 βοῶν τε καὶ καμήλων;
of-oxen both and of-camels
 Οὐ ταῦτα δώσομέν σοι·
Not these we-will-give you
 λαβεῖν γὰρ οὐδὲ κρεῖσσον·
to-take for not-even (is)-better
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἔμοιγ' ἀνυστόν.
but not-even for-me-at-least achievable
- 25 ἔρριψα γὰρ μερίμνας,
I-cast-away for cares
 ἀφ' οὗ θεῷ προσῆλθον.
from when to-God I-came
 Θέλεις θρόνους τε κἀρχάς,
Do-you-wish thrones both and-offices
 καιροῦ φρύαγμα πίπτων;
of-(the)-moment (the)-insolence falling
 ἦν αὔριον καθεσθῆς
that tomorrow you-may-sit
- 30 κάτω βλέπων ταπεινόν,
below looking lowly
 ἄλλου τραχηλιῶντος,
another bolding-the-neck-high
 ὃς ἦν παραστάτης σοι
who was attendant to-you
 τυχὸν δὲ καὶ κακῶν τις.
perhaps and even of-evil(-men) one
 Θέλεις γάμῳ δεθῆναι,
Do-you-wish by-marriage to-be-bound

βλακεύμασιν ἀνάγνοις,

by-follies *impure*

καιροῖς τε συστραφῆναι;

by-occasions *and* *to-be-twisted-together*

θέλεις νόσον γλυκεῖαν,

do-you-wish *(a)-sickness* *sweet*

εὐτεκνίας μέριμναν;

of-fair-offspring *(the)-care*

εὐτεκνίαν δ' ἂν εἴπω

fair-offspring *and* *if* *I-should-say*

δυστεκνίαν, τί φήσεις;

bad-offspring *what* *will-you-say*

Θέλεις λόγοις βοᾶσθαι,

Do-you-wish *with-speeches* *to-be-acclaimed*

καὶ συλλέγειν θέατρα;

and *to-gather* *theaters*

ποθεῖς νόμους ταρασσεῖν

do-you-long *laws* *to-confound*

οὐκ ἐνδίκους παλαισμοῖς;

not *with-just* *wrestlings*

φέρειν τε καὶ φέρεσθαι

to-plunder *both* *and* *to-be-plundered*

πρὸ βημάτων ἀθέσμων;

before *tribunals* *lawless*

Αἰχμὴν θέλεις τινάσσειν,

(A)-spear *do-you-wish* *to-brandish*

πνέων ἀρῆϊόν τι;

breathing *warlike* *something*

35

40

45

καὶ στέμματ' ἐξ ἀγώνων

and crowns from contests

50 θηροκτόνον τε κάρτος;

beast-slaying and might

Ποθεῖς κρότους πολίχνης

Do-you-long-for (the)-plaudits of-(a)-little-town

καὶ χάλκεος τυποῦσθαι;

and in-bronze to-be-molded

Σκιὰν θέλεις ὀνείρων,

(A)-shadow do-you-wish of-dreams

μεταρρέουσιν αὔραν,

(a)-passing breeze

55 ῥοῖζον βέλους ἀνίχνου,

(the)-whir of-(an)-arrow trackless

ψόφον χειρὸς κροτούσης.

(the)-noise of-(a)-hand clapping

τί γὰρ μέγ' εὖ φρονούσι

what for great well to-(those)-thinking

τῶν σήμερον μὲν ὄντων,

of-the(-things) today indeed being

ἐς αὔριον δ' ἀπόντων,

by tomorrow but absent

60 ὧν καὶ κακοῖς μέτεστιν,

in-which even evil(-men) have-a-share

ὧν οὐ συνέρχεται τι

of-which not goes-along anything

ἐντεῦθεν ἐξιούσι;

from-here with-(those)-going-out

Τί οὖν, ἐπεὶ τὰδ' οὐχί,

What then since these not

τί σοι θέλεις γενέσθαι;

what for-you do-you-wish to-become

θέλεις θεὸς γενέσθαι,

do-you-wish (a)-god to-become

θεὸς θεοῦ μεγίστου

(a)-god of-God greatest

παραστάτης φαινώς,

(an)-attendant shining

σὺν ἀγγέλοις χορεύων;

with angels dancing

Ἴθι, πρόβαινε ταρσοῖς

Go go-forward with-(the)-pinions

ὄξυπτέρου μενοινῆς

of-swift-winged desire

κυκλουμένη πρὸς ὕψος.

circling toward (the)-height

ἐγὼ πτερὸν καθαίρω,

I (the)-wing cleanse

ἐγὼ λόγοις ἐπαίρω,

I with-words lift

ὥς εὐπτερόν τιν' ὄρνιν

as well-winged some bird

εἰς αἰθέρα προπέμψω.

to (the)-ether I-will-send-forth

Σὺ δ' εἰπέ μοι, κάκιστον

You but tell me most-evil

ὦ σαρκίον δυσώδες,

O little-flesh foul-smelling

ἐπεὶ συνεζύγην σοι,

since I-was-yoked to-you

65

70

75

- ἡ δεσπότις μαγείρῳ,
the mistress to-(a)-cook
- 80 τί σοι θέλεις γενέσθαι
what for-you do-you-wish to-become
 πρὸς τὸ πνοῇ κρατεῖσθαι;
for the by-breath to-be-held
 οὐ γὰρ πλέον χρεωστῶ,
not for more I-owe
 καὶν πόλλ' ἔχειν βιάζῃ.
even-if much to-have you-force(-me)
 Θέλεις τράπεζαν εὖπνουν
Do-you-wish (a)-table sweet-smelling
- 85 μύρων τε καὶ μαγείρων
of-perfumes both and of-cooks
 σοφίσμασιν περισσοῖς;
with-devices excessive
 καὶ βαρβίτων χερῶν τε
and of-lyres of-hands and
 κροτήματ' οὐκ ἄνοιστρα,
clappings not without-frenzy
 ἀβρῶν κλάσεις τε παίδων
of-delicate bendings and of-boys
- 90 κινουμένων ἀνάνδρως,
moving unmanly
 καὶ παρθένων ἐλιγμοὺς
and of-maidens whirlings
 γυμνουμένων ἀθέσμως;
stripped lawlessly

ἃ τοῖς πότοις τυποῦσιν

which at-the drinking-bouts they-shape

ὅσοι φιλοῦσιν ὕβριν,

as-many-as love insolence

τὸν μαινώλην ἐτοίμως

the frenzied readily

ὑποφλέγοντες οἶνον.

kindling-under wine

Ταῦτ' εἰ θέλεις παρ' ἡμῶν,

These if you-wish from us

ἔχους μέν, ἀγχόνην δέ.

may-you-have indeed (a)-noose but

τοιαῦτα τοῖς ἀπλήστοις

such(-things) to-the insatiable

ἐγὼ φίλοις πορίζω.

I to-friends provide

οἶκός σε πέτρινός τις

(a)-house you of-stone some

αὐτῶροφος καλύπτοι,

self-roofed may-cover

ἢ μικρὸν ἔργον ὥρας,

or (a)-small work of-(an)-hour

εἰ δεῖ τι καὶ πονήσαι.

if it-must something also toil

τὸ δ' ἔσθος ἢ καμήλων

the and clothing or of-camels

τρίχες νόμῳ δικαίων,

hairs by-(the)-custom of-(the)-just

95

100

105

ἢ καὶ δέρος, παλαιᾷς

or even (a)-hide of-old

γυμνώσεως κάλυμμα.

nakedness (a)-covering

στιβὰς μὲν ἢ τυχοῦσα,

(the)-bed indeed the chance(-one)

110 πόαι, κλάδοι τετάσθων

grasses branches let-be-spread

ἄπλωμα πορφυροῦν τι

(a)-spread purple some

καὶ συμπόταις ἀταρβές·

and to-drinking-companions fearless

τράπεζα δ' αὐτόθεν σοι

(the)-table and from-there for-you

γλυκὺ πνέουσ' ἀνείσθω,

sweet breathing let-be-set-out

115 ἃ γῇ φίλῃ δίδωσιν

what earth (the)-dear gives

ἄτεχνα δῶρα πᾶσιν.

artless gifts to-all

Ἐπεὶ δ' ἐθήκαμέν σε,

Since and we-have-set you

καὶ θρέψομεν προθύμως.

and we-will-feed eagerly

θέλεις φαγεῖν, ἔχ' ἄρτον,

do-you-wish to-eat have bread

120 ἔχ' ἄλφιτ', εἰ παρείη·

have barley if it-be-at-hand

ἅλεις δέ σοι τὸ πέμμα,

salt and for-you the cake

θύμόν θ' ὃν οὐ μετροῦμεν

thyme and which not we-measure

ἀπραγμάτευτον ὄψιον·

unbought relish

ἔνδεια δ' ἄλλο μεῖζον.

want and other greater

θέλεις πιεῖν; βρύει σοι

do-you-wish to-drink gushes for-you

ὔδωρ, κρατὴρ αἰέρρους,

water (a)-bowl ever-flowing

ποτὸν μέθης ἄποιον,

(a)-drink of-drunkenness free

ἀκλήματον γάνυσμα.

vineless gladness

ζητεῖς δὲ καὶ τρυφᾶν τι,

you-seek and even to-luxuriate something

μηδ' ὀξίνης φθονεῖσθω.

nor sour-wine let-be-grudged

Ἄλλ' οὐ τάδ' ἀρκέσει σοι,

But not these will-suffice you

τετρημένω ποθεῖς δὲ

into-(a)-pierced do-you-long and

πίθω κακῶς ἐπαντλεῖν

jar evilly to-pour

τὰς ἡδονὰς ἀπλήστως.

the pleasures insatiably

ἄλλον πόθει ποριστήν·

another long-for provider

125

130

135

ἐμοὶ γὰρ οὐ σχολή σε

for-me for not (is)-leisure you

θάλλειν σύνοικον ἐχθρόν,

to-warm (a)-house-mate enemy

ἢ ὥς ὄφιν κρυμωθείς,

that like (a)-serpent frozen

θέρμῃ δ' ἔπειτα λυθείς

by-heat and then loosed

140 ἐγκόλπιός με τρώσης.

in-(my)-bosom me you-may-wound

Θέλεις δόμους ἀμέτρους,

Do-you-wish houses immeasurable

χρυσωρόφους γραφῆς τε

gold-roofed of-painting both

καὶ ψηφίδος σοφισμοὺς

and of-mosaic subtleties

κινουμένων σχεδόν τι,

moving almost somewhat

145 πλακός τε λάμψιν ἀβρᾶς

of-slab and (the)-gleam delicate

ἀντίχρουν, πολύχρουν;

of-contrasting-color many-colored

θέλεις περιρρέουσιν

do-you-wish flowing-around

ἐσθήτα τῶν ἀθίκτων,

(a)-garment of-the untouchable(-things)

ἐν δακτύλοις τε πλοῦτον,

on fingers and wealth

γελώμενόν τε κάλλος

laughed-at and beauty

τοῖς σωφρονεῖν μαθοῦσιν,

by-those to-be-chaste having-learned

ἐμοὶ δὲ καὶ μάλιστα,

by-me and also especially

ᾧ κάλλος ἐστὶν εἶσω;

for-whom beauty is within

Τοῖς μὲν κάτω δὴ ταῦτα,

To-those indeed below indeed these(-things)

ὕμιν βροτοῖσι φάσκω,

to-you mortals I-say

οἱ ζῆτε τὸ πρὸς ὥραν,

who live the(-life) for (an)-hour

μηδὲν πλέον βλέποντες.

nothing more seeing

τοῖς δ' εὐγενῶς βιοῦσιν,

to-those but nobly living

ἐπαξίως τε μοίρας

worthily and of-(the)-lot

τῆς ἐκ θεοῦ δοθείσης

the(-one) from God given

τῷ πηλίνῳ πάχει μου,

to-the clayey thickness my

σκόπει πένητος ὄγκον,

consider of-(a)-pauper (the)-bulk

οἶαν τροφήν χορηγῶ.

what food I-supply

150

155

160

Διέλθέ μοι φλογώδη

Pass-through for-me (the)-flaming

165 ρομφαίαν, ὦ θεόφρον·

sword O God-minded(-one)

θείων γενοῦ γεωργός

of-divine become (a)-husbandman

φυτῶν, λόγων θαλλόντων,

plants of-words flourishing

ᾧ μ' ἐστέρησεν ἐχθρός,

of-which me deprived (the)-enemy

δι' ἡδονῆς συλήσας.

through pleasure having-despoiled

170 ξύλῳ πάλιν πρόσελθε

to-(the)-tree again come

ζωῆς ἀεὶ μενούσης·

of-life ever remaining

ἣ δ' ἐστίν, ὡς ἀνεῦρον,

it and is as I-found

γνώσις θεοῦ μεγίστου,

(the)-knowledge of-God greatest

φάους ἐνὸς τριλαμποῦς,

of-light one three-shining

175 πρὸς ὃν τὰ πάντα τείνει.

toward whom the all(-things) tend

Οὕτω μὲν αὐτὸς αὐτῷ

Thus indeed himself to-himself

πᾶς τις σοφῶν λαλήσει,

every one of-the-wise will-speak

ὃς δ' οὐ θέλει λαλήσαι,

who but not wishes to-speak

μάτην βίον παρήλθεν·

in-vain (his)-life passed-by

εἴπερ μάτην παρήλθε,

if-indeed in-vain passed-by

μὴ σὺν κακῷ μεγίστω.

not with evil greatest

180

Ὁρθριος δίδωμι τῷ θεῷ μου δεξιὰς

V · A MORNING PRAYER

At dawn Gregory pledges to God that he will do and approve nothing dark, and will offer him the whole day unshaken and master of his passions. He would be ashamed of his gray hair and of the altar he serves if he failed. He asks Christ to prosper the resolve.

Ὁρθριος δίδωμι τῷ θεῷ μου δεξιὰς,

At-dawn I-give — to-God my right-bands

μηδὲν σκοτῶδες ἢ δράσειν ἢ αἰνέσειν,

nothing dark either to-do or to-approve

ἀλλ' ὥς μάλιστά σοι θύσειν τὴν ἡμέραν,

but as most to-you to-sacrifice the day

μένων ἄσειστος καὶ παθῶν ἀτοκράτωρ·

remaining unshaken and of-passions sole-master

αἰσχύνομαι τὸ γῆρας, ἂν κάκιστος ᾦ,

I-am-ashamed-of the old-age if most-evil I-be

καὶ τὴν τράπεζαν, ἧς παραστάτης ἐγώ.

and the table of-which attendant I(-am)

Ὁρμὴ μὲν αὕτη, Χριστέ μου, σὺ δ' εὐόδου.

(The)-impulse indeed (is)-this Christ my you and prosper(-it)

5

Ἐψευσάμην σε τὴν ἀλήθειαν, λόγε

VI • AN EVENING CONFESSION

At nightfall Gregory confesses that he has lied to the Word, Truth itself: he had vowed the day to him, but the night has not received him wholly in light. He prayed and meant it, yet his feet stumbled, for an envious gloom came against his salvation. He asks Christ to shine on him again.

Ἐψευσάμην σε τὴν ἀλήθειαν, λόγε,

I-lied-to you the truth word

σοὶ τὴν παροῦσαν ἡμέραν καθαγνίσας.

to-you the present day having-ballowed

Οὐ πάντα φωτεινόν με νύξ ἐδέξατο.

Not all luminous me night received

ἢ μὴν προσηυξάμην τε καὶ τοῦτ' ὥόμην,

truly indeed I-prayed both and this I-thought

5 ἀλλ' ἔστιν οὐ μοι καὶ προσέπταισαν πόδες.

but there-is where for-me even stumbled (my)-feet

ζόφος γὰρ ἦλθε βάσκανος σωτηρίας.

gloom for came envious of-salvation

Λάμπους τὸ φῶς μοι, Χριστέ, καὶ πάλιν φανείς.

May-you-make-shine the light for-me Christ and again having-appeared

Σὲ καὶ νῦν εὐλογοῦμεν

VII • AN EVENING HYMN

Gregory blesses Christ, the Word of God, light from beginningless light and giver of the Spirit, the threefold light gathered into one glory. Christ loosed the darkness, made light, set unstable matter into an ordered world, lit man's mind with reason as an image of the light above, and adorned heaven with stars. He ordered night and day to yield to each other in brotherly love, night to rest the toiling flesh and day to rouse it to the work he loves.

Σὲ καὶ νῦν εὐλογοῦμεν,

You even now we-bless

Χριστέ μου, λόγε θεοῦ,

Christ my word of-God

φῶς ἐκ φωτὸς ἀνάρχου,

light from light beginningless

καὶ πνεύματος ταμία,

and of-(the)-spirit dispenser

τριπτοῦ φωτὸς εἰς μίαν

of-threefold light into one

δόξαν ἀθροιζομένου.

glory gathered

ὃς ἔλυσας τὸ σκότος,

who loosed the darkness

ὃς ὑπέστησας τὸ φῶς,

who established the light

5

ἵν' ἐν φωτὶ τὰ πάντα

that in light the all(-things)

10 καὶ τὴν ἄστατον ὕλην

and the unstable matter

στήσης, μορφῶν εἰς κόσμον

you-might-set of-forms into (an)-order

καὶ τὴν νῦν εὐκοσμίαν·

and the present good-order

ὃς νοῦν ἐφώτισας ἀνθρώπου

who (the)-mind enlightened of-man

λόγῳ τε καὶ σοφίᾳ

with-reason both and wisdom

15 λαμπρότητος τῆς ἄνω

of-(the)-brightness of-the above

καὶ κάτω θεῖς εἰκόνα,

also below having-set (an)-image

ἵνα φωτὶ βλέπη φῶς

that by-light it-may-see light

καὶ γένηται φῶς ὅλον.

and may-become light wholly

σὺ οὐρανὸν φωστῆρσιν

you heaven with-luminaries

20 κατηύγασας ποικίλοις·

lit-up varied

σὺ νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν

you night and day

ἀλλήλαις εἵκειν πράως

to-one-another to-yield gently

ἔταξας, νόμον τιμῶν

appointed (a)-law honoring

ἀδελφικῆς φιλίας·

of-brotherly friendship

τῇ μὲν ἔπαυσας κόπους

with-the(-one) indeed you-stopped (the)-toils

τῆς πολυμόχθου σαρκός,

of-the much-laboring flesh

τῇ δ' ἡγειρας εἰς ἔργον

with-the(-other) and you-roused to work

καὶ πράξεις τάς σοι φίλας.

and deeds the(-ones) to-you dear

25

Παρθένε, νύμφη Χριστοῦ

VIII · COUNSEL TO A VIRGIN

Gregory tells a virgin, the bride of Christ, to glorify her bridegroom and keep herself pure, for her union is better than corruptible marriage. In the body she imitates the angels; marriage is honorable, the root even of the virgin who bore God, but it serves the flesh, and with Christ's coming chastity shone out. He warns her not to look back to Sodom, nor to fear nature too much or trust herself too far, and gives her remedies: the fear of God, fasting, vigils, prayers, and tears. She is to keep her eyes and tongue chaste, prefer a plain robe to pearls, and shun men's company, for marriage brings failed births, jealousy, and thankless children, while her one care is God. Let her trust him, who fed Elijah in the desert and brought Thecla and Paul through fire, beasts, hunger, and cold. Beauty and wealth pass; let the virgins keep their lamps lit for the bridegroom.

Παρθένε, νύμφη Χριστοῦ,

Virgin bride of-Christ

δόξαζέ σου τὸν νυμφίον·

glorify your the bridegroom

ἀεὶ κάθαιρε σαυτήν

always cleanse yourself

ἐν λόγῳ καὶ σοφίᾳ,

in word and wisdom

ἵνα λαμπρὰ τῷ λαμπρῷ

that bright with-the bright(-one)

συζήσης τὸν αἰῶνα·

you-may-live-with(-him) the age

κρείσσων γὰρ αὕτη πολλῷ

better for this(-union) by-much

τῆς φθαρτῆς συζυγίας.

than-the corruptible yoking

Ἐν σώματι τὰς νοεράς

In (the)-body the intellective

δυνάμεις ἐμμήσω,

powers you-imitated

ἀγγελικὴν μετῆλθες

angelic you-pursued

ἐπὶ γῆς πολιτείαν.

on earth way-of-life

Δεσμὸς ἐνταῦθα καὶ λύσις

Binding here and loosing

καὶ σώματ' ἐκ σωμάτων.

and bodies from bodies

ἄνω δ' ἐκάστη μονάς

above but each unity

οὔποτε λυομένη,

never being-loosed

οἱ πρῶτοι φέρουσ' ἀκτῖνα

who first bear (the)-ray

τῆς καθαρᾶς οὐσίας,

of-the pure essence

πνεῦμα καὶ πῦρ, λειτουργοὶ

spirit and fire ministers

τῶν θεοῦ προσταγμάτων.

of-the of-God commands

ὕλη δὲ μίξιν ἐξεῦρεν

matter but mingling found

ἀεὶ ρέουσα φύσις,

ever flowing nature

ἣ μέτρον ὥρισε θεός,

for-which (a)-measure set God

γάμον νομοθετήσας·

marriage having-legislated

σὺ δ' ἔργον ὕλης φυγοῦσα

you but (the)-work of-matter having-fled

τοῖς ἄνω συνηρμόσθης,

to-those above you-were-joined

ὥς νοῦς ἀρμόζεται νοῖ

as mind is-joined to-mind

τὴν θεῖαν ἀρμονίαν·

the divine harmony

15 καὶ σαρκὶ πολεμοῦσα

and with-(the)-flesh warring

βοηθεῖς τῇ εἰκόνι·

you-help the image

πνοὴ γὰρ ἔφυσ θεοῦ

breath for you-are of-God

τῷ χείρονι συνδεθεῖσα,

to-the worse bound-together

ἦν' ἐκ πάλης καὶ νίκης

that from wrestling and victory

τὸ στέφος ἀπολάβῃς,

the crown you-may-receive

ἄνω θεῖσα καὶ τὸν χοῦν

above having-set even the dust

καλῶς ὑποταγέντα.

well subjected

Αἰνεῖσθω σοι καὶ γάμος,

Let-be-praised by-you also marriage

πρὸ γάμου δ' ἀφθορία·

before marriage but incorruption

γάμος συγγνώμη πάθους,

marriage (a)-pardon of-passion

ἀγνεία δὲ λαμπρότης·

chastity but brightness

γάμος πατὴρ ἀγίων,

marriage father of-saints

ἀγνεία δὲ θυσία.

chastity but sacrifice

Ταύτην καὶ τότε καιροῖς

This(-virtue) even then at-times

ἐτίμων τοῖς εὐθέτοις,

they-honored at-the fitting

Ἀδὰμ ἐν παραδείσῳ,

Adam in paradise

Μωσῆς ἐν ὄρει Σίνα,

Moses on (the)-mountain Sinai

λειτουργῶν Ζαχαρίας

ministering Zachariah

ὁ πατὴρ τοῦ προδρόμου.

the father of-the forerunner

Γάμος καὶ παρθενίας

Marriage also of-virginity

ρίζα τῆς θεοῦ νύμφης,

(the)-root of-the of-God bride

ἀλλ' ἔστιν ὅμως σαρκὸς

but it-is nevertheless of-flesh

καὶ βράσματος δουλεία.

and of-ferment (a)-slavery

Ὅτ' ἦν νόμος καὶ σκιαὶ

When there-was (the)-law and shadows

καὶ πρόσκαιροι λατρεῖαι,

and temporary worships

τότ' εἶχε πρῶτα καὶ γάμος,

then had first(-place) also marriage

ὥς ἔτι νηπιώδης.

as still childish

Ὅτε δ' ὑπεξήλθε τὸ γράμμα,

When but went-out the letter

τὸ πνεῦμ' ἀντεισήχθη,

the spirit was-brought-in-instead

30 καὶ Χριστὸς ἔπαθε σαρκὶ

and Christ suffered in-flesh

προελθὼν ἐκ παρθένου,

having-come-forth from (a)-virgin

τότ' ἐξέλαμψεν ἀγνεία

then shone-forth chastity

συντέμνουσα τὸν κόσμον,

cutting-short the world

ὃν ἐκεῖ δεῖ μεταβῆναι

which there must pass-over

Χριστῷ συνανελθόντα.

with-Christ going-up

Καλῶς ὁδεύεις, παρθέने,

Well you-travel virgin

εἰς ὄρος ἀποσώζου.

to (the)-mountain save-yourself

μὴ πρὸς Σόδομα βλέψης,

not to Sodom look

μὴ στήλῃ παγῆς ἅλός·
not as-(a)-pillar be-fixed of-salt

μήτε λίαν σε σαρκὸς
neither too-much you of-flesh

ἐκφοβείτω ἡ φύσις,
let-terrify the nature

μήτε θαρρήσης ἄγαν,
nor be-confident excessively

ὥστε ποτ' ἐκλυθῆναι.
so-as ever to-be-relaxed

Σπινθήρ ἀνάπτει καλάμην,
(A)-spark kindles straw

σβεννύει δ' ὕδωρ φλόγα.
quenches and water flame

Ἔχεις φάρμακα πολλὰ
You-have remedies many

τῆς σεμνῆς παρθενείας·
of-the august virginity

θεοῦ σε φόβος πηγνύτω,
of-God you fear let-fix

νηστεία σε κενούτω,
fasting you let-empty

ἀγρυπνία, προσευχαί,
vigil prayers

δάκρυα, χαμευνία,
tears sleeping-on-the-ground

ἔρως ὅλος πρὸς θεόν
love whole toward God

γνησίως τεταμένος,
genuinely stretched

35

40

πάντα κοιμίζων πόθον

all lulling longing

ἄλλότριον τῶν ἄνω.

foreign to-the(-things) above

Ὁ πίπτων ἐγειρέσθω,

The(-one) falling let-him-be-raised

ὁ ναυαγῶν ἐλεείσθω.

the(-one) shipwrecked let-him-be-pitied

σὺ δ' εὐπλόει τὸ ἰστίον

you but sail-well the sail

πετάσασα τῆς ἐλπίδος.

having-spread of-the hope

45 οὐ τῶν κάτω τὸ πίπτειν,

not of-those below the to-fall

τῶν δ' ἄνω φερομένων.

of-those but above being-borne

Ὀλίγοι πτερορροῦσιν,

Few lose-their-wings

οἱ πλείστοι δ' εὐδρομοῦσιν.

the most but run-well

ἔπεσεν Ἑωσφόρος,

fell (the)-Morning-star

ἀλλ' οὐρανὸς ἀγγέλων.

but (a)-heaven of-angels

Ἰούδας ἦν προδότης,

Judas was (a)-traitor

οἱ δ' ἑνδεκα λαμπτήρες.

the but eleven lamps

Μόνον ὅλως σεαυτὴν

Only wholly yourself

ἀγνὴν τήρει, παρθένε,

pure keep virgin

μή πως σπιλώσης Χριστοῦ

not perhaps you-stain of-Christ

τὸν ἄσπιλον χιτῶνα.

the spotless tunic

Ὅμμα σοι σωφρονεῖτω,

(The)-eye for-you let-be-chaste

γλῶσσα παρθενεύτω·

(the)-tongue let-be-virgin

μὴ νοῦς πορνεύῃ, μὴ γέλως,

not (the)-mind fornicate not (the)-laughter

μὴ ποὺς ἄτακτα βαίνων.

not (the)-foot disorderly walking

Τὴν πιναρὰν στολὴν σου,

The squalid robe your

καὶ τὴν ἀνχμηρὰν κόμην

and the unkempt hair

μᾶλλον αἰδοῦμαι μαργάρων

more I-revere than-pearls

καὶ τῆς Σηρῶν εὐκοσμίας.

and than-the of-(the)-Seres finery

Καλὸν ἄνθος ἢ αἰδῶς

Fair flower (is)-the modesty

καὶ μέγας κόσμος ὠχρότης·

and great adornment pallor

50

55

καὶ πλέγμα καλὸν ἀρεταὶ

and (a)-braid fair (are)-virtues

πᾶσαί σε στεφανοῦσαι.

all you crowning

Ἄλλη χρώμασιν εἰκόνα

Another with-colors (the)-image

τὴν θεοῦ νοθευέτω,

the of-God let-her-adulterate

πίναξ ἔμψυχος αἰσχροῶν

(a)-panel living of-shameful(-things)

κατήγορος τῶν ἔνδον.

accuser of-the(-things) within

σὺ δ' ἧς ἔχεις εὐμορφίας

you but of-what you-have of-comeliness

νεκρούσθω σοι τὸ πλείστον.

let-be-deadened for-you the most

60 κάλλος δὲ λάμπρυνε ψυχῆς

(the)-beauty but brighten of-(the)-soul

ἐκ θεοῦ κοσμουμένης.

by God adorned

Ὅψιν δ' ἀρρένων φεῦγε,

(The)-sight and of-males flee

εἰ θέμις, καὶ σωφρόνων,

if (it-be)-right even of-chaste(-ones)

μή που πλήξῃς, ἢ πληγῇς

not somehow you-strike or are-struck

ἐκ μώμου τοῦ Βελίου.

from (the)-reproach — of-Belial

ὄμματ' ὄμμασι μὴ δίδου,

eyes to-eyes not give

μὴ πλέκε λόγῳ λόγον·
not weave with-word word
 μὴ παρειὰ παρειαῖς
not (the)-cheek to-cheeks
 διδότη παρρησίαν·
let-give boldness
 μηδέν σοι καὶ τῇ γεύσει
nothing for-you and to-the tasting
 ξύλου τοῦ κατακρίτου,
of-(the)-tree the condemned
 μὴ σε ξύλου τῆς ζωῆς
not you from-(the)-tree of-the life
 ὁ ὄφεις ἔξω βάλη.
the serpent out may-cast
 Καὶ τοῦτο πείθου, παρθένε,
And this be-persuaded virgin
 μὴ συνοίκει προστάτη,
not live-with (a)-protector
 Χριστὸν ἔχουσα νυμφίον·
Christ having (as)-bridegroom
 ζηλοῖ σου τὴν ἀγνείαν.
he-is-jealous-of your the purity
 Τί μοι σάρκα φυγοῦσα
Why for-me flesh having-fled
 πρὸς σάρκας ἐπιστρέφεις;
to fleshes do-you-turn
 Οὐ πάντες ἄνδρες τὴν σὴν
Not all men the your
 ἀπλότητα χωροῦσιν·
simplicity contain

65

70

ὥς ῥόδον ἐν ἀκάνθαις,

as (a)-rose among thorns

οὕτως ἐν πολλοῖς στρέφῃ·

so among many you-move

καὶ πονηρῶν ἐπάνω

and of-wicked over

παγίδων διαβαίνεις.

snares you-pass

Ὁ μὲν ἐγείρει παστάδας,

The(-one) indeed raises bridal-chambers

ἡ δ' ἐκκομίζει νυμφίον,

the(-other) but carries-out (her)-bridegroom

ἄλλος γίνεται πατήρ,

another becomes (a)-father

ἄλλος ἄπαις ἀθρόως·

another childless suddenly

75 ὅσον κακὸν ὠδίνες

how-great (an)-evil (are)-pangs

ἀτέλεστοι πολλάκις;

unfulfilled often

ὅσον ζῆλος συζύγου,

how-great (the)-jealousy of-(a)-spouse

κλαπῆναι ποῦ φιλίαν;

to-be-stolen somewhere (the)-affection

ἐκτρέψαι δὲ καὶ παιδεῦσαι

to-rear and also to-educate

ἔπειτ' ἀτιμασθῆναι,

then to-be-dishonored

καὶ πικρὰς ἀντιλαβεῖν

and bitter to-receive

τῶν πόνων ἀντιδόσεις;

of-the toils requitals

σοὶ δὲ μέριμνα μία

for-you but (a)-care one

πρὸς θεὸν ἀεὶ βλέπειν.

toward God always to-look

Ἡ χρεία δ' ἔστω ὀλίγη μάζα

The need and let-be little barley-cake

καὶ μικρὰ σκέπη,

and small shelter

ἀφ' ἧς πείραν καὶ Χριστῷ

from which (a)-trial even to-Christ

προσήγαγεν ὁ πειράζων,

brought the tempter

λίθους αἰτῶν εἰς ἄρτους

stones asking into loaves

πεινῶντα μετατρέψαι.

hungering to-change

ὧν μὴ ποθ' ἔνεκα

of-which not ever for-the-sake

μηδὲν τῶν αἰσχρῶν ὑπομείνης.

nothing of-the shameful(-things) may-you-endure

Οὐ χείρων εἰ πετεινῶν

Not worse are-you than-birds

σχεδὶως τρεφομένων.

offband fed

- 85 οὐκ ἐκλείψει σοι καμψάκης
not will-fail for-you (the)-cruse
 ἐλαίου πιστευούσῃ·
of-oil believing
 κόραξ σε θρέψει,
(a)-raven you will-feed
 καθάπερ Ἠλίαν ἐν ἐρήμῳ.
just-as Elijah in (the)-desert
 Οἶδας Θέκλαν ἐκ πυρὸς
You-know Thecla from fire
 καὶ θηρίων φυγοῦσαν·
and beasts having-fled
 Παῦλον πεινῶντα τὸν μέγαν
Paul hungering the great
 καὶ ῥιγοῦντα προθύμως,
and freezing eagerly
 ἵνα σὺ μάθῃς, παρθένε,
that you may-learn virgin
 πρὸς θεὸν μόνον βλέπειν,
toward God alone to-look
 90 ὃς ἐν ἐρήμῳ τρέφειν
who in (the)-desert to-feed
 οἶδε καὶ μυριάδας.
knows even myriads
 Μαραίνεται τὸ κάλλος,
Withers the beauty
 ἡ δόξα παρατρέχει·
the glory runs-by
 ὁ πλοῦτος ἄπιστον ῥεῦμα,
the wealth (an)-untrustworthy stream

τὸ δύνασθαι δ' ὀλίγον·
the to-have-power and little
 σὺν δὲ τοῦ πλάνου κόσμου
you but of-the deceiving world
 τὰς τρυφὰς ἐκφυγοῦσα
the luxuries having-escaped
 εἰσῆλθες εἰς τὰ ἅγια
entered into the holy(-places)
 τῶν ἀγίων γελῶσα,
of-the holies laughing
 καὶ σὺν ἀγγέλοις χορεύσεις
and with angels you-will-dance
 τὴν ἄπαυστον χορείαν,
the unceasing dance
 κρείσσονα τόπον λαχοῦσα
(a)-better place having-obtained
 υἱῶν καὶ θυγατέρων·
than-sons and daughters
 ἀλλ', ὦ παρθένοι, Χριστὸν
but O virgins Christ
 μένοιτε γρηγοροῦσαι,
may-you-remain watching
 καὶ φαιδραῖς τὸν νυμφίον
and with-bright the bridegroom
 δέχοισθε ταῖς λαμπάσιν,
may-you-receive the lamps

ἵνα συνεισελθοῦσαι

that having-entered-with(-him)

τὸ κάλλος τοῦ νυμφῶνος

the beauty of-the bridal-chamber

100 ἴδητε καὶ μιγῇτε

you-may-see and may-be-mingled

τοῖς ἄνω μυστηρίοις.

with-the above mysteries

SYNESIUS OF CYRENE

ΣΥΝΕΣΙΟΥ ΥΜΝΟΙ

Hymns

Ἄγε μοι, λίγεια φόρμιγξ

I · THE LYRE AND THE DIVINE SONG

Synesius bids his lyre leave the songs of Teos and Lesbos for a holier Dorian hymn. Others may prize strength, beauty, gold, or fame; he asks a quiet life, wisdom, and enough to keep want from his door. He sings the self-begotten source, the unity of unities, that poured itself out as a threefold strength, and the mind that came down into matter, fell into forgetfulness, and can rise again. Blessed is he who escapes the barking of matter and leaps toward God; Synesius bids his soul drink from the spring and rise, to dance as god in God.

Ἄγε μοι, λίγεια φόρμιγξ,

Come for-me clear-toned lyre

μετὰ Τηϊαν αἰοιδάν,

after (the)-Teian song

μετὰ Λεσβίαν τε μολπὰν

after (the)-Lesbian and strain

γεραρωτέροις ἐφ' ὕμνοις

to-more-august upon hymns

κελάδει δώριον ᾠδάν,

sound (a)-Dorian ode

ἀπαλαῖς οὐκ ἐπὶ νύμφαις

tender not for brides

ἀφροδίσιον γελώσας,

lovingly laughing

θαλερῶν οὐδ' ἐπὶ κούρων

of-blooming nor for youths

πολυηράτοισιν ἥβαις·

lovely (the)-primes

- 10 θεοκύμονος γὰρ ἀγνὰ
God-conceiving for (the)-pure
 σοφίας ἄχραντος ὠδὶς
of-wisdom spotless travail
 μέλος ἐς θεῖον ἐπείγει
(a)-song to divine urges
 κιθάρας μίτους ἐρέσσειν,
of-(the)-lyre (the)-strings to-ply
 μελιχρὰν δ' ἄνωγεν ἄταν
boneyed and bids (the)-folly
- 15 χθονίων φυγεῖν ἐρώτων.
of-earthly to-flee loves
 τί γὰρ ἀλκὰ, τί δὲ κάλλος,
what for (is)-strength what and beauty
 τί δὲ χρυσός, τί δὲ φάμα,
what and gold what and fame
 βασιλῆϊοί τε τιμαὶ
royal and honors
 παρὰ τὰς θεοῦ μερίμνας;
beside the of-God cares
- 20 ὁ μὲν ἵππον εὖ διώκοι,
the(-one) indeed (a)-horse well may-drive
 ὁ δὲ τόξον εὖ τιταίνοι,
the(-other) and (a)-bow well may-stretch
 ὁ δὲ θημῶνα φυλάσσοι
the(-other) and (a)-heap may-guard
 κτεάνων, χρύσειον ὄλβον·
of-possession golden wealth

ἐτέρῳ δ' ἄγαλμα χαίτη

for-another and (a)-delight (bis)-hair

καταειμένη τενόντων,

hanging-down-over (bis)-sinews

πολύμνος δέ τις εἴη

much-hymned and some(-one) may-be

παρὰ κούροις, παρὰ κούραις

among youths among maidens

ἀμαρύγμασιν προσώπων·

for-(the)-flashings of-(bis)-face

ἐμὲ δ' ἀψόφητον εἴη

me but noiselessly may-it-be

βιοτὰν ἄσημον ἔλκειν,

(a)-life obscure to-draw

τὰ μὲν εἰς ἄλλους ἄσημον

the(-things) indeed toward others obscure

τὰ δὲ πρὸς θεὸν εἰδότα.

the(-things) but toward God knowing

σοφία δέ μοι παρείη

wisdom and to-me may-be-present

ἀγαθὰ μὲν νεότατα,

good indeed youth

ἀγαθὰ δὲ γήρας ἔλκειν,

good and old-age to-draw

ἀγαθὰ δ' ἄνασσα πλούτου·

good and queen of-wealth

25

30

35

πενίαν δ' ἄμοχθος οἶσει
poverty and untroubled will-bear

σοφία γελῶσα πικραῖς
wisdom laughing by-bitter

ἄβατον βίου μερίμναις.
untrodden of-life cares

40 μόνον εἰ τόσον παρείη,
only if so-much may-be-present

ὅσον ἄρκιον καλῆς
as-much-as (is)-sufficient of-(my)-but

ἀπὸ γειτόνων ἐρύκειν,
from neighbors to-keep

ἵνα μὴ χρεώ με κάμπτοι
that not need me may-bend

ἐπὶ φροντίδας μελαίνας.
to cares black

45 κλύε καὶ τέττιγος ὠδᾶν
bear and of-(the)-cicada (the)-song

δρόσον ὀρθρίαν πiónτος.
dew morning having-drunk

Ἴδε μοι βοῶσι νευραὶ
See for-me cry (the)-strings

ἀκέλευστα, καὶ τις ὀμφή
unbidden and some voice

περί τ' ἀμφί τέ με ποτᾶται.
around both about and me flies

50 τί ποτ' ἄρα τέξεταί μοι
what ever then will-bear for-me

μέλος ἅ θέσκελος ὠδὶς;
(as)-song the divine birth-pang

Ὁ μὲν αὐτόσσυτος ἀρχά,
The(-one) indeed self-sprung beginning

ταμίας πατήρ τ' ἐόντων,
steward father and of-things-that-are

ἀλόχευτος ὑψιθώκων
unbegotten high-seated

ὑπὲρ οὐρανοῦ καρήνων
above heaven's heads

ἀλύτῳ κύδει γαίων
in-indissoluble glory exulting

θεὸς ἔμπεδος θαάσσει,
God steadfast sits

ἐνοτήτων ἐνὰς ἀγνή,
of-unities unity pure

μονάδων μονὰς τε πρώτη,
of-monads monad and first

ἀπλότητας ἀκροτήτων
(the)-simplicities of-summits

ἐνώωσα καὶ τεκοῦσα
uniting and having-borne

ὑπερουσίους λοχείαις·
in-super-essential births

ὅθεν αὐτὴ προθοροῦσα
whence itself having-leapt-forth

διὰ πρωτόσπορον εἶδος
through first-sown form

μονὰς ἄρρητα χυθεῖσα
(the)-monad ineffably poured-out

τρικόρυμβον ἔσχεν ἀλκάν.
three-headed held strength

55

60

65

ὑπερούσιος δὲ παγὰ

super-essential and spring

στέφεται κάλλει παίδων

is-crowned with-(the)-beauty of-children

ἀπὸ κέντρου τε θορόντων,

from (the)-center and having-leapt

70 περὶ κέντρον τε ῥύντων.

around (the)-center and having-flowed

Μένε μοι θρασεῖα φόρμιγξ,

Stay for-me bold lyre

μένε, μηδὲ φαῖνε δήμοις

stay nor show to-(the)-peoples

τελετὰς ἀνοργιάστους.

rites unconsecrated

ἴθι καὶ τὰ νέρθε φώνει.

go and the(-things) below utter

75 τὰ δ' ἄνω σιγὰ καλύπτει,

the(-things) but above silence covers

ὁ δὲ νοῦς οἷοισιν ἤδη

the and mind with-alone already

μέλεται νοεροῖσι κόσμοις.

is-concerned intellectual worlds

ἀγαθὰ γὰρ ἔνθεν ἤδη

good(-things) for thence already

βροτέου πνεύματος ἀρχὰ

of-mortal spirit (the)-beginning

80 ἀμερίστως ἐμερίσθη,

undividedly was-divided

ὁ καταβάτας ἐς ὕλαν

the(-one) descending into matter

νόος ἄφθιτος, τοκήων

mind imperishable of-(the)-parents

θεοκοιράνων ἀπορρώξ,

of-God-rulers (a)-fragment

ὀλίγα μὲν, ἀλλ' ἐκείνων.

little indeed but of-those

ὅλος οὗτος εἷς τε πάντη,

whole this(-one) one and everywhere

ὅλος εἰς ὅλον δεδυκώς,

whole into whole having-entered

κύτος οὐρανῶν ἐλίσσει·

(the)-vault of-heavens whirls

τὸ δ' ὅλον τοῦτο φυλάσσω

the and whole this guarding

νενεμημέναισι μορφαῖς

in-distributed forms

μεμερισμένος παρέστη,

divided stood-by

ὁ μὲν ἀστέρων διφρεῖαις,

the(-one) indeed of-stars in-(the)-chariots

ὁ δ' ἐς ἀγγέλων χορείας·

the(-one) and into of-angels dances

ὁ δὲ καὶ ῥέποντι δεσμῷ

the(-one) and also by-(a)-sinking bond

χθονίαν εὔρετο μορφάν·

earthly found form

85

90

- 95 ἀπὸ δὲ σταθεῖς τοκήων
apart and having-stood from-(the)-parents
 δνοφερὰν ἤρυσε λάθαν,
dark drew forgetfulness
 ἀλαωποῖσι μερίμναις
with-blind cares
 χθόνα θαυμάσας ἀτερπῇ
(the)-earth having-admired joyless
 θεὸς ἐς θνητὰ δεδορκώς.
(a)-god into mortal(-things) having-gazed
- 100 Ἐνι μάν, ἔνι τι φέγγος
There-is indeed there-is some light
 κεκαλυμμέναισι γλήναις·
in-veiled eyes
 ἔνι καὶ δεῦρο πεσόντων
there-is also hither of-(those)-fallen
 ἀναγώγιός τις ἀλκά,
upward-leading some strength
 ὅτε κυμάτων φυγόντες
when from-(the)-waves having-fled
- 105 βιοτησίῳ ἀκηδεῖς
of-life free-of-care
 ἀγίας ἔστειλαν οἴμους
holly they-took paths
 πρὸς ἀνάκτορον τοκῆος.
to (the)-palace of-(the)-parent

μάκαρ ὅστις βορὸν ὕλας
blessed whoever (the)-devouring of-matter

προφυγὼν ὕλαγμα, καὶ γᾶς
having-escaped barking and from-earth

ἀναδὺς ἄλματι κούφῳ
having-emerged with-(a)-leap light

ἵχνος ἐς θεὸν τιταίνει.
(his)-track toward God stretches

μάκαρ ὅστις μετὰ μοίρας,
blessed whoever after (the)-fates

μετὰ μόχθους, μετὰ πικρὰς
after toils after bitter

χθονογηθεὶς μελεδῶνας
earth-delighting cares

ἐπιβὰς νόου κελεύθων
having-trodden of-mind (the)-paths

βυθὸν εἶδεν θεολαμπῇ.
(the)-depth saw God-shining

Πόνος ἔσθ' ὅλαν τανύσθαι
(A)-toil it-is whole to-stretch

κραδίαν ὅλοισι ταρσοῖς
(the)-heart with-whole wings

ἀναγωγίων ἐρώτων.
of-upward-leading loves

μόνον ἐμπέδωσον ὄρμαν
only make-steadfast (the)-impulse

νοερηφόροισιν ὀρμαῖς·
with-mind-bearing impulses

110

115

120

ὁ δέ τοι πέλας φανεῖται

the and to-you near will-appear

γενέτας χεῖρας ὀρεγνύς·

begetter (his)-hands stretching

προθέοισα γάρ τις ἀκτὶς

running-before for some ray

125 καταλάμψει μὲν ἀταρπούς,

will-illumine indeed (the)-paths

πετάσει δέ τοι νοητὸν

will-spread-out and to-you (the)-intelligible

πεδίον, κάλλεος ἀρχάν.

plain of-beauty (the)-beginning

Ἄγε μοι, ψυχά, πιόισα

Come for-me soul having-drunk

ἀγαθορρύτιο παγᾶς,

of-(the)-good-flowing spring

130 ἱκετεύσασα τοκῆα

having-suppliated (the)-parent

ἀνάβαινε μηδὲ μέλλε

go-up nor delay

χθονὶ τὰ χθονὸς λιποῖσα·

to-earth the(-things) of-earth having-left

τάχα δ' ἂν μιγεῖσα πατρὶ

soon and — having-mingled with-(the)-father

θεὸς ἐν θεῷ χορεύσαις.

god in God you-may-dance

Πάλι φέγγος, πάλιν αὐός

II • A MORNING HYMN

Light returns, and Synesius bids his heart sing God, who gave the dawn its light and the night its stars. He traces the ether, the moon, the eighth sphere, and the silence beyond the intellectual and intelligible. One spring and one root shone in three forms, the Father's depth, the glorious Son, and the Spirit, and from it came the angels, daemons, heroes, and souls. God is father and mother, voice and silence, root of the world; Synesius asks wisdom, a calm life, health, and freedom from cares, that his mind may rise to his mysteries.

