BYZANTINE GREEK SERIES · VOLUME 8

Byzantine Hymns

ΥΜΝΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΩΙΔΑΙ

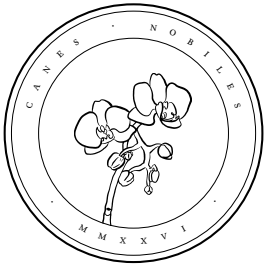
Byzantine Hymns

From Gregory of Nazianzus to Kassia

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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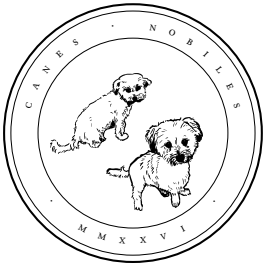

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GREGORY OF NAZIANZUS

ΥΜΝΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΩΙΔΑΙ

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 ἀείδειν,
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 ἄστρων μέγα κάλλος,
because-of whom of-(the)-stars (the)-great beauty

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 ἑκάστῳ,
granting order to-each
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
ὃς ἐφήρμοσεν τὰ πάντα,
who fitted-together the all(-things)
ἵνα πάντων βασιλεύσῃ·
that over-all he-might-reign
περιλαμβάνον δὲ πάντα
embracing and all(-things)
ἅγιον πνεῦμα τὸ θεῖον
holy spirit the divine
προνοούμενον φυλάσσει.
providing guards

ι · Σὲ τὸν ἄφθιτον μονάρχην

Τριάδα ζῶσαν ἐρῶ σε,
Trinity living I-will-call you
ἕνα καὶ μόνον μονάρχην,
one and only sole-ruler
φύσιν ἄτρεπτον, ἄναρχον,
nature unchangeable beginningless
φύσιν οὐσίας ἀφράστου,
nature of-essence ineffable
σοφίας νοῦν ἀνέφικτον,
of-wisdom mind unattainable
κράτος οὐρανῶν ἄπαυστον,
might of-heavens unceasing
ἄτερ ἀρχῆς, ἀπέραντον,
without beginning boundless
ἀκατασκόπητον αὐγήν,
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

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
τὸ συνειδὸς ἐκκαθαίρων
the conscience purifying
ἀπὸ πάσης κακονοίας,
from all evil-mindedness
ἵνα δοξάσω τὸ θεῖον,
that I-may-glorify the divine
ὁσίας χεῖρας ἐπαίρων,
holy hands raising
ἵνα Χριστὸν εὐλογήσω,
that Christ I-may-bless
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, ἵλεως γενοῦ μοι,
Father merciful become to-me
ἔλεον καὶ χάριν εὕρω,
mercy and grace may-I-find
ὅτι δόξα καὶ χάρις σοι
for glory and grace to-you
ἄχρις αἰῶνος ἀμέτρου.
until (the)-age immeasurable

Ὦ πάντων 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.

Ὦ πάντων 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 ῥητός.
how (the)-word will-hymn you you for by-word no speakable
πῶς νόος ἀθρήσει σε; σὺ γὰρ νόῳ οὐδενὶ ληπτός,
how (the)-mind will-gaze-on you you for by-mind no graspable
μοῦνος ἐὼν ἄφραστος, ἐπεὶ τέκες ὅσσα λαλεῖται,
alone being unutterable since you-begot whatever is-spoken
μοῦνος ἐὼν ἄγνωστος, ἐπεὶ τέκες ὅσσα νοεῖται. 5
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 γάρ τε πόθοι, ξυναὶ δ' ὠδῖνες ἁπάντων
common for and longings common and pangs of-all(-things)
ἀμφί 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 ἕνι πάντα μένει· σὺ δ' ἀθρόα πάντα θεάζεις 10
You in all(-things) remain you and together all(-things) make-divine
καὶ πάντων τέλος ἐσσί, καὶ εἷς καὶ πάντα καὶ οὐδείς,
and of-all (the)-end you-are and one and all and none

οὐχ ἓν ἐών, οὐ πάντα· πανώνυμε, πῶς σε καλέσσω,
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 εἴης·
what mind heavenly will-enter merciful may-you-be
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 Christ his first words as a priest's pure sacrifice. 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 ἠέρι 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
ἁγνοτάτου ἱερῆος ἁγνὸν θύος, εἰ θέμις εἰπεῖν,
of-(the)-most-pure priest (a)-pure sacrifice if (it-be)-right to-say
τόνδε λόγον προχέων ἡμετέροιο νόου.
this word pouring-forth of-our mind
Πατροφαὲς μεγάλοιο 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 ἆσθμα νόου,
high-throned heavenly all-powerful breath of-(the)-mind
νωμητὰ κόσμοιο, φερέσβιε, δημιοεργὲ
governor of-(the)-world life-bearing creator
ὄντων, ἐσσομένων· σοὶ γὰρ ἅπαντα πέλει,
of-things-that-are of-things-to-be in-you for all(-things) are
ὃς κόσμοιο θέμεθλα, καὶ ὁππόσα ἐστί, θέλοντος
who of-(the)-world (the)-foundations and whatever is (you)-willing
δησάμενος φορέεις νεύμασιν ἀπλανέως.
having-bound carry with-nods unerringly
Σοὶ μέν, ἄναξ, Φαέθων ὑψίδρομος ἄστρα καλύπτει,
For-you indeed king Phaethon high-running (the)-stars hides
κύκλον ὑπερτέλλων ἔμπυρον, ὡς σὺ νόας.
(his)-circle rising-above fiery as you thought
σοὶ ζώει φθινύθει τε ἀμοιβαδὶς ὄμμα τὸ νυκτός,
for-you lives wastes and in-turn eye the of-night
μήνη πλησιφαὴς αὖθις 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 ἤπια κιρναμέναις.
to-(the)-seasons measures brings gently mingled

