

CHRISTmass Midnight 2008 (*The Birth of the Blessed One – 2*)

[Based on *Hymns for the Feast of the Nativity.II* – by Ephraim the Syrian]

Blessed be that Child, Who gladdened Bethlehem this day!
Blessed be the Babe Who made manhood young again this morn!
Blessed be the Fruit, Who lowered Himself into our famished state!
Blessed be the Infinitely Good, Who suddenly supplied our needs!
Blessed be He, Whose tender mercies made Him descend to our infirmities!

Praise to Him, the Fountain, Who was sent for our propitiation!
Praise to Him, Who fulfilled the Sabbath by giving us eternal, heavenly rest!
Praise to Him, Who rebuked leprosy and fever, such that they did flee!
Praise to Him, the Merciful One, Who bore our toil and labor!
Praise to Him, Who by His Nativity brought true life to the sons of men!

Glory to Him Who came to us by His First-Born One!
Glory to Him Who once seemed Silent, but now has spoken by His Son!
Glory to Him in excelsis, Who is seen by His Day-Spring on high!
Glory to Him Who as Spirit, is pleased by a Body to make His virtue known!
Glory to Him Who by that Body showed mercy on the bodies of His own!

Glory to that Hidden One, Whose Son was made manifest!
Glory to that Living One, Whose Son gave Himself to death!
Glory to that Great One, Whose Son descended and was small!
Glory to that Power, Whose Son humbled His greatness by human form!
Glory to that Unseen One, Whom we have yet seen with eye and mind!

Praise to the Hidden One, Who cannot be fathomed by prying mind!
Praise to the Glorious One, Who permitted Himself to be touched by hand!
Praise to the Divine Nature, untouchable, hands and feet pierced, lifted up!
Praise to the Sinless One, Who made Himself Flesh for them that took Him!
Praise to the Son Whom free will crucified, but only because He let it!

Blessed He Whose own Will brought Him to the Womb and Birth!
Blessed He Whom the grave bound, for thereby He limited its girth!
Blessed He Who Changeless, changing, purchased life for human nature!
Blessed He Who sealed our soul, and adorned it and espoused it to Himself!
Blessed He Who made our Body a tabernacle for His unseen Nature!

Blessing and honor and all glory be to Him, Who by the tongue of men has revealed and interpreted His secret things. Let us praise that Voice Whose glory is hymned with our lute, and His virtue with our harp. The Gentiles now have assembled and have come to hear His strains.

Glory to the Son of the Good One, Whom the sons of the evil one rejected! Glory to the Son of the Just One, Whom the sons of wickedness crucified! Glory to the Son Who loosed us, by being bound in Flesh for us all!

Glory to the Son, the Beautiful One, Who has conformed us to His image!

Glory to the Son, that Fair One, Who looked not upon our foulnesses!

Glory be to Him Who sowed His saving Light into the darkness of our sin!

Glory be to Him Who was reproached in the hiddenness of His low estate!

Glory be to Him Who removed from us the filthiness of our raiment!

Glory be to Him on high, Who mixed His good leaven in our spirits!

Glory be to Him Who comes in His Body with Bread to enliven our souls!

Praise the Rich One Who paid for us all, that which He borrowed not!

Praise Him Who sat down and wrote [His own bill], becoming Debtor for us!

Praise Him Who by His yoke brake from us the chains that led us captive!

Praise the Judge Who was judged, and made His Twelve to sit in judgment!

Praise Wisdom Who by ignorant men condemned the scribes of the nation!

Glory to Him Who could never be measured by us! Our heart is too small for Him, yea our mind is too feeble. He makes foolish our littleness by the riches of His Wisdom. Glory to Him, Who lowered Himself, and asked; that He might hear and learn that which He knew; that He might by His questions reveal the treasure of His helpful graces!

Let us adore Him Who enlightened with His doctrine our mind, and in our hearing sought a pathway for His words. Praise we Him Who grafted into our tree His Own fruit. Thanks to Him Who sent His Heir, that by Him He might draw us to Himself—yea make us co-heirs with Him! Thanks to that Good One, the cause of all good!

Blessed He Who did not chide us, because His Son was good!

Blessed He Who did not spurn us, because His Son was also just!

Blessed He Who was silent, and rebuked; that by both He make us alive!

Severe His silence and reproachful—mild His severity even when He accuse!

Blessed He Who rebuked the traitor ... and kissed the thief.

Glory to the hidden Husbandman of our intellects! His seed fell on to our ground, and made our mind rich. His increase came an hundredfold into the treasury of our souls! Let us adore Him Who sat down and took rest; and walked in the way, so that the Way was in the way, and the Door also for them that go in, by which they go in to the kingdom.

Blessed be the Shepherd Who became a Lamb for our reconciliation!

Blessed also be the Branch Who became the Cup of our Redemption!

Blessed also be the Cluster, Fount of medicine of life!

Blessed also be the Tiller, Who became Wheat, that He might be sown; and a Sheaf, that He might be cut!

Blessed also be the Architect Who became a Tower and Rampart for our place of safety!

Blessed He Who so tempered the feelings of our mind, that we with our harp should sing that which the winged creatures' mouth knows not with its strains to sing! Glory to Him, Who beheld how we had pleased to be like unto brutes in our rage and our greediness; and Who came down and made Himself one of us, that in Him we might become heavenly!

Glory be to Him, Who never felt the need of our praising Him; yet felt the need as being kind to us, and thirsted as loving us, and asks us to give to Him, and longs to give to us. His fruit was mingled with us men, that in Him we might come nigh to Him, Who condescended to us. By the Fruit of His stem He grafted us into His Tree.

Praise we Him, Who prevailed and quickened us by His stripes!

Praise we Him, Who took away the curse by His thorns!

Praise we Him, Who put death to death by His dying!

Praise we Him, Who held His peace and justified us!

Praise we Him, Who rebuked death that had overcome us!

Glory be to Him Who was baptized, and drowned our iniquity in the deep, and choked him that choked us! Let us glorify with all our mouths the Lord of all creatures!

Blessed be the Physician Who came down and cured wounds without pain, and healed wounds with a medicine that was not harsh. His Son became a Medicine, that shows us sinners mercy.

Blessed be He Who dwelt in the womb, and wrought therein a perfect Temple, that He might dwell in it, a Throne that He might be in it, a Garment that He might be arrayed in it, and a Weapon that He might conquer in it.

Blessed be He Whom our mouth cannot adequately praise, because His Gift is too great for skill of orators *to tell*; neither can the faculties adequately praise His goodness. For praise Him as we may, it is too little. But since it is useless to be silent and to constrain ourselves, may our feebleness excuse such praise as we can sing.

Ocean of glory Who needest not to have Thy glory sung, take in Thy goodness this drop of praise; since by Thy Gift Thou hast supplied my tongue a sense for glorifying Thee.

Amen.