Πάλι φέγγος, πάλιν αὐός,

Again light again dawn

πάλιν ἀμέρα προλάμπει

again day shines-forth

μετὰ νυκτίφοιτον ὄρφναν·

after night-roaming darkness

πάλι μοι λίγαινε, θυμέ,

again for-me sing heart

θεὸν ὀρθρίοισιν ὕμνους,

God with-dawn hymns

ὃς ἔδωκε φέγγος αὐοί,

who gave light to-dawn

ὃς ἔδωκεν ἄστρα νυκτί,

who gave stars to-night

περικοσμίαν χορείαν.

(an)-around-the-world dance

- πολυκύμονος μὲν ὕλας
of-much-teeming indeed matter
- 10 ἐκάλυψε νῶτον αἰθῆρ
covered (the)-back (the)-ether
 πυρὸς ἐμβεβῶς ἁώτῳ,
of-fire having-mounted on-(the)-flower
 ἵνα κυδίμα σελάνα
where glorious (the)-moon
 πυμάταν ἄντυγα τέμνει·
(the)-last rim cuts
 ὑπὲρ ὀγδόαν δὲ δίναν
above (the)-eighth and whirl
- 15 ἐλίκων ἀστροφορήτων
of-coils star-bearing
 ῥόος ἀστέρων ἔρημος
(a)-stream of-stars deserted
 ὑποκολπίους ἐλαύνων
embosomed driving
 πτύχας ἀντίον θεοίσας
folds opposite deifying
 μέγαν ἀμφὶ νοῦν χορεύει,
(the)-great around mind dances
- 20 ὅς ἄνακτος ἄκρα κόσμου
which of-(the)-king (the)-heights of-(the)-world
 πολιοῖς ἔρεψε ταρσοῖς.
with-gray roofed wings
 τὰ πρόσω μάκαιρα σιγά,
the(-things) beyond blessed silence

νοερῶν τε καὶ νοητῶν

of-intellective both and intelligible

ἄτομον τομάν, καλύπτει.

(the)-indivisible division covers

Μία παγά, μία ρίζα

One spring one root

τριφαῆς ἔλαμψε μορφά·

three-shining sbone form

ἵνα γὰρ βυθὸς πατρῶος,

where for (the)-depth paternal

τόθι καὶ κύδιμος υἱός,

there also (the)-glorious son

κραδιαῖόν τι λόχευμα,

of-(the)-heart some offspring

σοφία κοσμοτεχνίτις·

wisdom world-crafting

ἐνοτήσιόν τε φέγγος

unifying and light

ἁγίας ἔλαμψε πνοιᾶς.

of-holy sbone breath

μία παγά, μία ρίζα

one spring one root

ἀγαθῶν ἀνέσχευ ὄλβον

of-good(-things) sent-up (the)-wealth

ὑπερούσιόν τε βλάσταν

super-essential and shoot

γονίμοις ζέοισαν ὀρμαῖς·

with-fertile seething impulses

25

30

35

τά τ' ἐνουσίων προλάμπει

the and of-essential shine-forth

μακάρων ἀγητὰ φέγγη.

of-(the)-blessed admired lights

ὅθεν ἐγκόσμος ἤδη

whence in-the-world already

40 χορὸς ἀφθίτων ἀνάκτων

(the)-choir of-immortal kings

γενετήριόν τε κῦδος

generative and glory

τό τε πρωτόσπορον εἶδος

the and first-sown form

νοεροῖς ἔμελιν ὕμνοις.

with-intellective sang hymns

πέλας εὐμενῶν τοκήων

near kindly parents

45 στρατὸς ἀγγέλων ἀγήρων

(the)-host of-angels ageless

τὰ μὲν ἐς νόον δεδορκῶς

the(-things) indeed toward mind having-gazed

δρέπεται κάλλεος ἀρχάν,

plucks of-beauty (the)-beginning

τὰ δ' ἐς ἄντυγας δεδορκῶς

the(-things) and toward (the)-rims having-gazed

διέπει βένθεα κόσμον,

governs (the)-depths of-(the)-world

50 τὸν ὑπερθε κόσμον ἔλκων

the above world drawing

νεάτας καὶ μέχρις ὕλας,

to-(the)-lowest even as-far-as matter

ἵνα δαιμόνων ὄμιλον

where of-daemons (the)-throng

φύσις ἰζάνοισα τίκτει

nature settling bears

πολύθρουν καὶ πολυμήταν·

many-voiced and many-wiled

ὅθεν ἥρως, ὅθεν ἤδη

whence (the)-hero whence already

περὶ γὰν σπαρεῖσα πνοιᾶ

around earth sown breath

χθονὸς ἐζώωσε μοίρας

of-earth animated (the)-portions

πολυδαιδάλοισι μορφαῖς·

with-many-wrought forms

τὰ δὲ πάντα σείω βουλᾶς

the(-things) and all of-your counsel

ἔχεται· σὺ δ' ἐσσι ρίζα

hang you and are (the)-root

παρεόντων, πρό τ' ἐόντων,

of-things-present before and of-things-that-are

μετεόντων, ἐνεόντων·

of-things-after of-things-within

σὺ πατήρ, σὺ δ' ἐσσι μάτηρ,

you (are)-father you and are mother

σὺ δὲ ἄρρην, σὺ δὲ θῆλυς,

you and male you and female

σὺ δὲ φωνά, σὺ δὲ σιγά,

you and voice you and silence

φύσεως φύσις γονῶσα,

of-nature nature generating

55

60

65

σὺ δ' ἄναξ, αἰῶνος αἰών.

you and king of-age age

τὸ μὲν ἦ θέμις βοᾶσαι.

the(-things) indeed as (is)-right to-cry

μέγα χαῖρε, ῥίζα κόσμου,

greatly rejoice root of-(the)-world

70 μέγα χαῖρε, κέντρον ὄντων,

greatly rejoice center of-things-that-are

μονὰς ἀμβρότων ἀριθμῶν

monad of-immortal numbers

προανουσίῳ ἀνάκτων.

of-pre-essential kings

μέγα χαίροις, μέγα χαίροις,

greatly may-you-rejoice greatly may-you-rejoice

ὅτι παρ θεῶ τὸ χαίρειν.

for beside God the to-rejoice

75 ἐπ' ἐμοῖς ἴλαον οὐδας

to my(-words) gracious ear

τάνυσον χοροῖσιν ὕμνων.

stretch to-(the)-dances of-hymns

σοφίας ἄνοιγε φέγγος,

of-wisdom open (the)-light

κατάχει κύδιμον ὄλβον,

pour-down glorious wealth

κατάχει χάριν λιπῶσαν

pour-down grace rich

80 βιοτᾶς γαληνιώσας,

of-life calm

πενίαν ἐκτὸς ἐλαύνων

poverty out driving

χθονίαν τε κῆρα πλούτου·

earthly and (the)-doom of-wealth

μελέων ἔρυκε νόσους,

from-(my)-limbs keep-away diseases

παθέων δ' ἄκοσμον ὄρμᾶν

of-passions and (the)-disorderly impulse

φρενοκηδεῖς τε μερίμνας

mind-troubling and cares

ἀπό μοι ζῶας ἐρύκοις,

from me of-life may-you-keep-away

ἵνα μὴ τὸ νοῦ πτέρωμα

that not the of-mind wing

ἐπιβρίση χθονὸς ἄτα·

weigh-down of-earth (the)-folly

ἄνετον δὲ ταρσὸν αἵρων

free but (the)-wing raising

περὶ σᾶς ὄργια βλάστας

around of-your rites of-offspring

τὰ πανάρρητα χορεύσω.

the all-ineffable I-may-dance

85

90

Ἄγε μοι ψυχὰ

III • THE TRIAD

Synesius rouses his soul to hymn the king of gods, whom he has sung by sea and land, day and night, and sought in the Libyan desert, far from the cities. He bids earth, sea, and winds be silent and the daemons of matter flee, and asks the Father's pardon for touching his mysteries. He names God the root and seed of all things, monad and number, mind and the intelligible, who poured himself out to bear the Son, the creative Wisdom. He hymns the monad that is a triad, the Spirit standing between, and the ineffable birth that time and age have never known.

Ἄγε μοι ψυχὰ

Come for-me soul

ἱεροῖς ὕμνοις

to-holy hymns

ἐπιβαλλομένα

applying(-yourself)

ύληγενέας

matter-born

5 εὐνασον οἷστρους·

lull frenzies

θώρησσε δὲ νοῦ

arm and of-mind

ζαμενεῖς ὀρμάς.

(the)-ardent impulses

Βασιλῆϊ θεῶν

For-(the)-king of-gods

πλέκομεν στέφανον,

we-weave (a)-crown

10 θῦμ' ἀναίμακτον,

(a)-sacrifice bloodless

ἐπέων λιβιάς.

of-words libations

Σὲ μὲν ἐν πελάγει,

You indeed on (the)-sea

σὲ δ' ὑπὲρ νάσων,

you and over islands

σὲ δ' ἐν ἀπείροις,

you and on mainlands

ἐπὶ τε πτολίων

upon and cities

κραναῶν τ' ὀρέων,

rugged and mountains

καὶ κατὰ κλεινῶν

and over famous

ὁπόταν πεδίων

whenever plains

στάσω διδύμους

I-set (the)-twin

γυίων ταρσούς,

of-(my)-limbs soles

σέ, μάκαρ, μέλπω,

you blessed(-one) I-sing

γενέτα κόσμον.

begetter of-(the)-world

σοὶ νύξ με φέρει

to-you night me brings

τὸν ἀοιδόν, ἄναξ·

the singer king

σοὶ δ' ἀμερίους,

to-you and daily

15

20

25

σοὶ δ' ἰώους,

to-you and dawn

σοὶ δ' ἑσπερίους

to-you and evening

ὕμνους ἀνάγω.

hymns I-offer

ἰστορες αὐγαὶ

witnesses (are)-(the)-rays

30 πολίων ἄστρον

of-gray stars

μάνας τε δρόμοι·

of-(the)-moon and courses

καὶ μέγας ἰστωρ

and great witness

ἄλιος ἄγνων

(the)-sun of-holy

ἄστρον πρύτανις,

stars presiding

35 ὁσίαν ψυχᾶν

of-holy souls

ἅγιος ταμίας.

holy steward

Ἐπὶ σὰς ἀνλὰς,

To your courts

ἐπὶ σοὺς κόλπους

to your bosom

τὸν ἀπόστροφον

the turned-away-from

ταναᾶς ὕλας

outstretched matter

ταρσὸν ἐλάφρουν,

foot I-lightened

χαίρων ἵνα σου

rejoicing where your

προμολὰν ἰκόμαν,

porch I-reached

νῦν ἐπὶ σεμνᾶς

now to of-(the)-august

τελετηφορίας

initiation

σηκοὺς ἀγίους

precincts holy

ἰκέτας ἔμολον·

(as)-suppliant I-came

νῦν ἐπὶ κλεινῶν

now to famous

κορυφὰν ὀρέων

peaks of-mountains

ἰκέτας ἔμολον·

(as)-suppliant I-came

40

45

50

νῦν ἐς ἐρήμας

now to of-desert

αὐλῶνα μέγαν

(the)-valley great

Λιβύας ἔμολον,

of-Libya I-came

πέζαν νοτίαν·

border southern

55 τὰν οὐτ' ἄθεον

which neither godless

πνεῦμα μολύνει,

breath defiles

οὔτε χαράσσει

nor stamps

ἵχνος ἀνθρώπων

(the)-track of-men

ἀστυμερίμων·

city-careworn

60 ἵνα σοι ψυχὰ

that to-you (my)-soul

καθαρὰ παθέων,

pure of-passions

λύσασα πόθους,

having-loosed longings

λήξασα πόνων,

having-ceased from-toils

λήξασα γόων,

having-ceased from-laments

65 θυμῶν, ἐρίδων,

from-angers from-strifes

ὅσα κηριτρεφῇ

as-many-as death-nurturing

ἀποσεισαμένα

having-shaken-off

καθαρᾶ γλώσσα

with-pure tongue

γνώμη θ' ὁσίᾳ

with-mind and holy

τὸν ὀφειλόμενον

the owed

ὕμνον ἀποίση.

hymn may-render

Εὐφραμείτω

Let-keep-holy-silence

αἰθῆρ καὶ γᾶ·

ether and earth

στάτω πόντος,

let-stand (the)-sea

στάτω δ' αἴρ·

let-stand and (the)-air

λήγετε πνοιαί

cease blasts

βαλίῳν ἀνέμων,

of-swift winds

λήγετε ῥίπαι

cease rushes

γυρῶν ῥοθίων,

of-curving surges

ποταμῶν προχοαί,

of-rivers (the)-outpourings

70

75

80

κρανααὶ λιβάδες.

rugged springs

ἐχέτω σιγὰ

let-hold silence

κόσμου λαγόνας,

of-(the)-world (the)-flanks

ἱερευομένων

being-offered

85 ἀγίων ὕμνων·

holy hymns

δύτω κατὰ γᾶς

let-sink beneath earth

ὀφίων συρμός,

of-serpents (the)-trail

δύτω κατὰ γᾶς

let-sink beneath earth

καὶ πτανὸς ὄφης,

also (the)-winged serpent

90 δαίμων ὕλας,

(the)-daemon of-matter

νεφέλα ψυχᾶς,

cloud of-(the)-soul

εἰδωλοχαρής,

idol-delighting

εὐχαῖς σκύλακας

at-prayers (his)-whelps

ἐπιθωῦσσαν.

setting-on

95 σὺ πάτερ, σὺ μάκαρ,

you father you blessed(-one)

σὺ ψυχοβόρους

you soul-devouring

ἀπέρυκε κύνας

keep-off dogs

ψυχᾶς ἀπ' ἐμᾶς,

soul from my

εὐχᾶς ἀπ' ἐμᾶς,

prayer from my

ζωᾶς ἀπ' ἐμᾶς,

life from my

ἔργων ἀπ' ἐμῶν.

works from my

ἃ δ' ἀμετέρα

the and our

πραπίδων λοιβὰ

of-(the)-heart libation

σοῖς ἐριτίμοις

to-your precious

μελέτω προπόλοις,

let-it-be-a-care ministers

πορθμεῦσι σοφοῖς

ferryman wise

ἁγίων ὕμνων.

of-holy hymns

Ἦδη φέρομαι

Already I-am-borne

ἐπὶ βαλβίδας

to (the)-starting-lines

ἱερῶν ἐπέων·

of-holy words

100

105

110

ἤδη καναχεῖ

already resounds

ὁμφὰ περὶ νοῦν.

(a)-voice around (my)-mind

Μάκαρ, ἱλαθί μοι,

Blessed(-one) be-gracious to-me

πάτερ, ἱλαθί μοι,

father be-gracious to-me

115 εἰ παρὰ κόσμον,

if beyond order

εἰ παρὰ μοῖραν

if beyond (my)-lot

τῶν σῶν ἔθιγον.

of-the your(-things) I-touched

τίνος ὄμμα σοφόν,

whose eye wise

τίνος ὄμμα πολύ,

whose eye much

120 ταῖς σαῖς στεροπαῖς

by-the your lightnings

ἀνακοπτόμενον,

being-beaten-back

οὐ καταμύσει;

not will-close

ἀτενὲς δὲ δρακεῖν

fixedly but to-gaze

ἐπὶ σοὺς πυρσοὺς

at your fires

125 θέμις οὐδὲ θεοῖς·

(is)-right not-even for-gods

πίπτων δὲ νόος

falling but (the)-mind

ἀπὸ σᾶς σκοπιᾶς

from your watchtower

τὰ πέλας σαίνει,

(the)-(things) near fawns-on

ἀκίχητα κιχεῖν

(the)-unattainable to-attain

ἐπιβαλλόμενος,

striving

προσιδεῖν αἴγλαν

to-look-at (the)-gleam

ἀκάμαντι βυθῷ

in-tireless depth

ἀμαρυσσομέναν·

glittering

ἀβάτων δ' ἀποβὰς

from-(the)-untrodden(-places) and having-stepped-off

ἐπὶ πρωτοφανὲς

upon (the)-first-appearing

εἶδος ἐρεῖδει

form it-fixes

ὄμματος ὀλκάν·

of-(the)-eye (the)-pull

130

135

ὅθεν αἰνύμενος

whence taking

ἐπὶ σοὺς ὕμνους

to your hymns

140 ἄνθεα φωτὸς

(the)-flowers of-light

ἀορίστοις ἀνέμοις

in-boundless winds

ἀναπαῦσαι βολάν,

to-rest (its)-glance

τὰ σὰ σοὶ πάλι δούς.

the your(-things) to-you again having-given

τί γὰρ οὐ σόν, ἄναξ;

what for not yours king

145 πατέρων πάντων

of-fathers all

πάτερ, αὐτοπάτωρ,

father self-father

προπάτωρ, ἀπάτωρ,

forefather fatherless

υἱὲ σεαυτοῦ,

son of-yourself

ἐν ἐνὸς πρότερον,

one than-one prior

150 ὄντων σπέρμα,

of-things-that-are seed

πάντων κέντρον,

of-all center

προανούσιε νοῦ,

pre-essential mind

κόσμων ῥίζα

of-worlds root

τῶν ἀρχηγόνων,

of-the primal(-things)

ἀμφιφαῆς φῶς,

all-around-shining light

ἀτρέκεια σοφά,

truth wise

παγὰ σοφίας,

spring of-wisdom

κεκαλυμμένε νοῦ

veiled mind

ἰδίαις ἀνγαῖς,

with-your-own rays

ὄμμα σεαυτοῦ

eye of-yourself

πρηστηροκράτορ,

lightning-ruler

αἰωνοτόκε,

age-beggetter

αἰωνόβιε,

age-living

ἐπέκεινα θεῶν,

beyond gods

ἐπέκεινα νόων·

beyond minds

θᾶτερα νωμῶν,

the-other-things governing

νοερητόκε νοῦ,

intellect-beggetting mind

155

160

165

ὀχετηγὲ θεῶν,

channeler of-gods

πνευματοεργὲ

spirit-maker

170 καὶ ψυχοτρόφε·

and soul-nourisher

παγὰ παγῶν,

spring of-springs

ἀρχῶν ἀρχά,

of-beginnings beginning

ρίζων ρίζα·

of-roots root

μονὰς εἰ μονάδων,

monad you-are of-monads

175 ἀριθμῶν ἀριθμός,

of-numbers number

μονὰς ἡδ' ἀριθμός,

monad and number

νοῦς καὶ νοερός

mind and intellective

καὶ τὸ νοητὸν

and the intelligible

καὶ πρὸ νοητοῦ·

and before (the)-intelligible

180 ἐν καὶ πάντα,

one and all

ἐν διὰ πάντων,

one through all

ἔν τε πρὸ πάντων,

one and before all

σπέρμα τὸ πάντων,

seed the(-one) of-all

ρίζα καὶ ὄρπαξ,

root and shoot

φύσις ἐν νοεροῖς,

nature in intellectual(-things)

θῆλυ καὶ ἄρρεν·

female and male

μύστας δὲ νόος

initiates and (the)-mind

τά τε καὶ τὰ λέγει,

the(-things) both and the(-things) says

βυθὸν ἄρρητον

(the)-depth ineffable

ἀμφιχορεύων.

dancing-around

Σὺ τὸ τίκτον ἔφως,

You the begetting are

σὺ τὸ τικτόμενον,

you the being-begotten

σὺ τὸ φωτίζον,

you the illumining

σὺ τὸ λαμπόμενον,

you the shining

σὺ τὸ φαινόμενον,

you the appearing

σὺ τὸ κρυπτόμενον,

you the hidden

185

190

195

φῶς κρυπτόμενον

light hidden

ἰδίαις αὐγαῖς·

with-your-own rays

ἐν καὶ πάντα

one and all

200 ἐν καθ' ἑαυτὸ

one by itself

καὶ δι' ἀπάντων·

and through all

σὺ γὰρ ἐξεχύθης,

you for were-poured-out

ἀρρητοτόκε,

ineffably-begetting(-one)

ἵνα παῖδα τέκης

that (a)-child you-might-bear

205 κλεινὰν σοφίαν

glorious wisdom

δημοεργόν·

creative

προχυθεὶς δὲ μένεις

poured-forth and you-remain

ἀτόμοισι τομαῖς

with-indivisible divisions

μαιευόμενος.

being-delivered

210 Ὑμῶ σε, μονάς,

I-hymn you monad

ὕμῶ σε, τριάς·

I-hymn you triad

μονὰς εἶ τριάς ὧν,

monad you-are triad being

τριάς εἶ μονὰς ὧν·

triad you-are monad being

νοερὰ δὲ τομὰ

intellective and division

ἄσχιστον ἔτι

undivided still

τὸ μερισθὲν ἔχει.

the divided holds

ἐπὶ παιδὶ χύθης

upon (the)-child you-were-poured

ιότατι σοφᾶ,

by-will wise

αὐτὰ δ' ιότας

itself and will

βλάστησε μέσα

sprouted (as)-middle

φύσις ἄφθεγκτος,

nature unutterable

τὸ προούσιον ὄν.

the pre-essential being

οὐ θέμις εἰπεῖν

not right to-say

δεύτερον ἐκ σοῦ·

second from you

οὐ θέμις εἰπεῖν

not right to-say

τρίτον ἐκ πρώτου.

third from (the)-first

215

220

225

᾽Ωδὶς ἱερά,

Travail holy

ἄρρητε γονά,

ineffable offspring

ὄρος εἰ φύσιν

(the)-boundary you-are of-natures

230 τᾶς τικτοίσας

of-the begetting

καὶ τικτομένας.

and being-begotten

σέβομαι νοερῶν

I-revere of-intellective(-ones)

κρυφίαν τάξιν·

(the)-hidden order

χωρεῖ τι μέσον

contains something middle

235 οὐ καταχυθέν.

not poured-down

Ἄφθεγκτε γόνε

Unutterable offspring

πατρὸς ἀφθέγκτου,

of-(the)-father unutterable

ὥδὶς διὰ σέ,

travail because-of you

διὰ δ' ὠδίνος

through and travail

240 αὐτὸς ἐφάνθης,

yourself you-appeared

ἄμα πατρὶ φανείς

together with-(the)-father having-appeared

ἰότατι πατρός·

by-(the)-will of-(the)-father

ἰότας σὺ δ' αἰὲ

will you and always

παρὰ σείω πατρί·

beside your father

οὐδ' ὁ βαθύρρους

not-even the deep-flowing

χρόνος οἶδε γονὰς

time knows (the)-births

τὰς ἀρρήτους·

the ineffable

αἰὼν δὲ γέρων

age and old

τὸν ἀμήρυτον

the unspun

τόκον οὐκ ἔδάη·

birth not learned

ἄμα πατρὶ φάνη

together with-(the)-father appeared

γενόμενος αἰῶν'

having-become (the)-age

ὁ γενησόμενος.

the(-one) going-to-be

Τίς ἐπ' ἀφθέγκτοις

Who over (the)-unutterable(-things)

ἐβράβευσε τόλμαν;

awarded (the)-daring

245

250

255

ἀλαῶν μερόπων

of-blind mortals

δαιδαλογλώσσων

cunning-tongued

ἄθροιοι τόλμαι·

godless darings

σὺ δὲ φωτοδότας

you but light-giver

260 φωτὸς νοεροῦ·

of-light intellective

σκολιᾶς δ' ἀπάτας

of-crooked and deceit

ἀνέχεις ὁσίων

bold-back of-holy

πραπίδας μερόπων

(the)-hearts of-mortals

εἰς ζόφον ὕλας

into (the)-gloom of-matter

265 μὴ καταδύναι.

not to-sink

Σέ, πάτερ κόσμων

III · THE HYMN OF ALL THINGS

Synesius praises the Father of the worlds, whom the minds, the stars, the angels, the heroes, and the souls all sing. Nature, the mother of all, hymns him: he warms her and makes even the lowest part of the world share in life, renewing what perishes. Dawn and night, lightning and snow, the elements, seeds, plants, beasts, birds, and fish all bring him praise. Synesius asks the Father to look on his feeble soul, held in a cloud of matter, and to free it from cares, and he weaves a crown of praise for the Father and for his wise Son, Wisdom itself, who governs all things down to the lowest part of the earth and drives off the griefs of mortals.

Σέ, πάτερ κόσμων,

You father of-worlds

πάτερ αἰώνων,

father of-ages

αὐτουργὲ θεῶν,

self-worker of-gods

εὐαγὲς αἰνεῖν.

holy (it-is)-to-praise

Σὲ μὲν οἱ νοεροὶ

You indeed the intellectual(-ones)

μέλπουσιν, ἄναξ,

sing king

σὲ δὲ κοσμοαγοὶ

you and world-leading

ὀμματολαμπεῖς

eye-shining

νόες ἀστέριοι

minds starry

270

- 275 ὕμνουσι, μάκαρ,
hymn blessed(-one)
 οὓς πέρι κλεινὸν
whom around glorious
 σῶμα χορεύει.
(the)-body dances
 πᾶσά σε μέλπει
all you sings
 γενεὰ μακάρων,
(the)-race of-(the)-blessed
- 280 οἱ περὶ κόσμον,
those around (the)-world
 οἱ κατὰ κόσμον,
those throughout (the)-world
 οἱ ζωναῖοι,
those zoned(-ones)
 οἷ τ' ἄζωνοι
those and zoneless
 κόσμου μοίρας
of-(the)-world (the)-portions
- 285 ἐφέπουσι σοφοί,
direct wise
 ἀμφιβατῆρες
going-around
 οἱ περὶ κλεινοὺς
those around glorious
 οἰηκοφόρους·
helmsmen
 οὓς ἀγγελικὰ
whom (the)-angelic

προχέει σειρά

pours-forth chain

290

τό τε κυδῆεν

the and glorious

γένος ἡρώων,

race of-heroes

ἔργα τὰ θνητῶν

(the)-works the(-ones) of-mortals

κρυφαίαισι ὁδοῖς

by-bidden ways

διανισσόμενον,

going-through

295

[ἔργα βρότεια]

works mortal

ψυχά τ' ἀκλινῆς

soul and unswerving

καὶ κλινομένα

and swerving

ἐς μελαναυγείς

into dark-gleaming

χθονίους ὄγκους.

earthly masses

300

Σὲ μάκαιρα φύσις

You blessed nature

φύσεώς τε γονά,

of-nature and offspring

μάκαρ, ὑμνέει,

blessed(-one) hymns

τὰς ζειδώροις

which with-life-giving

- 305 ἐφέπεις πνοιαῖς,
you-direct breaths
 ἀπὸ σῶν ὀχετῶν
from your channels
 κατασυρομέναις,
swept-down
 προκυλινδομέναις·
rolling-on
 σὺ γάρ, ἀχράντων
you for of-spotless
- 310 ἡγέτα κόσμων,
leader worlds
 φύσις εἰ φύσιν·
nature you-are of-natures
 σὺ φύσιν θάλπεις,
you nature warm
 γένεσιν θνατῶν,
(the)-birth of-mortals
 τᾶς ἀενάῳ
of-the ever-flowing
- 315 ἰνδαλμῶνα,
image
 ἵνα καὶ πυμᾶτα
that also (the)-last
 μερὶς ἐν κόσμῳ
portion in (the)-world
 λελάχῃ ζωᾶς
may-have-obtained of-life
 ἐπαμειβομένης·
alternating

οὐ γὰρ θέμις ἦν

not for right was

τρύγα τὰν κόσμου

(the)-dregs the(-one) of-(the)-world

κορυφαῖς ἐρίσαι·

with-(the)-peaks to-vie

τὸ δὲ ταχθὲν ὅλως

the and appointed wholly

ἐς χορὸν ὄντων

into (the)-choir of-things-that-are

οὐκέτ' ὀλεῖται·

no-longer will-perish

ἄλλο δ' ἀπ' ἄλλου,

other and from other

διὰ δ' ἀλλήλων

through and one-another

πάντ' ἀπολαύει·

all(-things) enjoy

ἐξ ὀλλυμένων

from perishing(-things)

κύκλος αἰδῖος

(a)-circle everlasting

ταῖς σαῖς πνοιαῖς

by-the your breaths

ἀναθαλπόμενος.

being-warmed-again

σοὶ διὰ πάντων

for-you through all

ἵστησι χοροὺς

sets-up choirs

320

325

330

- 335 μάτεια φύσις
mother nature
 ἰδίαις χροίαις,
with-own colors
 ἰδίους ἔργοις
with-own works
 δαιδαλλομένων,
of-(things)-wrought
 ἐκ δὲ ζώων
from and animals
- 340 ἑτεροφθόγγων
different-voiced
 μίαν ἀρμονίαν
one harmony
 ὁμόφωνον ἄγει.
of-one-voice leads
 σοὶ πάντα φέρει
to-you all brings
 αἶνον ἀγήρων,
praise ageless
- 345 ἁὼς καὶ νύξ,
dawn and night
 στεροπαί, νιφάδες,
lightnings snowflakes
 οὐρανὸς αἶθων
heaven burning
 καὶ γᾶς ῥίζαι,
and of-earth (the)-roots
 ὕδωρ, ἀήρ,
water air

σώματα πάντα,

bodies all

πνεύματα πάντα,

spirits all

σπέρματα, καρποί,

seeds fruits

φυτὰ καὶ ποῖαι,

plants and grasses

ρίζαι, βοτάναι,

roots herbs

βοτὰ καὶ πτηνὰ

grazing-beasts and winged(-things)

καὶ νηχομένων

and of-swimming

νεπόδων ἀγέλαι.

fish herds

Ἴδε καὶ ψυχὰν

See also (a)-soul

ὀλιγοδρανέα,

little-strong

ὀλιγηπελέα

little-able

ἐπὶ σᾶς Λιβύας,

upon your Libya

ἐπὶ σᾶς σεπτᾶς

upon your august

ἱερηπολίας

priesthood

όσίαις εὐχαῖς

with-holy prayers

350

355

360

365 ἐπιμεμβλομέναν,

busied

τὰν ἀμφιπολεῖ

which surrounds

νέφος ὑλαῖον·

(a)-cloud of-matter

σὸν δ' ὄμμα, πάτερ,

your but eye father

κοπτικὸν ὕλας.

cutting of-matter

370 Νῦν μοι κραδίᾳ

Now for-me (the)-heart

τοῖς σοῖς ὕμνοις

by-the your hymns

παινομένα

fattened

ἐθώωσε νόον

sharpened (my)-mind

πυρίαις ὀρμαῖς·

with-fiery impulses

375 σὺ δὲ λάμψον, ἄναξ,

you and make-shine king

ἀνάγωγα φάη.

upward-leading lights

νεῦσον δέ, πάτερ,

grant and father

σῶμα φυγοῖσαν

(the)-body having-fled

μηκέτι δύναι

no-longer to-sink

ἐς χθονὸς ἄταν.

into of-earth (the)-folly

ὄφρα δὲ ζωᾶς

while and of-life

ύλοδιαίτου

matter-dwelling

δεσμοῖσι μένω,

in-(the)-bonds I-remain

πραεῖα, μάκαρ,

gentle blessed(-one)

βόσκοι με τύχα·

may-nourish me fortune

μηδ' ἐμπόδιον

nor (as)-hindrance

πνεύσειε νόου

may-it-blow of-(the)-mind

φροντίσι λυγραιῖς

with-cares mournful

δάπτοισα βίον,

devouring (my)-life

ἵνα μὴ τὰ θεοῦ

that not the(-things) of-God

ἄσχολος εἶην,

unoccupied-with I-may-be

μηδ' ἔτι τοίοις

nor any-more in-such(-things)

ἐναλινδοίμαν,

may-I-wallow

ὅθεν ἐκπροφυγῶν

whence having-fled-forth

380

385

390

- 395 δῶροις τεοῖς
by-gifts your
 στέφος εὐαγέων
(a)-crown of-holy
 ἀπὸ λειμώνων
from meadows
 σοὶ τοῦτο πλέκω,
for-you this I-weave
 σοὶ τόνδε φέρω
for-you this I-bring
- 400 αἶνον, ἀχράντων
praise of-spotless
 ἡγέτα κόσμων,
leader worlds
 καὶ παιδὶ σοφῶ,
and to-(the)-child wise
 αὐτᾷ σοφία,
very wisdom
 τὸν ἀπ' ἀρρήτων
whom from ineffable
- 405 ἔχεας κόλπων,
you-poured bosom
 ἐν σοὶ δὲ μένει
in you and he-remains
 σέθεν ἐκπροθορών,
from-you having-leapt-forth
 ἵνα πάντα σοφαῖς
that all(-things) with-wise
 ἐφέπη πνοιαῖς,
he-may-direct breaths

διέπη πολιῶν

may-govern of-gray

βάθος αἰώνων,

(the)-depth ages

διέπη ταρσοῦς

may-govern (the)-paths

κραναοῦ κόσμου

of-(the)-rugged world

μέχρι καὶ νεάτου

as-far-as even (the)-last

πυθμένος ὄντων

foundation of-things-that-are

χθονίας μοίρας,

of-earthly portion

όσiais πρσιπiν

with-holy hearts

έλλαμπόμενος,

shining-in

λύη δέ πόνους

may-loose and toils

ήδδ μερίμνας

and cares

διερών μερόπων,

of-living mortals

άγαθών κράντωρ,

of-good(-things) accomplisher

έλατήρ άχέων.

driver-away of-griefs

τί δέ θαῦμα, θεόν

what and wonder God

410

415

420

425 τὸν κοσμοτέχναν
the world-crafter
 ἰδίων ἔργων
of-(his)-own works
 κῆρας ἐρύκειν;
(the)-dooms to-keep-off

Τόδε σοι, μεγάλου

III • THE JOURNEY FROM THRACE

Synesius brings God the debt he owes from Thrace, where for three years he toiled at the emperor's court for his native city, praying in every church and to the saints who keep Thrace and the shore opposite Chalcedon. God raised his country from its griefs, upheld his failing strength, and gave his labors an end. He asks protection for the Libyans, freedom from disease and care, and the token and seal that will drive off the daemons of matter. His soul, the Father's daughter, came down to serve on earth and became a slave to matter, yet a spark of the Father's mind lies sunk in it; renouncing the sweet follies of earthly life, he begs to be freed from the twin gifts of matter, to rise on wings of light, and to be mingled again with the spring of the soul.

Τόδε σοι, μεγάλου

This to-you of-(the)-great

κοίρανε κόσμου,

lord world

430 τίσων ἔμολον

to-pay I-came

χρέος ἐκ Θρήκης,

(a)-debt from Thrace

ἵνα τὰν τριέτιν

where the three-year

ᾠκησα γῆαν

I-dwelt land

παρ' ἀνακτόριον

beside (the)-royal

γαίας μέλαθρον·

of-earth (the)-hall

ἔτλαν δὲ πόνους,

I-endured and toils

ἔτλαν δ' ὀδύνας

I-endured and pains

πολυδακρύτους,

much-weep

ᾧμοισι φέρων

on-(my)-shoulders bearing

ματέρα πάτραν.

(my)-mother fatherland

ραίνετο μὲν γᾶ

was-sprinkled indeed (the)-earth

ἰδρώτι μελῶν

with-(the)-sweat of-limbs

ἀεθλεόντων

contending

ἄμαρ ἐπ' ἄμαρ·

day upon day

ραίνετο δ' εὐνὰ

was-sprinkled and (the)-bed

κανθῶν λιβάσιν

of-eyes with-drops

ὀλοφυρομένων

lamenting

435

440

445

νύκτ' ἐπὶ νύκτα.

night upon night

νηοὶ δ' ὅπόσοι

temples and as-many-as

450 δέδμηντο, ἄναξ,

were-built king

ἐπὶ σαῖς ἀγίαις

for your holy

τελετηφορίαις,

rites-of-initiation

ἐπὶ πάντας ἔβαν,

to all I-went

πρηνῆς ἰκέτας

prostrate (a)-suppliant

455 δάπεδον βλεφάρων

(the)-floor of-(my)-eyelids

δεύων νοτίσι,

wetting with-(the)-moisture

μή μοι κενεᾶν

not to-me empty

ὁδὸν ἀντᾶσαι·

(the)-way to-meet

ἰκέτευσα θεοὺς

I-besought (the)-gods

460 δρηστήρας, ὅσοι

ministers as-many-as

γονόεν Θρήκης

fertile of-Thrace

κατέχουσι πέδον,

bold (the)-plain

οἱ τ' ἀντιπέρην

those and opposite

Καλχηδονίας

of-Chalcedon

ἐφέπουσι γύας,

direct (the)-fields

οὓς ἀγγελικαῖς

whom with-angelic

ἔστειψας, ἄναξ,

you-crowned king

ἀνγαῖσι, τεοὺς

rays your

ἱεροὺς προπόλους.

holy ministers

σύν μοι μάκαρες

with me (the)-blessed(-ones)

ἐλάβοντο λιτᾶν,

took-part in-prayers

σύν μοι πολέων

with me many

ἐλάβοντο πόνων.

took-part in-toils

οὐ μοι ζῶα

not for-me (my)-life

τᾶμος δὲ φίλα

then and dear

διὰ γᾶν πατρίαν

through land paternal

στυφελίζομέναν,

being-harshly-treated

465

470

475

τὰν ἐξ ἀχέων

which from griefs

ἔστασας, ἄναξ,

you-set king

480 αὐτὸς ἀγήρως,

yourself ageless

κοίρανε κόσμου.

lord of-(the)-world

ἤδη ψυχᾶς

already of-(my)-soul

ἀποτρομεύνας,

worn-out

ἤδη μελέων

already of-limbs

485 κατερειπομένων

collapsing

ὑπέρεισας ἐμὰν

you-propped-up my

ἄρθρων δύναμιν,

of-joints strength

τλάμονι ψυχᾷ

to-(my)-wretched soul

μένος ἐμπνεύσας·

might having-breathed-in

490 καμάτων δὲ γλυκὺ

of-labors and sweet

εὔρεο τέκμωρ

you-found (an)-end

κατὰ θυμὸν ἐμόν,

according-to heart my

ἔργοισιν, ἄναξ,

with-deeds king

ὀπάσας δολιχῶν

having-granted of-long

ἄμπαυμα πόνων.

(a)-rest toils

τὰ σὺ πάντα, μάκαρ,

these you all blessed(-one)

Λιβύεσσι σάου

for-(the)-Libyans keep-safe

ἐς μηκεδανὸν

to long

μήρυμα χρόνου,

(the)-thread of-time

διὰ σᾶς μνάμαν

because-of your remembrance

εὐεργεσίας,

of-kindness

διὰ τε ψυχὰν

because-of and (the)-soul

αἰνὰ παθοῖσαν·

dreadful(-things) having-suffered

ἰκέτα δὲ δίδου

to-(the)-suppliant and give

βιοτὰν ἀσινῇ·

(a)-life unharmed

λύε με μόχθων,

loose me from-toils

λύε με νούσων,

loose me from-diseases

495

500

505

λύε μερμυνᾶν

loose from-cares

κηριτρεφέων·

death-nurturing

510 νεῦσον νοερὰν

grant intellective

προπόλῳ ζῳάν·

to-(your)-minister life

μή μοι χθονίους

not to-me earthly

ὄμβρους ἀφένου

showers of-wealth

κρήνειας, ἄναξ,

may-you-make-flow king

515 ἵνα μὴ τὰ θεοῦ

that not the(-things) of-God

ἄσυχλος εἶην·

unoccupied-with I-may-be

μηδὲ κατηφής

nor downcast

πενία μελάθροις

poverty to-(my)-halls

ἐγχριμπτομένα

drawing-near

520 περὶ γᾶν ἔλκοι

around earth may-drag

φροντίδα θυμοῦ·

(the)-thought of-(my)-heart

ἄμφω ψυχὰν

both (the)-soul

βρίθει περὶ γᾶν·

weigh-down around earth

ἄμφω δὲ νόου

both and of-(the)-mind

ἐπίληθα πέλει,

forgetful are

ὅτε μὴ σύ, μάκαρ,

when not you blessed(-one)

ὀρέγους ἀλκάν.

may-reach-out strength

Ναί, πάτερ, ἀγνᾶς

Yes father of-pure

παγὰ σοφίας,

spring wisdom

λάμψον πραπίσιν

shine on-(my)-heart

ἀπὸ σῶν κόλπων

from your bosom

νοερὸν φέγγος·

intellective light

στράψον κραδίᾳ

flash on-(my)-heart

ἀπὸ σᾶς ἀλκᾶς

from your strength

σοφίας αὐγὰν

of-wisdom (the)-ray

καὶ τὰν ἐπὶ σοὶ

and the to you

ἱερὰν ἀτραπὸν·

holy path

525

530

535

σύνθημα δίδου

(a)-token give

σφραγίδα τεάν,

(a)-seal your

540 κηριτρεφέας

death-nurturing

δαίμονας ὕλας

daemons of-matter

σεύων ζωᾶς

driving from-(my)-life

εὐχᾶς τ' ἀπ' ἐμᾶς·

prayers and from my

καὶ σῶμα σάου

and (my)-body keep-safe

545 ἀρτεμές, ἐχθραῖς

sound to-hostile

ἄβατον λώβαις·

untrodden outrages

καὶ πνεῦμα σάου

and (my)-spirit keep-safe

ἀμόλυντον, ἄναξ.

undefiled king

Ἦ μὰν ἤδη

Truly indeed already

550 δνοφερὰν ὕλας

dark of-matter

κηλῖδα φέρω·

(a)-stain I-bear

ἔχομαι δὲ πόθοις,

I-am-held and by-longings

χθονίοις δεσμοῖς.

by-earthly bonds

Σὺ δὲ ρύσιος εἶ,

You but deliverer are

σὺ καθάρσιος εἶ·

you purifier are

ἀπόλυε κακῶν,

release from-evils

ἀπόλυε νόσων,

release from-diseases

ἀπόλυε πέδας·

release (the)-fetters

σὸν σπέρμα φέρω,

your seed I-bear

εὐηγενέος

of-well-born

σπυθῆρα νόου,

(a)-spark of-mind

εἰς βάθος ὕλης

into (the)-depth of-matter

κατακεκλιμένον·

sunk-down

σὺ γὰρ ἐν κόσμῳ

you for in (the)-world

κατέθου ψυχάν,

deposited (the)-soul

διὰ δὲ ψυχᾶς

through and (the)-soul

ἐν σώματι νοῦν

in (the)-body mind

555

560

565

ἔσπειρας, ἄναξ.

you-sowed king

τὰν σὰν κούραν

the your daughter

570 ἐλέαιρε, μάκαρ·

pity blessed(-one)

κατέβαν ἀπὸ σοῦ

I-came-down from you

χθονὶ θητεῦσαι·

on-earth to-serve

ἀντὶ δὲ θήσας

instead-of and (a)-hiring

γενόμεν δούλα·

I-became (a)-slave

575 ὕλα με μάγοις

matter me with-magic

ἐπέδησε τέχναις.

fettered arts

ἔτι μὰν ἔνι μοι

still indeed there-is in-me

βαιόν τι μένος

little some might

κρυφίας γλήνας·

of-(the)-bidden eyes

580 οὐπω πᾶσαν

not-yet all

ἔσβεσεν ἀλκάν·

it-quenched strength

κέχυται δὲ πολὺς

is-poured and much

ἐφύπερθε κλύδων,

over-(it) (a)-surge

ἄλαῶπα τιθεῖς

blind making

τὰν θεοδερκῇ.

the God-seeing

ἐλέαιρε, πάτερ,

pity father

κούραν ἱκέτιν,

(the)-daughter suppliant

τὰν πολλάκι δὴ

which often indeed

νοεραῖς ἀνόδοις

to-intellective ascents

ἐπιβαλλομέναν

striving

λαμυρᾶς ὕλας

of-greedy matter

ἥμερος ἄγχει.