ἀπλανέες τε πλάνοι τε παλίμπορον ἀΐσσοντες
fixed both wandering and backward darting
ἀστέρες ἠγαθέης 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
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, βρότεέ τε παλιγγενές, ὕψος ἄσαρκον,
Immortal to-me mortal and reborn height fleshless
ὑστάτιον θνητῶν πήμασι 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
ἣ μούνη κτεάνων λείπετ' ἀφ' ἡμετέρων·
which alone of-possessions remains from our(-things)
σοὶ καὶ γλῶσσαν ἔδησα, καὶ οὔασι 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, ὅσσ' ἐπέοικεν· ἃ δ' οὐ θέμις, οὐδὲ νοήσω.
I-will-utter what befits what but not right not-even I-will-think
ῥεύσω μαργάρεον, βόρβορον ὠσάμενος.
I-will-draw-off pearly mire having-thrust-away
χρυσὸν ἀπὸ ψαμάθοιο, ῥόδον κραναῆς ἀπ' ἀκάνθης,
gold from sand (a)-rose rough from thorn

λέξομ᾽ ἀπ᾽ ἀσταχύων σῖτον, ἀφεὶς καλάμην.
I-will-gather from ears grain having-let-go (the)-straw
Ταῦτά σοι ἡμετέροιο θαλύσια, Χριστέ, πόνοιο
These to-you of-our harvest-offerings Christ toil
γλῶσσ᾽ ἀπερευγομένη πρῶτον ἀνῆψεν 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, 40
woke and of-death (the)-sting scattered
καὶ ζοφεροὺς πυλεῶνας ἀμειδήτου Ἄϊδαο
and gloomy gates of-joyless Hades
ῥήξατο καὶ ψυχαῖς δῶκεν ἐλευθερίην.
burst and to-souls gave freedom
σήμερον ἐκ τύμβοιο θορὼν 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 παλιγγενέες τε καὶ ἐκ θανάτοιο φυγόντες 45
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

σήμερον ἦχον ἔπνευσα μεμυκότα χείλεα σιγῇ
today (a)-sound I-breathed closed lips by-silence
λύσας, ἀλλὰ μ᾽ ἔχεις ὑμνοπόλον κιθάρην.
having-loosed but me you-have (as)-hymn-singing lyre
Νῷ νόον ἔνδον ἔρεξα, λόγῳ λόγον· αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
With-mind mind within I-offered with-word word but then
ῥέξω καὶ μεγάλῳ πνεύματι, ἢν 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
ζήτει 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 ἑλίσσων,
the bezel turning
κρύπτουσαν, εἰ κρύπτοιτο,
hiding if it-were-hidden
φαίνουσαν, 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

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
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 πῖπτον;
of-(the)-moment (the)-insolence falling
ἵν᾽ αὔριον καθεσθῇς
that tomorrow you-may-sit
κάτω βλέπων ταπεινόν,
below looking lowly
ἄλλου τραχηλιῶντος,
another holding-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 ταράσσειν
do-you-long laws to-confound
οὐκ ἐνδίκοις 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 ἀρηΐϊόν τι;
breathing warlike something

καὶ στέμματ᾽ ἐξ ἀγώνων
and crowns from contests
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
μεταρρέουσαν αὔραν,
(a)-passing breeze
ῥοῖζον βέλους ἀνίχνου,
(the)-whir of-(an)-arrow trackless
ψόφον χειρὸς κροτούσης.
(the)-noise of-(a)-hand clapping
τί γὰρ μέγ᾽ εὖ φρονοῦσι
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
ὧν καὶ κακοῖς μέτεστιν,
in-which even evil(-men) have-a-share
ὧν οὐ συνέρχεταί τι
of-which not goes-along anything
ἐντεῦθεν ἐξιοῦσι;
from-here with-(those)-going-out
Τί οὖν, ἐπεὶ τάδ᾽ 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 φαεννός,
(an)-attendant shining
σὺν ἀγγέλοις χορεύων;
with angels dancing
Ἴθι, πρόβαινε ταρσοῖς
Go go-forward with-(the)-pinions
ὀξυπτέρου 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
ὡς εὔπτερόν τιν᾽ ὄρνιν
as well-winged some bird
ἐς 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

ἡ δεσπότις μαγείρῳ,
the mistress to-(a)-cook
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
κἂν πόλλ᾽ ἔχειν βιάζῃ.
even-if much to-have you-force(-me)
Θέλεις τράπεζαν εὔπνουν
Do-you-wish (a)-table sweet-smelling
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
ἁβρῶν κλάσεις τε παίδων
of-delicate bendings and of-boys
κινουμένων ἀνάνδρως,
moving unmanly
καὶ παρθένων ἑλιγμοὺς
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 μαινόλην ἑτοίμως
the frenzied readily
ὑποφλέγοντες οἶνον.
kindling-under wine
Ταῦτ᾽ εἰ θέλεις παρ᾽ ἡμῶν,
These if you-wish from us
ἔχοις 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
οἰκός σε πέτρινός τις
(a)-house you of-stone some
αὐτώροφος καλύπτοι,
self-roofed may-cover
ἢ μικρὸν ἔργον ὥρας,
or (a)-small work of-(an)-hour
εἰ δεῖ τι καὶ πονῆσαι·
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

ἢ καὶ δέρος, παλαιᾶς
or even (a)-hide of-old
γυμνώσεως κάλυμμα.
nakedness (a)-covering
στιβὰς μὲν ἡ τυχοῦσα,
(the)-bed indeed the chance(-one)
πόαι, κλάδοι τετάσθων
grasses branches let-be-spread
ἅπλωμα 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
ἃ γῆ φίλη 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
ἔχ' ἄλφιτ', εἰ παρείη·
have barley if it-be-at-hand
ἅλες δέ σοι τὸ πέμμα,
salt and for-you the cake