(the)-longing strangles

σὺν δὲ λάμψον, ἄναξ,

you and make-shine king

ἀνάγωγα φάη·

upward-leading lights

ἄψον δὲ σέλας

kindle and (a)-flame

καὶ πυρκαϊάν,

and (a)-pyre

σπέρμα τὸ βαιὸν

(the)-seed the little

585

590

595

αὕξων ἐν ἐμῷ

increasing in my

κρατὸς ἀώτῳ.

of-(the)-bead flower

600 θρόνισόν με, πάτερ,

enthrone me father

φωτὸς ἐν ἀλκῇ

of-light in (the)-strength

ζωηφορίου,

life-bearing

ἵνα χεῖρα φύσις

where (a)-hand nature

οὐκ ἐπιβάλλει,

not lays

605 ὅθεν οὐκέτι γᾶ,

whence no-longer (the)-earth

οὐ μοιραία

not (the)-fated

κλῶσις ἀνάγκας

spinning of-necessity

παλίνορσον ἄγει.

backward leads

λιπέτω, φυγέτω

let-it-leave let-it-flee

610 δολερὰ γένεσις

deceitful birth

θεράποντα τεόν·

(the)-servant your

ἐμέθεν δέ, πάτερ,

from-me and father

χθονίου τε κλόνου

of-earthly and turmoil

πῦρ μέσον εἵη.

fire in-(the)-midst may-be

νεῦσον, γενέτα,

grant begetter

νεῦσον προπόλῳ

grant to-(your)-minister

ἤδη νοερούς

already intellective

πετάσαι ταρσούς·

to-spread wings

ἤδη φερέτω

already let-it-bear

σφραγίδα πατρὸς

(the)-seal of-(the)-father

ικέτις ψυχά,

(the)-suppliant soul

δεῖμα μὲν ἐχθροῖς

(a)-terror indeed to-hostile

δαίμοσιν, οἳ γὰρ

daemons who of-earth

ἀπὸ κευθμώνων

from (the)-recesses

ἀναπαλλόμενοι

leaping-up

πνείουσι βροτοῖς

breathe on-mortals

ἄθέρους ὀρμάς,

godless impulses

615

620

625

σύνθημα δὲ σοῖς

(a)-token and to-your

ἀγνοῖς προπόλοις,

pure ministers

630 οἷ κατὰ κλεινοῦ

who throughout glorious

βένθεα κόσμου

(the)-depths of-(the)-world

πυρίων ἀνόδων

of-fiery ascents

κληῖδοφόροι,

key-bearers

ἵνα μοι φάεος

that for-me of-light

635 πετάσωσι πύλας·

they-may-throw-open (the)-gates

ἔτι δ' ἀλεμάτας

still and idle

ἐπὶ γᾶς ἔρπων

upon earth creeping

μὴ χθονὸς εἶην·

not of-earth may-I-be

πυρίων δ' ἔργων

of-fiery and works

640 καὶ τῇδε δίδου

also here give

μάρτυρα καρπόν,

(a)-witness fruit

ὁμφὰς ἀτρεκεῖς

utterances true

ὅσα τ' ἐν ψυχαῖς

whatever and in souls

τὰν ἀμβροσίαν

the immortal

ἐλπίδα θάλπει.

hope warms

Μετά μοι μέλεται

Re- for-me -grieves

χθονίας βιοτᾶς·

of-earthly life

ἔρρετε λῆμαι

away-with-you wits

ἀθέων μερόπων,

of-godless mortals

πτολίων τε κράτη·

of-cities and powers

ἔρρετε πᾶσαι

away-with-you all

ᾄται γλυκεραὶ

follies sweet

ἄχαρίς τε χάρις,

graceless and grace

οἷσιν ψυχὰν

by-which (the)-soul

θωπευομέναν

flattered

γᾶ λάτρῳ ἔχει·

earth (as)-servant holds

ἅ μέγα δειλὰ

the very wretched(-one)

645

650

655

ιδίων τ' ἀγαθῶν

of-own and good(-things)

ἔπιεν λάθαν,

drank forgetfulness

660 μέχρ' ἐγκύρῃ

until she-meets

φθονερᾷ μερίδι·

with-envious portion

δοιὰς γὰρ ἔχει

two for holds

μαστροπὸς ὕλα·

pander matter

ὃς δὲ τραπέζας

who and (the)-table

665 ἐπορεξάμενος

having-reached-for

μελιχρῶν ἔθιγεν,

of-honeyed touched

ἧ μέγα κλαύσει

truly greatly will-weep

πικρὰν μερίδα

(a)-bitter portion

τῶν ἀντίξων

of-the opposite(-things)

670 συνεφελκομένων·

dragged-along

ὃδε γὰρ χθονίας

this for of-earthly

θεσμὸς ἀνάγκας

law necessity

διχόθεν θνατοῖς

from-both-sides for-mortals

βίον οἶνοχοεῖ·

life pours

τὸ δ' ἀκηράσιον

the and undefiled

ἀμιγές τ' ἀγαθὸν

unmixed and good

θεὸς ἢ τὰ θεοῦ.

God or the(-things) of-God

Μεθύοισα γλυκεῖ

Drunk with-sweet

κρητῆρι γύας

bowl (the)-fields

ἔψαυσα κακῶν,

I-touched evils

ἐνέκυρσα πάγα,

I-met (the)-snare

ἐδάην ἄταν

I-learned (a)-folly

ἐπιμηθειάδα·

Epimethean

στυγέω δὲ νόμους

I-loathe and laws

ἀλλοπροσάλλους,

fickle

ἐς τὸν ἀκηδῆ

to the carefree

λειμῶνα πατρὸς

meadow of-(the)-father

675

680

685

σπεύδων τανύω

hastening I-stretch

φυγάδας ταρσούς,

fugitive wings

690 φυγάδας διδύμων

fugitive of-twin

ῥλας δώρων.

of-matter gifts

Ἴδε με, ζωᾶς

See me of-life

νοερᾶς ταμία,

intellective steward

ἴδε σὰν ἰκέτιν

see your suppliant

695 ψυχὰν ἐπὶ γᾶς

soul upon earth

νοεραῖς ἀνόδοις

to-intellective ascents

ἐπιβαλλομέναν·

striving

σὺ δὲ λάμψον, ἄναξ,

you and make-shine king

ἀνάγωγα φάη

upward-leading lights

700 πτερὰ κοῦφα διδούς·

wings light giving

ἄμμα δὲ κόψον,

(the)-knot and cut

χάλασον περόναν

loose (the)-pin

διδύμων παθέων,

of-twin passions

οἷσιν ψυχὰν

by-which (the)-soul

δολόεσσα φύσις

deceitful nature

κάμπτει κατὰ γᾶς·

bends down-to earth

δός με φυγοῖσαν

grant me having-fled

σώματος ἄταν

of-(the)-body (the)-folly

θοὸν ἄλμα βαλεῖν

(a)-swift leap to-cast

ἐπὶ σὰς αὐλὰς,

to your courts

ἐπὶ σοὺς κόλπους,

to your bosom

ὅθεν ἅ ψυχᾶς

whence the of-(the)-soul

προρρέει παγά.

flows-forth spring

λιβὰς οὐρανία

(a)-drop heavenly

κέχυμαι κατὰ γᾶς·

I-am-poured-out over earth

παγᾶ με δίδου,

to-(the)-spring me give

ὅθεν ἐξεχύθη

whence I-was-poured-out

705

710

715

φυγὰς ἀλητῖς.

(a)-fugitive wanderer

νεῦσον προγόνῳ

grant to-(the)-ancestral

720 φωτὶ μιγῆναι·

light to-be-mingled

νεῦσον δ' ὑπὸ σοὶ

grant and under you

ταμειυομένην

stewarded

σὺν ἄνακτι χορῶ

with (the)-king choir

ἀνάγειν ὁσίως

to-offer holily

725 νοερὸν ὕμνον·

intellective hymns

νεῦσον δέ, πατέρ,

grant and father

φωτὶ μιγῆσαν

with-light mingled

μηκέτι δύναι

no-longer to-sink

ἐς χθονὸς ἄταν.

into of-earth (the)-folly

730 ὄφρα δὲ ζωᾷς

while and of-life

ύλοδιαίτου

matter-dwelling

δεσμοῖσι μένω,

in-(the)-bonds I-remain

πραεῖα, μάκαρ,

gentle blessed(-one)

βόσκοι με τύχα.

may-nourish me fortune

Σὲ μὲν ἀρχομένας

IV · AT EVERY HOUR

Synesius sings the Father at dawn, noon, evening, and night, healer of souls and bodies, giver of wisdom. He bids the world fall silent and the daemons flee, and hymns the monad of monads, Father of fathers, and his firstborn Son, born of the ineffable mind, with the Spirit between them, the Father's travail, mother, sister, and daughter; so God is monad and triad at once. The Son governs heaven and the stars and assigns their works to the beings of heaven, air, earth, and the underworld, and the sun is his visible image. Synesius kneels as a blind suppliant, asking light, freedom from disease and the earthly dog, and an angel to guard his soul, his life, and his prayers.

Σὲ μὲν ἀρχομένας,

You indeed beginning

σὲ δ' ἀεξομένας,

you and growing

σὲ δὲ μεσσοίσας,

you and in-mid-course

σὲ δὲ παυομένας

you and ceasing

ἀοῦς ἱερᾶς,

of-dawn holy

ζαθέας νυκτὸς

of-very-holy night

μέλπω, γενέτα,

I-sing begetter

παίων ψυχῶν,

healer of-souls

παίων γυίων,

healer of-limbs

10 δῶτορ σοφίας,

giver of-wisdom

ἐλατῆρ νόσων,

driver-away of-diseases

δῶτορ ψυχαῖς

giver to-souls

ἀπόνου βιοτᾶς,

of-toilless life

ἂν μὴ στείβει

which not treads

15 χθονία φροντίς,

earthly care

μάτηρ ἀχέων,

mother of-griefs

μάτηρ παθέων,

mother of-passions

ὧν μοι ζωὰ

of-which for-me (my)-life

καθαρὰ μενέτω,

pure let-remain

ἵνα τὰν πάντων

that the of-all

κρυφίαν ῥίζαν

hidden root

ὑμνοῖσα λέγω,

hymning I-may-tell

μηδ' ἀπαγωγοῖς

nor by-misleading

ἄτησι θεοῦ

follies from-God

νοσφίζοίμην.

may-I-be-parted

Σέ, μάκαρ, μέλπω,

You blessed(-one) I-sing

κοίρανε κόσμου·

lord of-(the)-world

γᾶ σιγάτω

(the)-earth let-be-silent

ἐπὶ σοῖς ὕμνοις,

at your hymns

ἐπὶ σαῖς εὐχαῖς

at your prayers

εὐφραμείτω

let-keep-holy-silence

ὅσα κόσμος ἔχει·

whatever (the)-world holds

σὰ γὰρ ἔργα, πάτερ·

your for works father

20

25

30

καταπαυέσθω

let-cease

35 ἀνέμων ροῖζος,

of-winds (the)-rush

ἦχος δένδρων,

(the)-sound of-trees

θρόος ὀρνίθων·

(the)-noise of-birds

ἤσυχος αἰθήρ,

quiet (the)-ether

ἤσυχος ἀήρ

quiet (the)-air

40 κλυέτω μολπᾶς·

let-it-bear (the)-song

ὑδάτων δὲ χύσις

of-waters and (the)-flow

ἄψοφος ἤδη

noiseless now

στήτω κατὰ γᾶς.

let-stand over earth

οἱ δ' ἐμπόδιοι

those and hindering

ἀγίων ὕμνων

of-holy hymns

κευθμωνοχαρεῖς

recess-delighting

καὶ τυμβονόμοι

and tomb-haunting

δαίμονες ἤδη

daemons now

φυγέτωσαν ἐμὰν

let-flee my

όσίαν εὐχάν·

holy prayer

ἀγαθοὶ δ' ὅπόσοι

good and as-many-as

μάκαρες νοεροῦ

blessed of-(the)-intellective

πρόπολοι γενέτου

ministers begetter

κατέχουσι βάθη

hold (the)-depths

ἄκρα τε κόσμου,

heights and of-(the)-world

ὕμνων ἱλεω

hymns gracious

πέύθωιντο πατρός,

may-learn of-(the)-father

45

50

55

ἴλεω δὲ λιτὰς

gracious and (the)-prayers

ἀνάγοιεν ἐμάς.

may-bear-up my

60 Μονὰς ὦ μονάδων,

Monad O of-monads

πάτερ ὦ πατέρων,

father O of-fathers

ἀρχῶν ἀρχά,

of-beginnings beginning

παγῶν παγά,

of-springs spring

ρίζων ρίζα,

of-roots root

65 ἀγαθῶν ἀγαθόν,

of-goods good

ἄστρον ἄστρον,

of-stars star

κόσμων κόσμε,

of-worlds world

ἰδεῶν ἰδέα,

of-forms form

βύθιον κάλλος,

deep beauty

70 κρύφιον σπέρμα,

hidden seed

πάτερ αἰώνων,

father of-ages

πάτερ ἀφθέγκτων

father of-unutterable

νοερῶν κόσμων,

intellective worlds

ὅθεν ἀμβροσία

whence ambrosial

σταλάοισα πνοά,

dripping breath

σώματος ὄγκους

of-(the)-body on-(the)-masses

ἐπινηξαμένα,

having-floated

δεύτερον ἤδη

second now

κόσμον ἀνάπτει.

(a)-world kindles

Ὑμῶ σε, μάκαρ,

I-hymn you blessed(-one)

καὶ διὰ φωνᾶς,

and through voice

ὕμῶ σε, μάκαρ,

I-hymn you blessed(-one)

καὶ διὰ σιγᾶς·

and through silence

ὅσα γὰρ φωνᾶς,

as-much for of-voice

τόσα καὶ σιγᾶς

so-much also of-silence

αἰεὶς νοερᾶς.

you-bear intellective

75

80

85

ὑμνῶ δὲ γόνον

I-hymn and (the)-offspring

τὸν πρωτόγονον

the first-born

καὶ πρωτοφαῖ.

and first-shining

90 Γόνε κύδιστε

Offspring most-glorious

πατρὸς ἀφθέγκτου,

of-(the)-father unutterable

σέ, μάκαρ, μέγαλω

you blessed(-one) with-(the)-great

πατρὶ συνυμνῶ,

father I-hymn-together

καὶ τὰν ἐπὶ σοὶ

and the upon you

95 ὠδῖνα πατρός,

travail of-(the)-father

γόνιμον βουλάν,

fertile counsel

μεσάταν ἀρχάν,

middle beginning

ἀγίαν πνοίαν,

holy breath

κέντρον γενέτου,

center of-(the)-begetter

100 κέντρον δὲ κόρου·

center and of-(the)-son

αὐτὰ μάτηρ,

she mother

αὐτὰ γνωτά,

she sister

αὐτὰ θυγάτηρ

she daughter

μαιωσαμένα

having-delivered

κρυφίαν ῥίζαν·

(the)-hidden root

ἵνα γὰρ προχυθῇ

that for may-be-poured-forth

ἐπὶ παιδὶ πατὴρ,

upon (the)-child (the)-father

αὐτὰ πρόχυσις

herself (the)-outpouring

εὔρετο βλάσταν·

found (a)-shoot

ἔστη δὲ μέσα

stood and (in-the)-middle

θεὸς ἔκ τε θεοῦ·

God from and God

[διὰ παῖδά τε καὶ

because-of (the)-child both and

διὰ τὰν κλεινὰν

because-of the glorious

πατρὸς ἀθανάτου

of-(the)-father immortal

πρόχυσιν υἱὸς

outpouring (the)-son

εὔρετο βλάσταν.]

found (a)-shoot

105

110

115

Μονὰς εἶ τριάς ὦν,

Monad you-are triad being

μονὰς ἅ γε μένεις

monad which at-least you-remain

καὶ τριάς εἶ δῆ.

and triad you-are indeed

120 νοερὰ δὲ τομὰ

intellective and division

ἄσχιστον ἔτι

undivided still

τὸ μερισθὲν ἔχει·

the divided holds

προθορὼν δὲ μένει

having-leapt-forth and remains

γόνος ἐν γενέτῃ,

(the)-offspring in (the)-begetter

125 καὶ πάλιν ἔξω

and again outside

τὰ πατὴρ διέπει

the(-things) of-(the)-father governs

κόσμοις κατάγων

to-(the)-worlds bringing-down

ὄλβον ζωᾶς,

(the)-wealth of-life

ὅθεν αὐτὸς ἔχει·

whence himself holds

130 λόγος, ὃν μέγαλῳ

(the)-word whom with-(the)-great

πατρὶ συννυμῶ,

father I-hymn-together

νόος ἀρρήτου
(the)-mind of-(the)-ineffable

τίκτει σε πατρός·
bears you father

καὶ σὺ κυηθεὶς
and you conceived

λόγος εἰ γενέτου,
(the)-word are of-(the)-begetter

πρῶτος πρῶτας
first of-(the)-first

προθορὼν ῥίζας,
having-leapt-forth root

ρίζα δὲ πάντων
root and of-all

τῶν μετὰ κλεινὰν
the(-things) after glorious

τὰν σὰν γένναν·
the your birth

μονὰς ἄρρητος,
monad ineffable

σπέρμα τὸ πάντων
seed the(-one) of-all

σπέρμα σε πάντων
(as)-seed you of-all

ἐσπέρμηνεν·
sowed

σὺ γὰρ ἐν πᾶσι·
you for in all

135

140

145

διὰ σοῦ δὲ φύσις

through you and nature

ὑπάτα, μεσάτα,

highest middle

νεάτα τε θεοῦ

lowest and of-God

ἀπέλαυσε πατρὸς

enjoyed of-(the)-father

150 ἀγαθῶν δώρων

of-good gifts

γονίμου ζωᾶς.

of-fertile life

Σοὶ μὲν ἀγήρως

To-you indeed (the)-ageless

ἄπονον τροχίαν

toilless course

σφαῖρα κυλίνδει·

(the)-sphere rolls

155 ὑπὸ σὰν τάξιν

under your order

κύτεος μεγάλου

of-(the)-vault great

βριαραῖς δίναις

with-mighty whirls

ἐβδομὰς ἄστρον

(the)-seven of-stars

ἀντιχορεύει·

dances-opposite

τὰ δὲ πολλὰ μίαν

the and many one

πτύχα καλλύνει

fold adorn

φέγγεα κόσμου

lights of-(the)-world

διὰ σὰν βουλάν,

because-of your counsel

γόνε κύδιστε·

offspring most-glorious

σὺ γὰρ ἀμφιθέων

you for running-around

κύτος οὐράνιον,

(the)-vault heavenly

δρόμον αἰώνων

(the)-course of-ages

ἄλυτον συνέχεις·

indissoluble hold-together

ὑπὸ σοῖς δέ, μάκαρ,

under your and blessed(-one)

ἁγίοις θεσμοῖς

holy laws

ἐν ἀπειροβαθοῦς

in of-(the)-boundless-deep

αἴθρας λαγόσι

ether flanks

πολιῶν ἄστρον

of-gray stars

ἀγέλα νέμεται.

(the)-herd grazes

160

165

170

175 Σὺ μὲν οὐρανίοις,

You indeed to-heavenly

σὺ δ' ἐνηερίοις,

you and to-airy

σὺ δ' ἐπιχθονίοις,

you and to-earthly

σὺ δ' ὑποχθονίοις

you and to-beneath-earth

ἔργα μερίζεις,

works distribute

180 ζῶάν τε νέμεις.

life and assign

σὺ νόου πρύτανις

you of-mind president

ταμίας τε θεοῖς

steward and to-gods

θνατῶν θ' ὅπόσοι

of-mortals and as-many-as

νοερᾶς μοίρας

of-intellective portion

185 ἔσπασαν ὄμβρους·

drew showers

σὺ ψυχοδότας

you soul-giver

οἷς ἐκ ψυχᾶς

to-whom from soul

τέταται ζωὰ

is-stretched life

καὶ φύσις ἀκμής·

and nature unwearied

ἀλαὸν ψυχᾶς

blind of-soul

190

βλάστημα τεᾶς

(the)-sprout of-your

κρέμαται σειρᾶς·

hangs chain

χὼπόσα τᾶς σᾶς

and-as-many-as of-the your

στέρεται πνοιᾶς,

are-deprived breath

ἀπὸ σῶν κόλπων

from your bosom

195

δρέπεται συνοχὰν

plucks (its)-coherence

πορθμεομέναν

ferried

διὰ σᾶς ἀλκᾶς

through your strength

ἐξ ἀρρήτων

from ineffable

πατρικῶν κόλπων

paternal bosom

200

κρυφίας μονάδος,

of-bidden monad

ὅθεν ὁ ζωᾶς

whence the of-life

ὀχετὸς προρέων

channel flowing-forth

φέρεται μέχρι γᾶς

is-borne as-far-as earth

205 διὰ σᾶς ἀλκᾶς,

through your strength

δι' ἀτεκμάρτων

through unfathomable

νοερῶν κόσμων·

intellective worlds

ἔνθεν δέχεται

thence receives

καταβαίνουσιν

descending

210 ἀγαθῶν κρίναν

of-goods (the)-spring

νοεροῦ μορφά,

of-intellective form

κόσμος ὁρατός.

world visible

Ἄλιον οὔτος

(The)-sun this(-world)

δεύτερον ἔσχεν

second bad

215 ὑστεροφεγγούς

later-shining

φωτὸς γενέταν,

of-light (as)-begetter

ὀμματολαμπῇ

eye-shining

τᾶς γινομένηας

of-the coming-to-be

καὶ φθειρομένηας

and perishing

ταμίαν ὕλας,

steward of-matter

υἱοῦ νοεροῦ

of-(the)-son intellective

τύπον αἰσθητόν,

(the)-image perceptible

ἀγαθῶν παροχὰν

of-goods (the)-supply

ἐγκοσμογενῶν

world-born

διὰ σὰν βουλάν,

because-of your counsel

γόνε κύνδιστε.

offspring most-glorious

Πάτερ ἄγνωστε,

Father unknowable

πάτερ ἄρρητε,

father ineffable

ἄγνωστε νόῳ,

unknowable to-mind

ἄρρητε λόγῳ,

ineffable to-word

νόος ἐσὶ νόου,

mind you-are of-mind

220

225

230

ψυχᾶν ψυχά,

of-souls soul

φύσις εἶ φύσιων.

nature you-are of-natures

γόνυ σοι κάμπτων,

(the)-knee to-you bending

235 ἴδε τοῦτο, λάτρης

see this servant

πίπτω κατὰ γᾶς

I-fall on earth

ἰκέτας ἀλαός·

suppliant blind

σὺ δέ, φωτοδότα

you but light-giver

φωτὸς νοεροῦ,

of-light intellective

240 ἐλέαιρε, μάκαρ,

pity blessed(-one)

ἰκέτιν ψυχάν·

(the)-suppliant soul

σεῦ δὲ νόσους,

drive and diseases

σεῦ μερίμνας

drive cares

τὰς ψυχοβόρους,

the soul-devouring

245 σεῦ δ' ἀναιδῆ

drive and (the)-shameless

κύνα τὸν χθόνιον,

dog the earthly

δαίμονα γαίης

daemon of-earth

ψυχᾶς ἀπ' ἐμᾶς,

soul from my

εὐχᾶς ἀπ' ἐμᾶς,

prayer from my

ζωᾶς ἀπ' ἐμᾶς,

life from my

ἔργων ἀπ' ἐμῶν.

works from my

σώματος ἔξω,

body outside

πνεύματος ἔξω,

spirit outside

πάντων ἔξω

all outside

τῶν ἀμετέρων

the our(-things)

δαίμων μενέτω·

(the)-daemon let-remain

λιπέτω, φυγέτω

let-him-leave let-him-flee

δαίμων ὕλας,

(the)-daemon of-matter

παθέων ἀλκά,

of-passions (the)-strength

ἀνάγωγον ὁδὸν

upward-leading road

διατειχίζων,

walling-off

250

255

260

τὰς θεοδιφεῖς

the God-seeking

βλάπτων ὀρμάς·

harming impulses

ἔταρον δὲ δίδου

(a)-companion and give

265 ξυνωνόν, ἄναξ,

partner king

ἀγίας ἁγιον

of-holy holy

ἄγγελον ἀλκᾶς,

(an)-angel of-strength

ἄγγελον εὐχᾶς

(an)-angel of-prayer

τᾶς θεολαμποῦς,

of-the God-shining

270 φίλον ἐσθλοδόταν,

friend giver-of-good

φύλακα ψυχᾶς,

guardian of-soul

φύλακα ζωᾶς,

guardian of-life

εὐχᾶν φρουρόν,

of-prayers (a)-sentinel

ἔργων φρουρόν·

of-works (a)-sentinel

275 σῶμα δὲ σώζοι

(the)-body and may-he-save

καθαρόν νούσων,

pure of-diseases

πνεῦμα δὲ σῶζοι

(the)-spirit and may-be-save

καθαρόν λώβας,

pure of-outrage

ψυχῇ δ' ἐπάγοι

to-(the)-soul and may-be-bring

παθέων λάθαν,

of-passions forgetfulness

ἵνα καὶ ζῶαν

that also (the)-life

τὰν γαιοτραφῇ

the earth-nourished

τοῖς σοῖς ὕμνοις

by-the your hymns

παιίνηται

may-be-fattened

ταρσὸς ψυχᾶς·

(the)-wing of-(the)-soul

ἵνα καὶ ζῶαν

that also (the)-life

τὰν μετὰ μοίρας,

the(-one) after (the)-fates

τὰν μετὰ δεσμούςς

the(-one) after (the)-bonds

τοὺς χθονοβριθεῖς,

the earth-weighted

καθαρὰν ὕλιν,

pure of-matter

280

285

290

ὅσον ἐξανύω

as-much-as I-accomplish

ἐπὶ σὰς αὐλάς,

to your courts

ἐπὶ σοὺς κόλπους,

to your bosom

ὅθεν ἡ ψυχᾶς

whence the of-(the)-soul

295 προρέει παγὰ.

flows-forth spring

Σὺ δὲ χεῖρα δίδου,

You and (a)-hand give

σὺ κάλει, σύ, μάκαρ,

you call you blessed(-one)

ὕλας ἄναγε

from-matter lead-up

ἰκέτιω ψυχάν.

(the)-suppliant soul

Ὑμῶμεν κοῦρον νύμφας

V · THE SON OF THE BRIDE

A hymn to the Son of the unwedded bride, whom the Father's counsels sowed and who came to mortals as a ferryman of light. He made the world and the stars and saves men; for him the sun rides and the moon loosens the dark, and from him came light, mind, and soul. Synesius asks him to pity the soul, Christ's own daughter, confined in mortal limbs, and keep his body's strength unhurt by disease, to give his words persuasion and his deeds glory worthy of Cyrene and Sparta, and to keep his soul free of grief, and he hails the Father, the Son, and the Spirit between them.

Ὑμῶμεν κοῦρον νύμφας,

Let-us-hymn (the)-son of-(the)-bride

νύμφας οὐ νυμφευθείσας

of-(the)-bride not wedded

ἀνδρῶν μοιραίας κοίταις·

of-men by-fated beds

ἄρρητοι πατρὸς βουλαὶ

ineffable of-(the)-father counsels

ἔσπειραν Χριστοῦ γένναν,

sowed of-Christ (the)-birth

ἀ σεμνὰ νύμφας ὥδῖς

the august of-(the)-bride travail

ἀνθρώπου φήνεν μορφάν,

of-man showed (the)-form

ὃς θνατοῖσιν πορθμευτὰς

who to-mortals (as)-ferryman

ἦλθεν φωτὸς παγαίου·

came of-light spring-born

5

- 10 ἅ δ' ἄρρητος σευ βλάστα
the and ineffable your shoot
 αἰώνων οἶδεν ρίζαν.
of-ages knows (the)-root
 αὐτὸς φῶς εἰ παγαῖον,
yourself light you-are spring-born
 συλλάμψας ἀκτὶς πατρί,
shining-with ray with-(the)-father
 ῥήξας δ' ὀρφναίαν ὕλαν
having-broken and dark matter
- 15 ψυχαῖς ἐλλάμπεις ἀγναῖς·
on-souls you-shine pure
 αὐτὸς μὲν κόσμου κτίστας,
yourself indeed of-(the)-world creator
 κλεινῶν σφαιρωτὰς ἄστρον,
of-glorious sphere-maker stars
 κέντρων γαίης ρίζωτάς,
of-centers of-earth rooter
 αὐτὸς δ' ἀνθρώπων σωτήρ.
yourself and of-men savior
- 20 σοὶ μὲν Τιτὰν ἱππεύει,
for-you indeed (the)-Titan rides
 αἰὼς ἄσβεστος παγά,
of-dawn unquenchable spring
 σοὶ δ' ἅ ταυρώπις μήνα
for-you and the bull-faced moon
 τὰν νυκτῶν ὀρφναν λύει
the of-nights darkness looses
 σοὶ καὶ τίκτονται καρποί,
for-you also are-born fruits

σοὶ καὶ βόσκονται ποῖμαι.

for-you also are-pastured flocks

ἐκ σᾶς ἀρρήτου παγᾶς

from your ineffable spring

ζείδωρον πέμπων αἴγλαν,

life-giving sending gleam

πιαίνεις κόσμων ταρσούς·

you-fatten of-(the)-worlds (the)-paths

ἐκ σῶν βλάστησεν κόλπων

from your sprang bosom

καὶ φῶς καὶ νοῦς καὶ ψυχά·

both light and mind and soul

τὰν σὰν οἴκτειρον κούραν

the your pity daughter

γυίοις εἰρχθεῖσαν θνατοῖς,

in-limbs confined mortal

μοίρας θ' ὑλαίοις μέτροις·

of-fate and in-material measures

νούσων ἐκσώζοις λώβας

from-diseases may-you-save outrages

ἀσκηθῇ γύων ἀλκάν.

unhurt of-limbs (the)-strength

Νεῦσον μὲν μύθοις πειθώ,

Grant indeed to-words persuasion

νεῦσον δ' ἔργοισιν κῶδος

grant and to-works glory

ἀρχαίαις πρέψαι φάμαις

ancient to-befit renouns

τᾶς Κυράνας καὶ Σπάρτας·

— *of-Cyrene and of-Sparta*

25

30

35

- 40 λύπαις δ' ἄστιπτος ψυχὰ
by-griefs and untrodden (the)-soul
 πραεῖαν ζωὰν ἔλκοι
(a)-gentle life may-draw
 θρέπτειραν, δισσὰς γλήνας
nursing (her)-two eyes
 ἐς σὸν φέγγος τείναισα,
toward your light stretching
 ὥς ἐξ ὕλας φοιβαθεῖς
that from matter made-bright
- 45 ἀστρέπτους οἴμους σπεύσω,
unturning paths I-may-basten
 φύξηλις γαίης μόχθων,
fugitive from-earth's toils
 μιχθῆναι ψυχᾶς παγαῖ.
to-be-mingled with-(the)-soul's spring
 Τοίαν ἄχραντον ζωὰν
Such spotless life
 τῷ σῷ κραίνεις φορμικτῇ,
for-the your may-you-accomplish lyre-player
- 50 εὔτ' ἄν σοι στέλλων μολπάν,
when — to-you sending (a)-song
 τὰν σὰν κυδαίνων ῥίζαν,
the your glorifying root
 μήκιστον πατρὸς κῦδος,
greatest of-(the)-father glory
 καὶ τὰν σύνθωκον πνοιὰν
and the co-throned breath
 μέσσαν ῥίζας καὶ βλάστας,
middle of-root and of-shoot

καὶ πατρὸς μέλπων ἀλκὰν
and of-(the)-father singing (the)-strength

55

τοῖς σοῖς ὕμνοις ἀμπαύω
with-the your hymns I-may-lay-to-rest
κλεινὰν ὠδῖνα ψυχᾶς.
glorious (the)-travail of-(my)-soul

Χαίροις, ὦ παιδὸς παγά,
May-you-rejoice O of-(the)-child spring
χαίροις, ὦ πατρὸς μορφά·
may-you-rejoice O of-(the)-father form

χαίροις, ὦ παιδὸς κρηπίς,
may-you-rejoice O of-(the)-child foundation

60

χαίροις, ὦ πατρὸς σφρηγίς·
may-you-rejoice O of-(the)-father seal

χαίροις, ὦ παιδὸς κάρτος,
may-you-rejoice O of-(the)-child might

χαίροις, ὦ πατρὸς κάλλος·
may-you-rejoice O of-(the)-father beauty

χαίροις δ' ἄχραντος πνοιά,
may-you-rejoice and spotless breath

κέντρον κούρου καὶ πατρός·
center of-(the)-son and of-(the)-father

65

τάν μοι πέμποις σὺν πατρὶ
which to-me may-you-send with (the)-father

ἄρδουσιν ψυχᾶς ταρσούς,
watering of-(my)-soul (the)-wings

κράντειραν θεῶν δώρων.
accomplisher of-divine gifts

Μετὰ παγᾶς ἁγίας αὐτολοχεύτου

VI • THE INEFFABLE BIRTH

Synesius crowns with hymns the Son, born alone from the Father alone, the hidden seed of the Father; Wisdom and radiance of his mind. Through him forms come down to bodies; he governs heaven, the stars, the angels, and the daemons, divides the undivided Spirit across the earth, and frees mortals from the necessity of death. Synesius asks calm for his life, health for soul and body, freedom from the dooms of wealth and poverty, a good name, and the leisure to water his mind at the springs of wisdom.

Μετὰ παγᾶς ἁγίας αὐτολοχεύτου

After (the)-spring holy self-begotten

ἀρρήτων ἐνοτήτων ἐπέκεινα

of-ineffable unities beyond

θεὸν ἄμβροτον, θεοῦ κύδιμον υἱά,

God immortal of-God (the)-glorious son

μόνον ἐκ μόνου πατρὸς παῖδα θορόντα

alone from alone father (a)-child having-leapt

5 στεφανώσομεν σοφοῖς ἄνθεσιν ὕμνων,

let-us-crown with-wise flowers of-hymns

ὃν βουλᾶς πατρικᾶς ἄφραστος ὥδῖς

whom of-counsel paternal unutterable travail

ἀγνώστων ἀνέδειξε παῖδα κόλπων,

from-unknowable showed (as)-child bosom

ἃ πατρὸς λοχίους ἔφηνε καρπὸς

which of-(the)-father birth showed fruits

καὶ φήνασα φάνη μεσσοπαγῆς νοῦς·

and having-shown appeared (as)-middle-fixed mind

10 ἐν παγᾷ δὲ μένουσι καὶ χυθέντες.

in (the)-spring and remain even having-been-poured

σοφία νόου πατρός, κάλλεος αὐγά,
wisdom of-(the)-mind of-(the)-father of-beauty ray
 σοὶ τεχθέντι πατὴρ ἔνευσε τίκτειν,
to-you born (the)-father granted to-bear
 σὺ τὸ κρυπτόν εἰ πατρός σπέρμα προλάμπων·
you the hidden are of-(the)-father seed shining-forth
 σὲ γὰρ ἀρχὰν γενέτας ἔδωκε κόσμοις,
you for (as)-beginning (the)-begetter gave to-worlds
 κατάγειν ἐκ νοερῶν σώμασι μορφάς·
to-bring-down from intellective(-ones) to-bodies forms
 σὺ μὲν οὐρανοῦ σοφὰν ἄντυγα νωμᾶς,
you indeed of-heaven (the)-wise rim govern
 τὰν δ' ἄστρον ἀγέλαν αἰὲ νομεύεις·
the and of-stars herd always shepherd
 σὺ δὲ τᾶς ἀγγελικᾶς, ἄναξ, χορείας
you and of-the angelic king dance
 καὶ τᾶς δαιμονίας φάλαγγος ἄρχεις,
and of-the daemonic phalanx rule
 σὺ δὲ καὶ φύσιν φθιτὰν ἀμφοιχορεύεις,
you and also nature perishing dance-around
 ἀμέριστον περὶ γᾶν πνεῦμα μερίζεις,
undivided around earth spirit divide
 καὶ παγᾶ τὸ δοθὲν πάλιν συνάπτεις,
and to-(the)-spring the(-thing) given again join
 θνατοὺς ἐκ θανάτου λύων ἀνάγκας.
mortals from of-death loosing necessity
 Ἰλήκοις ἐπὶ σῶν στέμμασιν ὕμνων,
May-you-be-gracious at your crowns of-hymns
 βιοτᾶς ὑμνοπόλῳ νέμων γαλάναν·
of-life to-(the)-hymn-singer granting calm

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εὐρίπων προχοὰν σταῖσον ἀλήτιν,

of-straits (the)-outflow stop wandering

τερσαίνων ὀλοοὺς κλύδωνας ὕλας·

drying destructive surges of-matter

ψυχᾶς καὶ μελέων ἔρυκε νόσους·

of-soul and of-limbs keep-off diseases

παθέων οὐλομένην κοίμισον ὀρμάν·

of-passions destructive lull (the)-impulse

30 πλούτου καὶ πενίας ἄλαλκε κῆρας·

of-wealth and of-poverty ward-off (the)-dooms

ἔργοις κυδαλίμαν ὄπασσον ὀμφάν·

to-works glorious grant (a)-voice

ἐν λαοῖς ἀγαθὰν ἄνοιγε φάμαν

among peoples good open (a)-fame

πειθοῦς πραϋλόγῳ στέφων ἀώτῳ,

of-persuasion with-gentle-spoken crowning flower

ἵνα μοι νόος δρέπη σχολὰν ἀκύμων,

that for-me (the)-mind may-pluck leisure waveless

35 μηδ' ἐν ταῖς χθονίαις στένω μερίμναις·

nor among the earthly I-may-groan cares

ἀλλ' ἐκ σῶν ὀχετῶν ὑψιφορήτων

but from your channels high-borne

ὠδῖσιν σοφίας νόον κατάρδω.

with-travails of-wisdom (my)-mind I-may-water

Πρώτος νόμον εὐρόμαν

VII · THE MAGI'S GIFTS

Synesius says he was the first to tune the lyre to a new measure for Jesus, son of the virgin. He hymns the Son, God among the heavenly and a dead man among the dead. When he was born, the Magi, amazed by the star, asked whether the child was God, a dead man, or a king, and brought frankincense for God, gold for the king, and myrrh for the tomb. He cleansed the earth, the sea, the air, and the underworld.

Πρώτος νόμον εὐρόμαν

First (the)-measure I-found

ἐπὶ σοί, μάκαρ, ἄμβροτε,

for you blessed(-one) immortal

γόνε κύδιμε παρθένου,

offspring glorious of-(the)-virgin

Ἰησοῦ Σολυμῆϊε,

Jesus of-Solyma

νεοπαγέσιν ἁρμογαῖς

with-newly-fixed harmonies

κρέξαι κιθάρας μίτους.

to-strike of-(the)-lyre (the)-strings

Ἄλλ' εὐμενέοις, ἄναξ,

But may-you-be-kindly king

καὶ δέχνησο μουσικὰν

and receive (the)-music

ἐξ εὐαγέων μελῶν.

from holy songs

- 10 ὑμνήσομεν ἄφθιτον
we-will-hymn (the)-imperishable
 θεὸν υἱὰ θεοῦ μέγαν,
God son of-God great
 αἰωνοτόκου πατρὸς
of-(the)-age-begetting father
 τὸν κοσμογόνον κόρον,
the world-creating son
 τὰν παντομυγῇ φύσιν,
the all-mingled nature
- 15 σοφίαν ἀπερείσιον,
wisdom boundless
 τὸν ἐπουρανίους θεόν,
the among-heavenly(-ones) God
 τὸν ὑποχθονίοις νέκυν.
the among-beneath-earth(-ones) dead(-man)
 Ἐχύθης ὅτ' ἐπὶ χθονὶ
You-were-poured when on earth
 βροτέας ἀπὸ νηδύος,
mortal from (a)-womb
- 20 μάγος ἅ πολύφρων τέχνα
magian the much-wise art
 ἐξ ἀστέρος ἀντολᾶς
from (the)-star's rising
 θάμβησεν ἀμήχανος,
was-astonished helpless
 τί τὸ τικτόμενον βρέφος,
what the being-born babe
 τίς ὁ κρυπτόμενος θεός,
who the hidden God

θεὸς ἢ νέκυς ἢ βασιλεύς·

God or dead(-man) or king

ἄγε δῶρα κομίζετε

come gifts bring

σμύρνης ἐναγίσματα,

of-myrrh offerings

χρυσοῦ τ' ἀναθήματα,

of-gold and dedications

λιβάνου τε θύη καλά.

of-frankincense and sacrifices fair

θεὸς εἰ, λίβανον δέχου·

God you-are frankincense receive

χρυσὸν βασιλεῖ φέρω·

gold to-(the)-king I-bring

σμύρνη τάφος ἀρμόσει.

for-myrrh (the)-tomb will-fit

Καὶ γὰρ ἐκάθηρας,

And earth you-cleansed

καὶ πόντια κύματα,

and of-(the)-sea waves

καὶ δαμονίας ὁδούς,

and daemonic roads

ῥαδινὰν χύσιν ἀέρος,

(the)-slender flow of-air

καὶ νερτερίους μυχούς,

and nether recesses

φθιμένοισι βοηθός

to-the-dead helper

θεὸς εἰς ἅδην σταλείς.

God to Hades sent

25

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35

- 40 Ἄλλ' εὐμενέοις, ἄναξ,
But may-you-be-kindly king
 καὶ δέχνυσο μουσικὰν
and receive (the)-music
 ἐξ εὐαγέων μελῶν.
from holy songs

Ὑπὸ δώριον ἀρμονίαν

VIII · A PRAYER FOR HIS HOUSEHOLD

To the Dorian mode Synesius asks the virgin's Son to keep his life free of grief and to grant him health, success, and a prosperous old age. He gives thanks that his brother, already at death's gate, was brought back, and asks protection for his two sisters, his children, and his house, and for his wife health, harmony, and a faithful marriage bed. He asks that his soul, freed from earth, may join the holy choirs, and promises to sing again.

- Ὑπὸ δώριον ἀρμονίαν
To (the)-Dorian harmony
 ἐλεφαντοδέτων μίτων
of-ivory-bound strings
 στάσω λυγρὰν ὄπα
I-will-set (my)-clear voice
 ἐπὶ σοί, μάκαρ, ἄμβροτε,
for you blessed(-one) immortal
 5 γόνε κύδιμε παρθένου·
offspring glorious of-(the)-virgin
 σὺ δέ μου βιοτὰν σάου
you and my life keep-safe
 παναπήμονα, κοίρανε,
all-unbarmed lord

λύπαις ἄβατον διδοὺς

to-griefs untrodden giving

καὶ νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν.

both night and day

λάμπους πραπίσιν σέλας

may-you-shine on-(my)-heart (a)-flame

νοερᾶς ἀπὸ παγᾶς·

of-intellective from (the)-spring

σθένος ἀρτεμέων μελῶν

strength of-sound limbs

καὶ κῦδος ἐπ' ἔργμασι

and glory upon deeds

νεότατι νέμοις ἐμᾶ·

to-youth may-you-assign my

λιπαρὸν δὲ φέροις ἔτος

rich and may-you-bring (a)-year

ἐς γήραος ἀδονάν,

to of-old-age (the)-delight

ἐρίτιμον ἀέξων

precious increasing

πινυτὰν σὺν ὑγείᾳ,

wisdom with health

γνωτὸν δὲ φυλάσσοις,

(my)-brother and may-you-guard

τόν μοι νέον, ἄφθιτε,

the to-me new(-one) imperishable(-one)

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ἤδη χθονίαν πύλαν

already of-earth (the)-gate

παραμειβόμενον ποδὶ

passing with-foot

ἄψορρον ἀνήγαγες,

back you-led-up

ἐμὰ κήδεα καὶ γόους,

my cares and laments

25 ἐμὰ δάκρυα καὶ φρενῶν

my tears and of-(my)-heart

σβέσας αἰθομέναν φλόγα·

having-quenched blazing flame

ἐβίωσας καὶ νέκυν

you-brought-to-life even dead

διὰ σόν, πάτερ, ἰκέταν.

because-of your father suppliant

γνωτὰν τε συνωρίδα

of-sisters and (the)-pair

30 τεκέων τε φυλάσσοις,

of-children and may-you-guard

ὅλον ἡσυχίδαν δόμον

whole quiet (my)-house

ὑπὸ σᾶ χειρὶ κρύπτουσι·

under your hand may-you-hide

καί μοι ζυγίων, ἄναξ,

and to-me of-yoke king

ξυνήονα δεμνίων

(the)-partner of-bed

35 ἀπόνουσον, ἀπήμονα,

free-of-disease unbarmed

ἐρήρον, ὁμόφρονα,

loving like-minded

κρυφίων ἀδαήμονα

of-secret unknowing

δάρων ἄλοχον σάου·

whisperings (my)-wife keep-safe

ὅσιον δ' ἐφέποι λέχος

holy and may-she-keep (the)-bed

πανακήρατον, εὐαγές,

all-undefiled pure

ἀδίκους ἄβατον πόθοις.

to-unjust untrodden longings

ψυχὰν δὲ λυθεῖσαν

(my)-soul and loosed

χθονίου βιότου πέδας

of-earthly life (the)-fetters

ἐξαιύυσο πημάτων

take-away from-woes

καὶ λευγαλέας ἄτας.

and miserable folly

σὺν δ' εὐαγέων χοροῖς

with and of-holy(-ones) choirs

ὕμνους ἀνάγειν δίδου

hymns to-offer give

ἐπὶ κύδεϊ σοῦ πατρὸς

to (the)-glory of-your father

καὶ κάρτεϊ σῶ, μάκαρ.

and to-(the)-might your blessed(-one)

πάλιν ὕμνοπολεύσω,

again I-will-sing-hymns

40

45

50

πάλι σοι μέλος ἄσω,

again to-you (a)-song I-will-sing

τάχα καὶ κιθάραν πάλιν

soon also (the)-lyre again

πανακήρατον ἁρμόσω.

all-undefiled I-will-tune

Πολυήρατε, κύδιμε

IX · THE DESCENT AND THE ASCENSION

Synesius hymns the Son of the virgin, who drove the serpent from the Father's garden. He came down to earth in a mortal body and down to Tartarus, where Hades shuddered and the devouring dog fled, and he led up the choirs of souls. As he rose, the daemons of the air trembled and the stars marveled, the ether laughed, the Morning Star and Hesperus smiled, the moon led the way, and the sun spread its hair beneath him. He passed above the heavens to the silent spring of good things, beyond time and fate, where ageless Eternity, young and old at once, keeps for the gods their everlasting abiding.