θύμόν θ' ὃν οὐ μετροῦμεν
thyme and which not we-measure
ἀπραγμάτευτον ὄψον·
unbought relish
ἔνδεια δ' ἄλλο μεῖζον.
want and other greater
θέλεις πιεῖν; βρύει σοι
do-you-wish to-drink gushes for-you
ὕδωρ, κρατὴρ ἀείρρους,
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 φθονείσθω.
nor sour-wine let-be-grudged
Ἀλλ' οὐ τάδ' ἀρκέσει σοι,
But not these will-suffice you
τετρημένῳ ποθεῖς δὲ
into-(a)-pierced you-long and
πίθῳ κακῶς ἐπαντλεῖν
jar evilly to-pour
τὰς ἡδονὰς ἀπλήστως.
the pleasures insatiably
ἄλλον πόθει πoριστήν·
another long-for provider

ἐμοὶ γὰρ οὐ σχολή σε
for-me for not (is)-leisure you
θάλπειν σύνοικον ἐχθρόν,
to-warm (a)-house-mate enemy
ἵν' ὡς ὄφις κρυμωθείς,
that like (a)-serpent frozen
θέρμῃ δ' ἔπειτα λυθεὶς
by-heat and then loosed
ἐγκόλπιός με τρώσῃς.
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
πλακός τε λάμψιν ἁβρᾶς
of-slab and (the)-gleam delicate
ἀντίχροον, πολύχρουν;
of-contrasting-color many-colored
θέλεις περιρρέουσαν
do-you-wish flowing-around
ἐσθῆτα 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 εἴσω;
for-whom beauty is within
Τοῖς μὲν κάτω δὴ ταῦτα,
To-those indeed below indeed these(-things)
ὑμῖν βροτοῖσι φάσκω,
to-you mortals I-say
οἳ 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
οἵαν τροφὴν χορηγῶ.
what food I-supply

Δίελθέ μοι φλογώδη
Pass-through for-me (the)-flaming
ῥομφαίαν, ὦ θεόφρον·
sword O God-minded(-one)
θείων γενοῦ γεωργὸς
of-divine become (a)-husbandman
φυτῶν, λόγων θαλλόντων,
plants of-words flourishing
ὧν μ' ἐστέρησεν ἐχθρός,
of-which me deprived (the)-enemy
δι' ἡδονῆς συλήσας.
through pleasure having-despoiled
ξύλῳ πάλιν πρόσελθε
to-(the)-tree again come
ζωῆς ἀεὶ μενούσης·
of-life ever remaining
ἡ δ' ἐστίν, ὡς ἀνεῦρον,
it and is as I-found
γνῶσις θεοῦ μεγίστου,
(the)-knowledge of-God greatest
φάους ἑνὸς τριλαμποῦς,
of-light one three-shining
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 λαλῆσαι,
who but not wishes to-speak

μάτην βίον παρῆλθεν·
in-vain (his)-life passed-by
εἴπερ μάτην παρῆλθε, 180
if-indeed in-vain passed-by
μὴ σὺν κακῷ μεγίστῳ.
not with evil greatest

Ὄρθριος δίδωμι τῷ θεῷ μου δεξιάς

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.

Ὄρθριος δίδωμι τῷ θεῷ μου δεξιάς,
At-dawn I-give — to-God my right-hands
μηδὲν σκοτῶδες ἢ δράσειν ἢ αἰνέσειν,
nothing dark either to-do or to-approve
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς μάλιστά σοι θύσειν τὴν ἡμέραν,
but as most to-you to-sacrifice the day
μένων ἄσειστος καὶ παθῶν αὐτοκράτωρ·
remaining unshaken and of-passions sole-master
αἰσχύνομαι τὸ γῆρας, ἂν κάκιστος ὦ, 5
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)

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-hallowed
Οὐ πάντα φωτεινόν με νὺξ ἐδέξατο·
Not all luminous me night received
ἦ μὴν προσηυξάμην τε καὶ τοῦτ᾽ ᾠόμην,
truly indeed I-prayed both and this I-thought
ἀλλ᾽ ἔστιν οὗ 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
Λάμποις 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
τριττοῦ 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

ἵν᾽ ἐν φωτὶ τὰ πάντα
that in light the all(-things)
καὶ τὴν ἄστατον ὕλην
and the unstable matter
στήσῃς, 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
λαμπρότητος τῆς ἄνω
of-(the)-brightness of-the above
καὶ κάτω θεὶς εἰκόνα,
also below having-set (an)-image
ἵνα φωτὶ βλέπῃ φῶς
that by-light it-may-see light
καὶ γένηται φῶς ὅλον.
and may-become light wholly
σὺ οὐρανὸν φωστῆρσιν
you heaven with-luminaries
κατηύγασας ποικίλοις·
lit-up varied

σὺ νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν
you night and day
ἀλλήλαις εἴκειν 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’ ἤγειρας εἰς ἔργον
with-the(-other) and you-roused to work
καὶ πράξεις τάς σοι φίλας.
and deeds the(-ones) to-you dear

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 σαυτὴν
always cleanse yourself

ἐν λόγῳ καὶ σοφίᾳ,
in word and wisdom

ἵνα λαμπρὰ τῷ λαμπρῷ
that bright with-the bright(-one)

συζήσῃς 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 νοερὰς
In (the)-body the intellective
δυνάμεις ἐμιμήσω,
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' ἑκάστη μονὰς
above but each unity
οὔποτε λυομένη,
never being-loosed
οἳ 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 μῖξιν ἐξεῦρεν
matter but mingling found
ἀεὶ ῥέουσα φύσις,
ever flowing nature
ᾗ 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

ὡς νοῦς ἁρμόζεται νοΐ
as mind is-joined to-mind

τὴν θείαν ἁρμονίαν·
the divine harmony

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

ἵν' 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

Αἰνείσθω 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
ἁγνεία δὲ λαμπρότης·
chastity but brightness
γάμος πατὴρ ἁγίων,
marriage father of-saints
ἁγνεία 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
ῥίζα 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
ὡς ἔτι νηπιώδης.
as still childish
Ὅτε δ᾽ ὑπεξῆλθε 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 ἁγνεία
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, παρθένε,
Well you-travel virgin
εἰς ὄρος ἀποσώζου·
to (the)-mountain save-yourself
μὴ πρὸς Σόδομα βλέψῃς,
not to Sodom look

μὴ στήλῃ παγῇς ἁλός·
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 θαρρήσῃς ἄγαν,
nor be-confident excessively
ὥστε ποτ' ἐκλυθῆναι.
so-as ever to-be-relaxed
Σπινθὴρ 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 θεὸν
love whole toward God
γνησίως τεταμένος,
genuinely stretched

πάντα κοιμίζων πόθον
all lulling longing
ἀλλότριον τῶν ἄνω.
foreign to-the(-things) above
Ὁ πίπτων ἐγειρέσθω,
The(-one) falling let-him-be-raised
ὁ ναναγῶν ἐλεείσθω·
the(-one) shipwrecked let-him-be-pitied
σὺ δ' εὐπλόει τὸ ἱστίον
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 πτερορρυοῦσιν,
Few lose-their-wings
οἱ πλεῖστοι 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' ἕνδεκα λαμπτῆρες.
the but eleven lamps

Μόνον ὅλως σεαυτὴν
Only wholly yourself
ἁγνὴν τήρει, παρθένε,
pure keep virgin
μή πως σπιλώσῃς Χριστοῦ
not perhaps you-stain of-Christ
τὸν ἄσπιλον χιτῶνα.
the spotless tunic
Ὅμμα σοι σωφρονείτω,
(The)-eye for-you let-be-chaste
γλῶσσα παρθενευέτω·
(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 στολήν σου,
The squalid robe your
καὶ τὴν αὐχμηρὰν 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 ἡ αἰδὼς
Fair flower (is)-the modesty
καὶ μέγας κόσμος ὠχρότης·
and great adornment pallor

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 αἰσχρῶν
(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 πλεῖστον·
let-be-deadened for-you the most
κάλλος δὲ λάμπρυνε ψυχῆς
(the)-beauty but brighten of-(the)-soul
ἐκ θεοῦ κοσμουμένης.
by God adorned
Ὄψιν 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
διδότω παρρησίαν·
let-give boldness
μηδέν σοι καὶ τῇ γεύσει
nothing for-you and to-the tasting
ξύλου τοῦ κατακρίτου,
of-(the)-tree the condemned
μή σε ξύλου τῆς ζωῆς
not you from-(the)-tree of-the life
ὁ ὄφις ἔξω βάλῃ.
the serpent out may-cast
Καὶ τοῦτο πείθου, παρθένε,
And this be-persuaded virgin
μὴ συνοίκει προστάτῃ,
not live-with (a)-protector
Χριστὸν ἔχουσα νυμφίον·
Christ having (as)-bridegroom
ζηλοῖ σου τὴν ἁγνείαν.
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
ἁπλότητα χωροῦσιν·
simplicity contain

ὡς 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
ὅσον κακὸν ὠδῖνες
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
ἐκθρέψαι 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 πεῖραν 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 μή ποθ' ἕνεκα
of-which not ever for-the-sake

μηδὲν τῶν αἰσχρῶν ὑπομείνῃς.
nothing of-the shameful(-things) may-you-endure

Οὐ χείρων εἶ πετεινῶν
Not worse are-you than-birds

σχεδίως τρεφομένων·
offband fed

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
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
σὺ 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 ἁγίων γελῶσα,
of-the holies laughing
καὶ σὺν ἀγγέλοις χορεύσεις 95
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

ἴδητε καὶ μιγῆτε
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 Τηΐαν ἀοιδάν,
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
ἁπαλαῖς οὐκ ἐπὶ νύμφαις
tender not for brides
ἀφροδίσιον γελώσαις,
lovingly laughing
θαλερῶν οὐδ᾽ ἐπὶ κούρων
of-blooming nor for youths
πολυηράτοισιν ἥβαις·
lovely (the)-primes

θεοκύμονος γὰρ ἁγνὰ
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
honeyed and bids (the)-folly
χθονίων φυγεῖν ἐρώτων.
of-earthly to-flee loves
τί γὰρ ἀλκά, τί δὲ κάλλος,
what for (is)-strength what and beauty
τί δὲ χρυσός, τί δὲ φάμα,
what and gold what and fame
βασιλήϊοί τε τιμαὶ
royal and honors
παρὰ τὰς θεοῦ μερίμνας;
beside the of-God cares
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-possessions golden wealth

ἑτέρῳ δ’ ἄγαλμα χαίτη
for-another and (a)-delight (his)-hair
καταειμένη τενόντων,
hanging-down-over (his)-sinews
πολύυμνος δέ τις εἴη
much-hymned and some(-one) may-be
παρὰ κούροις, παρὰ κούραις
among youths among maidens
ἀμαρύγμασιν προσώπων·
for-(the)-flashings of-(his)-face
ἐμὲ δ’ ἀψόφητον εἴη
me but noiselessly may-it-be
βιοτὰν ἄσημον ἕλκειν,
(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 γῆρας ἕλκειν,
good and old-age to-draw
ἀγαθὰ δ’ ἄνασσα πλούτου·
good and queen of-wealth