Πολυήρατε, κύδιμε,

Much-loved glorious(-one)

σέ, μάκαρ, γόνε παρθένου

you blessed(-one) offspring of-(the)-virgin

ὑμνῶ Σολυμηΐδος,

I-hymn of-Solyma

ὃς τὰν δολίαν πάγαν,

who the deceitful snare

5 χθόνιον μεγάλων ὄφιν

earthly of-great serpent

πατρὸς ἤλασας ὀρχάτων·

of-(the)-father drove from-(the)-gardens

[ὃς καρπὸν ἀπώμοτον

who (the)-fruit forbidden

τροφὸν ἀργαλέου μόρου

nurse of-grievous doom

πόρεν ἀρχηγόνω νοεράν.

gave to-(the)-first-born intellectualive

στεφανηφόρε, κύδιμε,

crown-bearing glorious(-one)

σέ, πάτερ, παῖ παρθένου

you father child of-(the)-virgin

ὕμνῳ Σολυμηΐδος.]

I-hymn of-Solyma

Κατέβας μέχρι καὶ χθονὸς

You-came-down as-far-as even earth

ἐπίδημος ἐφαμέροις,

sojourning among-ephemeral(-ones)

βρότεον φορέων δέμας.

mortal wearing (a)-frame

κατέβας δ' ὑπὸ Τάρταρα,

you-came-down and under Tartarus

ψυχῶν ὅθι μυρία

of-souls where countless

θάνατος νέμεν ἔθνεα.

death pastured nations

φρίξεν σε γέρων τότε

shuddered-at you old then

Ἄϊδας ὁ παλαιγενής,

Hades the ancient-born

10

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καὶ λαοβόρος κύων

and (the)-people-devouring dog

ἀνεχάσσατο βηλοῦ·

drew-back from-(the)-threshold

λύσας δ' ἀπὸ πημάτων

having-loosed and from woes

ψυχῶν ὁσίους χοροὺς

of-souls holy choirs

25 θιάσοισιν ἀκηράτοις

with-bands undefiled

ὕμνους ἀνάγεις πατρί.

hymns you-offer to-(the)-father

[στεφανηφόρε, κύδιμε,

crown-bearing glorious(-one)

σέ, πάτερ, παῖ παρθένου

you father child of-(the)-virgin

ὑμνῶ Σολυμηΐδος.]

I-hymn of-Solyma

30 Ἀνιόντα σε, κοίρανε,

Going-up you lord

τὰ κατ' ἥρος ἄσπετα

the(-ones) through (the)-air numberless

τρέσεν ἔθνεα δαιμόνων,

trembled nations of-daemons

θάμβησε δ' ἀκηράτων

was-amazed and of-undefiled

χορὸς ἄμβροτος ἀστέρων·

(the)-choir immortal of-stars

35 αἰθήρ δὲ γελάσας,

(the)-ether and having-laughed

σοφὸς ἀρμονίας πατήρ,

wise of-harmony father

ἐξ ἑπτατόνου λύρας

from (the)-seven-toned lyre

ἐκεράσσατο μουσικὰν

mixed music

ἐπινίκιον ἐς μέλος.

victorious into (a)-song

μεΐδῃσεν Ἑωσφόρος,

smiled (the)-Morning-star

ὁ διάκτορος ἀμέρας,

the messenger of-day

καὶ χρύσεος Ἑσπερος,

and golden Hesperus

κυθηρήϊος ἀστήρ·

(the)-Cytherean star

ἅ μὲν κερόεν σέλας

the indeed horned light

πλήσασα ῥόου πυρός

having-filled of-stream of-fire

ἀγείτο σελάνα,

led (the)-moon

ποιμὴν νυχίων θεῶν·

shepherd of-nightly gods

τὰν δ' εὐρυφαῇ κόμαν

the and wide-shining hair

Τιτὰν ἐπετάσσατο

(the)-Titan spread

ἄρρητον ὑπ' ἱχνιον·

ineffable under (the)-footstep

40

45

50

ἔγνω δὲ γόνον θεοῦ,

knew and (the)-offspring of-God

τὸν ἀριστοτέχναν νόον,

the best-crafting mind

ιδίου πυρὸς ἀρχάν.

of-own fire (the)-beginning

Σὺ δὲ ταρσὸν ἐλάσσας

You and (your)-wing having-driven

55 κυανάντυγος οὐρανοῦ

of-dark-rimmed heaven

ὑπερήλαο νώτων,

leapt-over (the)-backs

σφαίρησι δ' ἐπέπτας

to-spheres and flew

νοεραῖσιν ἀκηράτοις,

intellective undefiled

ἀγαθῶν ὅθι παγά,

of-goods where (the)-spring

60 σιγώμενος οὐρανός·

silent heaven

ἔνθ' οὔτε βαθύρροος

where neither deep-flowing

ἀκαμαντοπόδας χρόνος

tireless-footed time

χθονὸς ἔκγονα σύρων,

of-earth (the)-offspring dragging

οὐ κῆρες ἀναιδέες

not dooms shameless

65 βαθυκύμονος ὕλας·

of-deep-teeming matter

ἀλλ' αὐτὸς ἀγήραος

but itself ageless

αἰῶν ὁ παλαιγενής,

age the ancient-born

νέος ὦν ἅμα καὶ γέρων

young being at-once and old

τᾶς ἀενάῳ μονᾶς

of-the ever-flowing abiding

ταμίας πέλεται θεοῖς.

steward is to-gods

70

Μνώεο Χριστέ

Χ · REMEMBER, CHRIST

Synesius, who wrote these hymns, asks Christ, Son of God most high, to remember him, to free him from the passions rooted in his soul, and to let him see his glory, where he will sing to the healer of souls and bodies, with the Father and the Spirit.

Μνώεο Χριστέ,

Remember Christ

υἱὲ θεοῦ

son of-God

ὑψιμέδοντος,

high-ruling

οἰκέτew σεῦ,

of-(the)-servant your

κῆρ' ἀλιτροῦ

in-heart sinful

τάδε γράψαντος·

these(-words) having-written

5

καί μοι ὄπασσον

and to-me grant

λῦσιν παθέων

(a)-loosing of-passions

κηριτρεφέων,

death-nurturing

10 τὰ μοι ἐμφυῇ

which in-me (are)-innate

ψυχᾷ ῥυπαρᾷ·

in-(my)-soul filthy

δὸς δὲ ἰδέσθαι,

give and to-see

σῶτερ Ἰησοῦ,

savior Jesus

ζαθέαν αἴγλαν

(the)-holy gleam

15 σάν, ἔνθα φανείς

your where appearing

μέλψω ἀοιδὰν

I-will-sing (a)-song

παίονι ψυχᾶν,

to-(the)-bealer of-souls

παίονι γνίων,

to-(the)-bealer of-limbs

πατρὶ σὺν μεγάλῳ

(the)-father with great

20 πνεύματί θ' ἁγνῶ.

(the)-spirit and pure

ΑΚΑΘΙΣΤΟΣ ΥΜΝΟΣ

The Akathist Hymn

ἀκάθιστος ὕμνος τῆς θεοτόκου

THE AKATHIST HYMN

The city thanks the Mother of God, its champion, for its deliverance. The twenty-four stanzas follow the alphabet, each ending in Alleluia or in a litany of greetings that closes on Rejoice, unwedded bride. Gabriel greets Mary, she asks how a virgin can conceive, and the power of the Most High overshadows her. She visits Elizabeth, Joseph is troubled, and the shepherds and Magi come. Christ enlightens Egypt, and Simeon receives him. The later stanzas praise the mystery of the Incarnation, which leaves orators speechless, and the hymn ends with a prayer to the Mother of God to rescue all from misfortune and punishment.

Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια,

To-the champion general the victory-prizes

ὡς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν, εὐχαριστήρια

as having-been-redeemed from-the terrors thank-offerings

ἀναγράφω σοι ἡ πόλις σου, θεοτόκε·

I-inscribe to-you the city your God-bearer

ἀλλ' ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον

but as having the might invincible

ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον,

from all-kinds-of me dangers set-free

ἵνα κράζω σοι· χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

that I-may-cry to-you rejoice bride unwedded

Ἄγγελος πρωτοστάτης οὐρανόθεν ἐπέμφθη

(An)-angel chief-standing from-heaven was-sent

εἰπεῖν τῇ θεοτόκῳ τὸ «χαῖρε»·

to-say to-the God-bearer the rejoice

καὶ σὺν τῇ ἀσωμάτῳ φωνῇ

and with the bodiless voice

10 σωματούμενόν σε θεωρῶν, κύριε,

being-embodied you seeing Lord

ἐξίστατο καὶ ἵστατο, κραυγάζων πρὸς αὐτὴν τοιαῦτα·

he-was-amazed and stood crying to her such(-things)

χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἡ χαρὰ ἐκλάμψει·

rejoice through whom the joy will-shine-forth

χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἡ ἀρὰ ἐκλείψει·

rejoice through whom the curse will-cease

χαῖρε, τοῦ πεσόντος Ἀδὰμ ἡ ἀνάκλησις·

rejoice of-the having-fallen Adam the recall

15 χαῖρε, τῶν δακρύων τῆς Εὕας ἡ λύτρωσις·

rejoice of-the tears — of-Eve the redemption

χαῖρε, ὕψος δυσανάβατον ἀνθρωπίνους λογισμοῖς·

rejoice height hard-to-climb for-human reasonings

χαῖρε, βάθος δυσθεώρητον καὶ ἀγγέλων ὀφθαλμοῖς·

rejoice depth hard-to-see even for-angels' eyes

χαῖρε, ὅτι ὑπάρχεις βασιλέως καθέδρα·

rejoice because you-are (the)-king's seat

χαῖρε, ὅτι βαστάζεις τὸν βαστάζοντα πάντα·

rejoice because you-carry the(-one) carrying all(-things)

20 χαῖρε, ἀστήρ ἐμφαίνων τὸν ἥλιον·

rejoice star showing-forth the sun

χαῖρε, γαστήρ ἐνθέου σαρκώσεως·

rejoice womb of-divine incarnation

χαῖρε, δι' ἧς νεουργεῖται ἡ κτίσις·

rejoice through whom is-made-new the creation

χαῖρε, δι' ἧς βρεφουργεῖται ὁ κτίστης·

rejoice through whom is-made-a-babe the creator

χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

rejoice bride unwedded

Βλέπουσα ἡ ἁγία ἐαυτὴν ἐν ἀγνείᾳ

Seeing the holy(-one) herself in purity

φησὶ τῷ Γαβριὴλ θαρσαλέως·

says — to-Gabriel boldly

τὸ παράδοξόν σου τῆς φωνῆς

the strangeness your of-the voice

δυσπαράδεκτόν μου τῇ ψυχῇ φαίνεται·

hard-to-accept my to-the soul appears

ἀσπόρου γὰρ συλλήψεως τὴν κύησιν πῶς λέγεις κράζων·

of-seedless for conception the bearing how do-you-speak crying

Ἀλληλούϊα.

Alleluia

Γνώσιν ἄγνωστον γινῶναι ἡ παρθένος ζητοῦσα

Knowledge unknowable to-know the virgin seeking

ἐβόησε πρὸς τὸν λειτουργοῦντα·

cried-out to the(-one) ministering

ἐκ λαγόνων ἀγνῶν υἱὸν

from loins pure (a)-son

πῶς ἐστι τεχθῆναι δυνατόν; λέξον μοι·

how is-it to-be-born possible tell me

- 35 πρὸς ἣν ἐκεῖνος ἔφησεν ἐν φόβῳ, πλὴν κραυγάζων οὕτω·
to whom that(-one) said in fear but crying thus
 χαῖρε, βουλῆς ἀπορρήτου μύστις·
rejoice of-counsel ineffable initiate
 χαῖρε, σιγῆς δεομένων πίστις·
rejoice of-silence of-(things)-needing faith
 χαῖρε, τῶν θαυμάτων Χριστοῦ τὸ προοίμιον·
rejoice of-the wonders of-Christ the prelude
 χαῖρε, τῶν δογμάτων αὐτοῦ τὸ κεφάλαιον·
rejoice of-the teachings his the chief-point
- 40 χαῖρε, κλίμαξ ἐπουράνιε, ἣ κατέβη ὁ θεός·
rejoice ladder heavenly by-which came-down — God
 χαῖρε, γέφυρα μετάγουσα τοὺς ἐκ γῆς πρὸς οὐρανόν·
rejoice bridge leading-over those from earth to heaven
 χαῖρε, τὸ τῶν ἀγγέλων πολυθρύλλητον θαῦμα·
rejoice the of-the angels much-talked-of wonder
 χαῖρε, τὸ τῶν δαιμόνων πολυθρήνητον τραῦμα·
rejoice the of-the demons much-lamented wound
 χαῖρε, τὸ φῶς ἀρρήτως γεννήσασα·
rejoice the light ineffably having-begotten
- 45 χαῖρε, τὸ «πῶς» μηδένα διδάξασα·
rejoice the how no-one having-taught
 χαῖρε, σοφῶν ὑπερβαίνουσα γνῶσιν·
rejoice of-wise(-men) surpassing knowledge
 χαῖρε, πιστῶν καταυγάζουσα φρένας·
rejoice of-faithful enlightening minds
 χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.
rejoice bride unwedded

Δύναμις τοῦ ὑψίστου ἐπεσκίασε τότε

(The)-power of-the most-high overshadowed then

πρὸς σύλληψιν τῇ ἀπειρογάμῳ·

for conception the unwedded(-one)

καὶ τὴν εὐκαρπον ταύτης νηδὺν

and the fruitful her womb

ὥς ἀγρὸν ὑπέδειξεν ἡδὺν ἅπασι

as (a)-field showed-forth sweet to-all

τοῖς θέλουσι θερίζειν σωτηρίαν ἐν τῷ ψάλλειν οὕτως·

to-those wishing to-reap salvation in the singing thus

Ἀλληλούϊα.

Alleluia

Ἔχουσα θεοδόχον ἡ παρθένος τὴν μήτραν

Having God-receiving the virgin the womb

ἀνέδραμε πρὸς τὴν Ἑλισάβετ·

ran-up to — Elizabeth

τὸ δὲ βρέφος ἐκείνης εὐθὺς

the and babe of-that(-one) at-once

ἐπιγνὼν τὸν ταύτης ἀσπασμὸν ἔχαιρε

having-recognized the her greeting rejoiced

καὶ ἄλμασιν ὥς ᾠσμασιν ἐβόα πρὸς τὴν θεοτόκον·

and with-leaps as with-songs cried to the God-bearer

χαῖρε, βλαστοῦ ἀμαράντου κλήμα·

rejoice of-(a)-sprout unfading branch

χαῖρε, καρποῦ ἀκηράτου κτῆμα·

rejoice of-fruit undefiled possession

χαῖρε, γεωργὸν γεωργοῦσα φιλάνθρωπον·

rejoice (the)-husbandman tending lover-of-mankind

50

55

60

χαῖρε, φυτουργὸν τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν φύουσα·

rejoice (the)-planter of-the life our growing

χαῖρε, ἄρουρα βλαστάνουσα εὐφορίαν οἰκτιρμῶν·

rejoice soil sprouting abundance of-compassions

65 χαῖρε, τράπεζα βαστάζουσα εὐθηνίαν ἰλασμῶν·

rejoice table bearing plenty of-propitiations

χαῖρε, ὅτι λειμῶνα τῆς τρυφῆς ἀναθάλλεις·

rejoice because (a)-meadow of-the delight you-make-bloom

χαῖρε, ὅτι λιμένα τῶν ψυχῶν ἐτοιμάζεις·

rejoice because (a)-harbor of-the souls you-prepare

χαῖρε, δεκτὸν πρεσβείας θυμίαμα·

rejoice acceptable of-intercession incense

χαῖρε, παντὸς τοῦ κόσμου ἐξίλασμα·

rejoice of-all the world propitiation

70 χαῖρε, θεοῦ πρὸς θνητοὺς εὐδοκία·

rejoice of-God toward mortals good-pleasure

χαῖρε, θνητῶν πρὸς θεὸν παρρησία·

rejoice of-mortals toward God boldness

χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

rejoice bride unwedded

Ζάλην ἔνδοθεν ἔχων λογισμῶν ἀμφιβόλων

(A)-storm within having of-reasonings doubtful

ὁ σώφρων Ἰωσήφ ἐταράχθη,

the chaste Joseph was-troubled

75 πρὸς τὴν ἄγαμόν σε θεωρῶν

toward the unwedded you looking

καὶ κλεψίγαμον ὑπονοῶν, ἄμεμπτε·

and stealthily-wedded suspecting blameless(-one)

μαθὼν δὲ σου τὴν σύλληψιν ἐκ πνεύματος ἁγίου ἔφη·

having-learned but your the conception from (the)-spirit Holy he-said

Ἀλληλούϊα.

Alleluia

Ἦκουσαν οἱ ποιμένες τῶν ἀγγέλων ὑμνοῦντων

Heard the shepherds the angels hymning

τὴν ἔνσαρκον Χριστοῦ παρουσίαν·

the incarnate of-Christ coming

καὶ δραμόντες ὡς πρὸς ποιμένα

and having-run as to (a)-shepherd

θεωροῦσι τοῦτον ὡς ἄμνὸν ἄμωμον

they-behold him as (a)-lamb spotless

ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ Μαρίας βοσκηθέντα, ἣν ὑμνοῦντες εἶπον·

in the womb of-Mary pastured whom hymning they-said

χαῖρε, ἄμνοῦ καὶ ποιμένος μήτηρ·

rejoice of-lamb and of-shepherd mother

χαῖρε, αὐλὴ λογικῶν προβάτων·

rejoice fold of-rational sheep

χαῖρε, ἀοράτων ἐχθρῶν ἀμυντήριον·

rejoice of-unseen enemies defense

χαῖρε, παραδείσου θυρῶν ἀνοικτήριον·

rejoice of-paradise of-doors opener

χαῖρε, ὅτι τὰ οὐράνια συναγάλλεται τῇ γῇ·

rejoice because the heavenly(-things) rejoice-with the earth

χαῖρε, ὅτι τὰ ἐπίγεια συγχορεύει οὐρανοῖς·

rejoice because the earthly(-things) dance-with heavens

80

85

- 90 χαῖρε, τῶν ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀσίγητον στόμα·
rejoice of-the apostles the unsilenced mouth
χαῖρε, τῶν ἀθλοφόρων τὸ ἀνίκητον θάρσος·
rejoice of-the prize-bearers the unconquered courage
χαῖρε, στερρὸν τῆς πίστεως ἔρεισμα·
rejoice firm of-the faith support
χαῖρε, λαμπρὸν τῆς χάριτος γνώρισμα·
rejoice bright of-the grace token
χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἐγυμνώθη ὁ ᾅδης·
rejoice through whom was-stripped — Hades
95 χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἐνεδύθημεν δόξαν·
rejoice through whom we-were-clothed-in glory
χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.
rejoice bride unwedded

- Θεοδρόμον ἀστέρα θεωρήσαντες μάγοι
God-coursing (a)-star having-beheld (the)-magi
τῇ τούτου ἠκολούθησαν αἴγλη·
the its followed radiance
καὶ ὡς λύχνον κρατοῦντες αὐτόν,
and as (a)-lamp holding it
100 δι' αὐτοῦ ἠρεύνων κραταῖον ἄνακτα·
through it they-searched-out (the)-mighty lord
καὶ φθάσαντες τὸν ἀφθαστον ἐχάρησαν, αὐτῷ βοῶντες·
and having-overtaken the unovertakable(-one) they-rejoiced to-him crying
Ἄλληλουῖα.
Alleluia

Ἰδον παῖδες Χαλδαίων ἐν χερσὶ τῆς παρθένου

Saw (the)-children of-Chaldeans in (the)-hands of-the virgin

τὸν πλάσαντα χειρὶ τοὺς ἀνθρώπους·

the(-one) having-fashioned by-hand the men

καὶ δεσπότην νοοῦντες αὐτόν,

and (the)-master knowing him

εἰ καὶ δούλου ἔλαβε μορφήν, ἔσπευσαν

if even of-(a)-slave he-took (the)-form they-hastened

τοῖς δώροις θεραπεῦσαι καὶ βοῆσαι τῇ εὐλογημένῃ·

with-the gifts to-serve(-him) and to-cry to-the blessed(-one)

χαῖρε, ἀστέρος ἀδύτου μήτηρ·

rejoice of-star unsetting mother

χαῖρε, αὐγὴ μυστικῆς ἡμέρας·

rejoice dawn of-mystic day

χαῖρε, τῆς ἀπάτης τὴν κάμνον σβέσασα·

rejoice of-the deceit the furnace having-quenched

χαῖρε, τῆς τριάδος τοὺς μύστας φωτίζουσα·

rejoice of-the trinity the initiates enlightening

χαῖρε, τύραννον ἀπάνθρωπον ἐκβαλοῦσα τῆς ἀρχῆς·

rejoice (the)-tyrant inhuman having-cast-out from-the rule

χαῖρε, κύριον φιλάνθρωπον ἐπιδείξασα Χριστόν·

rejoice (the)-Lord lover-of-mankind having-shown-forth Christ

χαῖρε, ἡ τῆς βαρβάρου λυτρουμένη θρησκείας·

rejoice you-who from-the barbarous redeeming worship

χαῖρε, ἡ τοῦ βορβόρου ῥυομένη τῶν ἔργων·

rejoice you-who from-the mire rescuing of-the works

χαῖρε, πυρὸς προσκύνησιν παύσασα·

rejoice of-fire (the)-worship having-stopped

χαῖρε, φλογὸς παθῶν ἀπαλλάττουσα·

rejoice from-(the)-flame of-passions releasing

105

110

115

χαῖρε, πιστῶν ὁδηγὲ σωφροσύνης·

rejoice of-faithful guide of-chastity

χαῖρε, πασῶν γενεῶν εὐφροσύνη·

rejoice of-all generations gladness

120 χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

rejoice bride unwedded

Κήρυκες θεοφόροι γεγονότες οἱ μάγοι

Heralds God-bearing having-become the magi

ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς τὴν Βαβυλῶνα,

returned to — Babylon

ἐκτελέσαντές σου τὸν χρησμὸν

having-fulfilled your the oracle

καὶ κηρύξαντές σε τὸν Χριστὸν ἅπασιν,

and having-proclaimed you — Christ to-all

125 ἀφέντες τὸν Ἡρώδη ὡς ληρώδη, μὴ εἰδότα ψάλλειν·

having-left — Herod as (a)-babblor not knowing to-sing

Ἀλληλουῖα.

Alleluia

Λάμπσας ἐν τῇ Αἰγύπτῳ φωτισμὸν ἀληθείας

Having-shone in — Egypt (the)-illumination of-truth

ἐδίωξας τοῦ ψεύδους τὸ σκότος·

you-drove-out of-the falsehood the darkness

τὰ γὰρ εἰδωλα ταύτης, σωτήρ,

the for idols of-it savior

130 μὴ ἐνέγκαντά σου τὴν ἰσχὺν πέπτωκεν·

not having-borne your the strength have-fallen

οἱ τούτων δὲ ρύσθέντες ἐβόων πρὸς τὴν θεοτόκον·
those from-these and rescued cried to the God-bearer

χαῖρε, ἀνόρθωσις τῶν ἀνθρώπων·
rejoice raising-up of-the men

χαῖρε, κατάπτωσις τῶν δαιμόνων·
rejoice downfall of-the demons

χαῖρε, τῆς ἀπάτης τὴν πλάνην πατήσασα·
rejoice of-the deceit the error having-trodden

χαῖρε, τῶν εἰδώλων τὸν δόλον ἐλέγξασα·
rejoice of-the idols the guile having-exposed

135

χαῖρε, θάλασσα ποντίσασα Φαραὼ τὸν νοητόν·
rejoice sea having-drowned Pharaoh the spiritual

χαῖρε, πέτρα ἣ ποτίσασα τοὺς διψῶντας τὴν ζωὴν·
rejoice rock the(-one) having-given-drink those thirsting (for)-the life

χαῖρε, πύρινε στύλε ὁδηγῶν τοὺς ἐν σκοτεῖ·
rejoice fiery pillar guiding those in darkness

χαῖρε, σκέπη τοῦ κόσμου, πλατυτέρα νεφέλης·
rejoice shelter of-the world broader than-(a)-cloud

χαῖρε, τροφὴ τοῦ μάννα διάδοχε·
rejoice food of-the manna successor

140

χαῖρε, τρυφῆς ἁγίας διάκονε·
rejoice of-delight holy minister

χαῖρε, ἡ γῆ τῆς ἐπαγγελίας·
rejoice the land of-the promise

χαῖρε, ἐξ ἧς ῥέει μέλι καὶ γάλα·
rejoice from which flows honey and milk

χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.
rejoice bride unwedded

- 145 Μέλλοντος Συμεῶνος τοῦ παρόντος αἰῶνος
Being-about Symeon from-the present age
 μεθίστασθαι τοῦ ἀπατεῶνος,
to-depart the deceitful(-one)
 ἐπεδόθης ὡς βρέφος αὐτῷ,
you-were-given as (a)-babe to-him
 ἀλλ' ἐγνώσθης τούτῳ καὶ θεὸς τέλειος·
but you-were-known to-him also God perfect
 διόπερ ἐξεπλάγη σου τὴν ἄπειρον σοφίαν κράζων·
wherefore he-was-astounded-at your the boundless wisdom crying

- 150 Ἀλληλουῖα.

Alleluia

- Νέαν ἔδειξε κτίσιν ἐμφανίσας ὁ κτίστης
(A)-new showed creation having-appeared the creator
 ἡμῖν τοῖς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ γενομένοις,
to-us the(-ones) by him having-come-to-be
 ἐξ ἀσπόρου βλαστήσας γαστρὸς
from (a)-seedless having-sprung womb
 καὶ φυλάξας ταύτην, ὥσπερ ἦν, ἀφθορον,
and having-kept it just-as it-was incorrupt
 155 ἵνα τὸ θαῦμα βλέποντες ὑμνήσωμεν αὐτὴν βοῶντες·
that the wonder seeing we-may-hymn her crying
 χαῖρε, τὸ ἄνθος τῆς ἀφθαρσίας·
rejoice the flower of-the incorruption
 χαῖρε, τὸ στέφος τῆς ἐγκρατείας·
rejoice the crown of-the continence
 χαῖρε, ἀναστάσεως τύπον ἐκλάμπουσα·
rejoice of-resurrection (the)-type flashing-forth

χαῖρε, τῶν ἀγγέλων τὸν βίον ἐμφαίνουσα·

rejoice of-the angels the life showing-forth

χαῖρε, δένδρον ἀγλαόκαρπον, ἐξ οὗ τρέφονται πιστοί·

rejoice tree bright-fruited from which are-fed (the)-faithful

160

χαῖρε, ξύλον εὐσκιόφυλλον, ὑφ' οὗ σκέπονται πολλοί·

rejoice wood well-shady-leaved under which are-sheltered many

χαῖρε, κυοφοροῦσα ὁδηγὸν πλανωμένους·

rejoice bearing-in-the-womb (a)-guide for-the-straying

χαῖρε, ἀπογεννώσα λυτρωτὴν αἰχμαλώτοις·

rejoice giving-birth-to (a)-redeemer for-captives

χαῖρε, κριτοῦ δικαίου δυσώπησις·

rejoice of-(the)-judge just entreaty

χαῖρε, πολλῶν πταιόντων συγχώρησις·

rejoice of-many stumbling forgiveness

165

χαῖρε, στολὴ τῶν γυμνῶν παρρησίας·

rejoice robe of-the naked of-boldness

χαῖρε, στοργὴ πάντα πόθον νικῶσα·

rejoice love every desire conquering

χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

rejoice bride unwedded

Ξένον τόκον ἰδόντες ξενωθῶμεν τοῦ κόσμου,

Strange (a)-birth having-seen let-us-become-strangers to-the world

τὸν νοῦν εἰς οὐρανὸν μεταθέντες·

the mind to heaven having-transferred

170

διὰ τοῦτο γὰρ ὁ ὑψηλὸς θεὸς

because-of this for the high God

ἐπὶ γῆς ἐφάνη ταπεινὸς ἄνθρωπος,

on earth appeared lowly man

βουλόμενος ἐλκύσαι πρὸς τὸ ὕψος τοὺς αὐτῷ βοῶντας·

wishing to-draw to the height those to-him crying

Ἀλληλουῖα.

Alleluia

175 Ὅλος ἦν ἐν τοῖς κάτω καὶ τῶν ἄνω οὐδ' ὅλως

Wholly he-was in the below and of-the above not-at all

ἀπῆν ὁ ἀπερίγραφτος λόγος·

was-absent the uncircumscribed word

συγκατάβασις γὰρ θεϊκή,

(a)-condescension for divine

οὐ μετάβασις δὲ τοπικὴ γέγονε,

not (a)-change-of-place but local happened

καὶ τόκος ἐκ παρθένου θεολήπτου ἀκουούσης ταῦτα·

and (a)-birth from (a)-virgin God-possessed bearing these(-things)

180 χαῖρε, θεοῦ ἀχωρήτου χώρα·

rejoice of-God uncontainable container

χαῖρε, σεπτοῦ μυστηρίου θύρα·

rejoice of-holy mystery door

χαῖρε, τῶν ἀπίστων ἀμφίβολον ἄκουσμα·

rejoice of-the unbelieving doubtful bearing

χαῖρε, τῶν πιστῶν ἀναμφίβολον καύχημα·

rejoice of-the faithful undoubted boast

χαῖρε, ὄχημα πανάγιον τοῦ ἐπὶ τῶν Χερουβίμ·

rejoice chariot all-holy of-the(-one) upon the Cherubim

185 χαῖρε, οἴκημα πανάριστον τοῦ ἐπὶ τῶν Σεραφίμ·

rejoice dwelling all-excellent of-the(-one) upon the Seraphim

χαῖρε, ἡ τάναντία εἰς ταὐτὸ ἀγαγοῦσα·

rejoice you-who the-opposites into the-same having-led

χαῖρε, ἡ παρθενίαν καὶ λοχείαν ζευγνῦσα·

rejoice you-who virginity and childbirth yoking

χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἐλύθη παράβασις·

rejoice through whom was-loosed (the)-transgression

χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἡνοίχθη παράδεισος·

rejoice through whom was-opened paradise

χαῖρε, ἡ κλεῖς τῆς Χριστοῦ βασιλείας·

rejoice the key of-the of-Christ kingdom

χαῖρε, ἐλπίς ἀγαθῶν αἰωνίων·

rejoice hope of-good(-things) eternal

χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε·

rejoice bride unwedded

190

Πᾶσα φύσις ἀγγέλων κατεπλάγη τὸ μέγα

All (the)-nature of-angels was-astounded-at the great

τῆς σῆς ἐνανθρωπήσεως ἔργον·

the your incarnation work

τὸν ἀπρόσιτον γὰρ ὡς θεὸν

the unapproachable for as God

ἐθεώρει πᾶσι προσιτὸν ἄνθρωπον,

it-beheld to-all approachable man

ἡμῖν μὲν συνδιάγοντα, ἀκούοντα δὲ παρὰ πάντων· [οὕτως]

with-us indeed living-together hearing but from all thus

Ἀλληλουῖα.

Alleluia

195

Ῥήτορας πολυφθόγγους ὡς ἰχθύας ἀφώνους

Orators many-voiced as fish voiceless

200 ὁρῶμεν ἐπὶ σοί, θεοτόκε·

we-see upon you God-bearer

ἀποροῦσι γὰρ λέγειν τό· «πῶς

they-are-at-a-loss for to-say the how

καὶ παρθένος μένεις καὶ τεκεῖν ἴσχυσας·»

both virgin you-remain and to-bear you-were-able

ἡμεῖς δὲ τὸ μυστήριον θαυμάζοντες πιστῶς βοῶμεν·

we but the mystery marveling-at faithfully cry

χαῖρε, σοφίας θεοῦ δοχεῖον·

rejoice of-wisdom of-God receptacle

205 χαῖρε, προνοίας αὐτοῦ ταμεῖον·

rejoice of-providence his treasury

χαῖρε, φιλοσόφους ἀσόφους δεικνύουσα·

rejoice philosophers unwise showing

χαῖρε, τεχνολόγους ἀλόγους ἐλέγχουσα·

rejoice logic-choppers wordless refuting

χαῖρε, ὅτι ἐμωράνθησαν οἱ δεινοὶ συζητηταί·

rejoice because were-made-fools the clever disputers

χαῖρε, ὅτι ἐμαράνθησαν οἱ τῶν μύθων ποιηταί·

rejoice because withered the of-the myths makers

210 χαῖρε, τῶν Ἀθηναίων τὰς πλοκάς διασπῶσα·

rejoice of-the Athenians the webs tearing-apart

χαῖρε, τῶν ἀλιέων τὰς σαγήνας πληροῦσα·

rejoice of-the fishermen the nets filling

χαῖρε, βυθοῦ ἀγνοίας ἐξέλκουσα·

rejoice from-(the)-deep of-ignorance drawing-out

χαῖρε, πολλοὺς ἐν γνώσει φωτίζουσα·

rejoice many in knowledge enlightening

χαῖρε, ὅλκας τῶν θελόντων σωθῆναι·

rejoice ship of-those wishing to-be-saved

χαῖρε, λιμὴν τῶν τοῦ βίου πλωτήρων·

rejoice harbor of-the of-the life sailors

χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

rejoice bride unwedded

215

Σῶσαι θέλων τὸν κόσμον ὁ τῶν ὄλων κοσμήτωρ

To-save wishing the world the of-the all(-things) adorer

πρὸς τοῦτον αὐτεπάγγελτος ἦλθε·

to it self-invited came

καὶ ποιμὴν ὑπάρχων ὡς θεὸς

and shepherd being as God

δι' ἡμᾶς ἐφάνη καθ' ἡμᾶς ἄνθρωπος·

because-of us appeared like us (a)-man

ὁμοίῳ γὰρ τὸ ὅμοιον καλέσας ὡς θεὸς ἀκούει·

by-(the)-like for the like having-called as God he-hears

Ἀλληλούϊα.

Alleluia

220

Τεῖχος εἰ τῶν παρθένων, θεοτόκε παρθέne,

Wall you-are of-the virgins God-bearer virgin

καὶ πάντων τῶν εἰς σὲ προστρεχόντων·

and of-all those to you running-for-refuge

ὁ γὰρ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ καὶ τῆς γῆς

the for of-the heaven and of-the earth

κατεσκεύασέ σε ποιητής, ἄχραντε,

prepared you maker spotless(-one)

225

οικήσας ἐν τῇ μήτρᾳ σου καὶ

having-dwelt in the womb your and

πάντας σοι προσφωνεῖν διδάξας·

all to-you to-call having-taught

χαῖρε, ἡ στήλη τῆς παρθενίας·

rejoice the pillar of-the virginity

χαῖρε, ἡ πύλη τῆς σωτηρίας·

rejoice the gate of-the salvation

230 χαῖρε, ἀρχηγὲ νοητῆς ἀναπλάσεως·

rejoice founder of-spiritual refashioning

χαῖρε, χορηγὲ θεϊκῆς ἀγαθότητος·

rejoice provider of-divine goodness

χαῖρε· σὺ γὰρ ἀνεγέννησας τοὺς συλληφθέντας αἰσχρῶς·

rejoice you for gave-new-birth-to those conceived shamefully

χαῖρε· σὺ γὰρ ἐνουθέτησας τοὺς συληθέντας τὸν νοῦν.

rejoice you for admonished those robbed-of the mind

χαῖρε, ἡ τὸν φθορέα τῶν φρενῶν καταργοῦσα·

rejoice you-who the corrupter of-the minds abolishing

235 χαῖρε, ἡ τὸν σπορέα τῆς ἀγνείας τεκοῦσα·

rejoice you-who the sower of-the purity having-borne

χαῖρε, παστὰς ἀσπόρου νυμφεύσεως·

rejoice bridal-chamber of-seedless wedding

χαῖρε, πιστοὺς κυρίῳ ἀρμόζουσα·

rejoice (the)-faithful to-(the)-Lord joining

χαῖρε, καλὴ κουροτρόφε παρθένων·

rejoice fair nurse of-virgins

χαῖρε, ψυχῶν νυμφοστόλε ἀγίων·

rejoice of-souls bridesmaid holy

240 χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

rejoice bride unwedded

Ὕμνος ἅπας ἡττᾶται, συνεκτείνεσθαι σπεύδων

(A)-hymn every is-defeated to-stretch-out-to-equal hastening

τῷ πλήθει τῶν πολλῶν οἰκτιρμῶν σου·

to-the multitude of-the many compassions your

ἰσαριθμούς γὰρ [τῇ] ψάμμῳ ὥδᾶς

equal-in-number for to-the sand odes

ἂν προσφέρωμέν σοι, βασιλεῦ ἅγιε,

if we-offer to-you king holy

οὐδὲν τελοῦμεν ἄξιον, ὧν δέδωκας ἡμῖν [τοῖς σοὶ] βοᾶσιν· 245

nothing we-accomplish worthy of-what you-have-given to-us those to-you crying

Ἀλληλούϊα.

Alleluia

Φωτοδόχον λαμπάδα τοῖς ἐν σκότει φανείσαν

Light-receiving (a)-torch to-those in darkness having-appeared

ὁρώμεν τὴν ἁγίαν παρθένον·

we-see the holy virgin

τὸ γὰρ αὔλον ἄπτουσα φῶς

the for immaterial kindling light

ὁδηγεῖ πρὸς γνῶσιν θεϊκὴν ἅπαντας,

she-guides to knowledge divine all

αὐγῇ τὸν νοῦν φωτίζουσα, κραυγῇ δὲ τιμωμένη ταύτη·

with-radiance the mind enlightening with-(the)-cry and honored this

χαῖρε, ἀκτὶς νοητοῦ ἡλίου·

rejoice ray of-(the)-spiritual sun

χαῖρε, βολὴς τοῦ ἀδύτου φέγγους·

rejoice beam of-the unsetting light

χαῖρε, ἀστραπή τὰς ψυχὰς καταλάμπουσα·

rejoice lightning the souls illuminating

250

- 255 χαῖρε, ὡς βροντὴ τοὺς ἐχθροὺς καταπλήττουσα·
rejoice as thunder the enemies terrifying
 χαῖρε, ὅτι τὸν πολύφωτον ἀνατέλλεις φωτισμόν·
rejoice because the much-shining you-make-rise illumination
 χαῖρε, ὅτι τὸν πολύρρυτον ἀναβλύζεις ποταμόν·
rejoice because the much-flowing you-make-gush-forth river
 χαῖρε, τῆς κολυμβήθρας ζωγραφοῦσα τὸν τύπον·
rejoice of-the font painting the type
 χαῖρε, τῆς ἁμαρτίας ἀναιροῦσα τὸν ῥύπον·
rejoice of-the sin taking-away the filth
- 260 χαῖρε, λουτήρ ἐκπλύνων συνείδησιν·
rejoice laver washing-clean (the)-conscience
 χαῖρε, κρατὴρ κιρνῶν ἀγαλλίασιν·
rejoice mixing-bowl mixing exultation
 χαῖρε, ὁσμὴ τῆς Χριστοῦ εὐωδίας·
rejoice scent of-the of-Christ fragrance
 χαῖρε, ζωὴ μυστικῆς εὐωχίας·
rejoice life of-mystic feasting
 χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.
rejoice bride unwedded

- 265 Χάριν δοῦναι θελήσας ὀφλημάτων ἀρχαίων
Grace to-give having-wished of-debts ancient
 ὁ πάντων χρεωλύτης ἀνθρώπων,
the of-all debt-remitter men
 ἐπεδήμησε δι' ἑαυτοῦ
came-to-dwell through himself

πρὸς τοὺς ἀποδήμους τῆς αὐτοῦ χάριτος·

to those exiled from-the his grace

καὶ σχίσας τὸ χειρόγραφον ἀκούει παρὰ πάντων οὕτως·

and having-torn the handwriting hears from all thus

Ἀλληλούϊα.

270

Alleluia

Ψάλλοντές σου τὸν τόκον ἀνυμνοῦμέν σε πάντες

Singing your the birth we-hymn you all

ὡς ἔμψυχον ναόν, θεοτόκε·

as (a)-living temple God-bearer

ἐν τῇ σῇ γὰρ οἰκήσας γαστρὶ

in the your for having-dwelt womb

ὁ συνέχων πάντα τῇ χειρὶ κύριος

the(-one) holding-together all(-things) by-the hand Lord

ἡγίασεν, ἐδόξασεν, ἐδίδαξε βοᾶν σοι πάντας·

sanctified glorified taught to-cry to-you all

275

χαῖρε, σκηνὴ τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ λόγου·

rejoice tabernacle — of-God and of-word

χαῖρε, ἁγία ἁγίων μεῖζων.

rejoice holy than-(the)-holy(-ones) greater

χαῖρε, κιβωτὲ χρυσοθεῖσα τῷ πνεύματι·

rejoice ark gilded by-the spirit

χαῖρε, θησαυρὸς τῆς ζωῆς ἀδαπάνητε·

rejoice treasure of-the life inexhaustible

χαῖρε, τίμιον διάδημα βασιλέων εὐσεβῶν·

rejoice precious diadem of-kings pious

280

χαῖρε, καύχημα σεβάσμιον ἱερέων εὐλαβῶν.

rejoice boast venerable of-priests devout

χαῖρε, τῆς ἐκκλησίας ὁ ἀσάλευτος πύργος·

rejoice of-the church the unshaken tower

χαῖρε, τῆς βασιλείας τὸ ἀπόρθητον τεῖχος·

rejoice of-the empire the impregnable wall

χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἐγείρονται τρόπαια·

rejoice through whom are-raised trophies

285 χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἐχθροὶ καταπίπτουσι·

rejoice through whom enemies fall-down

χαῖρε, χρωτὸς τοῦ ἐμοῦ θεραπεία·

rejoice of-body the my healing

χαῖρε, ψυχῆς τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρία·

rejoice of-soul the my salvation

χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

rejoice bride unwedded

ᾠ πανύμνητε μήτερ, ἡ τεκοῦσα τὸν πάντων

O all-hymned mother the(-one) having-borne the of-all

290 ἀγίων ἀγιώτατον λόγον,

saints most-holy word

δεξαμένη τὴν νῦν προσφοράν,

having-received the now offering

ἀπὸ πάσης ῥῦσαι συμφορᾶς ἅπαντας

from every rescue misfortune all

καὶ τῆς μελλούσης λύτρωσαι κολάσεως τοὺς συμβοῶντας·

and from-the coming redeem punishment those crying-together

Ἀλληλουῖα.

Alleluia

ANDREW OF CRETE

ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

The Great Canon

Τοῦ μεγάλου κανόνος τὸ πρῶτον τμήμα

THE GREAT CANON, PART ONE

Andrew bids his soul lament its deeds and confess to its creator. Ode by ode, he measures himself against Scripture: Adam's and Eve's transgression, Lot fleeing Sodom, the patriarch's labor for Leah and Rachel as action and knowledge, Reuben, Joseph, Dathan and Abiram, Saul, and David's double sin and his psalm of repentance. In the later odes come Elijah and Elisha, the Shunammite, and Gehazi, then the New Testament's examples, Christ calling robbers and harlots and fasting forty days. Each ode ends with praise of the Trinity and of the Mother of God, and the canon closes asking her to guard her city.