πενίαν δ' ἄμοχθος οἴσει
poverty and untroubled will-bear
σοφία γελῶσα πικραῖς
wisdom laughing by-bitter
ἄβατον βίου μερίμναις.
untrodden of-life cares
μόνον εἰ τόσον παρείη,
only if so-much may-be-present
ὅσον ἄρκιον καλιῆς
as-much-as (is)-sufficient of-(my)-hut
ἀπὸ γειτόνων ἐρύκειν,
from neighbors to-keep
ἵνα μὴ χρεώ με κάμπτοι
that not need me may-bend
ἐπὶ φροντίδας μελαίνας.
to cares black
κλύε καὶ τέττιγος ὠδὰν
hear and of-(the)-cicada (the)-song
δρόσον ὀρθρίαν πιόντος.
dew morning having-drunk
Ἴδε μοι βοῶσι νευραὶ
See for-me cry (the)-strings
ἀκέλευστα, καί τις ὀμφὴ
unbidden and some voice
περί τ' ἀμφί τέ με ποτᾶται.
around both about and me flies
τί ποτ' ἆρα τέξεταί μοι
what ever is-it will-bear for-me
μέλος ἁ θέσκελος ὠδίς;
(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 κύδεϊ γαίων
in-indissoluble glory exulting
θεὸς ἔμπεδος θαάσσει,
God steadfast sits
ἑνοτήτων ἑνὰς ἁγνή,
of-unities unity pure
μονάδων μονάς τε πρώτη,
of-monads monad and first
ἁπλότητας ἀκροτήτων
(the)-simplicities of-summits
ἑνόωσα καὶ τεκοῦσα
uniting and having-borne
ὑπερουσίοις 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

ὑπερούσιος δὲ παγὰ
super-essential and spring
στέφεται κάλλεϊ παίδων
is-crowned with-(the)-beauty of-children
ἀπὸ κέντρου τε θορόντων,
from (the)-center and having-leapt
περὶ κέντρον τε ῥυέντων.
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
τὰ δ' ἄνω σιγὰ καλύπτει,
the(-things) but above silence covers
ὁ δὲ νοῦς οἴοισιν ἤδη
the and mind with-alone already
μέλεται νοεροῖσι κόσμοις·
is-concerned intellective worlds
ἀγαθὰ γὰρ ἔνθεν ἤδη
good(-things) for thence already
βροτέου πνεύματος ἀρχὰ
of-mortal spirit (the)-beginning
ἀμερίστως ἐμερίσθη,
undividedly was-divided

ὁ καταιβάτας ἐς ὕλαν
the(-one) descending into matter
νόος ἄφθιτος, τοκήων
mind imperishable of-(the)-parents
θεοκοιράνων ἀπορρώξ,
of-God-rulers (a)-fragment
ὀλίγα μέν, ἀλλ᾽ ἐκείνων.
little indeed but of-those
ὅλος οὗτος εἷς τε πάντῃ,
whole this(-one) one and everywhere
ὅλος εἰς ὅλον δεδυκώς,
whole into whole having-entered
κύτος οὐρανῶν ἑλίσσει·
(the)-vault of-heavens whirls
τὸ δ᾽ ὅλον τοῦτο φυλάσσων
the and whole this guarding
νενεμημέναισι μορφαῖς
in-distributed forms
μεμερισμένος παρέστη,
divided stood-by
ὁ μὲν ἀστέρων διφρείαις,
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 εὕρετο μορφάν·
earthly found form

ἀπὸ δὲ σταθεὶς τοκήων
apart and having-stood from-(the)-parents
δνοφερὰν ἤρυσε λάθαν,
dark drew forgetfulness
ἀλαωποῖσι μερίμναις
with-blind cares
χθόνα θαυμάσας ἀτερπῆ
(the)-earth having-admired joyless
θεὸς ἐς θνητὰ δεδορκώς.
(a)-god into mortal(-things) having-gazed
Ἔνι 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
βιοτησίων ἀκηδεῖς
of-life free-of-care
ἁγίας ἔστειλαν οἴμους
holy 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 ἅλματι κούφῳ
having-emerged with-(a)-leap light
ἴχνος 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
χθονογηθεῖς μελεδῶνας
earth-delighting cares
ἐπιβὰς νόου κελεύθων
having-trodden of-mind (the)-paths
βυθὸν εἶδεν θεολαμπῆ.
(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 ὁρμὰν
only make-steadfast (the)-impulse
νοερηφόροισιν ὁρμαῖς·
with-mind-bearing impulses

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
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, πιοῖσα
Come for-me soul having-drunk
ἀγαθορρύτοιο παγᾶς,
of-(the)-good-flowing spring
ἱκετεύσασα τοκῆα
having-supplicated (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 ἀώς

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 threefold form, 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 ἀώς,
Again light again dawn
πάλιν ἁμέρα προλάμπει
again day shines-forth
μετὰ νυκτίφοιτον ὄρφναν·
after night-roaming darkness
πάλι μοι λίγαινε, θυμέ,
again for-me sing heart
θεὸν ὀρθρίοισιν ὕμνοις,
God with-dawn hymns
ὃς ἔδωκε φέγγος ἀοῖ,
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
ἐκάλυψε νῶτον αἰθὴρ
covered (the)-back (the)-ether
πυρὸς ἐμβεβὼς ἀώτῳ,
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
ἑλίκων 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
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 ῥίζα
One spring one root
τριφαὴς ἔλαμψε μορφά·
three-shining shone form
ἵνα γὰρ βυθὸς πατρῷος,
where for (the)-depth paternal
τόθι καὶ κύδιμος υἱός,
there also (the)-glorious son
κραδιαῖόν τι λόχευμα,
of-(the)-heart some offspring
σοφία κοσμοτεχνῖτις·
wisdom world-crafting
ἑνοτήσιόν τε φέγγος
unifying and light
ἁγίας ἔλαμψε πνοιᾶς.
of-holy shone breath
μία παγά, μία ῥίζα
one spring one root
ἀγαθῶν ἀνέσχεν ὄλβον
of-good(-things) sent-up (the)-wealth
ὑπερούσιόν τε βλάσταν
super-essential and shoot
γονίμοις ζέοισαν ὁρμαῖς·
with-fertile seething impulses