ὥδὴ α΄

ode 1

Βοηθὸς καὶ σκεπαστὴς ἐγένετό μοι εἰς σωτηρίαν·

Helper and protector he-became to-me for salvation

οὗτός μου θεός, καὶ δοξάζω αὐτόν·

this(-one) my God and I-glorify him

θεὸς τοῦ πατρός μου, καὶ ὑψώσω αὐτόν·

God of-the father my and I-will-exalt him

ἐνδόξως γὰρ δεδόξασται.

gloriously for he-has-been-glorified

- 5 Πόθεν ἄρξωμαι θρηνεῖν τὰς τοῦ ἀθλίου μου βίου πράξεις;
Whence shall-I-begin to-lament the of-the wretched my life deeds
 ποίαν ἀπαρχὴν ἐπιθήσω, Χριστέ,
what first-fruit shall-I-lay-on Christ
 τῇ νῦν θρηνωδία; ἀλλ' ὥς εὐσπλαγχνός μοι δὸς
on-the present lamentation but as compassionate to-me give
 παραπτωμάτων ἄφεσις.
of-transgressions forgiveness

Δεῦρο τάλανα ψυχή, σὺν τῇ σαρκί σου τῷ κτίσῃ πάντων
Come wretched soul with the flesh your to-the creator of-all

- 10 ἐξομολογοῦ καὶ ἀπόσχου λοιπὸν
confess and abstain henceforth
 τῆς πρὶν ἀλογίας καὶ προσάγαγε θεῷ
from-the former folly and bring to-God
 ἐν μετανοίᾳ δάκρυα.
in repentance tears

Τὸν πρωτόπλαστον Ἀδὰμ τῇ παραβάσει παραζηλώσας
The first-formed Adam in-the transgression having-rivaled

ἔγνω ἐμαυτὸν γυμνωθέντα θεοῦ
I-knew myself stripped of-God

- 15 καὶ τῆς αἰδίου βασιλείας καὶ τρυφῆς
and of-the everlasting kingdom and delight
 διὰ τὰς ἀμαρτίας μου.
because-of the sins my

Οἷμοι τάλαινα ψυχῇ! τί ὠμοιώθης τῇ πρώτῃ Εὐά;
Woe-is-me wretched soul why were-you-made-like to-the first Eve
 εἶδες γὰρ κακῶς καὶ ἐτρώθης πικρῶς
you-saw for evilly and were-wounded bitterly
 καὶ ἥψω τοῦ ξύλου καὶ ἐγέυσω προπετῶς
and you-touched the tree and tasted rashly
 τῆς παραλόγου βρώσεως.
of-the senseless food

20

Ἄντὶ Εὐᾶς αἰσθητῆς ἡ νοητὴ μοι κατέστη Εὐά,
Instead-of Eve perceptible the spiritual to-me stood Eve
 ὁ ἐν τῇ σαρκὶ ἐμπαθὴς λογισμός,
the in the flesh passionate reasoning
 δεικνὺς τὰ ἡδέα καὶ γεύόμενος ἀεὶ
showing the sweet(-things) and tasting always
 τῆς πικρᾶς καταπόσεως.
of-the bitter swallowing

Ἐπαξίως τῆς Ἐδὲμ προεξερρίφη ὡς μὴ φυλάξας
Deservedly — from-Eden was-cast-out as not having-kept
 μίαν σου, σωτήρ, ἐντολὴν ὁ Ἀδάμ·
one your savior commandment — Adam
 ἐγὼ δὲ τί πάθω, ἀθετῶν διὰ παντός
I but what shall-I-suffer setting-aside through all
 τὰ ζωηρά σου λόγια;
the life-giving your words

25

Ὑπερούσιε τριάς ἡ ἐν μονάδι προσκυνουμένη,

Super-essential trinity the(-one) in unity worshiped

30 ἄρον τὸν κλοιὸν ἀπ' ἐμοῦ τὸν βαρὺν

take the collar from me the heavy

τὸν τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ ὡς εὐσπλαγχνός μοι δὸς

the(-one) of-the sin and as compassionate to-me give

δάκρυα κατανύξεως.

tears of-compunction

Θεοτόκε, ἡ ἐλπίς καὶ προστασία τῶν σε ὑμνούντων,

God-bearer the hope and protection of-those you hymning

ἄρον τὸν κλοιὸν ἀπ' ἐμοῦ τὸν βαρὺν

take the collar from me the heavy

35 τὸν τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ ὡς δέσποινα ἀγνή

the(-one) of-the sin and as mistress pure

μετανοοῦντα δέξαι με.

repenting receive me

ὦδὴ β'

ode 2

Πρόσεχε, οὐρανέ, καὶ λαλήσω καὶ ἀννυμήσω Χριστὸν

Attend heaven and I-will-speak and I-will-hymn Christ

τὸν ἐκ παρθένου σαρκὶ ἐπιδημήσαντα.

the(-one) from (a)-virgin in-flesh having-come-to-dwell

Πρόσεχε, οὐρανέ, καὶ λαλήσω· γῆ, ἐνωτίζου φωνῆς

Attend heaven and I-will-speak earth give-ear to-(a)-voice

μετανοούσης θεῷ καὶ ἀνυμνούσης αὐτόν.

repenting to-God and hymning him

40

Πρόσχεσ μοι ὁ θεὸς ὁ σωτήρ μου ἵλεω ὄμματί σου

Attend to-me — God the savior my with-gracious eye your

καὶ δέξαι μου τὴν θερμὴν ἐξομολόγησιν.

and receive my the fervent confession

Ἠμάρτηκα ὑπὲρ πάντας ἀνθρώπους, μόνος ἡμάρτηκά σοι·

I-have-sinned beyond all men alone I-have-sinned against-you

ἀλλ' οἴκτειρον ὡς θεός, σῶτερ, τὸ ποιήμά σου.

but have-pity as God savior the work your

Μορφώσας μου τὴν τῶν παθῶν

Having-formed my the of-the passions

ἀμορφίαν ταῖς φιληδόνοις ὁρμαῖς

shapelessness with-the pleasure-loving impulses

ἐλυμηνάμην τοῦ νοῦ τὴν ὡραιότητα.

I-have-ruined of-the mind the beauty

45

Ζάλη με τῶν κακῶν περιέχει, εὖσπλαγχνε κύριε·

(A)-storm me of-the evils surrounds compassionate Lord

ἀλλ' ὡς τῷ Πέτρῳ καὶ μοὶ τὴν χεῖρα ἔκτεινον.

but as — to-Peter to-me-too the hand stretch

Ἐσπίλωσα τὸν τῆς σαρκός μου χιτῶνα καὶ κατερρύπωσα
I-have-stained the of-the flesh my tunic and I-have-befouled

50 τὸ κατ' εἰκόνα, σωτήρ, καὶ καθ' ὁμοίωσιν.
the(-thing) according-to (the)-image savior and according-to (the)-likeness

Ἡμαύρωσα τῆς ψυχῆς τὸ ὡραῖον ταῖς τῶν παθῶν ἡδοναῖς
I-have-darkened of-the soul the beauty with-the of-the passions pleasures
 καὶ ὅλως ὅλον τὸν νοῦν χοῦν ἀπετέλεσα.
and wholly whole the mind dust I-have-made

Διέρρηξα [νῦν] τὴν στολήν μου τὴν πρώτην,
I-have-torn now the robe my the first

ἣν ἐξυφάνατό μοι
which wove for-me

ὁ πλαστοργὸς ἐξ ἀρχῆς καὶ ἔνθεν κεῖμαι γυμνός.
the fashioner from (the)-beginning and thence I-lie naked

55 Ἐνδέδουμαι διερρηγμένον χιτῶνα, ὃν ἐξυφάνατό μοι
I-have-put-on (a)-torn tunic which wove for-me

ὁ ὄφεις τῇ συμβουλῇ, καὶ καταισχύνομαι.
the serpent by-the counsel and I-am-put-to-shame

Τὰ δάκρυα τὰ τῆς πόρνης, οἰκτίρμον, καὶ γὰρ προβάλλομαι.
The tears those of-the harlot merciful I-too offer
 ἰλάσθητί μοι, σωτήρ, τῇ εὐσπλαγχνίᾳ σου.
be-propitious to-me savior in-the compassion your

Προσέβλεψα τοῦ φυτοῦ τὸ ὡραῖον καὶ ἡπατήθην τὸν νοῦν

I-looked-at of-the plant the beauty and was-deceived in-the mind

καὶ ἄρτι κεῖμαι γυμνὸς καὶ καταισχύνομαι.

and now I-lie naked and I-am-put-to-shame

60

Ἐτέκταινον ἐπὶ [τὸν] νῶτόν μου πάντες

Were-building upon the back my all

οἱ ἀρχηγοὶ τῶν κακῶν,

the chiefs of-the evils

μακρύνοντες κατ' ἐμοῦ τὴν ἀνομίαν αὐτῶν.

lengthening against me the lawlessness their

Ἐνα σε ἐν τρισὶ τοῖς προσώποις θεὸν ἀπάντων ὕμνω,

One you in three the persons God of-all I-hymn

τὸν πατέρα καὶ [τὸν] υἱὸν καὶ πνεῦμα τὸ ἅγιον.

the father and the son and spirit the Holy

Ἀχραντε θεοτόκε παρθένε, μόνη πανύμνητε,

Spotless God-bearer virgin alone all-hymned

ἰκέτευε ἐκτενῶς εἰς τὸ σωθῆναι ἡμᾶς.

entreat earnestly for the to-be-saved us

65

ὥδῃ γ'

ode 3

Ἐπὶ τὴν ἀσάλευτον, Χριστέ, πέτραν τῶν ἐντολῶν σου
 Upon the unshaken Christ rock of-the commandments your
 τὴν ἐκκλησίαν σου στερέωσον.
 the church your make-firm

Πῦρ παρὰ κυρίου ποτὲ κύριος ἐπιβρέξας

Fire from (the)-Lord once (the)-Lord having-rained

70 τὴν γῆν Σοδόμων πρὶν κατέφλεξεν.
 the land of-Sodom formerly burned-up

Εἰς τὸ ὄρος σώζου, ψυχή, ὥσπερ ὁ Λὼτ ἐκεῖνος,

To the mountain save-yourself soul like — Lot that(-one)

καὶ εἰς Σηγὼρ προανασώθητι.

and to Zoar flee-first

Φεῦγε ἐμπρησμόν, ὦ ψυχή, φεῦγε Σοδόμων καῦσιν,

Flee burning O soul flee of-Sodom (the)-burning

φεῦγε φθορὰν θείας φλογώσεως.

flee (the)-destruction of-divine blazing

75 Ἥμαρτόν σοι μόνος ἐγώ, ἥμαρτον ὑπὲρ πάντας,

I-sinned against-you alone I I-sinned beyond all

Χριστὲ σωτήρ, μὴ ὑπερίδῃς με.

Christ savior not overlook me

Σὺ εἶ ὁ ποιμὴν ὁ καλός· ζήτησόν με τὸν ἄρνα,
You are the shepherd the good seek me the lamb
καὶ πλανηθέντα μὴ παρίδῃς με.
and having-strayed not overlook me

Σὺ εἶ ὁ γλυκὺς Ἰησοῦς, σὺ εἶ ὁ πλαστοουργός μου·
You are the sweet Jesus you are the fashioner my
ἐν σοί, σωτήρ, δικαιωθήσομαι.
in you savior I-will-be-justified

80

Ἐξομολογοῦμαί σοι, σωτήρ· ἥμαρτόν σοι ἀμέτρως·
I-confess to-you savior I-sinned against-you beyond-measure
ἀλλ' ἄνες, ἄφες μοι ὡς εὐσπλαγχνος.
but loose forgive me as compassionate

Ὡ τριάς μονὰς ὁ θεός, σῶσον ἡμᾶς ἐκ πλάνης
O trinity unity — God save us from error
καὶ πειρασμῶν καὶ περιστάσεων.
and temptations and calamities

Χαίρε θεοδόχε γαστήρ, χαίρε θρόνε κυρίου,
Rejoice God-receiving womb rejoice throne of-(the)-Lord
χαίρε ἡ μήτηρ τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν.
rejoice the mother of-the life our

85

ὥδῃ δ'

ode 4

Ἀκήκοεν ὁ προφήτης τὴν ἔλευσίν σου, κύριε,

Has-heard the prophet the coming your Lord

καὶ ἐφοβήθη,

and was-afraid

ὅτι μέλλεις ἐκ παρθένου τίκτεσθαι

that you-are-about from (a)-virgin to-be-born

90 καὶ ἀνθρώποις δείκνυσθαι καὶ ἔλεγεν·

and to-men to-be-shown and he-said

ἀκήκοα τὴν ἀκοήν σου καὶ ἐφοβήθην·

I-have-heard the report your and I-was-afraid

δόξα τῇ δυνάμει σου, κύριε.

glory to-the power your Lord

Τὰ ἔργα σου μὴ παρίδῃς, τὸ πλάσμα σου μὴ παρόψῃ,

The works your not overlook the creature your not disregard

δικαιοκρίτα,

just-judge

95 εἰ καὶ μόνος ἦμαρτον ὡς ἄνθρωπος

if even alone I-sinned as (a)-man

ὕπὲρ πάντα ἄνθρωπον, φιλόανθρωπε,

beyond every man lover-of-mankind

ἀλλ' ἔχεις ὡς κύριος πάντων τὴν ἐξουσίαν

but you-have as Lord of-all the authority

ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτήματα.

to-forgive sins

Ἐγγίξει, ψυχῇ, τὸ τέλος, ἐγγίξει καὶ οὐ φροντίζεις,

Draws-near soul the end draws-near and not you-take-thought

οὐχ ἐτοιμάζῃ·

not you-prepare

ὁ καιρὸς συντέμνει, διανάστηθι·

the time is-cut-short rise-up

ἐγγὺς ἐπὶ θύραις ὁ κριτῆς ἐστίν·

near at (the)-doors the judge is

ὡς ὄναρ, ὡς ἄνθος ὁ χρόνος τοῦ βίου τρέχει·

as (a)-dream as (a)-flower the time of-the life runs

τί μάτην ταραττόμεθα;

why in-vain are-we-troubled

Ἀνάνηψον, ὦ ψυχῇ μου, τὰς πράξεις σου, ἃς εἰργάσω, 105

Come-to-your-senses O soul my the deeds your which you-wrought

ἀναλογίζου,

reckon-up

καὶ ταύταις ἐπ' ὄψεσι προσάγαγε

and these before (your)-eyes bring

καὶ σταγόνας στάλαξον δακρύων σου·

and drops let-fall of-tears your

εἰπὲ παρρησίᾳ τὰς πράξεις, τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις

tell with-boldness the deeds the thoughts

Χριστῷ καὶ δικαιώθητι.

to-Christ and be-justified

Οὐ γέγονεν ἐν τῷ βίῳ ἀμάρτημα οὐδὲ πράξις,

Not has-been in the life (a)-sin nor deed

οὐδὲ κακία,

nor wickedness

ἦν ἐγώ, σωτήρ, οὐκ ἐπλημμέλησα

which I savior not committed

κατὰ νοῦν καὶ λόγον καὶ προαίρεσιν,

in mind and word and choice

115 καὶ θέσει καὶ γνώμῃ καὶ πράξει ἑξαμαρτήσας

and in-intent and in-judgment and in-deed having-sinned

ὥς ἄλλος οὐδεὶς πώποτε.

as other no-one ever

Ἐντεῦθεν καὶ κατεκρίθην, ἐντεῦθεν κατεδικάσθην

Hence also I-was-condemned hence I-was-sentenced

ἐγὼ ὁ τάλας

I the wretched(-one)

ὑπὸ τῆς οἰκείας συνειδήσεως,

by the own conscience

120 ἥς οὐδὲν ἐν [τῷ] κόσμῳ βιαίότερον·

than-which nothing in the world more-forceful

κριτά, λυτρωτά μου καὶ γνῶστα, φεῖσαι καὶ ῥῦσαι

judge redeemer my and knower spare and rescue

καὶ σῶσόν με τὸν δέιλαιον.

and save me the miserable(-one)

Ἡ κλίμαξ, ἣν εἶδε πάλαι ὁ μέγας ἐν πατριάρχαις,

The ladder which saw of-old the great(-one) among patriarchs

δείγμα, ψυχὴ μου,

(a)-sign soul my

πρακτικῆς ὑπάρχει ἐπιβάσεως,

of-active is ascent

γνωστικῆς τυγχάνει ἀναβάσεως.

of-knowing is going-up

εἰ θέλεις οὖν πράξει καὶ γνώσει καὶ θεωρίᾳ

if you-wish then in-action and knowledge and contemplation

βιοῦν, ἀνακαινίσθητι.

to-live be-renewed

125

Τὸν καύσωνα τῆς ἡμέρας ὑπέμεινε δι' ἔνδειαν

The burning-heat of-the day endured because-of want

ὁ πατριάρχης

the patriarch

καὶ τὸν παγετὸν τῆς νυκτὸς ἤνεγκε,

and the frost of-the night bore

καθ' ἡμέραν κλέμματα ποιούμενος,

each day thefts suffering

ποιμαίνων, πυκτεύων, δουλεύων, ἵνα τὰς δύο

shepherding boxing serving that the two

γυναῖκας εἰσαγάγηται.

wives he-might-bring-home

130

135 Γυναῖκάς μοι δύο νόει τὴν πράξιν τε καὶ τὴν γνῶσιν
Wives for-me two understand the action both and the knowledge
 ἐν θεωρίᾳ·

in contemplation

τὴν μὲν Λείαν πράξιν, ὥς πολύτεκνον,

— *indeed Leah action as many-childed*

τὴν Ῥαχὴλ δὲ γνῶσιν, ὥς πολύπονον·

— *Rachel and knowledge as much-toiling*

καὶ γὰρ ἄνευ πόνων οὐ πράξις, οὐ θεωρία,

and for without toils not action not contemplation

140 ψυχῇ, κατορθωθήσεται.

soul will-be-set-right

Ἀμέριστον τῇ οὐσίᾳ, ἀσύγχυτον τοῖς προσώποις

Undivided in-the essence unconfused in-the persons

θεολογῶ σε,

I-confess-as-God you

τὴν τριαδικὴν μίαν θεότητα

the triune one Godhead

ὥς ὁμοβασιλεῖον καὶ σύνθρονον·

as sharing-the-kingdom and sharing-the-throne

145 βοῶ σοι τὸ ᾠσμα τὸ μέγα, τὸ ἐν ὑψίστοις

I-cry to-you the song the great the(-one) in (the)-highest

τρισὼς ὑμνολογούμενον.

thrice hymned

Καὶ τίκεις καὶ παρθενεύεις καὶ μένεις δι' ἀμφοτέρων

Both you-bear and remain-a-virgin and remain through both

φύσει παρθένος·

by-nature (a)-virgin

ὁ τεχθεὶς καινίζει νόμους φύσεως,

the(-one) born renews (the)-laws of-nature

ἡ μηδὺς δὲ κύει μὴ λοχεύουσα·

the womb and conceives not giving-birth

θεὸς ὅπου θέλει, νικᾶται φύσεως τάξις·

God where he-wills is-overcome of-nature (the)-order

ποιεῖ γὰρ ὅσα βούλεται.

he-does for whatever he-wills

150

ὥδῃ ε'

ode 5

Ἐκ νυκτὸς ὀρθρίζοντα, φιλάνθρωπε, φώτισον, δέομαι,

From night rising-early lover-of-mankind enlighten I-beg

καὶ ὁδήγησον καμὲ ἐν τοῖς προστάγμασί σου

and guide me-too in the commandments your

καὶ διδάξόν με, σωτήρ, ποιεῖν τὸ θέλημά σου.

and teach me savior to-do the will your

155

Ἐν νυκτὶ τὸν βίον μου διήλθον αἰεί· σκότος γὰρ γέγονε

In night the life my I-passed always darkness for has-become

καὶ βαθεῖά μοι ἀχλὺς ἡ νύξ τῆς ἀμαρτίας·

and deep to-me (a)-mist the night of-the sin

ἀλλ' ὥς ἡμέρας υἱόν, σωτήρ, ἀνάδειξόν με.

but as of-day (a)-son savior show me

Τὸν Ῥουβὶμ μιμούμενος ὁ τάλας ἐγὼ ἔπραξα ἄθεσμον
 — Reuben imitating the wretched I did lawless

160 καὶ παράνομον βουλὴν κατὰ θεοῦ ὑψίστου,
 and unlawful (a)-counsel against God most-high
 μίανας κοίτην ἐμὴν ὡς τοῦ πατρὸς ἐκείνος.
 having-defiled bed my as of-the father that(-one)

Ἐξομολογοῦμαί σοι, Χριστὲ βασιλεῦ· ἥμαρτον, ἥμαρτον
 I-confess to-you Christ king I-have-sinned I-have-sinned
 ὡς οἱ πρὶν τὸν Ἰωσήφ ἀδελφοὶ πεπρακότες
 as the before — Joseph brothers having-sold
 τὸν τῆς ἀγνείας καρπὸν καὶ τὸν τῆς σωφροσύνης·
 the of-the purity fruit and the(-fruit) of-the chastity

165 Ὑπὸ τῶν συγγόνων ἡ δικαία ψυχὴ δέδοτο, πέπρατο
 By the kinsmen the just soul had-been-given had-been-sold
 εἰς δουλείαν, ὁ γλυκὺς εἰς τύπον τοῦ κυρίου,
 into slavery the sweet(-one) for (a)-type of-the Lord
 αὐτὴ δὲ ὅλη, ψυχὴ, ἐπράθης τοῖς κακοῖς σου.
 you-yourself but whole soul were-sold to-the evils your

Ἰωσήφ τὸν δίκαιον καὶ σώφρονα νοῦν μίμῃσαι, τάλαινα
 of-Joseph the just and chaste mind imitate wretched
 καὶ ἀδόκιμε ψυχὴ, καὶ μὴ ἀκολασταίνου
 and reprobate soul and not be-licentious

170 ταῖς παρὰ νόμοις ὁρμαῖς ἀεὶ παρανομοῦσα.
 with-the unlawful impulses always transgressing

Εἰ καὶ λάκκῳ ᾤκησε ποτὲ Ἰωσήφ, δέσποτα κύριε,
If even in-(a)-pit dwelt once Joseph master Lord
 ἀλλ' εἰς τύπον τῆς ταφῆς καὶ τῆς ἐγέρσεώς σου·
but for (a)-type of-the burial and of-the rising your
 ἐγὼ δὲ τί σοι ποτὲ τοιοῦτο προσενέγκω;
I but what to-you ever such shall-I-offer

Σέ, τριάς, δοξάζομεν τὸν ἓνα θεόν, ἅγιος, ἅγιος,
You trinity we-glorify the one God holy holy
 ἅγιος εἰ ὁ πατήρ, ὁ υἱὸς καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα,
holy are-you the father the son and the spirit
 ἀπλῇ οὐσία, μονὰς ἀεὶ προσκυνουμένη.
simple essence unity always worshiped

175

Ἐκ σοῦ ἡμφιέσατο τὸ φύραμά μου, ἄφθορε ἄνανδρε,
From you clothed-himself-in the lump my incorrupt husbandless
 μητροπάρθενε, θεὸς ὁ κτίσας τοὺς αἰῶνας
mother-virgin God the(-one) having-created the ages
 καὶ ἥνωσεν ἑαυτῷ τὴν τῶν ἀνθρώπων φύσιν.
and united to-himself the of-the men nature

ὥδῃ σ΄

ode 6

- 180 Ἐβόησα ἐν ὅλῃ καρδίᾳ μου πρὸς τὸν οἰκτίρμονα θεὸν
I-cried with whole heart my to the compassionate God
 καὶ ἐπήκουσέ μου ἐξ ᾅδου κατωτάτου
and he-heard me from Hades lowest
 καὶ ἀνήγαγεν ἐκ φθορᾶς τὴν ζωὴν μου.
and brought-up from corruption the life my

Τὰ δάκρυα, σωτήρ, τῶν ὀμμάτων μου καὶ

The tears savior of-the eyes my and

τοὺς ἐκ βάθους στεναγμοὺς

the from (the)-depth groans

καθαρῶς προσφέρω, βοώσης τῆς καρδίας,

purely I-offer crying the heart

- 185 ὁ θεὸς ἡμάρτηκά σοι, ἰλάσθητί μοι·

— God I-have-sinned against-you be-propitious to-me

Ἐξένευσας, ψυχή, τοῦ κυρίου σου, ὥσπερ Δαθὰν καὶ Ἀβειρών·

You-left soul the Lord your like Dathan and Abiram

ἀλλὰ φεῖσαι, κράξον, ἐξ ᾅδου κατωτάτου,

but spare cry-out from Hades lowest

ἵνα μὴ τὸ χάσμα τῆς γῆς σε συγκαλύψῃ.

that not the chasm of-the earth you may-cover

Ὡς δάμαλις, ψυχῇ, παροιστρήσασα ἐξωμοιώθης τῷ Ἐφραΐμ·

As (a)-beifer soul maddened you-resembled — to-Ephraim

ὡς δορκὰς ἐκ βρόχων ἀνάσωσον τὸν βίον,

as (a)-gazelle from snares save the life

περωθεῖσα πράξει καὶ νῶ καὶ θεωρίᾳ.

having-taken-wing by-action and mind and contemplation

190

Ἡ χεὶρ ἡμᾶς Μωσέως πιστώσεται, ψυχῇ, πῶς δύναται θεὸς

The hand us of-Moses will-assure soul how is-able God

λεπρωθέντα βίον λευκάναι καὶ καθάραι,

leprous (a)-life to-whiten and to-cleanse

καὶ μὴ ἀπογνῶς σεαυτήν, κἂν ἐλεπρώθης.

and not despair-of yourself even-if you-became-leprous

Τριάς εἰμι ἀπλῇ, ἀδιαίρετος, διαιρετὴ προσωπικῶς

Trinity I-am simple undivided divided in-persons

καὶ μονὰς ὑπάρχω τῇ φύσει ἡνωμένη,

and unity I-am in-the nature united

ὁ πατήρ, φησι, καὶ υἱὸς καὶ θεῖον πνεῦμα.

the father says and son and divine spirit

195

Ἡ μήτρα σου θεὸν ἡμῖν ἔτεκε μεμορφωμένον καθ' ἡμᾶς·

The womb your God for-us bore formed like us

ἀλλ' ὡς κτίστην πάντων δυσώπει, θεοτόκε,

but as creator of-all entreat God-bearer

ἵνα ταῖς πρεσβείαις ταῖς σαῖς δικαιωθῶμεν.

that by-the intercessions the your we-may-be-justified

200

ὥδῃ ζ'

ode 7

Ἡμάρτομεν, ἡνομήσαμεν, ἡδικήσαμεν ἐνώπιόν σου,

We-have-sinned we-have-transgressed we-have-done-wrong before you

οὐδὲ συνετηρήσαμεν, οὐδὲ ἐποιήσαμεν,

nor have-we-kept nor have-we-done

καθὼς ἐνετείλω ἡμῖν·

as you-commanded us

ἀλλὰ μὴ παραδώσης ἡμᾶς εἰς τέλος,

but not hand-over us to (the)-end

205 ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεός.

the of-the fathers God

Ἡμάρτηκα, ἐπλημμέλησα καὶ ἡθέτησα τὴν ἐντολήν σου·

I-have-sinned I-have-offended and have-set-aside the commandment your

ὅτι ἐν ἀμαρτίαις προήχθην καὶ προσέθηκα

for in sins I-was-led-on and I-have-added

τοῖς μώλωπι τραῦμα ἐμοί·

to-the bruises (a)-wound for-me

ἀλλ' αὐτός με ἐλέησον ὥς εὖσπλαγχνος,

but you-yourself me have-mercy-on as compassionate

210 ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεός.

the of-the fathers God

Τὰ κρύφια τῆς καρδίας μου ἐξηγόρευσά σοι τῷ κριτῇ μου·

The hidden(-things) of-the heart my I-have-declared to-you the judge my

ἶδε μου τὴν ταπείνωσιν, ἶδε καὶ τὴν θλίβιν μου

see my the humiliation see also the affliction my

καὶ πρόσχες τῇ κρίσει μου νῦν·

and attend to-the judgment my now

καὶ αὐτός με ἐλέησον ὡς εὖσπλαγχνος,

and you-yourself me have-mercy-on as compassionate

ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεός.

the of-the fathers God

215

Σαούλ ποτε, ὡς ἀπώλεσε τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ψυχή,

Saul once when lost of-the father his soul

τὰς ὄνους,

the asses

πάρεργον τὸ βασίλειον εἶρε πρὸς ἀνάρρησιν·

as-a-by-work the kingship found for proclamation

ἀλλ' ὄρα, μὴ λάθῃς σαυτὴν

but see not you-escape-the-notice-of yourself

τὰς κτηνώδεις ὀρέξεις σου προκρίνουσα

the brutish appetites your preferring

τῆς βασιλείας Χριστοῦ.

to-the kingdom of-Christ

220

Δαυῖδ ποτε ὁ πατρόθεος εἰ καὶ ἤμαρτε διττῶς, ψυχὴ μου,

David once the father-of-God if even sinned doubly soul my

βέλει μὲν τοξευθεὶς τῆς μοιχείας, τῷ δὲ δόρατι

by-(the)-arrow indeed having-been-shot of-the adultery by-the and spear

άλους τῆς τοῦ φόνου ποινῆς·

caught of-the of-the murder penalty

ἀλλ' αὐτὴ τὰ βαρύτερα τῶν ἔργων νοσεῖς

but you-yourself the heavier(-things) than-the works are-sick-with

225 ταῖς κατὰ γνώμην ὁρμαῖς.

with-the according-to will impulses

Συνῆψε μὲν ὁ Δαυῖδ ποτε ἀνομίᾳ τὴν ἀνομίαν·

Joined indeed — David once to-lawlessness the lawlessness

φόνῳ γὰρ τὴν μοιχείαν ἐκίρνα, τὴν μετάνοιαν

with-murder for the adultery he-mixed the repentance

εὐθὺς παραδείξας διπλῇ·

at-once showing double

ἀλλ' αὐτὴ πονηρότερα εἰργάσω, ψυχή,

but you-yourself more-wicked(-things) wrought soul

230 μὴ μεταγνοῦσα θεῷ.

not repenting to-God

Δαυὶδ ποτε ἀνεστήλωσε συγγραψάμενος ὡς ἐν εἰκόνι
David once set-up having-written as in (an)-image
 ὕμνον, δι' οὗ τὴν πράξιν ἐλέγχει, ἣν εἰργάσατο,
(a)-hymn through which the deed he-exposes which he-wrought
 κραυγάζων· ἐλέησόν με·
crying have-mercy-on me
 σοὶ γὰρ μόνῳ ἐξήμαρτον τῷ πάντων θεῷ·
against-you for alone I-sinned the of-all God
 αὐτὸς καθάρισόν με.
you-yourself cleanse me

235

Τριάς ἀπλῇ, ἀδιαίρετε, ὁμοούσιε, μονὰς ἀγία,
Trinity simple undivided consubstantial unity holy
 φῶτα καὶ φῶς, καὶ ἅγια τρία καὶ ἓν ἅγιον
lights and light and holy three and one holy
 ὑμνεῖται θεὸς ἡ τριάς·
is-hymned God the trinity
 ἀλλ' ἀνύμνησον, δόξασον ζωὴν καὶ ζωάς,
but hymn glorify life and lives
 ψυχή, τὸν πάντων θεόν.
soul the of-all God

240

Ὑμνοῦμέν σε, εὐλογοῦμέν σε, προσκυνοῦμέν σε, θεογεννήτορ,

We-hymn you we-bless you we-worship you God-beggetter

ὅτι τῆς ἀχωρίστου τριάδος ἀπεκύησας

because of-the inseparable trinity you-brought-forth

τὸν ἕνα υἱὸν καὶ θεόν,

the one son and God

καὶ αὐτὴ προηνέωξας ἡμῖν τοῖς ἐν γῇ

and you-yourself opened-beforehand to-us those on earth

245 τὰ ἐπουράνια.

the heavenly(-things)

ὥδὲ ἡ'

ode 8

Ὅν στρατιαὶ οὐρανῶν δοξάζουσι καὶ φρίττει τὰ Χερουβὶμ

Whom (the)-hosts of-heavens glorify and trembles-before the Cherubim

καὶ τὰ Σεραφίμ, πᾶσα πνοὴ καὶ κτίσις

and the Seraphim every breath and creature

ὑμνεῖτε, εὐλογεῖτε καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε

hymn bless and exalt-above-all

εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

to all the ages

Ἦμαρτηκότα, σωτήρ, ἐλέησον, διέγειρόν μου τὸν νοῦν 250
Having-sinned savior have-mercy-on rouse my the mind
 πρὸς ἐπιστροφὴν, δέξαι μετανοοῦντα,
to turning receive repenting
 οἰκτείρησον βοῶντα· ἥμαρτόν σοι, σῶσον·
pity crying I-sinned against-you save
 ἡνόμησα, ἐλέησόν με.
I-transgressed have-mercy-on me

Ὁ διφρηλάτης Ἡλίας ἄρματι ταῖς ἀρεταῖς ἐπιβὰς
The charioteer Elijab on-(a)-chariot with-the virtues having-mounted
 ὡς εἰς οὐρανὸν ἦγετο ὑπεράνω 255
as to heaven was-carried above
 ποτὲ τῶν ἐπιγείων· τούτου οὖν, ψυχὴ μου,
once the earthly(-things) of-this(-one) then soul my
 τὴν ἀνοδὸν ἀναλογίζου.
the going-up reckon-up

Ὁ Ἐλισσαῖός ποτε δεξάμενος τὴν μιλωτὴν Ἥλιον
 — *Elisba once having-received the sheepskin of-Elijab*
 ἔλαβε διπλὴν χάριν παρὰ κυρίου·
took double grace from (the)-Lord
 αὐτὴν δέ, ὦ ψυχὴ μου, ταύτης οὐ μετέσχες 260
you-yourself but O soul my this not partook
 τῆς χάριτος δι' ἀκρασίαν.
the grace because-of incontinence

Τοῦ Ἰορδάνου τὸ ρεῖθρον πρότερον τῇ μηλωτῇ Ἡλιοῦ
— of-Jordan the stream formerly by-the sheepskin of-Elijah

δι' Ἑλισσαιὲ ἔστη ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα·

through Elisha stood here and there

αὐτὴ δέ, ὦ ψυχὴ μου, ταύτης οὐ μετέσχες

you-yourself but O soul my this not partook

265 τῆς χάριτος δι' ἀκρασίαν.

the grace because-of incontinence

Ἡ Σωμανίτις ποτὲ τὸν δίκαιον ἐξένισεν, ὦ ψυχή,

The Shunammite once the just(-man) entertained O soul

γνώμη ἀγαθῇ, σὺ δὲ οὐκ εἰσωκίσω,

with-intent good you but not took-in

οὐ ξένον, οὐχ ὁδίτην· ὅθεν τοῦ νυμφῶνος

not (a)-stranger not (a)-wayfarer whence from-the bridal-chamber

ρίφήσῃ ἔξω θρηνωδοῦσα.

you-will-be-cast out lamenting

270 Τοῦ Γιεζῇ ἐμμήσω, τάλαινα, τὴν γνώμην τὴν ῥυπαρὰν

— of-Gebazi you-imitated wretched the intent the filthy

πάντοτε, ψυχὴ· οὗ τὴν φιλαργυρίαν

always soul whose the love-of-money

ἀπόθου καὶ ἐν γήρει, φεῦγε τῆς γεέννης

put-away even-if in old-age flee of-the Gehenna

τὸ πῦρ, ἐκστᾶσα τῶν κακῶν σου.

the fire departing-from the evils your

Ἄναρχε πάτερ, υἱὲ συνάναρχε, παράκλητε ἀγαθέ,

Unbeginning father son co-unbeginning comforter good

πνεῦμα τὸ εὐθές, λόγου θεοῦ γεννήτορ,

275

spirit the upright of-(the)-word of-God begetter

πατρὸς ἀνάρχου λόγε, πνεῦμα ζῶν καὶ κτίζον,

of-(the)-father unbeginning word spirit living and creating

τριας μονὰς ἐλέησόν με.

trinity unity have-mercy-on me

Ὡς ἐκ βαφῆς ἀλουργίδος, ἄχραντε, ἡ νοητὴ πορφυρίς,

As from (a)-dye of-sea-purple spotless(-one) the spiritual purple-robe

τοῦ Ἐμμανουὴλ ἔνδον ἐν τῇ γαστρὶ σου

— *of-Emmanuel within in the womb your*

ἡ σὰρξ συνεξυφάνθη· ὅθεν θεοτόκον

280

the flesh was-woven-together whence God-bearer

ἐν ἀληθείᾳ σε τιμῶμεν.

in truth you we-honor

ὦδὴ θ'

ode 9

Ἀσπόρου συλλήψεως ὁ τόκος ἀνερμήνευτος,

Of-seedless conception the birth inexplicable

μητρὸς ἀνάνδρου ἄφθορος ἡ κύσις·

of-(a)-mother husbandless incorrupt the bearing

θεοῦ γὰρ ἡ γέννησις καινοποιεῖ τὰς φύσεις·

of-God for the birth renews the natures

285 διό σε πᾶσαι αἱ γενεαὶ ὡς θεόνυμφον μητέρα

wherefore you all the generations as God-wedded mother

ὀρθοδόξως μεγαλύνομεν.

in-orthodox-faith we-magnify

Ὁ νοῦς τετραυμάτισται, τὸ σῶμα μεμαλάκισται,

The mind has-been-wounded the body has-grown-weak

νοσεῖ τὸ πνεῦμα, ὁ λόγος ἡσθένησεν,

is-sick the spirit the reason has-become-feeble

ὁ βίος νενέκρωται, τὸ τέλος ἐπὶ θύραις·

the life has-been-deadened the end at (the)-doors

290 διό μοι, τάλαινα ψυχή, τί ποιήσεις, ὅταν ἔλθῃ

wherefore to-me wretched soul what will-you-do when comes

ὁ κριτῆς ἀνερευνῆσαι τὰ σά;

the judge to-search-out the your(-things)

Μωσέως παρήγαγον, ψυχή, τὴν κοσμογένεσιν

of-Moses I-brought-forward soul the world-genesis

καὶ ἐξ ἐκείνου πᾶσαν ἐνδιάθετον

and from that(-one) all covenanted

γραφὴν ἱστοροῦσάν σοι δικαίους καὶ ἀδίκους·

scripture recounting to-you just(-men) and unjust(-men)

295 ὧν τοὺς δευτέρους, ὦ ψυχή, ἐμμήσω, οὐ τοὺς πρώτους,

of-whom the second O soul you-imitated not the first

εἰς θεὸν ἐξαμαρτήσασα.

against God having-sinned

Ὁ νόμος ἡσθένησεν, ἀργεῖ τὸ εὐαγγέλιον,

The law has-grown-weak is-idle the gospel

γραφὴ δὲ πᾶσα ἐν σοὶ παρημέλῃται,

scripture and all by you has-been-neglected

προφῆται ἡτόνησαν καὶ πᾶς δικαίου λόγος·

prophets have-become-powerless and every of-(the)-just word

αἱ τραυματίαι σου, ὦ ψυχή, ἐπληθύνθησαν οὐκ ὄντος

the wounds your O soul have-multiplied not being

ἱατροῦ τοῦ ὑγιουντός σε.

(a)-physician the(-one) healing you

300

Τῆς νέας παράγω σοι γραφῆς τὰ ὑποδείγματα,

Of-the new I-bring-forward to-you scripture the examples

ἐνάγοντά σε, ψυχή, πρὸς κατάνυξιν·

leading you soul to compunction

δικαίους οὖν ζήλωσον, ἁμαρτωλοὺς ἐκτρέπου

just(-men) then emulate sinners turn-from

καὶ ἐξιλέωσαι Χριστὸν προσευχαῖς τε καὶ νηστεαῖς

and propitiate Christ with-prayers both and fasts

καὶ ἀγνείᾳ καὶ σεμνότητι.

and with-purity and with-dignity

305

Χριστὸς ἐνὴνθρώπῃσε, καλέσας εἰς μετάνοιαν

Christ became-man having-called to repentance

ληστὰς καὶ πόρνας· ψυχὴ, μετανόησον,

robbers and harlots soul repent

ἡ θύρα ἡνέωκται τῆς βασιλείας ἤδη,

the door has-been-opened of-the kingdom already

310 καὶ προαρπάζουσιν αὐτὴν Φαρισαῖοι καὶ τελῶναι

and seize-beforehand it Pharisees and tax-collectors

καὶ μοιχοὶ μεταποιούμενοι.

and adulterers changing

Χριστὸς ἐνὴνθρώπῃσε, σαρκὶ προσομιλήσας μοι

Christ became-man in-flesh having-conversed-with me

καὶ πάντα, ὅσα ὑπάρχει τῆς φύσεως,

and all as-much-as belongs to-the nature

βουλήσει ἐπλήρωσε τῆς ἀμαρτίας δίχα,

by-will he-fulfilled the sin without

315 ὑπογραμμὸν σοι, ὦ ψυχὴ, καὶ εἰκόνα προδεικνύων

(a)-pattern to-you O soul and (an)-image showing-beforehand

τῆς αὐτοῦ συγκαταβάσεως.

of-the his condescension

Χριστὸς μάγους ἔσωσε, ποιμένας συνεκάλεσε,

Christ magi saved shepherds called-together

νηπίων δῆμους ἀπέδειξε μάρτυρας,

of-infants throngs showed-forth (as)-martyrs

πρεσβύτην ἐδόξασε καὶ γηραλέαν χήραν,

(the)-old-man glorified and aged widow

ὧν οὐκ ἐζήλωσας, ψυχή, οὐ τὰς πράξεις, οὐ τὸν βίον·

whose not you-emulated soul not the deeds not the life

ἀλλ' οὐαί σοι ἐν τῷ κρίνεσθαι.

but woe to-you in the being-judged

320

Νηστεύσας ὁ κύριος ἡμέρας τεσσαράκοντα

Having-fasted the Lord days forty

ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ ὕστερον ἐπείνασε

in the desert afterward hungered

δεικνὺς τὸ ἀνθρώπινον· ψυχή, μὴ ἀθυμῆσης,

showing the human soul not despond

ἂν σοι προσβάλλῃ ὁ ἐχθρός· προσευχῇ τε καὶ νηστεία

if you assails the enemy with-prayer both and fasting

ἐκποδὼν ἀποκρουσθήτω σοι.

out-of-the-way let-him-be-beaten-off by-you

325

Πατέρα δοξάσωμεν, υἱὸν ὑπερυψώσωμεν,

(the)-Father let-us-glorify (the)-son let-us-exalt-above-all

τὸ θεῖον πνεῦμα πιστῶς προσκυνήσωμεν,

the divine spirit faithfully let-us-worship

τριάδα ἀχώριστον, μονάδα κατ' οὐσίαν,

trinity inseparable unity according-to essence

330 ὡς φῶς καὶ φῶτα, καὶ ζωὴν καὶ ζωάς, ζωοποιοῦσαν

as light and lights and life and lives giving-life

καὶ φωτίζουσιν τὰ πέρατα.

and enlightening the ends

Τὴν πόλιν σου φύλαττε, θεογεννήτορ πάνταγενε·

The city your guard God-begotten all-pure

ἐν σοὶ γὰρ αὕτη πιστῶς βασιλεύουσα,

in you for it faithfully reigning

ἐν σοὶ καὶ κρατύνεται καὶ διὰ σοῦ νικῶσα

in you also is-strengthened and through you conquering

335 τροποῦται πάντα πειρασμὸν καὶ σκυλεύει πολεμίους

puts-to-flight every temptation and despoils enemies

καὶ διέπει τὸ ὑπὲρ.

and governs the subject(-people)

COSMAS THE MELODIST

ΚΟΣΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΑΙΟΥΜΑ ΚΑΝΟΝΕΣ

Canons

Κανὼν εἰς τὴν Ὑψωσιν τοῦ σταυροῦ

I • ON THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Cosmas sings the cross foreshadowed in the Old Testament. Moses parts the sea with a rod and wins against Amalek with outstretched hands, and his serpent on a pole heals; a budding rod chooses the priest, the rock gushes water, wood sweetens bitter springs, Jonah spreads his hands in the whale, and Jacob crosses his hands in blessing. The heavens showed the cross to a pious emperor, and kings now boast of it. The three children sing in the furnace, and the tree that brought death is answered by the tree of life. All creation, and the trees of the forest, rejoice as the cross is raised.

ὠδὴ α΄

ode 1

Σταυρὸν χαράξας Μωσῆς

(A)-cross having-traced Moses

ἐπ' εὐθείας ῥάβδῳ, τὴν ἐρυθρὰν διέτεμε

in straight(-line) with-(the)-rod the red(-sea) cleft

τῷ Ἰσραὴλ πεζεύσονται·

— for-Israel about-to-go-on-foot

τὴν δὲ ἐπιστρεπτικῶς

the(-sea) and backward

Φαραὼ τοῖς ἄρμασι κροτήσας ἦνωσεν,

on-Pharaoh with-the chariots having-struck he-united

ἐπ' εὗρους διαγράψας τὸ ἀήττητον ὄπλον·

in breadth having-drawn the invincible weapon

διὸ Χριστῷ ᾄσωμεν

wherefore to-Christ let-us-sing

τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

— to-God our for he-has-been-glorified

Τὸν τύπον πάλαι Μωσῆς

The type of-old Moses

- 10 τοῦ ἀχράντου πάθους ἐν ἑαυτῷ προέφηνε
of-the spotless passion in himself showed-beforehand

τῶν ἱερῶν μεσούμενος·

of-the priests standing-in-the-midst

σταυρῷ δὲ σχηματισθεὶς

in-(the)-cross and shaped

τεταμέναις τρόπαιον παλάμαις ἤγειρε,

with-outstretched (a)-trophy palms raised

τὸ κράτος διολέσας Ἀμαλήκ τοῦ πανώλους·

the might having-destroyed of-Amalek the all-destroying

- 15 διὸ Χριστῷ ᾄσωμεν

wherefore to-Christ let-us-sing

τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

— *to-God our for be-has-been-glorified*

Ἀνέθηκε Μωϋσῆς

Set-up Moses

ἐπὶ στήλης ἄκος φθοροποιοῦ λυτήριον

on (a)-pillar (a)-cure of-(the)-destructive releasing

καὶ ἰοβόλου δήγματος,

and venomous bite

καὶ ξύλῳ τύπῳ σταυροῦ

and on-wood in-(the)-type of-(the)-cross

20

τὸν πρὸς γῆν συρόμενον ὄφιν προσέδησεν

the on (the)-ground crawling serpent bound

ἐγκάρσιον, ἐν τούτῳ θριαμβεύσας τὸ πῆμα·

crosswise on this having-triumphed-over the bane

διὸ Χριστῷ ἄσωμεν

wherefore to-Christ let-us-sing

τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

— to-God our for he-has-been-glorified

Ὑπέδειξεν οὐρανὸς

Showed heaven

25

τοῦ σταυροῦ τὸ τρόπαιον τῷ εὐσεβείας κράντορι

of-the cross the trophy to-the of-piety ruler

καὶ βασιλεῖ θεόφρονι,

and king God-minded

ἐχθρῶν ἐν ᾧ δυσμενῶν

of-enemies in which hostile

κατελύθη φρύαγμα, ἀπάτη ἀνετράπη δὲ

was-destroyed (the)-insolence deceit was-overturned and

καὶ πίστις ἐφηπλώθη γῆς τοῖς πέρασιν θεία·

and faith was-spread-out of-earth to-the ends divine

30

διὸ Χριστῷ ἄσωμεν

wherefore to-Christ let-us-sing

τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

— to-God our for he-has-been-glorified

ὥδῃ γ'

ode 3

Ῥάβδος εἰς τύπον τοῦ μυστηρίου παραλαμβάνεται·

(A)-rod for (a)-type of-the mystery is-taken

τῷ βλαστῷ γὰρ προκρίνει τὸν ἱερέα·

by-the sprouting for it-chooses the priest

35 τῇ στειρευούσῃ δὲ πρώην ἐκκλησίᾳ νῦν ἐξήνθησε

for-the being-barren and formerly church now has-blossomed

ξύλον σταυροῦ εἰς κράτος καὶ στερέωμα.

(the)-wood of-(the)-cross for might and firmament

Ὡς ἐπαφῆκε ῥαπίζομένη ὕδωρ ἀκρότομος,

When sent-forth being-struck water (the)-sheer-rock

ἀπειθοῦντι λαῷ καὶ σκληροκαρδίῳ

to-(a)-disobedient people and hard-hearted

τῆς θεοκλήτου ἐδήλου ἐκκλησίας τὸ μυστήριον,

of-the God-called it-showed church the mystery

40 ἧς ὁ σταυρὸς τὸ κράτος καὶ στερέωμα.

of-which the cross (is)-the might and firmament

Πλευρᾶς ἀχράντου λόγχῃ τρωθείσης ὕδωρ σὺν αἵματι

(The)-side spotless by-(a)-lance having-been-wounded water with blood

ἐξεβλύσθη ἐγκαινίζον διαθήκην

gushed-out renewing (the)-covenant

καὶ ῥυπτικὸν ἁμαρτίας· τῶν πιστῶν γὰρ σταυρὸς καύχημα

and cleansing of-sin of-the faithful for (the)-cross (is)-boast

καὶ βασιλέων κράτος καὶ στερέωμα.

and of-kings might and firmament

ὦδὴ δ'

ode 4

Εἰσακήκοα, κύριε, τῆς οἰκονομίας σου τὸ μυστήριον,

45

I-have-beard Lord of-the dispensation your the mystery

κατενόησα τὰ ἔργα σου

I-have-considered the works your

καὶ ἐδόξασά σου τὴν θεότητα.

and I-have-glorified your the Godhead

Πικρογόνους μετέβαλε ξύλῳ Μωϋσῆς πηγὰς ἐν ἐρήμῳ πάλαι,

Bitter-making changed by-wood Moses springs in desert of-old

τῷ σταυρῷ πρὸς τὴν εὐσέβειαν

by-the cross to the piety

τῶν ἐθνῶν προφαίνων τὴν μετάθεσιν.

50

of-the nations showing-beforehand the change

Ὁ βυθῷ κολπωσάμενος τέμνουσαν ἀνέδωκεν Ἰορδάνης ξύλῳ,

The in-deep embosoming (the)-cutter gave-up Jordan by-wood

τῷ σταυρῷ καὶ τῷ βαπτίσματι

by-the cross and by-the baptism

τὴν τομὴν τῆς πλάνης τεκμαιρόμενος.

the cutting-off of-the error signifying

Ἱερῶς προστοιβάζεται ὁ τετραμερὴς λαὸς προηγούμενος

Sacredly is-ranged the fourfold people going-before

55 τῆς ἐν τύπῳ μαρτυρίου σκηνῆς,

of-the in type of-witness tabernacle

σταυροτύποις τάξεσι κλειζόμενος.

in-cross-shaped ranks made-famous

Θαυμαστῶς ἐφαπλούμενος τὰς ἡλιακὰς βολὰς ἐξηκόντισεν

Wondrously spread-out the solar rays shot-forth

ὁ σταυρός, καὶ διηγῆσαντο

the cross and declared

οὐρανοὶ τὴν δόξαν τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν.

(the)-heavens the glory — of-God our

ὥδῃ ε΄

ode 5

60 Ὡς τρισμακάριστον ξύλον, ἐν ᾧ ἐτάθη Χριστὸς

O thrice-blessed wood on which was-stretched Christ

ὁ βασιλεὺς καὶ κύριος·

the king and Lord

δι' οὗ πέπτωκεν ὁ ξύλῳ ἀπατήσας,

through which has-fallen the(-one) by-wood having-deceived

τῷ ἐν σοὶ δελεασθεὶς θεῷ τῷ προσπαγέντι σαρκί,

by-the on you lured God the(-one) nailed in-flesh

τῷ παρέχοντι τὴν εἰρήνην ταῖς ψυχαῖς ἡμῶν.

the(-one) granting the peace to-the souls our

Σὲ τὸ αἰοίδιμον ξύλον, ἐν ᾧ ἐτάθη Χριστός,

65

You the sung-of wood on which was-stretched Christ

ἢ τὴν Ἑδέμ φυλάττουσα

the — Eden guarding

στρεφομένη ρομφαία, σταυρέ, ἡδέσθη·

turning sword cross revered

τὸ φρικτὸν δὲ Χερουβὶμ εἶξε τῷ σοὶ παγέντι Χριστῷ,

the dread and Cherubim yielded to-the on-you fixed Christ

τῷ παρέχοντι τὴν εἰρήνην ταῖς ψυχαῖς ἡμῶν.

the(-one) granting the peace to-the souls our

Ὑποχθονίων δυνάμεις ἀντίπαλοι τοῦ σταυροῦ

70

Of-(the)-beneath-the-earth (the)-powers adversaries of-the cross

φρίττουσι χαραττόμενον

tremble being-traced

τὸ σημεῖον ἐν ἀέρι, ᾧ πολοῦσιν·

the sign in (the)-air in-which they-move

οὐρανίων, γηγενῶν γένος δὲ γόνυ κάμπτει Χριστῷ,

of-heavenly of-earth-born (the)-race and knee bends to-Christ

τῷ παρέχοντι τὴν εἰρήνην ταῖς ψυχαῖς ἡμῶν.

the(-one) granting the peace to-the souls our

- 75 Μαρμαρυγαῖς ἀκηράτοις φανείς ὁ θεῖος σταυρός,
With-flashings undefiled having-appeared the divine cross
 ἐσκοτισμένοις ἔθνεσι
to-darkened nations
 τοῖς ἐν πλάνῃ ἀπάτης τὸ θεῖον φέγγος
those in error of-deceit the divine light
 ἀσπαστράψας, οἰκείοι τῷ ἐν αὐτῷ παγέντι Χριστῷ,
having-flashed makes-kin to-the on it fixed Christ
 τῷ παρέχοντι τὴν εἰρήνην ταῖς ψυχαῖς ἡμῶν.
the(-one) granting the peace to-the souls our

ὥδῃ σ'

ode 6

- 80 Νοτίου θηρὸς ἐν σπλάγχνοις παλάμας Ἰωνᾶς
Of-(the)-sea beast in (the)-entrails (the)-palms Jonah
 σταυροειδῶς διεκπετάσας
in-cross-shape having-spread-out
 τὸ σωτήριον πάθος προδιετύπου σαφῶς·
the saving passion prefigured clearly
 ὅθεν τριήμερος ἐκδύς
whence on-the-third-day having-come-out
 τὴν ὑπερκόσμιον ἀνάστασιν ὑπεξωγράφησε
the supramundane resurrection he-sketched
 85 τοῦ σαρκὶ προσπαγέντος Χριστοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ
of-the in-flesh nailed Christ — God
 καὶ τριημέρῳ ἐγέρσει τὸν κόσμον φωτίσαντος.
and by-third-day rising the world having-enlightened

Ὁ γῆρα καμφθεὶς καὶ νόσω τρυχωθεὶς ἀνωρθοῦτο
The(-one) by-old-age bent and by-disease worn was-set-upright

Ἰακώβ χεῖρας ἀμεΐψας,

Jacob (the)-hands having-crossed

τὴν ἐνέργειαν φαίνων τοῦ ζωηφόρου σταυροῦ·

the working showing of-the life-bearing cross

τὴν παλαιότητα καὶ γὰρ

the oldness and for

τοῦ νομικοῦ σκιώδους γράμματος ἐκαινογράφησεν

of-the legal shadowy letter he-wrote-anew

ὁ ἐν τούτῳ σαρκὶ προσπαγεὶς ὁ θεὸς

the(-one) on this in-flesh nailed — God

καὶ τὴν ψυχώλεθρον νόσον τῆς πλάνης ἀπήλασεν.

and the soul-destroying disease of-the error drove-away

90

Νεαζούσαις θεῖς παλάμας ὁ θεῖος Ἰσραὴλ

On-young having-put (the)-palms the divine Israel

σταυροειδῶς κάραις ἐδήλου

in-cross-shape on-heads showed

ὡς πρεσβύτερον κλέος ὁ νομολάτρης λαός·

as elder in-glory the law-serving people

ὑποπτευθεὶς ὅθεν οὗτος

having-been-suspected whence this(-one)

ἐξηπατησθαι οὐκ ἡλλοίωσε τὸν ζωηφόρον τύπον·

to-have-been-deceived not altered the life-bearing type

ὑπερέξει λαὸς γὰρ Χριστοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ

will-excel (the)-people for of-Christ — God

νεοπαγής, ἀνεβόα, σταυρῷ τειχιζόμενος.

newly-made cried-out by-(the)-cross walled

95

100

ὦδὴ ζ'

ode 7

Ἐκνοον πρόσταγμα τυράννου δυσσεβοῦς

(The)-mindless decree of-(a)-tyrant impious

λαὸν ἐκλόνησε,

(the)-people shook

πνέον ἀπειλῆς καὶ δυσφημίας θεοστυγοῦς·

breathing threat and blasphemy God-hated

ὅμως τρεῖς παῖδας οὐκ ἐδειμάτωσε

yet three children not it-terrified

105 θυμὸς θηριώδης, οὐ πῦρ βρόμεον·

wrath bestial not fire roaring

ἀλλ' ἀντηχοῦντι δροσοβόλῳ πνεύματι

but echoing-against dew-shedding wind

πυρὶ συνόντες ἔψαλλον·

in-fire being-together they-sang

ὁ ὑπερύμνητος τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν

the more-than-hymned of-the fathers and our

θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

God blessed are-you

Ξύλου γευσάμενος ὁ πρῶτος ἐν βροτοῖς

Of-(the)-tree having-tasted the first among mortals

φθορᾷ παρώκησε·

in-corruption sojourned

ρίψιν γὰρ ζωῆς ἀτιμοτάτην κατακριθεὶς

(a)-casting-away for of-life most-dishonorable having-been-condemned

ὅλῳ τῷ γένει, σωματοφθόρος τις

to-all the race body-destroying a-certain

ὥς λύμη τῆς νόσου, μετέδωκεν·

as (a)-plague of-the disease he-imparted

ἀλλ' εὕρηκότες γηγενεῖς ἀνάκλησιν

but having-found earth-born(-men) (a)-recall

σταυροῦ τὸ ξύλον κράζωμεν·

of-(the)-cross the wood let-us-cry

ὁ ὑπερύμνητος τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν

the more-than-hymned of-the fathers and our

θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

God blessed are-you

Ἦλυσε πρόσταγμα θεοῦ παρακοή,

Loosed (the)-commandment of-God disobedience

καὶ ξύλον ἤνεγκε

and (a)-tree brought

θάνατον βροτοῖς τὸ μὴ εὐκαίρως μεταληφθέν·

death to-mortals the(-one) not seasonably partaken

ἐν ἀσφαλείᾳ τῆς ἐριτίμου δὲ

in safekeeping of-the precious and

ἐντεῦθεν ζωῆς τὸ ξύλον εἴργετο,

thenceforth of-life the tree was-shut-off

110

115

120

ὃ νυκτιλόχου δυσθανοῦς ἀνέωξεν
which of-(a)-night-ambushing hard-dying(-man) opened

125 εὐγνωμοσύνη κράζοντος·

(the)-good-sense crying

ὁ ὑπερύμνητος τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν

the more-than-hymned of-the fathers and our

θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

God blessed are-you

Ῥάβδου προσπτύσσεται τὸ ἄκρον Ἰωσήφ·

Of-(a)-rod embraces the tip of-Joseph

ὁ γενησόμενα

the(-one) (the)-things-to-be

130 βλέπων Ἰσραήλ, τῆς βασιλείας τὸ κραταιὸν

seeing Israel of-the kingdom the mighty(-power)

ὅπως συνάξει ὁ ὑπερένδοξος

how will-gather the all-glorious

σταυρὸς προδηλῶν· οὗτος γὰρ

cross foreshowing this for

τοῖς βασιλεῦσι τροπαιοῦχον καύχημα

to-the kings trophy-bearing boast

καὶ φῶς τοῖς πίστει μέλπουσιν·

and light to-those in-faith singing

135 ὁ ὑπερύμνητος τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν

the more-than-hymned of-the fathers and our

θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

God blessed are-you

ὦδὴ ἡ'

ode 8

Εὐλογεῖτε, παῖδες τῆς Τριάδος ἰσάριθμοι,

Bless children of-the Trinity equal-in-number

δημιουργὸν πατέρα θεόν·

(the)-creator father God

ὑμνεῖτε τὸν συγκαταβάντα λόγον καὶ τὸ

hymn the having-come-down-with word and the

πῦρ εἰς δρόσον μεταποιήσαντα.

fire into dew having-changed

καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε τὸ πᾶσι ζωὴν

and exalt-above-all the(-one) to-all life

παρέχον πνεῦμα πανάγιον εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας·

granting spirit all-holy to the ages

140

Ὑψουμένου ξύλου ραντισθέντος ἐν αἵματι

Being-raised (the)-wood sprinkled in blood

τοῦ σαρκωθέντος λόγου θεοῦ,

of-the incarnate word of-God

ὑμνεῖτε αἱ τῶν οὐρανῶν δυνάμεις

hymn the of-the heavens powers

βροτῶν τὴν ἀνάκλησιν ἐορτάζουσαι·

of-mortals the recall celebrating

λαοὶ προσκυνεῖτε Χριστοῦ τὸν σταυρόν,

peoples worship of-Christ the cross

δι' οὗ τῷ κόσμῳ ἀνάστασις εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

through which to-the world resurrection to the ages

145

Γηγενεῖς, παλάμαις, οἰκονόμοι τῆς χάριτος,

Earth-born with-palms stewards of-the grace

σταυρόν, οὗ ἔστη Χριστὸς ὁ θεός,

(the)-cross on-which stood Christ — God

ὑψοῦτε ἱεροπρεπῶς καὶ λόγχην θεοῦ

raise sacredly and (the)-lance of-God

λόγου σώμα ἀντιτορήσασαν·

(the)-word (the)-body having-pierced

150 ἰδέτωσαν ἔθνη πάντα τὸ σωτήριον

let-see nations all the salvation

τοῦ θεοῦ, δοξάζοντα εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

— *of-God glorifying to the ages*

Οἱ τῇ θεῖᾳ ψήφῳ προκριθέντες ἀγάλλεσθε,

You-who by-the divine vote chosen-before rejoice

Χριστιανῶν πιστοὶ βασιλεῖς,

of-Christians faithful kings

καυχᾶσθε τὸ τροπαιοφόρον ὄπλον λαχόντες θεόθεν,

boast the trophy-bearing weapon having-obtained from-God

σταυρόν τὸν τίμιον·

(the)-cross the precious

155 ἐν τούτῳ γὰρ φύλα πολέμων θράσος

on this for tribes of-wars (the)-boldness

ἐπιζητοῦντα σκεδάζονται εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

seeking are-scattered to the ages

ὥδῃ θ'

ode 9

Μυστικὸς εἶ, θεοτόκε, παράδεισος,

Mystical are-you God-bearer paradise

ἀγεωργήτως βλαστήσασα Χριστόν,

untilled having-sprouted Christ

ὕφ' οὗ τὸ τοῦ σταυροῦ ζωφόρον ἐν γῇ

by whom the of-the cross life-bearing on earth

πεφυτούργηται δένδρον·

has-been-planted tree

δι' οὗ νῦν ὑψουμένου προσκυνοῦντες αὐτὸν

through which now being-raised worshiping him

σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

you we-magnify

160

Ἀγαλλέσθω τὰ δρυμοῦ ξύλα σύμπαντα

Let-rejoice the of-(the)-forest trees all

ἀγιασθείσης τῆς φύσεως αὐτῶν,

having-been-sanctified the nature their

ὕφ' οὗπερ ἐξ ἀρχῆς ἐφυτεύθη Χριστοῦ

by whom-indeed from (the)-beginning they-were-planted Christ

τανυθέντος ἐν ξύλῳ·

having-been-stretched on wood

δι' οὗ νῦν ὑψουμένου προσκυνοῦμεν αὐτὸν

through which now being-raised we-worship him

καὶ μεγαλύνομεν.

and magnify

165

Ἱερὸν ἡγέρθη κέρας θεόφροσι

Holy was-raised (a)-born for-the-God-minded

170 τῆς κεφαλῆς τῶν ἀπάντων ὁ σταυρός,

of-the head of-the all the cross

ἐν ᾧ ἁμαρτωλῶν νοουμένων συνθλῶνται

in which of-sinners spiritual are-crushed

τὰ κέρατα πάντα·

the horns all

δι' οὗ νῦν ὑψουμένου προσκυνούμεν αὐτὸν

through which now being-raised we-worship him

καὶ μεγαλύνομεν.

and magnify

κατ' ἄλλον εἰρμόν.

after other heirmos

175 Ὁ διὰ βρώσεως τοῦ ξύλου τῷ γένει προσγενόμενος θάνατος

The by eating of-the tree to-the race come-upon death

διὰ σταυροῦ κατήργηται σήμερον·

through (the)-cross has-been-abolished today

τῆς γὰρ προμήτορος ἡ παγγενὴς κατάρα διαλέλνται

of-the for foremother the of-all-the-race curse has-been-dissolved

τῷ βλαστῷ τῆς ἀγνῆς θεομήτορος,

by-the offspring of-the pure God-mother

ἣν πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν μεγαλύνουσιν.

whom all the powers of-the heavens magnify

Μὴ τὴν πικρίαν τὴν τοῦ ξύλου ἔασας ἀναιρέσιμον, κύριε, 180

Not the bitterness the(-one) of-the tree having-let-be destructive Lord

διὰ σταυροῦ τελείως ἐξήλειψας·

through (the)-cross perfectly you-wiped-out

ὅθεν καὶ ξύλον ἔλυσε ποτὲ πικρίαν ὑδάτων Μερράς,

whence also (a)-tree loosed once (the)-bitterness of-(the)-waters of-Marab

προτυποῦν τοῦ σταυροῦ τὴν ἐνέργειαν,

prefiguring of-the cross the working

ἣν πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν μεγαλύνουσιν.

which all the powers of-the heavens magnify

Ἀδιαλείπτως βαπτομένους τῷ ζόφῳ τοῦ προπάτορος, κύριε, 185

Unceasingly dipped in-the gloom of-the forefather Lord

διὰ σταυροῦ ἀνύψωσας σήμερον·

through (the)-cross you-raised-up today

ὥς γὰρ τῇ πλάνῃ ἄγαν ἀκρατῶς ἡ φύσις προκατηνέχθη,

as for by-the error very intemperately the nature was-brought-down

παγκλήρως ἡμᾶς πάλιν ἀνὼρθωσε

wholly us again set-upright

τὸ φῶς τὸ τοῦ σταυροῦ σου, ὃν οἱ πιστοὶ μεγαλύνομεν.

the light the(-one) of-the cross your whom we faithful magnify

190 ἵνα τὸν τύπον ἀποδείξῃς τῷ κόσμῳ προσκυνούμενον, κύριε,
That the type you-might-show to-the world worshiped Lord
 τὸν τοῦ σταυροῦ ἐν πᾶσιν ὡς ἔνδοξον,
the(-one) of-the cross among all as glorious
 ἐν οὐρανῷ ἐμόρφωσας φωτὶ ἀπλέτῳ ἡγλαϊσμένον,
in heaven you-formed with-light boundless made-splendid
 βασιλεῖ πανοπλίαν ἀήττητον,
for-(the)-king (a)-panoply invincible
 ἣν πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν μεγαλύνουσιν.
which all the powers of-the heavens magnify

Κανὼν εἰς τὴν τοῦ Χριστοῦ γέννησιν

II · ON THE NATIVITY

Christ is born: let the world glorify him. The creator, seeing man perish, bows the heavens and takes flesh from a virgin. The canon gathers the prophecies: the rod from Jesse's root, Jacob's expectation of the nations, and Balaam's star, whose words taught the star-gazing Magi; Ethiopians, Tarshish, Arabia, and Sheba fall down before him. Christ comes as rain on a fleece, the angel of great counsel, enrolled by Caesar's decree. The shepherds hear the angels and worship him in Bethlehem; the three children in the furnace foreshadow the virgin who bore God unburned. Babylon once carried off Zion's children; now it sends its Magi with gifts to David's daughter. Led by the star, they worship him, and Herod, raging, is mocked as they return home.

ὥδὴ α'

ode 1

Χριστὸς γεννᾶται· δοξάσατε·

Christ is-born glorify(-him)

Χριστὸς ἐξ οὐρανῶν· ἀπαντήσατε·

Christ from (the)-heavens go-to-meet(-him)

Χριστὸς ἐπὶ γῆς· ὑψώθητε·

Christ on earth be-exalted

ᾄσατε τῷ κυρίῳ πᾶσα ἡ γῆ

sing to-the Lord all the earth

καὶ ἐν εὐφροσύνῃ ἀνυμνήσατε, λαοί,

and in gladness hymn peoples

ὅτι δεδόξασται.

for he-has-been-glorified

5

ῥέυσαντα ἐκ παραβάσεως

Having-fallen-away through transgression

θεοῦ τὸν κατ' εἰκόνα γενόμενον,

of-God the according-to (the)-image having-come-to-be

ὅλον τῆς φθορᾶς ὑπάρξαντα,

wholly of-the corruption being

κρείττονος ἐπταικότα θείας ζωῆς

from-(the)-better having-fallen divine life

αὖθις ἀναπλάττει ὁ σοφὸς δημιουργός,

again refashions the wise creator

ὅτι δεδόξασται.

for he-has-been-glorified

10

Ἰδὼν ὁ κτίστης ὀλλύμενον

Having-seen the creator perishing

τὸν ἄνθρωπον, χερσὶν ὃν ἐποίησε,

the man with-bands whom he-made

κλίνας οὐρανούς κατέρχεται·

having-bowed (the)-heavens comes-down

15

τοῦτον δὲ ἐκ παρθένου θείας ἀγνῆς

him and from (a)-virgin divine pure

ὅλον ὁσιῦται ἀληθείᾳ σαρκωθεῖς,

wholly he-hallows in-truth having-been-made-flesh

ὅτι δεδόξασται.

for he-has-been-glorified

Σοφία, λόγος καὶ δύναμις,

Wisdom word and power

20 υἱὸς ὢν τοῦ πατρὸς καὶ ἀπαύγασμα,

son being of-the father and radiance

Χριστὸς ὁ θεὸς δυνάμεις λαθών,

Christ — God powers having-escaped-the-notice-of

ὅσας ὑπερκοσμίους, ὅσας ἐν γῇ,

as-many-as above-the-world as-many-as on earth

καὶ ἐνανθρωπήσας ἀνεκτήσατο ἡμᾶς,

and having-become-man regained us

ὅτι δεδόξασται.

for he-has-been-glorified

ὥδῃ γ'

ode 3

25 Τῷ πρὸ τῶν αἰώνων

To-the before the ages

ἐκ πατρὸς γεννηθέντι ἀρρεύτως υἱῷ

from (the)-father begotten without-flux son

καὶ ἐπ' ἐσχάτων ἐκ παρθένου

and at (the)-last from (a)-virgin

σαρκωθέντι ἀσπόρως

made-flesh seedlessly

Χριστῷ τῷ θεῷ βοήσωμεν·

to-Christ — God let-us-cry

Ὁ ἀνυψώσας τὸ κέρας ἡμῶν

The(-one) having-raised the horn our

ἅγιος εἰ, κύριε.

holy are-you Lord

30

Ὁ τῆς ἐπιπνοίας

The(-one) of-the inbreathing

μετασχὼν τῆς ἀμείνω Ἀδὰμ χοϊκὸς

having-partaken the better Adam earthy

καὶ πρὸς φθορὰν κατολισθήσας

and to corruption having-slipped-down

γυναικεία ἀπάτη

by-womanly deceit

Χριστῷ γυναικὸς βοᾷ ἐξ ὄρων·

to-Christ of-(a)-woman cries from (the)-mountains

Ὁ δι' ἐμὲ κατ' ἐμὲ γεγονὼς

The(-one) because-of me like me having-become

ἅγιος εἰ, κύριε.

holy are-you Lord

35

Σύμμορφος πηλίνης,

Conformed of-clay

40 εὐτελοῦς διαρτίας, Χριστέ, γεγονὼς

of-mean frame Christ having-become

καὶ μετοχῇ σαρκὸς τῆς χείρω

and by-participation of-flesh the worse

μεταδοὺς θείας φύτης,

having-imparted of-divine nature

βροτὸς πεφυκὼς καὶ μείνας θεὸς

mortal having-been-born and having-remained God

καὶ ἀνυψώσας τὸ κέρας ἡμῶν,

and having-raised the horn our

45 ἅγιος εἶ, κύριε.

holy are-you Lord

Βηθλεὲμ εὐφραίνου,

Bethlehem rejoice

ἡγεμόνων Ἰούδα βασιλεία·

of-(the)-princes of-Judah (the)-royal-seat

τὸν Ἰσραὴλ γὰρ ὁ ποιμαίνων,

— *Israel for the(-one) shepherding*

Χερουβὶμ ὁ ἐπ' ὤμων,

of-Cherubim the(-one) upon shoulders

50 ἐκ σοῦ προελθὼν Χριστὸς ἐμφανῶς

from you having-come-forth Christ manifestly

καὶ ἀνυψώσας τὸ κέρας ἡμῶν,

and having-raised the horn our

πάντων ἐβασίλευσεν.

over-all reigned

ὦδὴ δ'

ode 4

Ῥάβδος ἐκ τῆς ρίζης Ἰεσσαὶ

(A)-rod from the root of-Jesse

καὶ ἄνθος ἐξ αὐτῆς, Χριστέ,

and (a)-flower from it Christ

ἐκ τῆς παρθένου ἐνεβλάστησας·

from the virgin you-sprouted

ἐξ ὄρους ὁ αἰνετὸς κατασκίου δασέος

from (the)-mountain the praised(-one) overshadowed dense

ἦλθες σαρκωθείς ἐξ ἀπειράνδρου

you-came made-flesh from (one)-knowing-no-man

ὁ ἄυλος καὶ θεός·

the immaterial and God

δόξα τῇ δυνάμει σου, κύριε.

glory to-the power your Lord

55

Ὅν πάλαι προεῖπεν Ἰακώβ

Whom of-old foretold Jacob

ἐθνῶν ἀπεκδοχήν, Χριστέ,

of-nations (the)-expectation Christ

φυλῆς Ἰούδα ἐξανέτειλας

of-(the)-tribe of-Judah you-rose

καὶ δύναμιν Δαμασκοῦ, Σαμαρείας σκυλά τε

and (the)-power of-Damascus of-Samaria (the)-spoils and

60

ἦλθες προνομέσων, πλάνην τρέπων

you-came to-plunder error turning

65 εἰς πίστιν θεοτερπῇ·

to faith God-pleasing

δόξα τῇ δυνάμει σου, κύριε.

glory to-the power your Lord

Τοῦ μάντεως πάλαι Βαλαὰμ

Of-the seer of-old Balaam

τῶν λόγων μνητὰς σοφούς

of-the words initiates wise

ἀστεροσκόπους χαρᾶς ἔπλησας.

star-gazers with-joy you-filled

70 ἀστήρ ἐκ τοῦ Ἰακώβ ἀνατείλας, δέσποτα·

(a)-star from — Jacob having-risen master

ἐθνῶν ἀπαρχὴν εἰσαγομένους

of-nations (as)-first-fruit being-led-in

ἐδέξω δὲ προφανῶς·

you-received and manifestly

δόξα τῇ δυνάμει σου, κύριε.

glory to-the power your Lord

Ὡς πόκῳ γαστρὶ παρθενικῇ

As on-(a)-fleece into-(the)-womb virginal

75 κατέβης ὑετός, Χριστέ,

you-came-down (as)-rain Christ

καὶ ὡς σταγόνες ἐν γῇ στάζουσαι·

and as drops on earth dripping

Αἰθίοπες καὶ Θαρσεῖς καὶ Ἀράβων νῆσοί τε,

Ethiopians and Tarsish and of-Arabs islands and

Σαβᾶ, Μήδων, πάσης γῆς κρατοῦντες

Sheba of-Medes of-all earth ruling

προσέπεσόν σοι, σωτήρ·

fell-down-before you savior

δόξα τῇ δυνάμει σου, κύριε.

glory to-the power your Lord

80

ὥδὲ ἐ΄

ode 5

Θεὸς ὢν εἰρήνης, πατὴρ οἰκτιρμῶν,

God being of-peace father of-compassions

τῆς μεγάλης βουλῆς σου τὸν ἄγγελον

of-the great counsel your the angel

εἰρήνην παρεχόμενον ἀπέστειλας ἡμῖν·

peace granting you-sent to-us

ὅθεν θεογνωσίας πρὸς φῶς ὀδηγηθέντες,

whence of-knowledge-of-God to light having-been-guided

ἐκ νυκτὸς ὀρθρίζοντες

from night rising-early

δοξολογοῦμέν σε, φιλόανθρωπε.

we-glorify you lover-of-mankind

85

Ἐν δούλοις τῷ Καίσαρος δόγματι

Among slaves by-the of-Caesar decree

ἀπεγράψης πιθήσας καὶ δούλους ἡμᾶς

you-were-enrolled having-obeyed and slaves us

ἐχθροῦ καὶ ἀμαρτίας ἡλευθέρωσας, Χριστέ.

of-(the)-enemy and of-sin you-freed Christ

90 ὅλον τὸ καθ' ἡμᾶς δὲ πτωχεύσας καὶ χοϊκὸν

all the(-part) like us and having-become-poor and earthy

ἐξ αὐτῆς ἐνώσεως

from very union

καὶ κοινωνίας ἐθεούργησας.

and communion you-made-divine

Ἴδὸν ἡ παρθένος, ὥς πάλαι φησίν.

Behold the virgin as of-old it-says

ἐν γαστρὶ συλλαβοῦσα ἐκύησεν

in womb having-conceived bore

95 θεὸν ἐνανθρωπήσαντα καὶ μένει παρθένος·

God become-man and remains (a)-virgin

δι' ἧς καταλλαγέντες θεῷ οἱ ἁμαρτωλοὶ

through whom having-been-reconciled to-God the sinners

θεοτόκον κυρίως

God-bearer properly

οὔσαν ἐν πίστει ἀνυμνήσωμεν.

being in faith let-us-hymn

ὥδῃ σ΄

ode 6

Σπλάγχνων Ἰωνᾶν ἔμβρυον ἀπήμεσεν

From-(its)-entrails Jonah (as)-embryo vomited

ἐνάλιος θήρ, οἶον ἐδέξατο·

100

sea beast as it-had-received

τῇ παρθένῳ δὲ

in-the virgin and

ἐνοικήσας ὁ λόγος καὶ σάρκα λαβὼν

having-dwelt the word and flesh having-taken

διελήλυθε φυλάξας ἀδιάφθορον·

has-passed-through having-kept(-her) uncorrupted

ἧς γὰρ οὐχ ὑπέστη ρεύσεως

of-which for not he-underwent flux

τὴν τεκοῦσαν κατέσχευεν ἀπήμαντον.

105

the(-one) having-borne-him he-kept unharmed

Ἦλθε σαρκωθείς Χριστὸς ὁ θεὸς ἡμῶν.

Came made-flesh Christ — God our

γαστρὸς ὃν πατὴρ πρὸ Ἑωσφόρου γεννᾷ·

from-(the)-womb whom (the)-father before (the)-Morning-star begets

τὰς ἡνίας δὲ

the reins and

ὁ κρατῶν τῶν ἀχράντων δυνάμεων

the(-one) holding of-the spotless powers

110 ἐν φάτνῃ τῶν ἀλόγων ἀνακλίνεται,
in (a)-manger of-the irrational(-beasts) is-laid

ράκει σπαργανοῦται, λύει δὲ
in-(a)-rag he-is-swaddled looses and

πολυπλόκους σειρὰς παραπτώσεων.
(the)-much-entangled chains of-transgressions

Νέον ἐξ Ἀδὰμ παιδίον φυράματος
New from of-Adam (a)-child lump

ἐτέχθη υἱὸς καὶ πιστοῖς δέδοται·
was-born (a)-son and to-(the)-faithful has-been-given

115 τοῦ δὲ μέλλοντος
of-the and to-come

οὗτός ἐστιν αἰῶνος πατὴρ καὶ ἄρχων
this(-one) is age father and ruler

καὶ καλεῖται τῆς μεγάλης βουλῆς ἄγγελος·
and is-called of-the great counsel angel

οὗτος ἰσχυρὸς θεὸς ἐστι
this(-one) mighty God is

καὶ κρατῶν ἐξουσία τῆς κτίσεως.
and ruling in-authority over-the creation

ὦδὴ ζ'

ode 7

Οἱ παῖδες εὐσεβεία

The children in-piety

120

συντραφέντες, δυσσεβοῦς προστάγματος

brought-up-together of-(an)-impious decree

καταφρονήσαντες

having-despised

πυρὸς ἀπειλὴν οὐκ ἐπτοήθησαν,

of-fire (the)-threat not were-terrified

ἀλλ' ἐν μέσῳ τῆς φλογὸς ἐστῶτες ἔψαλλον·

but in (the)-midst of-the flame standing sang

ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

the of-the fathers God blessed are-you

125

Ποιμένες ἀγραυλοῦντες

Shepherds dwelling-in-the-field

ἐκπλαγοῦς φωτοφανείας ἔτυχον·

of-astounding light-appearing obtained

δόξα κυρίου γὰρ

glory of-(the)-Lord for

αὐτοὺς περιέλαμψε καὶ ἄγγελος,

them shone-around and (an)-angel

ἀνυμνήσατε, βοῶν, ὅτι ἐτέχθη Χριστός·

hymn crying for was-born Christ

130

ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

the of-the fathers God blessed are-you

Ἐξαίφνης σὺν τῷ λόγῳ

Suddenly with the word

τοῦ ἀγγέλου οὐρανῶν στρατεύματα.

of-the angel of-heavens hosts

δόξα, ἐκραύγαζον,

glory cried

135 θεῷ ἐν ὑψίστοις, ἐπὶ γῆς εἰρήνη,

to-God in highest on earth peace

ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία Χριστὸς ἔλαμψεν·

among men good-pleasure Christ has-shone

ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

the of-the fathers God blessed are-you

Ῥῆμα τί τοῦτο; εἶπον

Word what this said

οἱ ποιμένες, διελθόντες ἴδωμεν

the shepherds having-gone-over let-us-see

140 τὸ γεγονὸς θεῖον.

the having-happened divine(-thing)

Χριστόν· Βηθλεὲμ καταλαβόντες δὲ

Christ Bethlehem having-reached and

σὺν [τῇ] τεκούσῃ προσεκύνουν ἀναμέλποντες·

with the(-one) having-borne-him they-worshipped singing

ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

the of-the fathers God blessed are-you

ὦδῃ ἡ'

ode 8

Θαύματος ὑπερφνουῖς ἡ δροσοβόλος

Of-(a)-wonder supernatural the dew-shedding

ἐξεικόνισε κάμινος τρόπον·

pictured furnace (the)-manner

οὐ γὰρ οὖς ἐδέξατο φλέγει νέους,

not for whom it-received burns young(-men)

ὥς οὐδὲ πῦρ

as neither (the)-fire

τῆς θεότητος παρθένου ἣν ὑπέδυσεν νηδύν·

of-the Godhead of-(the)-virgin which it-entered womb

διὸ ἀνυμνοῦντες ἀναμέλυσμεν·

wherefore hymning let-us-sing

εὐλογοίτω ἡ κτίσις πᾶσα τὸν κύριον

let-bless the creation all the Lord

καὶ ὑπερυψούτω εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

and let-it-exalt-above-all to all the ages

145

150

Ἔλκει Βαβυλῶνος ἡ θυγάτηρ παῖδας

Draws of-Babylon the daughter children

δορικτήτους Δαυῖδ ἐκ Σιών αὐτῇ·

spear-won of-David from Zion to-herself

δωροφόρους πέμπει δὲ μάγους παῖδας,

gift-bearing sends and magi children

τὴν τοῦ Δαυῖδ

the — of-David

θεοδόχον θυγατέρα λιτανεύσοντας·

God-receiving daughter to-supplicate

155

διὸ ἀννυνοῦντες ἀναμέλιψωμεν·

wherefore hymning let-us-sing

εὐλογεῖτω ἡ κτίσις πᾶσα τὸν κύριον

let-bless the creation all the Lord

καὶ ὑπερυψιούτω

and let-it-exalt-above-all

160 εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

to all the ages

Ὅργανα παρέκλινε τὸ πένθος ᾠδῆς·

Instruments put-aside the grief of-song

οὐ γὰρ ᾗδον ἐν νόθοις οἱ παῖδες Σιών·

not for sang in bastard(-lands) the children of-Zion

Βαβυλῶνος λύει δὲ πλάνην πᾶσαν

of-Babylon looses and error all

καὶ μουσικῶν

and of-musical(-things)

165 ἀρμονίαν Βηθλεὲμ ἐξανατείλας Χριστός·

harmony from-Bethlehem having-risen Christ

διὸ ἀννυνοῦντες ἀναμέλιψωμεν·

wherefore hymning let-us-sing

εὐλογεῖτω ἡ κτίσις πᾶσα τὸν κύριον

let-bless the creation all the Lord

καὶ ὑπερυψιούτω εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

and let-it-exalt-above-all to all the ages

Σκυῖλα Βαβυλὼν τῆς βασιλίδος Σιών

Spoils Babylon of-the queen Zion

καὶ δορίκτητον ὄλβον ἐδέξατο·

and spear-won wealth received

θησαυροὺς Χριστὸς ἐν Σιών δὲ ταύτης

treasures Christ in Zion and her

καὶ βασιλεῖς

and kings

σὺν ἀστέρι ὁδηγῶ ἀστροπολοῦντας ἔλκει·

with (a)-star guide star-gazing draws

διὸ ἀνυμνοῦντες ἀναμέλψωμεν·

wherefore hymning let-us-sing

εὐλογεῖτω ἡ κτίσις πᾶσα τὸν κύριον

let-bless the creation all the Lord

καὶ ὑπερυψούτω εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

and let-it-exalt-above-all to all the ages

ὥδῃ θ'

ode 9

Μυστήριον ξένον ὁρῶ καὶ παράδοξον!

(A)-mystery strange I-see and paradoxical

οὐρανὸν τὸ σπήλαιον, θρόνον χερουβικόν

heaven the cave (a)-throne cherubic

τὴν παρθένον, τὴν φάτιν ἡ χωρίον,

the virgin the manger (a)-place

ἐν ᾧ ἀνεκλίθη ὁ ἀχώρητος

in which was-laid the uncontainable(-one)

Χριστὸς ὁ θεός, ὃν ἀνυμνοῦντες μεγαλύνομεν.

Christ — God whom hymning we-magnify

Ἐξάϊσιον δρόμον ὁρῶντες οἱ μάγοι.

Extraordinary (a)-course seeing the magi

ἄσυνήθους νέου ἀστέρος ἀρτιφανοῦς

of-unaccustomed new star newly-appeared

οὐρανίου ὑπερλάμποντος.

heavenly outshining

185 Χριστὸν βασιλέα ἐτεκμήραντο

Christ (as)-king they-judged

ἐν γῇ γεννηθέντα Βηθλεὲμ εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν.

in (the)-land born of-Bethlehem for salvation our

Νεηγενές, μάγων λεγόντων, παιδίον

New-born (the)-magi saying (a)-child

ἄναξ, οὗ ἀστὴρ ἐφάνη, ποῦ ἐστιν; εἰς γὰρ

(a)-lord whose star appeared where is-he to for

ἐκείνου προσκύνησιν ἤκομεν,

his worship we-have-come

190 μανεῖς ὁ Ἡρώδης ἐταράττετο,

maddened — Herod was-troubled

Χριστὸν ἀνελεῖν ὁ θεομάχος φρυαττόμενος.

Christ to-slay the God-fighter raging

Ἦκρίβωσε χρόνον Ἡρώδης ἀστέρος,

Ascertained (the)-time Herod of-(the)-star

οὗ ταῖς ἡγεσίαις οἱ μάγοι ἐν Βηθλεὲμ

whose by-the guidance the magi in Bethlehem

προσκυνοῦσι Χριστὸν σὺν δώροις·

worship Christ with gifts

ὑφ' οὗ πρὸς πατρίδα ὀδηγούμενοι

by which to (their)-homeland being-guided

δεινὸν παιδοκτόνον ἐγκατέλιπον παιζόμενον.

(the)-dread child-killer they-left mocked

195

Κανὼν εἰς τὸ μέγα σάββατον

XIII · ON HOLY SATURDAY

Christ lies in the tomb, and Cosmas sings his burial and his descent. The things above and below shake at his death; the sabbath he hallowed at creation he now keeps in the grave. Habakkuk, Isaiah, and Jonah foretold him. Hades is wounded by him whose side was pierced. Joseph of Arimathea, bolder than the disciples, asks for the naked body and buries it. In the last ode Christ tells his mother not to weep; she answers that grief's sword tears her and begs him to rise. He will rise, exalt those who magnify her, redeem Adam with Eve, and rise on the third day.