τά τ᾽ ἐνουσίων προλάμπει
the and of-essential shine-forth
μακάρων ἀγητὰ φέγγη.
of-(the)-blessed admired lights
ὅθεν ἐγκόσμιος ἤδη
whence in-the-world already
χορὸς ἀφθίτων ἀνάκτων
(the)-choir of-immortal kings
γενετήριόν τε κῦδος
generative and glory
τό τε πρωτόσπορον εἶδος
the and first-sown form
νοεροῖς ἔμελψεν ὕμνοις·
with-intellective sang hymns
πέλας εὐμενῶν τοκήων
near kindly parents
στρατὸς ἀγγέλων ἀγήρως
(the)-host of-angels ageless
τὰ μὲν ἐς νόον δεδορκὼς
the(-things) indeed toward mind having-gazed
δρέπεται κάλλεος ἀρχάν,
plucks of-beauty (the)-beginning
τὰ δ᾽ ἐς ἄντυγας δεδορκὼς
the(-things) and toward (the)-rims having-gazed
διέπει βένθεα κόσμου,
governs (the)-depths of-(the)-world
τὸν ὕπερθε κόσμον ἕλκων
the above world drawing
νεάτας καὶ μέχρις ὕλας,
to-(the)-lowest even as-far-as matter

ἵνα δαιμόνων ὅμιλον
where of-daemons (the)-throng
φύσις ἱζάνοισα τίκτει
nature settling bears
πολύθρουν καὶ πολυμήταν·
many-voiced and many-wiled
ὅθεν ἥρως, ὅθεν ἤδη
whence (the)-hero whence already
περὶ γᾶν σπαρεῖσα πνοιὰ
around earth sown breath
χθονὸς ἐζώωσε μοίρας
of-earth animated (the)-portions
πολυδαιδάλοισι μορφαῖς·
with-many-wrought forms
τὰ δὲ πάντα σεῖο βουλᾶς
the(-things) and all of-your counsel
ἔχεται· σὺ δ' ἐσσὶ ῥίζα
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' ἐσσὶ 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

σὺ δ' ἄναξ, αἰῶνος αἰών.
you and king of-age age
τὸ μὲν ᾗ θέμις βοᾶσαι·
the(-things) indeed as (is)-right to-cry
μέγα χαῖρε, ῥίζα κόσμου,
greatly rejoice root of-(the)-world
μέγα χαῖρε, κέντρον ὄντων,
greatly rejoice center of-things-that-are
μονὰς ἀμβρότων ἀριθμῶν
monad of-immortal numbers
προανουσίων ἀνάκτων.
of-pre-essential kings
μέγα χαίροις, μέγα χαίροις,
greatly may-you-rejoice greatly may-you-rejoice
ὅτι πὰρ θεῷ τὸ χαίρειν·
for beside God the to-rejoice
ἐπ' ἐμοῖς ἵλαον οὖας
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
βιοτᾶς γαληνιώσας,
of-life calm

πενίαν ἐκτὸς ἐλαύνων
poverty out driving
χθονίαν τε κῆρα πλούτου·
earthly and (the)-doom of-wealth
μελέων ἔρυκε νούσους,
from-(my)-limbs keep-away diseases
παθέων δ' ἄκοσμον ὁρμὰν
of-passions and (the)-disorderly impulse
φρενοκηδεῖς τε μερίμνας
mind-troubling and cares
ἀπό μοι ζωᾶς ἐρύκοις,
from me of-life may-you-keep-away
ἵνα μὴ τὸ νοῦ πτέρωμα
that not the of-mind wing
ἐπιβρίσῃ χθονὸς ἄτα·
weigh-down of-earth (the)-folly
ἄνετον δὲ ταρσὸν αἴρων
free but (the)-wing raising
περὶ σᾶς ὄργια βλάστας
around of-your rites of-offspring
τὰ πανάρρητα χορεύσω.
the all-ineffable I-may-dance

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)
ὑληγενέας
matter-born
εὔνασον οἴστρους·
lull frenzies
θώρησσε δὲ νοῦ
arm and of-mind
ζαμενεῖς ὁρμάς.
(the)-ardent impulses
Βασιλῆϊ θεῶν
For-(the)-king of-gods
πλέκομεν στέφανον,
we-weave (a)-crown
θῦμ' ἀναίμακτον,
(a)-sacrifice bloodless

ἐπέων λοιβάς.
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

ἐπί 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 κόσμου.
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

σοὶ δ' ἀῴους,
to-you and dawn
σοὶ δ' ἑσπερίους
to-you and evening
ὕμνους ἀνάγω.
hymns I-offer
ἴστορες αὐγαὶ
witnesses (are)-(the)-rays
πολιῶν ἄστρων
of-gray stars
μάνας τε δρόμοι·
of-(the)-moon and courses
καὶ μέγας ἴστωρ
and great witness
ἅλιος ἁγνῶν
(the)-sun of-holy
ἄστρων πρύτανις,
stars presiding
ὁσίαν ψυχᾶν
of-holy souls
ἅγιος ταμίας.
holy steward
Ἐπὶ σὰς αὐλάς,
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 ἱκόμαν,
porch I-reached
νῦν ἐπὶ σεμνᾶς
now to (the)-august
τελετηφορίας
initiation
σηκοὺς ἁγίους
precincts holy
ἱκέτας ἔμολον·
(as)-suppliant I-came
νῦν ἐπὶ κλεινῶν
now to famous
κορυφὰν ὀρέων
peaks of-mountains
ἱκέτας ἔμολον·
(as)-suppliant I-came