ὥδῃ α'

ode 1

Κύματι θαλάσσης τὸν κρύψαντα πάλαι

By-(the)-wave of-(the)-sea the(-one) having-bidden of-old

διώκτην τύραννον

(the)-pursuing tyrant

ὑπὸ γῆν ἔκρυψαν τῶν σεσωσμένων οἱ παῖδες·
under earth hid of-the(-ones) saved the children

ἀλλ' ἡμεῖς ὡς αἱ νεάνιδες τῷ κυρίῳ ᾄσωμεν·
but we like the maidens to-the Lord let-us-sing

5 ἐνδόξως γὰρ δεδόξασται.
gloriously for he-has-been-glorified

Κύριε θεέ μου, ἐξόδιον ὕμνον
Lord God my (a)-parting hymn

καὶ ἐπιτάφιον
and funeral

ὠδήν σοι ᾄσομαι, τῷ τῇ ταφῇ σου ζωῆς μοι
song to-you I-will-sing to-the(-one) by-the burial your of-life to-me

τὰς εἰσόδους διανοίξαντι καὶ θανάτῳ θάνατον
the entrances having-opened and by-death death

10 καὶ ᾄδην θανατώσαντι.
and Hades having-put-to-death

Ἄνω σε ἐν θρόνῳ καὶ κάτω ἐν τάφῳ
Above you on (the)-throne and below in (the)-tomb

τὰ ὑπερκόσμια
the above-the-world(-things)

καὶ ὑποχθόνια κατανοοῦντα, σωτήρ μου,
and beneath-the-earth(-things) considering savior my

ἔδονεῖτο τῇ νεκρώσει σου· ὑπὲρ νοῦν ὠράθης γὰρ
were-shaken at-the deadness your beyond mind you-were-seen for

15 νεκρὸς ζωαρχικώτατος.
dead most-life-originating

Ἵνα σου τῆς δόξης τὰ πάντα πληρώσης,

That your of-the glory the all(-things) you-might-fill

καταπεφοίτηκας

you-have-gone-down

ἐν κατωτάτοις τῆς γῆς· ἀπὸ γάρ σου οὐκ ἐκρύβη

into (the)-lowest(-parts) of-the earth from for you not was-hidden

ἡ ὑπόστασίς μου ἡ ἐν Ἀδάμ· καὶ ταφεῖς φθαρέντα με

the substance my the(-one) in Adam and buried corrupted me

καινοποιεῖς, φιλάνθρωπε.

you-make-new lover-of-mankind

20

ὥδὴ γ'

ode 3

Σὲ τὸν ἐπὶ ὑδάτων κρεμάσαντα

You the(-one) upon waters having-hung

πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἀσχέτως

all the earth unsupported

ἡ κτίσις κατιδοῦσα ἐν τῷ Κρανίῳ κρεμάμενον,

the creation having-seen on the Place-of-the-Skull banging

θαμβητικῶς συνέχετο, οὐκ ἔστιν ἅγιος

with-amazement was-gripped not there-is holy

πλὴν σου, κύριε, κραυγάζουσα.

except you Lord crying

25

Σύμβολα τῆς ταφῆς σου παρέδειξας,

Signs of-the burial your you-displayed

τὰς ὀράσεις πληθύνας·

the visions having-multiplied

νῦν δὲ τὰ κρύφιά σου θεανδρικῶς διετράνωσας

now and the hidden(-things) your God-manly you-made-clear

καὶ τοῖς ἐν ᾗδου, δέσποτα, οὐκ ἔστιν ἅγιος

even to-those in Hades master not there-is holy

30 πλήν σου, κύριε, κραυγάζουσιν.

except you Lord crying

Ἦπλωσας τὰς ἀγκάλας καὶ ἤνωσας

You-spread-out the arms and united

τὰ τὸ πρὶν διεστῶτα·

the(-things) the before having-stood-apart

καταστολῇ δέ, σῶτερ, τῇ ἐν συνδόνι καὶ μνήματι

by-(the)-wrapping and savior the(-one) in (the)-shroud and tomb

πεπεδημένους ἔλυσας, οὐκ ἔστιν ἅγιος

fettered(-ones) you-loosed not there-is holy

35 πλήν σου, κύριε, κραυγάζοντας.

except you Lord crying

Μνήματι καὶ σφραγῖσιν, ἀχώρητε,

In-(a)-tomb and by-seals uncontainable(-one)

συνεσχέθης βουλήσει·

you-were-held by-will

καὶ γὰρ τὴν δυνάμιν σου ταῖς ἐνεργείαις ἐγνώρισας

and for the power your by-the workings you-made-known

θεουργικῶς τοῖς μέλπουσιν· οὐκ ἔστιν ἅγιος

divinely to-those singing not there-is holy

πλήν σου, κύριε φιλάνθρωπε.

except you Lord lover-of-mankind

40

ὦδὴ δ'

ode 4

Τὴν ἐν σταυρῷ σου θείαν κένωσιν

The on (the)-cross your divine self-emptying

προορῶν Ἀββακοῦμ ἐξεστηκῶς ἐβόα·

foreseeing Habakkuk being-amazed cried

σὺν δυναστῶν διέκοψας κράτος, ἀγαθέ,

you of-mighty(-ones) cut-through (the)-might good(-one)

ὁμιλῶν τοῖς ἐν ᾗδῃ ὡς παντοδύναμος.

conversing-with those in Hades as all-powerful

- 45 Ἐβδόμην σήμερον ἡγίασας,
(The)-seventh today you-hallowed
 ἣν εὐλόγησας πρὶν καταπαύσει τῶν ἔργων·
which you-blessed formerly by-(the)-rest from-the works
 παράγεις γὰρ τὰ σύμπαντα καὶ καινοποιεῖς
you-bring-forth for the all(-things) and make-new
 σαββατίζων, σωτήρ μου, καὶ ἀνακτώμενος.
keeping-sabbath savior my and recovering

- Ῥωμαλεότητι τοῦ κρείττονος
By-(the)-strength of-the better
 50 ἐκνικήσαντός σου τῆς σαρκὸς ἡ ψυχῇ σου
having-conquered your from-the flesh the soul your
 διήρηται· σπαράττουσι ἄμφω γὰρ δεσμούς
is-divided they-tear both for (the)-bonds
 τοῦ θανάτου καὶ ᾗδου, λόγε, τῷ κράτει σου.
of-the death and of-Hades word by-the might your

- Ὁ ᾗδης, λόγε, συναντήσας σοι
 — *Hades word having-met you*
 ἐπικράνθη, βροτὸν ὁρῶν τεθεωμένον,
was-embittered (a)-mortal seeing deified
 55 κατὰστικτον τοῖς μώλωξι καὶ πανσθενουργόν,
marked with-the bruises and all-mighty-working
 τῷ φρικτῷ τῆς μορφῆς δὲ διαπεφώνηκεν.
at-the dread of-the form and has-perished

ὥδῃ ε΄

ode 5

Θεοφανείας σου, Χριστέ,

Of-(the)-theophany your Christ

τῆς πρὸς ἡμᾶς συμπαθῶς γενομένης,

the(-one) toward us compassionately having-come-to-be

Ἡσαΐας φῶς ἰδὼν ἀνέσπερον

Isaiah light having-seen unsetting

ἐκ νυκτὸς ὀρθρίσας ἐκραύγαζεν·

from night having-risen-early cried

ἀναστήσονται οἱ νεκροὶ καὶ ἐγερθήσονται

will-rise-up the dead and will-be-raised

οἱ ἐν τοῖς μνημείοις

those in the tombs

καὶ πάντες οἱ ἐν τῇ γῇ ἀγαλλιάσονται.

and all those on the earth will-exult

60

Νεοποιεῖς τοὺς γηγενεῖς

You-make-new the earth-born

ὁ πλαστουργὸς χοῦκὸς χρηματίσας,

the fashioner earthy having-been-styled

καὶ σινδῶν καὶ τάφος ὑπεμφαίνουσι

and (the)-sbroud and (the)-tomb show-forth

τὸ συνόν σοι, λόγε, μυστήριον·

the being-with you word mystery

65

ὁ εὐσχήμων δὲ βουλευτὴς τὴν τοῦ σέ φύσαντος
the honorable and councilor the of-the you having-begotten
 βουλὴν σχηματίζει,
counsel shapes

70 ἐν σοὶ μεγαλοπρεπῶς καινοποιοῦντός με.
in you magnificently making-new me

Διὰ θανάτου τὸ θνητόν,
Through death the mortal
 διὰ ταφῆς τὸ φθαρτὸν μεταβάλλεις·
through burial the corruptible you-change
 ἀφθαρτίζεις γὰρ θεοπρεπέστατα
you-make-incorrupt for most-God-befittingly
 ἀπαθανατίζων τὸ πρόσλημμα·
making-immortal the assumed(-nature)

75 ἡ γὰρ σὰρξ σου διαφθορὰν οὐκ εἶδε, δέσποτα,
the for flesh your corruption not saw master
 οὐδὲ ἡ ψυχὴ σου εἰς ᾅδην
nor the soul your into Hades
 ξενοπρεπῶς ἐγκαταλέλειπται.
strangely has-been-abandoned

Ἐξ ἀλοχέυτου προελθὼν

From (one)-without-labor-pains having-come-forth

καὶ λογχευθεὶς τὴν πλευράν, πλαστουργέ μου,

and having-been-pierced in-the side fashioner my

ἐξ αὐτῆς εἰργάσω τὴν ἀνάπλασιν

from it you-wrought the refashioning

τὴν τῆς Εὔας, Ἀδὰμ γενόμενος,

the(-one) — of-Eve Adam having-become

ἀφνπνώσας ὑπερφυῶς ὕπνον φυσιζῶν

having-slept supernaturally (a)-sleep life-producing

καὶ ζωὴν ἐγείρας

and life having-raised

ἐξ ὕπνου καὶ τῆς φθορᾶς, ὡς παντοδύναμος.

from sleep and from-the corruption as all-powerful

80

ὦδὴ σ'

ode 6

Συνεσχέθη, ἀλλ' οὐ κατεσχέθη

He-was-held but not was-held-fast

στέρνοις κητώοις Ἰωνᾶς·

in-breasts of-(the)-sea-monster Jonah

σοῦ γὰρ τὸν τύπον φέρων

of-you for the type bearing

τοῦ παθόντος καὶ ταφῇ δοθέντος,

of-the(-one) having-suffered and to-burial having-been-given

ὡς ἐκ θαλάμου, τοῦ θηρὸς ἀνέθορε·

as from (a)-chamber of-the beast he-leapt-up

85

- 90 προσεφώνει δὲ τῇ κουστωδίᾳ·
he-called-out and to-the guard
οἱ φυλασσόμενοι μάταια καὶ ψευδῇ
you-who guarding vain(-things) and false(-things)
ἐλεον αὐτοῖς ἐγκατελίπετε.
(the)-mercy for-yourselves you-have-abandoned

- Ἀνηρέθης, ἀλλ' οὐ διηρέθης,
You-were-slain but not were-divided
λόγε, ἧς μετέσχες σαρκός·
word of-which you-partook flesh
95 εἰ γὰρ καὶ λέλυταί σου
if for even has-been-dissolved your
ὁ ναὸς ἐν τῷ καιρῷ τοῦ πάθους,
the temple in the time of-the passion
ἀλλὰ καὶ οὕτω μία ἦν ὑπόστασις
but even so one was (the)-hypostasis
τῆς θεότητος καὶ τῆς σαρκός σου·
of-the Godhead and of-the flesh your
ἐν ἀμφοτέροις γὰρ εἷς ὑπάρχεις υἱός,
in both for one you-are son
100 λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ, θεὸς καὶ ἄνθρωπος.
word — of-God God and man

Βροτοκτόνον, ἀλλ' οὐ θεοκτόνον

Mortal-slaying but not God-slaying

ἔφνυ τὸ πταῖσμα τοῦ Ἀδάμ·

was the fall — of-Adam

εἰ γὰρ καὶ πέπονθέ σου

if for even has-suffered your

τῆς σαρκὸς ἢ χοϊκῆ οὐσίας,

of-the flesh the earthy essence

ἀλλ' ἡ θεότης ἀπαθὴς διέμεινε·

but the Godhead impassible remained

τὸ φθαρτὸν δέ σου πρὸς ἀφθαρσίαν

the corruptible and your to incorruption

μετεστοιχείωσας καὶ ἀφθάρτου ζωῆς

you-transformed and of-incorruptible life

ἔδειξας πηγὴν ἐξ ἀναστάσεως.

you-showed (a)-spring from resurrection

105

Βασιλεύει, ἀλλ' οὐκ αἰωνίζει

Reigns but not lasts-forever

ἄδης τοῦ γένους τῶν βροτῶν·

Hades over-the race of-the mortals

σὺ γὰρ τεθεῖς ἐν τάφῳ,

you for having-been-laid in (a)-tomb

110

κραταιέ, ζωαρχικῇ παλάμῃ

mighty(-one) with-life-originating palm

τὰ τοῦ θανάτου κλεῖθρα διεσπάραξας

the of-the death bars you-tore-apart

καὶ ἐκήρυξας τοῖς ἀπ' αἰώνων

and you-proclaimed to-those from ages

115 ἐκεῖ καθεύδουσι λύτρωσιν ἀψευδῇ,

there sleeping redemption unlying

σῶτερ γεγονὼς νεκρῶν πρωτότοκος.

savior having-become of-(the)-dead first-born

ὥδῃ ζ'

ode 7

Ἄφραστον θαῦμα! ὁ ἐν καμίνῳ ρυσάμενος

Ineffable wonder the(-one) in (the)-furnace having-rescued

τοὺς ὁσίους παῖδας ἐκ φλογὸς

the holy children from (the)-flame

ἐν τάφῳ νεκρὸς ἄπνους κατατίθεται

in (a)-tomb dead breathless is-laid

120 εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν τῶν μελωδούντων·

for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing

λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

redeemer — God blessed are-you

Τέτρωται ἄδης, ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ δεξάμενος

Has-been-wounded Hades in the heart having-received

τὸν τρωθέντα λόγχῃ τὴν πλευράν,

the(-one) wounded by-(a)-lance in-the side

καὶ στένει πυρὶ θείῳ δαπανώμενος

and groans by-fire divine being-consumed

εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν τῶν μελωδούντων·

for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing

λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

redeemer — God blessed are-you

125

Ὁλβιος τάφος! ἐν ἑαυτῷ γὰρ δεξάμενος

Blessed tomb in itself for having-received

ὡς ὑπνοῦντα τὸν δημιουργόν,

as sleeping the creator

ζωῆς θησαυρὸς θείας ἀναδέδεικται

of-life treasure divine has-been-shown

εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν τῶν μελωδούντων·

for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing

λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

redeemer — God blessed are-you

130

Νόμῳ θανόντων τὴν ἐν τῷ τάφῳ κατάθεσιν

By-(the)-law of-the-dead the in the tomb laying-down

ἡ τῶν ὅλων δέχεται ζωὴν

the of-the all receives life

καὶ τοῦτον πηγὴν δείκνυσιν ἐγέρσεως

and this(-tomb) (a)-spring shows of-rising

135 εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν τῶν μελωδούντων·

for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing

λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

redeemer — God blessed are-you

Μία ὑπῆρχεν ἡ ἐν τῷ ᾅδῃ ἀχώριστος

One was the in — Hades inseparable

καὶ ἐν τάφῳ καὶ ἐν τῇ Ἑδὲμ

and in (the)-tomb and in — Eden

θεότης Χριστοῦ σὺν πατρὶ καὶ πνεύματι

Godhead of-Christ with (the)-father and spirit

140 εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν τῶν μελωδούντων·

for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing

λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

redeemer — God blessed are-you

ὥδὲ ἡ'

ode 8

Ἐκστηθι φρίττων, οὐρανέ,

Be-amazed trembling heaven

καὶ σαλευθήτωσαν τὰ θεμέλια τῆς γῆς·

and let-be-shaken the foundations of-the earth

ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἐν νεκροῖς λογίζεται ὁ ἐν ὑψίστοις οἰκῶν
behold for among (the)-dead is-reckoned the(-one) in highest dwelling

καὶ τάφῳ μικρῷ ξενοδοχεῖται·

and in-(a)-tomb small is-lodged-as-a-guest

ὃν παῖδες εὐλογεῖτε, ἱερεῖς ἀνυμνεῖτε,

whom children bless priests hymn

λαὸς ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

people exalt-above-all to all the ages

145

Λέλυται ἄχραντος ναός,

Has-been-destroyed (the)-spotless temple

τὴν πεπτωκυῖαν δὲ συνανίστησι σκηνήν·

the fallen and raises-up-with(-it) tent

Ἀδὰμ γὰρ τῷ προτέρῳ δεύτερος ὁ ἐν ὑψίστοις οἰκῶν 150

Adam for to-the former (the)-second the(-one) in highest dwelling

κατήλθε μέχρις ᾗδου ταμείων·

came-down as-far-as of-Hades (the)-storerooms

ὃν παῖδες εὐλογεῖτε, ἱερεῖς ἀνυμνεῖτε,

whom children bless priests hymn

λαὸς ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

people exalt-above-all to all the ages

Πέπανται τόλμα μαθητῶν,

Has-ceased (the)-daring of-(the)-disciples

Ἀριμαθαίας δὲ ἀριστεύει Ἰωσήφ·

of-Arimathea and excels Joseph

νεκρὸν γὰρ καὶ γυμνὸν θεώμενος τὸν ἐπὶ πάντων θεὸν

dead for and naked beholding the over all God

155

αἰτεῖται καὶ κηδεύει κραυγάζων·

he-asks-for and buries(-him) crying

οἱ παῖδες εὐλογεῖτε, ἱερεῖς ἀννυμεῖτε,

you children bless priests hymn

λαὸς ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

people exalt-above-all to all the ages

160 Ὡ τῶν θαυμάτων τῶν καινῶν!

O the wonders the new

ὦ ἀγαθότητος! ὦ ἀφράστου ἀνοχῆς!

O goodness O ineffable forbearance

ἐκὼν γὰρ ὑπὸ γῆν σφραγίζεται ὁ ἐν ὑψίστοις οἰκῶν

willingly for under earth is-sealed the(-one) in highest dwelling

καὶ πλάνος θεὸς συκοφαντεῖται·

and (a)-deceiver God is-slandered

ὃν παῖδες εὐλογεῖτε, ἱερεῖς ἀννυμεῖτε,

whom children bless priests hymn

165 λαὸς ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

people exalt-above-all to all the ages

ὥδῃ θ'

ode 9

Μὴ ἐποδύρου μοι, μήτηρ, καθορῶσα ἐν τάφῳ,

Not lament for-me mother beholding in (the)-tomb

ὃν ἐν γαστρὶ ἄνευ σπορᾶς συνέλαβες υἱόν·

whom in womb without seed you-conceived son

ἀναστήσομαι γὰρ καὶ δοξασθήσομαι
I-will-rise for and will-be-glorified
 καὶ ὑψώσω ἐν δόξῃ ἀπαύστως ὡς θεὸς
and I-will-exalt in glory unceasingly as God
 τοὺς ἐν πίστει καὶ πόθῳ σὲ μεγαλύνοντας.
those in faith and longing you magnifying

170

Ἐπὶ τῷ ξένῳ σου τόκῳ τὰς ὠδῖναςφυγοῦσα
At the strange your childbirth the pangs having-escaped
 ὑπερφυῶς ἐμακαρίσθην, ἄναρχε υἱέ·
supernaturally I-was-blessed beginningless son
 νῦν δέ σε, θεέ μου, ἄπνουν ὀρώσα νεκρόν,
now but you God my breathless seeing dead
 τῇ ῥομφαίᾳ τῆς λύπης σπαράττομαι δεινῶς·
by-the sword of-the grief I-am-torn terribly
 ἀλλ' ἀνάστηθι, ὅπως μεγαλυνθήσομαι.
but rise-up so-that I-may-be-magnified

175

Γῇ με καλύπτει ἐκόντα, ἀλλὰ φρίττουσιν ᾗδου
Earth me covers willing but tremble of-Hades
 οἱ πυλωροί, ἡμφιεσμένον βλέποντες στολὴν
the gatekeepers clothed seeing (in-a)-robe
 ἡμαγμένην, μητέρα, τῆς ἐκδικήσεως·
bloodied mother of-the vengeance
 τοὺς ἐχθροὺς ἐν σταυρῷ γὰρ πατάξας ὡς θεὸς
the enemies on (the)-cross for having-struck as God
 ἀναστήσομαι αὖθις καὶ μεγαλύνω σε.
I-will-rise again and magnify you

180

Ἀγαλλιᾷσθω ἡ κτίσις, εὐφραινέσθωσαν πάντες

Let-exult the creation let-rejoice all

οἱ γηγενεῖς· ὁ γὰρ ἐχθρὸς ἐσκύλευται ἄδης·

the earth-born the for enemy has-been-despoiled Hades

μετὰ μύρων γυναῖκες προσυπαντάτωσαν·

with myrrh women let-them-come-to-meet(-me)

τὸν Ἀδὰμ σὺν τῇ Εὐᾷ λυτροῦμαι παγγενῇ

— Adam with — Eve I-redeem all-the-race

185 καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἐξαναστήσομαι.

and on-the third day I-will-rise-up

Κανὼν εἰς τὴν Πεντηκοστήν

XIV · ON PENTECOST

Christ sends the Comforter, as he promised, and the grace the law and the prophets foretold is poured out. The Spirit joins into one harmony the speech once divided, rests on the apostles as tongues of fire, and makes them speak in strange tongues, which unbelievers take for drunkenness. Cosmas likens himself to Jonah on the sea, confesses the Trinity, and recalls the burning bush and the zealot's fiery chariot; all nations hear the apostles in their own tongues.

ὦδὴ α'

ode 1

Πόντῳ ἐκάλυψε Φαραὼ σὺν ἄρμασιν

In-(the)-sea covered Pharaoh with chariots

ὁ συντρίβων πολέμους ἐν ὑψηλῷ βραχίονι·

the(-one) crushing wars with (a)-high arm

ἄσωμεν αὐτῷ, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

let-us-sing to-him for he-has-been-glorified

Ἔργω, ὡς πάλαι τοῖς μαθηταῖς ἐπηγγείλω,
In-deed as of-old to-the disciples you-promised
 τὸ παράκλητον πνεῦμα ἔξαποστείλας, Χριστέ,
the comforter spirit having-sent-forth Christ
 ἑλαμψας τὸ φῶς κόσμῳ, φιλάνθρωπε.
you-shone the light to-(the)-world lover-of-mankind

5

Νόμῳ τὸ πάλαι προκηρυχθὲν καὶ προφήταις
By-(the)-law the of-old proclaimed and by-prophets
 ἐπληρώθη· τοῦ θείου πνεύματος σήμερον
was-fulfilled of-the divine spirit today
 πᾶσι γὰρ πιστοῖς χάρις ἐκκέχυται.
on-all for faithful grace has-been-poured

ὦδὴ γ'
ode 3

Τὴν ἐξ ὕψους δύναμιν, τοῖς μαθηταῖς, Χριστέ,
The from height power to-the disciples Christ
 ἕως ἂν ἐνδύσησθε, ἔφης,
until — you-put-on you-said
 καθίσατε ἐν Ἱερουσαλήμ·
sit in Jerusalem
 ἐγὼ δὲ ὡς ἐμὲ παράκλητον ἄλλον,
I and as me comforter another
 πνεῦμα τὸ ἐμὸν τε καὶ πατρὸς ἀποστελῶ,
spirit the my both and of-(the)-father I-will-send
 ἐν ᾧ στερεωθήσεσθε.
in whom you-will-be-made-firm

10

15

Ἡ τοῦ θείου πνεύματος ἐπιδημήσασα

The of-the divine spirit having-come-to-dwell

δύναμις τὴν μερισθεῖσαν πάλαι

power the divided of-old

φωνὴν κακῶς ὁμονοησάντων

speech evilly of-(those)-having-been-of-one-mind

εἰς μίαν ἀρμονίαν θείως συνῆψε,

into one harmony divinely joined

20 γνῶσιν συνετίζουσα πιστοὺς τῆς Τριάδος,

with-knowledge making-wise (the)-faithful of-the Trinity

ἐν ᾗ ἐστερεώθημεν.

in which we-have-been-made-firm

ὥδὴ δ'

ode 4

Κατανοῶν ὁ προφήτης τὴν ἐπ' ἐσχάτων σου, Χριστέ,

Considering the prophet the at (the)-last your Christ

ἔλευσιν ἀνεβόα·

coming cried-out

τὴν σὴν εἰσακήκοα, κύριε, δυναστείαν, ὅτι πάντας

the your I-have-heard Lord might for all

25 τοῦ σῶσαι τοὺς χριστοὺς σου ἐλήλυθας.

for-the to-save the anointed your you-have-come

Ὁ ἐν προφήταις λαλήσας καὶ διὰ νόμου κηρυχθεὶς
The(-one) in prophets having-spoken and through law proclaimed
 πρώην τοῖς ἀτελέσι
formerly to-the imperfect
 θεὸς ἀληθὴς ὁ παράκλητος τοῖς τοῦ λόγου ὑπηρέταις
God true the comforter to-the of-the word servants
 καὶ μάρτυσι γνωρίζεται σήμερον.
and witnesses is-made-known today

Σῆμα θεότητος φέρον τοῖς ἀποστόλοις ἐν πυρὶ
(A)-sign of-Godhead bearing to-the apostles in fire
 πνεῦμα κατεμερίσθη
(the)-spirit was-distributed
 καὶ ξέναις ἐν γλώσσαις ἐνέφηεν, ὡς πατρόθεν θεῖον σθένος
and strange in tongues showed-forth as from-the-father divine might
 ἐρχόμενόν ἐστιν αὐτοκέλευστον.
coming it-is self-bidden

ὥδ' ἔ'
ode 5

Τὸ διὰ τὸν φόβον σου ληφθέν, κύριε,
The because-of the fear your conceived Lord
 ἐν γαστρὶ τῶν προφητῶν καὶ κηθὲν ἐπὶ γῆς
in (the)-womb of-the prophets and brought-forth upon earth
 πνεῦμα σωτηρίας
spirit of-salvation

ἀποστολικὰς καρδίας κτίζει καθαρὰς

apostolic hearts creates pure

καὶ ἐν τοῖς πιστοῖς εὐθὲς ἐγκαινίζεται·

and in the faithful upright is-renewed

φῶς γὰρ καὶ εἰρήνη διότι τὰ σὰ προστάγματα.

light for and peace since the your commandments

40 Ἡ ἐπιφοιτήσασα ἰσχὺς σήμερον

The having-come-upon strength today

αὕτη πνεῦμα ἀγαθόν, πνεῦμα σοφίας θεοῦ,

this(-is) spirit good spirit of-wisdom of-God

πνεῦμα ἐκ πατρὸς

spirit from (the)-father

ἐκπορευθὲν καὶ δι' υἱοῦ πιστοῖς ἡμῖν πεφηνός,

having-proceeded and through (the)-son to-faithful us having-appeared

μεταδοτικὸν ἐν οἷς κατοικίζεται

imparting in whom it-dwells

45 φύσει τῆς ἐν ᾗ κατοπτεύεται ἀγιότητος.

by-nature of-the in which it-is-beheld holiness

ὦδὴ σ'

ode 6

Ναυτιῶν τῷ σάλῳ τῶν βιωτικῶν μελημάτων,

Being-seasick in-the surge of-the worldly cares

σμπλόοις ποντούμενος ἀμαρτίαις

with-fellow-voyaging tossed sins

καὶ ψυχοφθόρῳ θηρὶ προσριπτόμενος,

and to-(the)-soul-destroying beast being-thrown

ὡς ὁ Ἰωνᾶς, Χριστέ, βοῶ σοι·

like — Jonah Christ I-cry to-you

ἐκ θανατηφόρου με βυθοῦ ἀνάγαγε.

from (the)-death-bearing me depth bring-up

50

Ἐκ τοῦ πνεύματός σου σάρκα ἐπὶ πᾶσαν, ὡς εἶπας,

From the spirit your flesh upon all as you-said

πλουσίως ἐξέχεες καὶ ἐπλήσθη

richly you-poured-out and was-filled

τῆς σῆς ἢ σύμπασα γνώσεως, κύριε·

with-the your the whole knowledge Lord

ὅτι ἐκ πατρὸς ἀπεριγράπτως

for from (the)-father uncircumscribably

ἔφυσ καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα ἀμερίστως πρόεισιν.

you-were-born and the spirit undividedly proceeds

55

ὥδὴ ζ'

ode 7

Οἱ ἐν καμίνῳ τοῦ πυρὸς ἐμβληθέντες

The into (the)-furnace of-the fire having-been-thrown

ὅσιοι παῖδες

holy children

τὸ πῦρ εἰς δρόσον μετέβαλον

the fire into dew changed

διὰ τῆς ὑμνωδίας, οὕτω βοῶντες·

through the hymnody thus crying

60 εὐλογητὸς εἶ, κύριε, ὁ θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν.

blessed are-you Lord — God of-the fathers our

Ῥητορευόντων τὰ θεῖα μεγαλεῖα

Declaiming the divine mighty-works

τῶν ἀποστόλων

the apostles

τοῦ πνεύματος ἡ ἐνέργεια

of-the spirit the working

ἐνομίζετο μέθη τοῖς ἀπιστοῦσι,

was-thought drunkenness by-those disbelieving

65 δι' ἧς Τριάς κεκήρυκται εἰς θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν.

through which (the)-Trinity has-been-proclaimed one God of-the fathers our

Τὴν ἀδιαίρετον φύσιν ὀρθοδόξως

The undivided nature in-orthodox-faith

θεολογοῦμεν,

we-confess-as-God

θεὸν πατέρα τὸν ἄναρχον,

God (the)-father the beginningless

τῆς αὐτῆς ἐξουσίας λόγον καὶ πνεῦμα,

of-the same authority word and spirit

70 εὐλογητὸς εἶ, κράζοντες, ὁ θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν.

blessed are-you crying — God of-the fathers our

ὥδῃ ἡ'

ode 8

Ἀφλέκτως πυρὶ ἐν Σινᾷ προσομιλοῦσα

Without-burning in-fire on Sinai conversing

βάτος θεὸν ἐγνώρισε

(a)-bush God made-known

τῷ βραδυγλώσσῳ καὶ δυσήχῳ Μωσεῖ·

to-the slow-tongued and hard-of-speech Moses

καὶ παῖδας ζήλος θεοῦ

and (the)-children zeal for-God

τοὺς ἀναλώτους τῷ πυρὶ ὑμνωδοὺς ἔδειξε·

the unconsumed by-the fire hymn-singers showed

πάντα τὰ ἔργα τὸν κύριον ὑμνεῖτε

all the works the Lord hymn

καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

and exalt-above-all to all the ages

75

Ζωτικῆς ἐξ ὕψους βιαίας φερομένης

Of-life-giving from height violent being-borne

ἡχητικῶς τοῦ πνεύματος

resoundingly of-the spirit

τοῦ παναγίου ἀλιεῦσι πνοῆς

the all-holy to-fishermen breath

πυρίνων εἶδει γλωσσῶν,

of-fiery in-(the)-form tongues

80

τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ θεοῦ ἔρρητορεύετο·
the mighty-works — of-God was-declaimed
 πάντα τὰ ἔργα τὸν κύριον ὑμνεῖτε
all the works the Lord hymn
 καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.
and exalt-above-all to all the ages

- 85 Ὡς μὴ θιγομένῳ προσβαίνοντες ἐν ὄρει
As not to-(a)-touched(-one) approaching on (the)-mountain
 μὴ πεφρικότες πῦρ δειματοῦν
not dreading fire terrifying
 δεῦτε καὶ στώμεν ἐν τῷ ὄρει Σιών,
come and let-us-stand on the mountain Zion
 ἐν πόλει ζώντος θεοῦ,
in (the)-city of-(the)-living God
 πνευματοφόροις μαθηταῖς νῦν συγχορεύοντες·
with-spirit-bearing disciples now dancing-together
- 90 πάντα τὰ ἔργα τὸν κύριον ὑμνεῖτε
all the works the Lord hymn
 καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.
and exalt-above-all to all the ages

ὥδὲ θ'
ode 9

Μὴ τῆς φθορᾶς διὰ πείραν κυοφορήσασα
Not of-the corruption because-of experience having-conceived
 καὶ παντεχνήμονι λόγῳ σάρκα δανείσασα,
and to-(the)-all-skilled word flesh having-lent

μῆτερ ἀπείρανδρε, παρθένε θεοτόκε,

mother husbandless virgin God-bearer

δοχεῖον τοῦ ἀστέκτου, χωρίον τοῦ ἀπείρου

receptacle of-the unbearable place of-the infinite

πλαστουργοῦ σου, σὲ μεγαλύνομεν.

fashioner your you we-magnify

95

Ἐπιπαφλάζοντος πάλαι πυρίνου ἄρματος

Roaring of-old (a)-fiery chariot

ὁ ζηλωτὴς καὶ πυρίπνους χαίρων ὀχούμενος

the zealot and fire-breathing rejoicing riding

τὴν νῦν ἐκλάμβασαν ἐπίπνοιαν ἐδήλου

the now having-shone-forth inspiration showed

ἐξ ὕψους ἀποστόλοις, ὑφ' ἧς καταλαμφθέντες

from height to-(the)-apostles by which having-been-illuminated

τὴν Τριάδα πᾶσι ἐγνώρισαν.

the Trinity to-all they-made-known

100

Νόμου τῶν φύσεων δίχα ξένον ἠκούετο·

Of-(the)-law of-the natures without strange(-thing) was-heard

τῶν μαθητῶν τῆς μιᾶς γὰρ φωνῆς ἀπηχουμένης,

of-the disciples of-the one for voice resounding

πνεύματος χάριτι ποικίλως ἐνηχοῦντο

of-(the)-spirit by-grace variously they-were-made-to-hear

105 λαοί, φυλαὶ καὶ γλῶσσαι, τὰ θεῖα μεγαλεῖα

peoples tribes and tongues the divine mighty-works

τῆς Τριάδος γνώσιν μνούμενοι.

of-the Trinity knowledge being-initiated-into

JOHN OF DAMASCUS

ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΔΑΜΑΣΚΗΝΟΥ ΚΑΝΟΝΕΣ

Canons

Κανὼν ἱαμβικὸς εἰς τὴν Χριστοῦ γέννησιν

I • AN IAMBIC CANON ON THE NATIVITY

John of Damascus sings the Nativity in iambic trimeters whose first letters spell a verse acrostic. The master who once made a dry road through the sea is born of a virgin to open the road to heaven. The burning bush prefigured her, the star led the Magi, and the shepherds saw angels singing. Sprung from Abraham's loins, Christ came to heal the serpent's poison and raise those fallen in darkness; the children unburned in the furnace prefigure the virgin's womb. John asks the virgin, the closed gate through which the Word appeared, for strength to sing and grace to venerate his glory.

ὥδὴ α΄

ode 1

Ἔσωσε λαὸν θαυματουργῶν δεσπότης,

Saved (the)-people working-wonders (the)-master

Ὑγρὸν θαλάσσης κῦμα χερσώσας πάλαι·

Liquid of-(the)-sea wave having-made-dry-land of-old

Ἐκὼν δὲ τεχθεὶς ἐκ κόρης, τρίβον βατὴν

Willingly and born from (a)-maiden (a)-path passable

Πόλου τίθησιν ἡμῖν, ὃν κατ' οὐσίαν

Of-(the)-sky he-makes for-us whom in essence

Ἴσόν τε πατρὶ καὶ βροτοῖς δοξάζομεν.

Equal both to-(the)-father and to-mortals we-glorify

5

Ἦνεγκε γαστήρ ἡγιασμένη λόγον,

Bore (a)-womb hallowed (the)-word

Σαφῶς ἀφλέκτω ζωγραφουμένη βάτω,

Clearly by-(the)-unburned pictured bush

Μιγέντα μορφῇ τῇ βροτησίᾳ θεόν,

Mingled with-(the)-form the mortal God

Εὐας τάλαιναν νηδὺν ἀρᾶς τῆς πάλαι

Of-Eve (the)-wretched womb from-(the)-curse the of-old

10 Λύοντα πικρᾶς, ὃν βροτοὶ δοξάζομεν.

Loosing bitter whom mortals we-glorify

Ἔδειξεν ἀστήρ τὸν πρὸ ἡλίου λόγον,

Showed (a)-star the before (the)-sun word

Ἐλθόντα παῦσαι τὴν ἁμαρτίαν, μάγοις,

Having-come to-end the sin to-(the)-magi

Σαφῶς πενιχρὸν εἰς σπέος, τὸν συμπαθῇ

Clearly poor into (a)-cave the compassionate(-one)

Σὲ σπαργάνοις ἐλικτόν, ὃν γεγηθότες

You in-swaddling-clothes wrapped whom rejoicing

15 Ἰδὼν τὸν αὐτὸν καὶ βροτὸν καὶ κύριον.

They-saw the same both mortal and Lord

ὥδὲ γ'

ode 3

Νεῦσον πρὸς ὕμνους οἰκετῶν, εὐεργέτα,

Incline to (the)-hymns of-(your)-servants benefactor

Ἐχθροῦ ταπεινῶν τὴν ἐπηρμένην ὀφρύν,

Of-(the)-enemy humbling the uplifted brow

Φέρων τε, παντεπόπτα, τῆς ἁμαρτίας

Bringing and all-seeing(-one) of-the sin

Ὑπερθεν ἀκλόνητον ἐστηριγμένους,

Above unshaken established

Μάκαρ, μελωδοὺς τῇ βάσει τῆς πίστεως.

Blessed(-one) singers on-the foundation of-the faith

20

Νύμφης πανάγνου τὸν πανόλβιον τόκον

Of-(the)-bride all-pure the all-blessed offspring

Ἰδεῖν ὑπὲρ νοῦν ἡξιωμένος χορὸς

To-see beyond mind having-been-deemed-worthy (the)-band

Ἄγραυλος ἐκλονεῖτο τῷ ξένῳ τρόπῳ

Dwelling-in-the-field was-shaken at-the strange manner

Τάξιν μελωδοῦσάν τε τῶν ἀσωμάτων

(A)-rank singing and of-the bodiless(-ones)

Ἄνακτα Χριστόν, ἀσπόρως σαρκούμενον.

(The)-king Christ seedlessly being-made-flesh

25

Ὑψους ἀνάσσων οὐρανῶν, εὐσπλαγχνία

Of-(the)-height ruling of-(the)-heavens in-compassion

Τελεῖ καθ' ἡμᾶς ἐξ ἀνυμφεύτου κόρης,

Becomes like us from (an)-unwedded maiden

Ἀϋλος ὢν τὸ πρόσθεν, ἀλλ' ἐπ' ἐσχάτων

Immaterial being the before but at (the)-last

Λόγος παχυνθεὶς σαρκί, τὸν πεπτωκότα

Word thickened in-flesh the(-one) having-fallen

Ἴνα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἐλκύσῃ πρωτόπλαστον.

That to himself be-might-draw first-formed

30

Γένους βροτείου τὴν ἀνάπλασιν πάλαι

Of-(the)-race mortal the refashioning of-old

Ἄιδων προφήτης Ἀββακούμ προμηνύει,

Singing (the)-prophet Habakkuk foretells

Ἰδεῖν ἀφράστως ἀξιωθεὶς τὸν τύπον·

To-see ineffably having-been-deemed-worthy the type

Νέον βρέφος γὰρ ἐξ ὄρους τῆς παρθένου

(A)-new babe for from (the)-mountain of-the virgin

35 Ἐξῆλθε λαῶν εἰς ἀνάπλασιν λόγος.

Came-forth of-peoples for (the)-refashioning word

ὥδῃ δ'

ode 4

Ἴσος προῆλθες τοῖς βροτοῖς ἐκουσίως,

Equal you-came-forth to-the mortals willingly

Ὑψιστε, σάρκα προσλαβὼν ἐκ παρθένου,

Most-high(-one) flesh having-taken-on from (a)-virgin

Ἴον καθᾶραι τῆς δρακοντείας κάρας,

(The)-venom to-cleanse of-the dragon's bead

Ἄγων ἅπαντας πρὸς σέλας ζωηφόρον,

Leading all to (the)-light life-bearing

40 Θεὸς πεφυκώς, ἐκ πυλῶν ἀνηλίων.

God being from gates sunless

Ἔθνη τὰ πρόσθεν τῇ φθορᾷ βεβυσμένα,

Nations the formerly in-the corruption sunk

Ὁλεθρον ἄρδην δυσμενοῦς πεφευγότα,

Destruction utterly of-(the)-enemy having-escaped

Ὑψοῦτε χεῖρας σὺν κρότοις ἐφυμνίοις,

Raise hands with clappings of-hymns

Μόνον σέβοντες Χριστὸν ὡς εὐεργέτην,

Only revering Christ as benefactor

Ἐν τοῖς καθ' ἡμᾶς συμπαθῶς ἀφιγμένον.

In the(-things) like us compassionately having-arrived

45

Ῥίζης φυεῖσα τοῦ Ἰεσσαί, παρθένε,

From-(the)-root having-sprung — of-Jesse virgin

Ὅρους παρῆλθες τῶν βροτῶν τῆς οὐσίας,

(The)-bounds you-passed of-the mortals of-the essence

Πατρός τεκοῦσα τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων λόγον,

Of-(the)-Father having-borne the before ages word

Ὡς ηὐδόκησεν αὐτὸς ἐσφραγισμένην

As was-well-pleased he-himself sealed

Νηδὺν διελθεῖν τῇ κενώσει τῇ ξένη.

(The)-womb to-pass-through by-the self-emptying the strange

50

ὥδῃ ἐ'

ode 5

Ἐκ νυκτὸς ἔργων ἐσκοτισμένοις πλάνης

From (the)-night of-(the)-works darkened of-error

Ἰλασμὸν ἡμῖν, Χριστέ, τοῖς ἐγρηγόρως

(A)-propitiation for-us Christ to-those wakefully

Νῦν σοι τελοῦσιν ὕμνον ὡς εὐεργέτη,

Now to-you performing (a)-hymn as to-(a)-benefactor

Ἔλθοις πορίζων εὐχερῇ τε τὴν τρίβον,

May-you-come providing easy and the path

55 Καθ' ἣν ἀνατρέχοντες εὔρομεν κλέος.

By which running-back we-may-find glory

Ἀπηνὲς ἔχθος τὸ πρὸς αὐτὸν δεσπότης

(The)-harsh enmity the(-one) toward himself (the)-master

Τεμὼν διαμπὰξ σαρκὸς ἐν παρουσίᾳ

Having-cut through-and-through of-flesh in (the)-coming

Ἵνα κρατοῦντος ὤλεσε θυμοφθόρου,

Where ruling he-destroyed spirit-corrupter

Κόσμον συνάπτων ταῖς αὐλοῖς οὐσίαις,

(The)-world joining to-the immaterial essences

60 Τιθεὶς προσηνῇ τὸν τεκόντα τῇ κτίσει.

Making gentle the(-one) having-begotten to-the creation

Ὁ λαὸς εἶδεν, ὃ πρὶν ἡμαυρωμένος

The people saw the formerly darkened

Μεθ' ἡμέραν φῶς τῆς ἄνω φρυκτωρίας·

By day (the)-light of-the above beacon

Ἔθνη θεῷ δὲ κληρὸν υἱὸς προσφέρει,

Nations to-God and (as)-inheritance (the)-son brings

Νέμων ἐκέισε τὴν ἀπόρρητον χάριν,

Distributing there the ineffable grace

65 Οὗ πλεῖστον ἐξήνθησεν ἡ ἀμαρτία.

Where most blossomed the sin

ὦδὴ σ'

ode 6

Ναίων Ἰωνᾶς ἐν μυχοῖς θαλαττίοις

Dwelling Jonah in (the)-recesses of-the-sea

Ἐλθεῖν ἐδεῖτο καὶ ζάλην ἀπαρκέσαι·

To-come begged and (the)-storm to-ward-off

Νυγείς ἐγὼ δὲ τοῦ τυραννοῦντος βέλει,

Pierced I and of-the tyrant by-(the)-arrow

Χριστέ, προσαιδῶ τὸν κακῶν ἀναιρέτην

Christ I-call-upon the of-evils destroyer

Θᾶττον μολεῖν σε τῆς ἐμῆς ῥαθυμίας.

More-quickly to-come you than-the my sloth

70

Ὃς ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς θεὸν θεὸς λόγος

Who was in (the)-beginning with God God word

Νυνὶ κρατύνει, μὴ σθένουσιν τὴν πάλαι

Now strengthens not being-strong the of-old

Ἰδὼν φυλάξαι, τὴν καθ' ἡμᾶς οὐσίαν,

Having-seen to-guard the like us essence

Καθεὶς ἑαυτὸν δευτέρα κοινωνία,

Having-let-down himself by-(a)-second communion

Ἀὔθις προφαίνων τῶν παθῶν ἐλευθέραν.

Again showing(-it) from-the passions free

75

Ἦκται δι' ἡμᾶς Ἀβραὰμ ἐξ ὀσφύος,

He-has-come because-of us of-Abraham from (the)-loins

Λυγρῶς πεσόντας ἐν ζόφῳ τῶν πταισμάτων

Grievously fallen in (the)-gloom of-the faults

Υἱοὺς ἐγείραι τῶν κάτω νενευκότων,

(The)-sons to-raise of-the(-ones) below having-bowed

Ὁ φῶς κατοικῶν, καὶ φάτνην παρ' ἀξίαν

The(-one) light inhabiting and (a)-manger beyond worth

80 Νῦν εὐδοκήσας εἰς βροτῶν σωτηρίαν.

Now having-been-well-pleased for of-mortals salvation

ὦδὴ ζ'

ode 7

Τῷ παντάνακτος ἐξεφάυλισαν πόθῳ

By-the of-(the)-all-king they-belittled longing

Ἄπλητα θυμαίνοντος ἡγκιστρωμένοι

Dreadfully raging having-been-hooked

Παῖδες τυράννου δύσθεον γλωσσαλγίαν,

(The)-children of-(the)-tyrant godless tongue-wagging

Οἷς εἵκαθε πῦρ ἄσπετον, τῷ δεσπότῃ

To-whom yielded fire unspeakable to-the master

85 Λέγουσιν· εἰς αἰῶνας εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

They-say to ages blessed are-you

Ὑπηρέτας μὲν ἐμμανῶς καταφλέγει,

(The)-servants indeed madly burns-up

Σώζει δὲ παφλάζουσα ροιζήδον νέους,

Saves but bubbling with-a-rush (the)-young(-men)

Ταῖς ἐπταμέτροις καύσει πυργουμένη,

With-the seven-measured burnings towering

Οὓς ἔστεφε φλόξ, ἄφθονον τοῦ κυρίου

Whom crowned (the)-flame abundant of-the Lord

Νέμοντος εὐσεβείας εἵνεκα δρόσον.