νῦν ἐς ἐρήμας
now to of-desert
αὐλῶνα μέγαν
(the)-valley great
Λιβύας ἔμολον,
of-Libya I-came
πέζαν νοτίαν·
border southern
τὰν οὔτ' ἄθεον
which neither godless
πνεῦμα μολύνει,
breath defiles
οὔτε χαράσσει
nor stamps
ἴχνος ἀνθρώπων
(the)-track of-men
ἀστυμερίμνων·
city-careworn
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
θυμῶν, ἐρίδων,
from-angers from-strifes

ὅσα κηριτρεφῆ
as-many-as death-nurturing
ἀποσεισαμένα
having-shaken-off
καθαρᾷ γλώσσᾳ
with-pure tongue
γνώμῃ θ' ὁσίᾳ
with-mind and holy
τὸν ὀφειλόμενον
the owed
ὕμνον ἀποίσῃ.
hymn may-render
Εὐφαμείτω
Let-keep-holy-silence
αἰθὴρ καὶ γᾶ·
ether and earth
στάτω πόντος,
let-stand (the)-sea
στάτω δ' ἀήρ·
let-stand and (the)-air
λήγετε πνοιαὶ
cease blasts
βαλίων ἀνέμων,
of-swift winds
λήγετε ῥιπαὶ
cease rushes
γυρῶν ῥοθίων,
of-curving surges
ποταμῶν προχοαί,
of-rivers (the)-outpourings

κραναὰι λιβάδες.
rugged springs
ἐχέτω σιγὰ
let-hold silence
κόσμου λαγόνας,
of-(the)-world (the)-flanks
ἱερευομένων
being-offered
ἁγίων 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 ὄφις,
also (the)-winged serpent
δαίμων ὕλας,
(the)-daemon of-matter
νεφέλα ψυχᾶς,
cloud of-(the)-soul
εἰδωλοχαρής,
idol-delighting
εὐχαῖς σκύλακας
at-prayers (his)-whelps
ἐπιθωΰσσων.
setting-on
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
ἁ 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
ferrymen wise
ἁγίων ὕμνων.
of-holy hymns
Ἤδη φέρομαι
Already I-am-borne
ἐπὶ βαλβίδας
to (the)-starting-lines
ἱερῶν ἐπέων·
of-holy words

ἤδη καναχεῖ
already resounds
ὀμφὰ περὶ νοῦν.
(a)-voice around (my)-mind
Μάκαρ, ἵλαθί μοι,
Blessed(-one) be-gracious to-me
πάτερ, ἵλαθί μοι,
father be-gracious to-me
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
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
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 ἐρείδει
form it-fixes
ὄμματος ὁλκάν·
of-(the)-eye (the)-pull

ὅθεν αἰνύμενος

whence taking

ἐπὶ σοὺς ὕμνους

to your hymns

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

πατέρων πάντων

of-fathers all

πάτερ, αὐτοπάτωρ,

father self-father

προπάτωρ, ἀπάτωρ,

forefather fatherless

υἱὲ σεαυτοῦ,

son of-yourself

ἓν ἑνὸς πρότερον,

one than-one prior

ὄντων σπέρμα,

of-things-that-are seed

πάντων κέντρον,

of-all center

προανούσιε νοῦ,

pre-essential mind

κόσμων ῥίζα
of-worlds root
τῶν ἀρχεγόνων,
of-the primal(-things)
ἀμφιφαὲς φῶς,
all-around-shining light
ἀτρέκεια σοφά,
truth wise
παγὰ σοφίας,
spring of-wisdom
κεκαλυμμένε νοῦ
veiled mind
ἰδίαις αὐγαῖς,
with-your-own rays
ὄμμα σεαυτοῦ
eye of-yourself
πρηστηροκράτορ,
lightning-ruler
αἰωνοτόκε,
age-begetter
αἰωνόβιε,
age-living
ἐπέκεινα θεῶν,
beyond gods
ἐπέκεινα νόων·
beyond minds
θάτερα νωμῶν,
the-other-things governing
νοερητόκε νοῦ,
intellect-begetting mind

ὀχετηγὲ θεῶν,
channeler of-gods
πνευματοεργὲ
spirit-maker
καὶ ψυχοτρόφε·
and soul-nourisher
παγὰ παγῶν,
spring of-springs
ἀρχῶν ἀρχά,
of-beginnings beginning
ῥιζῶν ῥίζα·
of-roots root
μονὰς εἶ μονάδων,
monad you-are of-monads
ἀριθμῶν ἀριθμός,
of-numbers number
μονὰς ἠδ' ἀριθμός,
monad and number
νοῦς καὶ νοερὸς
mind and intellective
καὶ τὸ νοητὸν
and the intelligible
καὶ πρὸ νοητοῦ·
and before (the)-intelligible
ἓν καὶ πάντα,
one and all
ἓν διὰ πάντων,
one through all
ἕν τε πρὸ πάντων,
one and before all

σπέρμα τὸ πάντων,
seed the(-one) of-all
ῥίζα καὶ ὄρπαξ,
root and shoot
φύσις ἐν νοεροῖς,
nature in intellective(-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 ἔφυς,
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

φῶς κρυπτόμενον
light hidden
ἰδίαις αὐγαῖς·
with-your-own rays
ἓν καὶ πάντα
one and all
ἓν καθ' ἑαυτὸ
one by itself
καὶ δι' ἁπάντων·
and through all
σὺ γὰρ ἐξεχύθης,
you for were-poured-out
ἀρρητοτόκε,
ineffably-begetting(-one)
ἵνα παῖδα τέκῃς
that (a)-child you-might-bear
κλεινὰν σοφίαν
glorious wisdom
δημιοεργόν·
creative
προχυθεὶς δὲ μένεις
poured-forth and you-remain
ἀτόμοισι τομαῖς
with-indivisible divisions
μαιευόμενος.
being-delivered
Ὑμνῶ σε, μονάς,
I-hymn you monad
ὑμνῶ σε, τριάς·
I-hymn you triad