Granting of-piety for-the-sake (the)-dew

90

Ἄρωγέ Χριστέ, τὸν βροτοῖς ἐναντίον,

Helper Christ the to-mortals opposed

Πρόβλημα τὴν σάρκωσιν ἀρρήτως ἔχων,

(As)-shield the incarnation ineffably having

Ἵσχυνας, ὄλβον τῆς θεώσεως φέρων,

You-shamed (the)-wealth of-the deification bearing

Μορφούμενος νῦν· ἥστινος δι' ἐλπίδα

Being-formed now of-which because-of hope

Ἄνωθεν εἰς κευθμῶνας ἦλθομεν ζόφου.

From-above into (the)-recesses we-came of-gloom

95

Τὴν ἀγριωπὸν ἀκρατῶς γαυρουμένην,

The savage-looking intemperately exulting

Ἄσεμνα βακχεύσασαν, ἐξοιστρομένην

Indecently having-reveled frenzied

Κόσμου καθεῖλες πανσθενῶς ἀμαρτίαν·

Of-(the)-world you-brought-down all-powerfully (the)-sin

Οὓς εἴλκυσε πρὶν, σήμερον τῶν ἀρκύων

Whom it-dragged formerly today from-the nets

100 Σώζεις δὲ σαρκωθεὶς ἐκὼν, εὐεργέτα.

You-save and having-been-made-flesh willingly benefactor

ὥδῃ ἡ'

ode 8

Μήτηρ ἀφλέκτως εἰκονίζουσι κόρης

(The)-womb without-burning picture of-(the)-maiden

Οἱ τῆς παλαιᾶς πυρπολούμενοι νέοι

The of-the old being-burned young(-men)

Ὑπερφυῶς κύουσαν, ἐσφραγισμένην·

Supernaturally conceiving sealed

Ἄμφω δὲ δρῶσα θαυματουργία μιᾷ

Both and doing by-wonder-working one

105 Λαοὺς πρὸς ὕμνον ἐξανίστησι χάρις.

Peoples to (the)-hymn raises-up (the)-grace

Λύμην φυγοῦσα τοῦ θεοῦσθαι τῇ πλάνῃ,

(The)-defilement having-escaped of-the being-deified by-the error

Ἄλληκτον ὑμνεῖ τὸν κενούμενον λόγον

Unceasingly hymns the self-emptying word

Νεανικῶς ἅπανα σὺν τρόμῳ κτίσις,

Youthfully all with trembling creation

Ἄδοξον εὖχος δειματουμένη φέρειν

Inglorious (a)-boast fearing to-bear

ῥευστὴ γεγῶσα, καὶ σοφῶς ἐκαρτέρει.

Fluid having-been even-if wisely it-endured

110

Ἦκεις, πλανῆτιν πρὸς νομὴν ἐπιστρέφων

You-come (the)-wanderer to (the)-pasture turning

Τὴν ἀνθοποιὸν ἐξ ἐρημαίων λόφων

The flower-producing from desert hills

Ἡ τῶν ἔθνων ἔγερσις ἀνθρώπων φύσιν,

The of-the nations rising of-men (the)-nature

Ῥώμην βιαίαν τοῦ βροτοκτόνου σβέσαι,

(The)-might violent of-the mortal-slayer to-quench

Ἀνὴρ φανείς τε καὶ θεὸς προμηθείᾳ.

Man having-appeared both and God by-providence

115

ὦδὴ θ'

ode 9

Στέργειν μὲν ἡμᾶς, ὥς ἀκίνδυνον φόβῳ,

To-love indeed for-us as (a)-safe(-thing) through-fear

Ῥᾶον σιωπῇ· τῷ πόθῳ δέ, παρθένε,

Easier (is)-silence by-the longing but virgin

Ὑμνους ὑφαίνειν συντόνως τεθηγμένους

Hymns to-weave intensely sharpened

Ἐργῶδές ἐστιν, ἀλλὰ καί, μητερ, σθένος,

Laborious it-is but even mother strength

120 Ὅση πέφυκεν ἡ προαίρεσις, δίδου.

As-much-as is the choice give

Τύπους ἀφεγγεῖς καὶ σκιάς παρηγμένας,

Types unlit and shadows passed-away

ὦ μητερ ἀγνή, τοῦ λόγου δεδορκότες

O mother pure of-the word having-beheld

Νέον φανέντος ἐκ πύλης κεκλεισμένης,

Newly having-appeared from (a)-gate closed

Δοξούμενοί τε τῆς ἀληθείας φάος

Being-glorified and of-the truth (with)-light

125 Ἐπαξίως σὴν εὐλογοῦμεν γαστέρα.

Deservedly your we-bless womb

Πόθου τετευχὼς καὶ θεοῦ παρουσίας

Of-longing having-obtained and of-God's coming

Ὁ χριστοτερπῆς λαὸς ἡξιωμένος

The Christ-delighting people having-been-deemed-worthy

Νῦν ποτνιάται τῆς παλιγγενεσίας

Now prays of-the regeneration

Ὡς ζωοποιοῦ τὴν χάριν δέ, παρθέने,

As life-giving the grace but virgin

130 Νέμοις, ἄχραντε, προσκυνῆσαι τὸ κλέος.

May-you-grant spotless(-one) to-worship the glory

Κανὼν εἰς τὴν κυριακὴν τοῦ Πάσχα

IV · ON EASTER SUNDAY

The day of resurrection: let the peoples shine, for Christ has brought them over from death to life. Heaven, earth, and the underworld keep the feast. Christ is the new drink from the tomb, the true lamb and Pascha, the sun of righteousness. The women bring myrrh and find the risen Lord, and the faithful bring hymns instead. He came down to the depths, broke the eternal bars, and rose like Jonah from the whale. This is the queen of days. John bids the new Jerusalem shine and the Mother of God rejoice.

ὠδὴ α΄

ode 1

Ἀναστάσεως ἡμέρα, λαμπρυνθῶμεν λαοί·

Of-resurrection day let-us-be-made-radiant peoples

πάσχα κυρίου, πάσχα·

Pascha of-(the)-Lord Pascha

ἐκ γὰρ θανάτου πρὸς ζωὴν καὶ ἐκ γῆς πρὸς οὐρανὸν

from for death to life and from earth to heaven

Χριστὸς ὁ θεὸς

Christ — God

ἡμᾶς διεβίβασεν, ἐπινίκιον ᾄδοντας.

us has-brought-over (the)-victory-song singing

5

Καθαρθῶμεν τὰς αἰσθήσεις καὶ ὀψόμεθα

Let-us-purify the senses and we-will-see

τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ φωτὶ

by-the unapproachable light

τῆς ἀναστάσεως Χριστὸν ἐξαστράπτοντα, καὶ

of-the resurrection Christ flashing-forth and

«χαίρετε» φάσκοντος

rejoice saying

10 τρανῶς ἀκουσόμεθα, ἐπινίκιον ᾄδοντες.

clearly we-will-hear (the)-victory-song singing

Οὐρανοὶ μὲν ἐπαξίως εὐφραινέσθωσαν,

Heavens indeed worthily let-rejoice

γῇ δὲ ἀγαλλιάσθω.

earth and let-exult

έορταζέτω δὲ κόσμος ὁρατός τε ἅπας

let-keep-feast and (the)-world visible both all

καὶ ἀόρατος.

and invisible

15 Χριστὸς γὰρ ἐγήγερται, εὐφροσύνη αἰώνιος.

Christ for has-been-raised gladness eternal

ὦδὴ γ'

ode 3

Δεῦτε πόμα πίωμεν καινὸν

Come (a)-drink let-us-drink new

οὐκ ἐκ πέτρας ἀγόνου τερατουργούμενον,

not from (a)-rock barren wonderfully-made

ἀλλ' ἀφθαρσίας πηγὴν ἐκ τάφου ὀμβρήσαντος Χριστοῦ,

but of-incorruption (the)-spring from (the)-tomb having-rained of-Christ

ἐν ᾧ στερεούμεθα.

in whom we-are-made-firm

Νῦν πάντα πεπλήρωται φῶς,

Now all(-things) have-been-filled with-light

οὐρανός τε καὶ γῇ καὶ τὰ καταχθόνια·

heaven both and earth and the(-things) beneath-the-earth

ἐορταζέτω δὲ πᾶσα κτίσις τὴν ἔγερσιν Χριστοῦ,

let-keep-feast and all creation the rising of-Christ

ἐν ᾧ στερεούμεθα.

in whom we-are-made-firm

Χθὲς συνεθαπτόμην σοι, Χριστέ,

Yesterday I-was-buried-with you Christ

συνεγείρομαι σήμερον ἀναστάντι σοι·

I-am-raised-with(-you) today having-risen you

συνεσταυρούμην σοι χθές· αὐτός με συνδόξασον, σωτήρ,

I-was-crucified-with you yesterday you-yourself me glorify-with(-you) savior

ἐν τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου.

in the kingdom your

20

25

ὥδὴ δ'

ode 4

Ἐπὶ τῆς θείας φυλακῆς ὁ θεηγόρος Ἀββακούμ

Upon the divine watch the God-speaking Habakkuk

στήτω μεθ' ἡμῶν καὶ δεικνύτω

let-him-stand with us and let-him-show

30 φαιεσφόρον ἄγγελον διαπρυσίως λέγοντα·

(a)-light-bearing angel clearly saying

σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ κόσμῳ,

today salvation to-the world

ὅτι ἀνέστη Χριστὸς ὡς παντοδύναμος.

for rose Christ as all-powerful

Ἄρσιν μὲν ὡς διανοίξας τὴν παρθελεύουσαν νηδὺν

(A)-male indeed as having-opened the virgin womb

πέφηνε Χριστός· ὡς βροτὸς δὲ

has-appeared Christ as mortal and

35 ἄμνὸς προσηγόρεται· ἄμωμος δὲ ὡς ἄγευστος

(a)-lamb he-is-called spotless and as untasting

κηλίδος τὸ ἡμέτερον πάσχα,

of-blemish the our Pascha

καὶ ὡς θεὸς ἀληθῆς τέλειος λέλεκται.

and as God true perfect he-is-called

Ὡς ἐνιαύσιος ἀμνὸς ὁ εὐλογούμενος ἡμῖν

As (a)-yearling lamb the blessed for-us

στέφανος Χριστὸς ἐκουσίως

crown Christ willingly

ὑπὲρ πάντων τέθνται πάσχα τὸ καθαρτήριον,

for all has-been-sacrificed (the)-Pascha the cleansing

καὶ αὖθις ἐκ τοῦ τάφου ὡραῖος

and again from the tomb beautiful

δικαιοσύνης ἡμῖν ἔλαμβεν ἥλιος.

of-righteousness for-us shone (the)-sun

40

Ὁ θεοπάτωρ μὲν Δαυῖδ πρὸ τῆς σκιώδους κιβωτοῦ

The ancestor-of-God indeed David before the shadowy ark

ἤλατο σκιρτῶν· ὁ λαὸς δὲ

leapt dancing the people but

τοῦ θεοῦ ὁ ἅγιος, τὴν τῶν συμβόλων ἔκβασιν

— of-God the holy the of-the symbols fulfillment

ὁρῶντες, εὐφρανθῶμεν ἐνθέως,

seeing let-us-rejoice divinely

ὅτι ἀνέστη Χριστὸς ὡς παντοδύναμος.

for rose Christ as all-powerful

45

ὥδῃ ἐ'

ode 5

Ὅρθρίσωμεν ὄρθρου βαθέος

Let-us-rise-early in-(the)-dawn deep

καὶ ἀντὶ μύρου τὸν ὕμνον προσοίσομεν τῷ δεσπότῃ,

and instead-of myrrh the hymn we-will-offer to-the master

50 καὶ Χριστὸν ὀψόμεθα δικαιοσύνης ἥλιον,

and Christ we-will-see of-righteousness (the)-sun

πᾶσι ζωὴν ἀνατέλλοντα.

to-all life making-rise

Τὴν ἄμετρον σου εὐσπλαγχνίαν

The immeasurable your compassion

οἱ ταῖς τοῦ ᾗδου σειραῖς συνεχόμενοι δεδορκότες

those by-the — of-Hades chains held having-beheld

πρὸς τὸ φῶς ἡπείγοντο, Χριστέ, ἀγαλλομένῳ ποδί,

to the light hastened Christ with-exulting foot

55 πάσχα κροτοῦντες αἰώνιον.

(the)-Pascha applauding eternal

Προσέλθωμεν λαμπαδηφόροι

Let-us-approach lamp-bearing

τῷ προϊόντι Χριστῷ ἐκ τοῦ μνήματος ὡς νυμφίῳ,

to-the coming-forth Christ from the tomb as to-(a)-bridegroom

καὶ συνεορτάσωμεν ταῖς φιλεόρτοις τάξεσι

and let-us-keep-feast-with the festival-loving ranks

πάσχα θεοῦ τὸ σωτήριον.

(the)-Pascha of-God the saving

ὥδῃ σ'

ode 6

Κατήλθες ἐν τοῖς κατωτάτοις τῆς γῆς

You-came-down into the lowest(-parts) of-the earth

καὶ συνέτριψας μοχλοὺς αἰωνίους κατόχους

and you-crushed bars eternal holding

πεπεδημένων, Χριστέ, καὶ τριήμερος

of-(the)-fettered Christ and on-the-third-day

ὡς ἐκ κήτους Ἰωνᾶς ἐξάνεστης τοῦ τάφου.

as from (the)-sea-monster Jonah you-rose from-the tomb

60

Φυλάξας τὰ σήμαντρα σῶα, Χριστέ,

Having-kept the seals whole Christ

ἐξηγέρθης τοῦ τάφου, ὁ τὰς κλεῖς τῆς παρθένου

you-were-raised from-the tomb the(-one) the keys of-the virgin

μὴ λυμηνάμενος ἐν τῷ τόκῳ σου,

not having-harmed in the birth your

καὶ ἀνέφξας ἡμῖν παραδείσου τὰς πύλας.

and you-opened to-us of-paradise the gates

65

Σωτήρ μου τὸ ζῶν τε καὶ ἄθυτον

Savior my the living both and unsacrificed

ιερεῖον ὡς θεὸς σεαυτὸν ἐκουσίως

victim as God yourself willingly

προσαγαγὼν τῷ πατρὶ συνανέστησας

having-brought to-the father you-raised-with(-you)

παγγενὴ τὸν Ἀδάμ, ἀναστὰς ἐκ τοῦ τάφου.

all-the-race — Adam having-risen from the tomb

70

ὡδὴ ζ'

ode 7

Ὁ παῖδας ἐκ καμίνου ῥυσάμενος

The(-one) children from (the)-furnace having-rescued

γενόμενος ἄνθρωπος

having-become man

πάσχει ὡς θνητὸς καὶ διὰ πάθους τὸ θνητὸν

suffers as mortal and through suffering the mortal

75 ἀφθαρσίας ἐνδύει εὐπρέπειαν,

of-incorruption clothes-in (the)-comeliness

ὁ μόνος εὐλογητὸς τῶν πατέρων

the only blessed of-the fathers

θεὸς καὶ ὑπερένδοξος.

God and more-than-glorious

Γυναῖκες μετὰ μύρων θεόφρονες

Women with myrrh God-minded

ὀπίσω σου ἔδραμον·

after you ran

80 ὃν δὲ ὡς θνητὸν μετὰ δακρύων ἐζήτουν,

whom and as mortal with tears they-sought

προσεκύνησαν χαίρουσαι ζῶντα θεόν,

they-worshipped rejoicing living God

καὶ πάσχα τὸ μυστικὸν σοῖς, Χριστέ,

and (the)-Pascha the mystical to-your Christ

μαθηταῖς ἐηγγελίσαντο.

disciples they-announced

Θανάτου ἐορτάζομεν νέκρωσιν,

Of-death we-celebrate (the)-deadening

ἄδου τὴν καθαίρεσιν,

of-Hades the destruction

ἄλλης βιοτῆς τῆς αἰωνίου ἀπαρχήν,

of-another life the eternal (the)-first-fruit

καὶ σκιρτῶντες ὑμνοῦμεν τὸν αἴτιον,

and leaping we-hymn the cause

τὸν μόνον εὐλογητὸν τῶν πατέρων

the only blessed of-the fathers

θεὸν καὶ ὑπερένδοξον.

God and more-than-glorious

85

Ὡς ὄντως ἱερὰ καὶ πανέορτος

As truly sacred and all-festal

αὕτη ἡ σωτήριος

this the saving

νύξ καὶ φωταυγής, τῆς λαμπροφόρου ἡμέρας

night and light-radiant of-the brightness-bearing day

τῆς ἐγέρσεως οὓσα προάγγελος,

of-the rising being forerunner

ἐν ᾗ τὸ ἄχρονον φῶς ἐκ τάφου

in which the timeless light from (the)-tomb

σωματικῶς πᾶσιν ἐπέλαμψεν.

bodily on-all shone

90

95

ὥδὴ ἡ'

ode 8

Αὕτη ἡ κλητὴ καὶ ἁγία ἡμέρα,

This the called and holy day

ἡ μία τῶν σαββάτων, ἡ βασιλὶς καὶ κυρία,

the one of-the sabbaths the queen and lady

έορτῶν έορτὴ καὶ πανήγυρίς έστι πανηγύρεων,

of-feasts (the)-feast and festival it-is of-festivals

έν ᾗ εύλογοῦμεν Χριστὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

in which we-bless Christ to the ages

100 Δεῦτε τοῦ καινοῦ τῆς ἀμπέλου γεννήματος,

Come of-the new of-the vine fruit

τῆς θείας εύφροσύνης, έν τῇ εύσήμεν ἡμέρα

of-the divine gladness in the notable day

τῆς ἐγέρσεως βασιλείας τε Χριστοῦ κοινωνήσωμεν,

of-the rising of-(the)-kingdom and of-Christ let-us-partake

ύμνουντες αὐτὸν ὡς θεὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

hymning him as God to the ages

Ἄρον κύκλῳ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς σου, Σιών, καὶ ἴδε·

Raise around the eyes your Zion and see

105 ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἦκασί σοι θεοφεγγεῖς ὡς φωστῆρες

behold for have-come to-you God-illuminated as luminaries

ἐκ δυσμῶν καὶ βορρᾶ καὶ θαλάσσης καὶ ἐώας τὰ τέκνα σου,

from west and north and sea and east the children your

έν σοὶ εύλογοῦντα Χριστὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

in you blessing Christ to the ages

Πάτερ παντοκράτορ καὶ λόγε καὶ πνεῦμα,
Father almighty and word and spirit
 τρισὶν ἐνιζομένη ἐν ὑποστάσεσι φύσις,
three united in hypostases nature
 ὑπερούσιε καὶ ὑπέρθεε, εἰς σὲ βεβαπτίσμεθα
super-essential and super-divine into you we-have-been-baptized
 καὶ σὲ εὐλογοῦμεν εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.
and you we-bless to all the ages

110

ὥδὴ θ'

ode 9

Φωτίζου, φωτίζου ἡ νέα Ἱερουσαλήμ·
Be-enlightened be-enlightened the new Jerusalem
 ἡ γὰρ δόξα κυρίου ἐπὶ σὲ ἀνέτειλε·
the for glory of-(the)-Lord upon you has-risen
 χόρευε νῦν καὶ ἀγάλλου, Σιών·
dance now and exult Zion
 σὺ δέ, ἀγνή, τέρπου, θεοτόκε,
you and pure delight God-bearer
 ἐν τῇ ἐγέρσει τοῦ τόκου σου.
in the rising of-the offspring your

115

ὦ θείας! ὦ φίλης! ὦ γλυκυτάτης σου φωνῆς!

O divine O dear O sweetest your voice

μεθ' ἡμῶν ἀψεудῶς γὰρ ἐπηγγείλω ἔσεσθαι

with us unlyingly for you-promised to-be

μέχρι τερμάτων αἰῶνος, Χριστέ·

until (the)-ends of-(the)-age Christ

120 ἣν οἱ πιστοὶ ἄγκυραν ἐλπίδος

which the faithful (as)-anchor of-hope

κατέχοντες ἀγαλλόμεθα.

holding we-exult

ὦ Πάσχα τὸ μέγα καὶ ἱερώτατον, Χριστέ·

O Pascha the great and most-sacred Christ

ὦ σοφία καὶ λόγε τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ δύναμις,

O wisdom and word — of-God and power

δίδου ἡμῖν ἐκτυπώτερον

give to-us more-expressly

125 σοῦ μετασχεῖν ἐν τῇ ἀνεσπέρῳ

you to-partake in the unsetting

ἡμέρᾳ τῆς βασιλείας σου.

day of-the kingdom your

Κανὼν εἰς τὴν κυριακὴν τοῦ Ἀντίπασχα

V • ON THOMAS SUNDAY

The canon for the Sunday after Easter. Christ, risen, passes through closed doors and stands among his disciples, giving them peace. He shows his wounds, and Thomas, absent at his first coming, doubts and touches his side, which does not burn him, and confesses him Lord and God. Thomas's unbelief becomes the mother of faith for others. The eighth day is a type of the age to come, and the canon ends by praising the risen Christ and his mother.

ὥδὴ α΄

ode 1

Ἄισωμεν πάντες λαοὶ τῷ ἐκ πικρᾶς δουλείας

Let-us-sing all peoples to-the(-one) from bitter slavery

Φαραὼ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ ἀπαλλάξαντι

of-Pharaoh — Israel having-freed

καὶ ἐν βυθῷ θαλάσσης ποδὶ ἀβρόχως ὀδηγήσαντι

and in (the)-depth of-(the)-sea on-foot dry-shod having-guided

ὥδὴν ἐπινίκιον, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

(a)-song victorious for he-has-been-glorified

Σήμερον ἔαρ ψυχῶν, ὅτι Χριστὸς ἐκ τάφου

Today (is)-spring of-souls for Christ from (the)-tomb

ὥσπερ ἥλιος ἐκλάμψας τριήμερος

like (the)-sun having-shone-forth on-the-third-day

τὸν ζοφερόν χειμῶνα ἀπήλασε τῆς ἀμαρτίας ἡμῶν·

the gloomy winter drove-away of-the sin our

αὐτὸν ἀνυμνήσωμεν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

him let-us-hymn for he-has-been-glorified

5

Ἡ βασιλὶς τῶν ὥρων τῇ λαμπροφόρῳ ἡμέρᾳ
The queen of-the seasons to-the brightness-bearing day

- 10 ἡμερῶν τε βασιλίδι φανότατα
of-days and to-(the)-queen most-brilliantly
 δορυφοροῦσα τέρπει τὸν ἔκκριτον τῆς ἐκκλησίας λαόν,
escorting delights the chosen of-the church people
 ἀπαύστως ἀνυμνοῦσα τὸν ἀναστάντα Χριστόν.
unceasingly hymning the having-risen Christ

Πύλαι θανάτου, Χριστέ, οὐδὲ τοῦ τάφου σφραγίδες,
(The)-gates of-death Christ nor of-the tomb (the)-seals

- οὐδὲ κλειῖθρα τῶν θυρῶν σοι ἀντέστησαν·
nor (the)-bars of-the doors to-you withstood
 15 ἀλλ' ἀναστὰς ἐπέστης τοῖς φίλοις σου, εἰρήνην, δέσποτα,
but having-risen you-stood-among the friends your peace master
 δωροῦμενος τὴν πάντα νοῦν ὑπερέχουσιν.
granting the(-one) all mind surpassing

ὥδὴ γ'
ode 3

Στερέωσόν με, Χριστέ, ἐπὶ τὴν ἄσειστον πέτραν
Make-firm me Christ upon the unsbakable rock

τῶν ἐντολῶν σου,
of-the commandments your

καὶ φώτισόν με φωτὶ τοῦ προσώπου σου·
and enlighten me with-(the)-light of-the face your

- 20 οὐκ ἔστι γὰρ ἅγιος πλήν σου, φιλάνθρωπε.
not there-is for holy except you lover-of-mankind

Καινοὺς ἀντὶ παλαιῶν, ἀντὶ φθαρτῶν δὲ ἀφθάρτους

New instead-of old instead-of corruptible and incorruptible

διὰ σταυροῦ σου,

through (the)-cross your

Χριστέ, τελέσας ἡμᾶς ἐν καινότητι

Christ having-made us in newness

ζωῆς πολιτεύεσθαι ἀξίως προσέταξας.

of-life to-live worthily you-commanded

Ἐν τάφῳ περικλεισθεὶς τῇ περιγράπτῳ σαρκί σου

In (a)-tomb having-been-shut-in by-the circumscribed flesh your

ὁ ἀπερίγραπτος,

the uncircumscribed(-one)

Χριστέ, ἀνέστης· θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων τε

Christ you-rose of-doors having-been-shut and

ἐπέστης σοῦ τοῖς μαθηταῖς, παντοδύναμε.

you-stood-among your the disciples all-powerful(-one)

Τοὺς μώλωπας σου, Χριστέ, οὓς ἐκουσίως ὑπέστης

The bruises your Christ which willingly you-underwent

ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν,

for us

τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου φυλάξας μαρτύριον

for-the disciples your having-kept (as)-testimony

τῆς σῆς ἔδειξας ἐνδόξου ἀναστάσεως.

of-the your you-showed glorious resurrection

25

30

ὥδῃ δ'

ode 4

Μέγα τὸ μυστήριον τῆς σῆς, Χριστέ, οἰκονομίας·

Great the mystery of-the your Christ dispensation

τοῦτο γὰρ ἄνωθεν προβλέπων θεοπτικῶς ὁ Ἀββακούμ,

this for from-above foreseeing with-God-seeing-eyes — Habakkuk

35 ἐξῆλθες, ἐβόα σοι,

you-went-forth cried to-you

εἰς σωτηρίαν λαοῦ σου, φιλάνθρωπε.

for salvation of-(the)-people your lover-of-mankind

Χολῆς μὲν ἐγέυσατο, τὴν πάλαι γεῦσιν ἰώμενος·

Gall indeed he-tasted the of-old tasting healing

νυνὶ δὲ σὺν κηρίῳ μέλιτος τοῦ φωτισμοῦ μεταδιδούς

now and with (a)-honeycomb of-honey of-the illumination imparting

Χριστὸς τῷ προπάτορι

Christ to-the forefather

40 καὶ τῆς αὐτοῦ γλυκείας μεθέξεως.

and of-the his sweet participation

Χαίρεις ἐρευνώμενος· διό, φιλάνθρωπε, πρὸς τοῦτο

You-rejoice being-searched wherefore lover-of-mankind to this

προτρέπεις τὸν Θωμᾶν, προτείνων διαπιστοῦντι τὴν πλευράν,

you-urge — Thomas holding-out to-(the)-doubter the side

τῷ κόσμῳ πιστούμενος

to-the world giving-assurance

τὴν σὴν, Χριστέ, τριήμερον ἔγερσιν.

the your Christ third-day rising

Πλοῦτον ἀρυσάμενος ἐκ θησαυροῦ τοῦ ἀσυλήτου,
Wealth having-drawn from (the)-treasure the unplundered
 τῆς θείας, εὐεργέτα, λόγχῃ διανυγείσης σου πλευρᾶς,
of-the divine benefactor by-(the)-lance pierced of-your side
 σοφίας καὶ γνώσεως
of-wisdom and knowledge
 ἀναπμπλᾷ τὸν κόσμον ὁ Δίδυμος.
fills the world the Twin

45

Σοῦ ἡ παμμακάριστος ὑμνεῖται γλῶσσα, ὦ Δίδυμε·
Your the all-blessed is-hymned tongue O Twin
 πρώτη γὰρ εὐσεβῶς κηρύττει τὸν ζωοδότην Ἰησοῦν
first for piously proclaims the life-giver Jesus
 θεόν τε καὶ κύριον,
God both and Lord
 ἐκ τῆς ἀφῆς πλησθεῖσα τῆς χάριτος.
from the touch having-been-filled with-the grace

50

ὥδῃ ε΄
ode 5

Ἐκ νυκτὸς ὀρθρίζοντες ὑμνοῦμέν σε, Χριστέ,
From night rising-early we-hymn you Christ
 τὸν τῷ πατρὶ συνάναρχον καὶ σωτῆρα τῶν ψυχῶν ἡμῶν·
the(-one) with-the father co-beginningless and savior of-the souls our
 τὴν εἰρήνην τῷ κόσμῳ παράσχου, φιλόανθρωπε.
the peace to-the world grant lover-of-mankind

55

Ἐπιστὰς τοῖς φίλοις ἀθυμοῦσιν ὁ σωτὴρ
Having-stood-among the friends despondent the savior
 τῇ παρουσίᾳ ἅπασαν ἀπελάνει τὴν κατήφειαν
by-the presence all drives-away the dejection
 καὶ σκιρτᾶν διεγείρει ἐν τῇ ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.
and to-leap rouses in the resurrection his

ὦ τῆς ἀληθῶς ἐπαινουμένης τοῦ Θωμᾶ
O the truly praised — of-Thomas
 60 φρικτῆς ἐγχειρήσεως! τολμηρῶς γὰρ ἐψηλάφησε
dread venture daringly for he-touched
 τὴν πλευρὰν τὴν τῷ θείῳ πυρὶ ἀπαστράπτουσαν.
the side the(-one) with-the divine fire flashing

Ἀπιστίαν πίστεως γεννήτριαν ἡμῶν
Unbelief of-faith (the)-mother for-us
 τὴν τοῦ Θωμᾶ ἀνέδειξας· σὺ γὰρ πάντα τῇ σοφίᾳ σου
the — of-Thomas you-showed you for all(-things) by-the wisdom your
 προνοεῖς συμφερόντως, Χριστέ, ὡς φιλόανθρωπος.
you-provide profitably Christ as lover-of-mankind

ὥδῃ σ΄

ode 6

Τὸν προφήτην διέσωσας

The prophet you-saved

ἐκ τοῦ κήτους, φιλάνθρωπε·

from the sea-monster lover-of-mankind

κάμῃ τοῦ βυθοῦ τῶν πταισμάτων ἀνάγαγε, δέομαι.

me-too from-the depth of-the faults bring-up I-beg

65

Τὸν Θωμᾶν οὐ κατέλιπες

— Thomas not you-forsook

βαπτίζόμενον, δέσποτα,

plunged master

βυθῷ ἀπιστίας, παλάμας προτείνας εἰς ἔρευναν.

in-(the)-depth of-unbelief (the)-palms having-held-out for searching

70

Ὁ σωτὴρ ἡμῶν ἔλεγε·

The savior our said

ψηλαφῶντές με ἴδετε

touching me see

ὅστέα καὶ σάρκα φοροῦντα· ἐγὼ οὐκ ἠλλοίωμαι.

bones and flesh wearing I not have-been-changed

Τὴν πλευρὰν ἐψηλάφησε

The side touched

75 καὶ πιστεύσας ἐπέγνω σε

and having-believed recognized you

Θωμᾶς, μὴ παρών σου τῇ πρώτῃ εἰσόδῳ, σωτὴρ ἡμῶν.

Thomas not being-present your at-the first entrance savior our

ὠδὴ ζ'

ode 7

Εἰκόνι λατρεύειν μουσικῆς συμφωνίας

To-(an)-image to-pay-worship of-musical concord

συγκαλουμένης λαοὺς

calling-together peoples

ἐκ τῶν ὠδῶν Σιών ᾄδοντες πατρικῶς οἱ παῖδες Δαυὶδ

from the songs of-Zion singing ancestrally the children of-David

80 τυράννου ἔλυσαν τὸ παλίμφημον δόγμα,

of-(the)-tyrant loosed the infamous decree

καὶ τὴν φλόγα εἰς δρόσον μετέβαλον,

and the flame into dew changed

ὕμνον ἀναμέλποντες· ὁ ὑπερυψούμενος

(a)-hymn singing the(-one) exalted-above-all

τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν θεός, εὐλογητὸς εἰ.

of-the fathers and our God blessed are-you

Ὡς πρώτη ὑπάρχει ἡμερῶν καὶ κυρία

As first is of-days and lady

ἡ λαμπροφόρος αὕτη,

the brightness-bearing this(-day)

ἐν ᾗ ἀγάλλεσθαι ἄξιον τὸν καινὸν καὶ θεῖον λαόν·

in which to-exult (it-is)-worthy the new and divine people

ἐν τρόμῳ φέρει γὰρ καὶ αἰῶνος τὸν τύπον,

in trembling it-bears for and of-(the)-age the type

ὡς ὀγδοὰς τελοῦσα, τοῦ μέλλοντος·

as eighth being of-the coming(-age)

ὕμνον ἀναμέλποντα· ὁ ὑπερυψούμενος

(a)-hymn singing the(-one) exalted-above-all

τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

of-the fathers and our God blessed are-you

85

90

Ὁ μόνος τολμήσας τῇ ἀπίστῳ τε πίστει

The(-one) alone having-dared by-the faithless and faith

εὐεργετήσας ἡμᾶς

having-done-good-to us

Θωμᾶς ὁ Δίδυμος λύει μὲν τὴν ζοφώδη ἄγνοιαν

Thomas the Twin loosens indeed the gloomy ignorance

τοῖς πᾶσι πέρασι τῇ πιστῇ ἀπιστίᾳ·

for-the all ends by-the faithful faithlessness

ἑαυτῷ δὲ τὸν στέφανον πλέκει, σαφῶς

for-himself and the crown weaves clearly

λέγων· σὺ εἶ κύριος ὁ ὑπερυψούμενος

saying you are Lord the(-one) exalted-above-all

τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

of-the fathers and our God blessed are-you

95

Οὐ μάτην διστάσας ὁ Θωμᾶς τῇ ἐγέρσει

Not in-vain having-doubted — Thomas to-the rising

σου οὐ κατέθετο,

your not assented

105 ἀλλ' ἀναμφίλεκτον ἔσπευδεν ἀποδείξαι ταύτην, Χριστέ,

but undisputed hastened to-show it Christ

τοῖς πᾶσι ἐθνέσιν· ὅθεν δι' ἀπιστίας

to-the all nations whence through unbelief

πιστωσάμενος πάντας ἐδίδαξε

having-been-assured all he-taught

λέγειν· σὺ εἶ κύριος, ὁ ὑπερυψούμενος

to-say you are Lord the(-one) exalted-above-all

τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

of-the fathers and our God blessed are-you

105 Ἐμφόβως τὴν χεῖρα ὁ Θωμᾶς τῇ πλευρᾷ σου

Fearfully the hand — Thomas into-the side your

τῇ ζωηφόρῳ, Χριστέ,

the life-bearing Christ

ἐνθεὶς ὑπότρομος ᾗσθητο ἐνεργείας, σῶτερ, διπλῆς

having-put trembling perceived (the)-working savior double

τῶν δύο φύσεων τῶν ἐν σοὶ ἡνωμένων

of-the two natures the(-ones) in you united

ἀσυγχύτως καὶ πίστει ἐκραύγαζε

unconfusedly and in-faith cried-out

110 λέγων· σὺ εἶ κύριος, ὁ ὑπερυψούμενος

saying you are Lord the(-one) exalted-above-all

τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.

of-the fathers and our God blessed are-you

ὥδῃ ἡ'

ode 8

Τὸν ἐν φλογὶ πυρὸς καιομένης καμίνου

The(-one) in (the)-flame of-fire of-burning furnace

διαφυλάξαντα παῖδας

having-preserved (the)-children

καὶ ἐν μορφῇ ἀγγέλου συγκαταβάντα τούτοις

and in (the)-form of-(an)-angel having-come-down to-them

ὑμνεῖτε κύριον

hymn (the)-Lord

καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

and exalt-above-all to all the ages

115

Ἐπιποθήσας σου τὴν χαρμόσουνον θέαν

Having-longed-for your the joyful sight

τὸ πρὶν ἠπίσται Θωμᾶς·

the formerly disbelieved Thomas

ἀξιωθεὶς δὲ ταύτης θεὸν καὶ κύριόν σε

having-been-deemed-worthy and of-it God and Lord you

ἐκάλει, δέσποτα,

he-called master

ὃν ὑπερυψοῦμεν εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.

whom we-exalt-above-all to all the ages

120

Τὸν ἀνασχόμενον τῆς Θωμᾶ ἀπιστίας

The(-one) having-borne-with the of-Thomas unbelief

καὶ ὑποδείξαντα πλευρὰν

and having-shown (his)-side

καὶ τῇ αὐτοῦ παλάμῃ ἀκριβολογηθέντα

and by-the his palm examined-exactly

125 ὑμνεῖτε κύριον

hymn (the)-Lord

καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε αὐτὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

and exalt-above-all him to the ages

Σοῦ τὸ περίεργον θησαυρὸν κεκρυμμένον

Your the curiosity (a)-treasure hidden

ἡμῖν ἀνέωξε, Θωμᾶ·

for-us opened Thomas

θεολογήσας γλώσσει γὰρ θεοφορουμένη,

having-spoken-of-God with-tongue for God-borne

130 ὑμνεῖτε, ἔλεγε

hymn you-said

καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε Χριστὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.

and exalt-above-all Christ to the ages

ὥδῃ θ'

ode 9

Σὲ τὴν φαεινὴν λαμπάδα καὶ μητέρα τοῦ φωτός,

You the shining lamp and mother of-the light

τὴν ἀρίζηλον δόξαν

the conspicuous glory

καὶ ἀνωτέραν πάντων τῶν ποιημάτων

and higher than-all the creatures

ἐν ὕμνοις μεγαλύνομεν.

in hymns we-magnify

135

Σοῦ τὴν φαεινὴν ἡμέραν καὶ ὑπέρλαμπρον, Χριστέ,

Your the shining day and resplendent Christ

τὴν ὀλόφωτον χάριν,

the all-luminous grace

ἐν ᾗ ὡραῖος κάλλει τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου

in which beautiful in-beauty to-the disciples your

ἐπέστης, μεγαλύνομεν.

you-stood-among we-magnify

140

Σὲ τὸν χοϊκῇ παλάμῃ ψηλαφώμενον πλευρὰν

You the(-one) by-earthly palm touched (in-the)-side

καὶ μὴ φλέξαντα ταύτην

and not having-burned it

πυρὶ τῷ τῆς αὔλου θείας οὐσίας

with-fire the(-one) of-the immaterial divine essence

ἐν ὕμνοις μεγαλύνομεν.

in hymns we-magnify

Σὲ τὸν ὡς θεὸν ἐκ τάφου ἀναστάντα Ἰησοῦν

You the(-one) as God from (the)-tomb having-risen Jesus

145 οὐ βλέφarois ἰδόντες,

not with-eyelids having-seen

ἀλλὰ καρδίας πόθῳ πεπιστευκότες

but of-(the)-heart by-longing having-believed

ἐν ὕμνοις μεγαλύνομεν.

in hymns we-magnify

KASSIA

ΚΑΣΣΙΑΣ

Three Hymns

Ἰδιόμελον εἰς τὴν Χριστοῦ γέννησιν

I · ON THE NATIVITY

When Augustus ruled alone, the rule of many ceased among men, and when Christ became man, the rule of many gods was abolished. As the cities came under one earthly kingdom, the nations came to believe in one Godhead. The peoples were enrolled by Caesar's decree, and the faithful by the name of the Godhead.

Αὐγούστου μοναρχήσαντος ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς

Augustus having-reigned-alone upon the earth

ἡ πολυαρχία τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἐπαύσατο·

the rule-of-many of-the men ceased

καὶ σοῦ ἐνανθρωπήσαντος ἐκ τῆς ἀγνῆς

and you having-become-man from the pure(-one)

ἡ πολυθειᾶ τῶν εἰδώλων κατήργηται·

the many-godhood of-the idols has-been-abolished

ὑπὸ μίαν βασιλείαν ἐγκόσμιον

under one kingdom of-this-world

αἱ πόλεις γεγένηνται·

the cities have-come

καὶ εἰς μίαν δεσποτείαν θεότητος

and into one lordship of-Godhead

τὰ ἔθνη ἐπίστευσαν·

the nations believed

ἀπεγράφησαν οἱ λαοὶ τῷ δόγματι τοῦ Καίσαρος·

were-enrolled the peoples by-the decree — of-Caesar

5

- 10 ἐπεγράφημεν οἱ πιστοὶ ὀνόματι θεότητος
we-were-inscribed the faithful in-(the)-name of-Godhead
 σοῦ τοῦ ἐνανθρωπήσαντος θεοῦ ἡμῶν·
of-you the having-become-man God our
 μέγα σου τὸ ἔλεος, κύριε, δόξα σοι.
great your the mercy Lord glory to-you

Ἰδιόμελον εἰς τὸ γενέθλιον Ἰωάννου τοῦ Βαπτιστοῦ

II • ON THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled today in the birth of John, the greatest of the prophets: I send my messenger before your face. Like a soldier of the heavenly king, John prepared the way, a man by nature and an angel by his life, embracing purity and chastity and contending beyond nature. Kassia bids the faithful imitate him and ask him to intercede for their souls.

- Ἡσαΐου νῦν τοῦ προφήτου ἡ φωνή
of-Isaiah now the prophet the voice
 σήμερον ἐν τῇ τοῦ μείζονος προφητῶν κηρύσει
today in the of-the greater than-prophets bearing
 Ἰωάννου πεπλήρωται·
of-John has-been-fulfilled
 Ἰδοὺ, γάρ φησι, ἀποστελῶ τὸν ἄγγελόν
Behold for he-says I-will-send the angel
 μου πρὸ προσώπου σου,
my before (the)-face your
 5 ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου·
who will-prepare the way your

οὗτος οὖν, ὡς τοῦ ἐπουρανίου

this(-man) then as of-the heavenly

βασιλέως στρατιώτης προδραμών,

king soldier having-run-ahead

ὡς ἀληθῶς εὐθείας ἐποίει τὰς τρίβους τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν,

as truly straight made the paths — of-God our

ἄνθρωπος μὲν τὴν φύσιν, ἄγγελος δὲ τὸν βίον ὑπάρχων·

(a)-man indeed in-the nature (an)-angel but in-the life being

ἀγνείαν γὰρ παντελῇ καὶ σωφροσύνην ἀσπασάμενος

purity for complete and chastity having-embraced

εἶχε μὲν τὸ κατὰ φύσιν, ἔφυγε δὲ τὸ παρὰ φύσιν,

he-had indeed the according-to nature fled but the against nature

ὑπὲρ φύσιν ἀγωνισάμενος·

beyond nature having-contended

αὐτὸν ἅπαντες πιστοὶ ἐν ἀρεταῖς μιμούμενοι

him all faithful in virtues imitating

πρεσβεύειν ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν δυσωπήσωμεν

to-intercede for us let-us-entreat

εἰς τὸ σωθῆναι τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

for the to-be-saved the souls our

10

Ἰδιόμελον εἰς τὴν μεγάλην Τετάρτην

III · THE SINFUL WOMAN (HOLY WEDNESDAY)

The woman fallen into many sins, perceiving Christ's divinity, brings him myrrh before his burial, lamenting that night has fallen on her, a dark and moonless frenzy of desire. She asks him to receive her tears, to bow to her sighs, and to let her kiss and wipe his feet with her hair, the feet whose sound Eve heard in paradise and hid. No one can trace the multitude of her sins or the depths of his judgments; she begs him not to overlook his servant, for his mercy is boundless.

Κύριε, ἡ ἐν πολλαῖς ἀμαρτίαις περιπεσοῦσα γυνή,

Lord the in many sins having-fallen woman

τὴν σὴν αἰσθομένη θεότητα,

the your having-perceived Godhead

μυροφόρου ἀναλαβοῦσα τάξιν,

of-(a)-myrrh-bearer having-taken-up (the)-rank

ὀδυρομένη μύρον σοι πρὸ τοῦ ἐνταφιασμοῦ κομίζει·

lamenting myrrh to-you before the burial brings

5 οἶμοι! λέγουσα, ὅτι νύξ μοι ὑπάρχει,

woe-is-me saying for night to-me is

οἷστρος ἀκολασίας ζοφώδης τε καὶ ἀσέληνος,

(a)-frenzy of-licentiousness dark both and moonless

ἔρωσ τῆς ἀμαρτίας·

(a)-yearning of-the sin

δέξαι μου τὰς πηγὰς τῶν δακρύνων

receive my the springs of-the tears

ὁ νεφέλαις διεξάγων τῆς θαλάσσης τὸ ὕδωρ·

the(-one) by-clouds drawing-up of-the sea the water

κάμφθητί μοι πρὸς τοὺς στεναγμοὺς τῆς καρδίας 10
be-bent to-me toward the groanings of-the heart

ὁ κλίνας τοὺς οὐρανοὺς τῇ ἀφράστῳ σου κενώσει·
the(-one) having-bowed the heavens by-the ineffable your self-emptying

καταφιλήσω τοὺς ἀχράντους σου πόδας,
I-will-kiss the spotless your feet

ἀποσμήξω τούτους δὲ πάλιν
I-will-wipe these and again

τοῖς τῆς κεφαλῆς μου βοστρύχοις·
with-the of-the head my locks

ὧν ἐν τῷ παραδείσῳ Εὐὰ τὸ δειλινὸν 15
whose in the paradise Eve (in)-the evening

κρότον τοῖς ὡσὶν ἠχηθεῖσα τῷ φόβῳ ἐκρύβη·
sound in-the ears having-beard-ring in-the fear hid

ἀμαρτιῶν μου τὰ πλήθη καὶ κριμάτων σου ἀβύσσους
of-sins my the multitudes and of-judgments your abysses

τίς ἐξιχνιάσει, ψυχοσῶστα σωτήρ μου;
who will-trace-out soul-saving savior my

μή με τὴν σὴν δούλην παρίδης
not me the your handmaid overlook

ὁ ἀμέτρητον ἔχων τὸ ἔλεος. 20
the(-one) immeasurable having the mercy