μονὰς εἶ τριὰς ὤν,
monad you-are triad being
τριὰς εἶ μονὰς ὤν·
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
ἰότατι σοφᾷ,
by-will wise
αὐτὰ δ' ἰότας
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

Ὠδὶς ἱερά,
Travail holy
ἄρρητε γονά,
ineffable offspring
ὅρος εἶ φυσίων
(the)-boundary you-are of-natures
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
οὐ καταχυθέν.
not poured-down
Ἄφθεγκτε γόνε
Unutterable offspring
πατρὸς ἀφθέγκτου,
of-(the)-father unutterable
ὠδὶς διὰ σέ,
travail because-of you
διὰ δ' ὠδῖνος
through and travail
αὐτὸς ἐφάνθης,
yourself you-appeared

ἅμα πατρὶ φανεὶς
together with-(the)-father having-appeared
ἰότατι πατρός·
by-(the)-will of-(the)-father
ἰότας σὺ δ' ἀεὶ
will you and always
παρὰ σεῖο πατρί·
beside your father
οὐδ' ὁ βαθύρρους 245
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 ἐδάη· 250
birth not learned
ἅμα 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; 255
awarded (the)-daring

ἀλαῶν μερόπων
of-blind mortals
δαιδαλογλώσσων
cunning-tongued
ἄθεοι τόλμαι·
godless darings
σὺ δὲ φωτοδότας
you but light-giver
φωτὸς νοεροῦ·
of-light intellective
σκολιᾶς δ' ἀπάτας
of-crooked and deceit
ἀνέχεις ὁσίων
hold-back of-holy
πραπίδας μερόπων
(the)-hearts of-mortals
ἐς ζόφον ὕλας
into (the)-gloom of-matter
μὴ καταδῦναι.
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 intellective(-ones)
μέλπουσιν, ἄναξ,
sing king
σὲ δὲ κοσμαγοὶ
you and world-leading
ὀμματολαμπεῖς
eye-shining
νόες ἀστέριοι
minds starry

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

προχέει σειρὰ
pours-forth chain
τό τε κυδῆεν
the and glorious
γένος ἡρώων,
race of-heroes
ἔργα τὰ θνητῶν
(the)-works the(-ones) of-mortals
κρυφίαισιν ὁδοῖς
by-hidden ways
διανισσόμενον,
going-through
[ἔργα βρότεια]
works mortal
ψυχά τ' ἀκλινὴς
soul and unswerving
καὶ κλινομένα
and swerving
ἐς μελαναυγεῖς
into dark-gleaming
χθονίους ὄγκους.
earthly masses
Σὲ μάκαιρα φύσις
You blessed nature
φύσεώς τε γονά,
of-nature and offspring
μάκαρ, ὑμνέει,
blessed(-one) hymns
τὰς ζειδώροις
which with-life-giving

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

μάτειρα φύσις
mother nature
ἰδίαις χροίαις,
with-own colors
ἰδίοις ἔργοις
with-own works
δαιδαλλομένων,
of-(things)-wrought
ἐκ δὲ ζώων
from and animals
ἑτεροφθόγγων
different-voiced
μίαν ἁρμονίαν
one harmony
ὁμόφωνον ἄγει.
of-one-voice leads
σοὶ πάντα φέρει
to-you all brings
αἶνον ἀγήρων,
praise ageless
ἀὼς καὶ νύξ,
dawn and night
στεροπαί, νιφάδες,
lightnings snowflakes
οὐρανὸς αἴθων
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
ῥίζαι, 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
ὁσίαις εὐχαῖς
with-holy prayers

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

Νῦν μοι κραδία
Now for-me (the)-heart

τοῖς σοῖς ὕμνοις
by-the your hymns

πιαινομένα
fattened

ἐθόωσε νόον
sharpened (my)-mind

πυρίαις ὁρμαῖς·
with-fiery impulses

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 δῦναι
no-longer to-sink

ἐς χθονὸς ἄταν.
into of-earth (the)-folly

ὄφρα δὲ ζωᾶς
while and of-life

ὑλοδιαίτου
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 λυγραῖς
with-cares mournful

δάπτοισα βίον,
devouring (my)-life

ἵνα μὴ τὰ θεοῦ
that not the(-things) of-God

ἄσχολος εἴην,
unoccupied-with I-may-be

μηδ' ἔτι τοίοις
nor any-more in-such(-things)

ἐναλινδοίμαν,
may-I-wallow

ὅθεν ἐκπροφυγὼν
whence having-fled-forth

δώροισι 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
αἶνον, ἀχράντων
praise of-spotless
ἡγέτα κόσμων,
leader worlds
καὶ παιδὶ σοφῷ,
and to-(the)-child wise
αὐτᾷ σοφίᾳ,
very wisdom
τὸν ἀπ᾽ ἀρρήτων
whom from ineffable
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
ἐφέπῃ πνοιαῖς,
he-may-direct breaths

διέπῃ πολιῶν
may-govern of-gray
βάθος αἰώνων,
(the)-depth ages
διέπῃ ταρσοὺς
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
ὁσίαις πραπίσιν
with-holy hearts
ἐλλαμπόμενος,
shining-in
λύῃ δὲ πόνους
may-loose and toils
ἠδὲ μερίμνας
and cares
διερῶν μερόπων,
of-living mortals
ἀγαθῶν κράντωρ,
of-good(-things) accomplisher
ἐλατὴρ ἀχέων.
driver-away of-griefs
τί δὲ θαῦμα, θεὸν
what and wonder God

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

ᾤκησα γύαν
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-wept
ὤμοισι φέρων
on-(my)-shoulders bearing
ματέρα πάτραν.
(my)-mother fatherland
ῥαίνετο μὲν γᾶ
was-sprinkled indeed (the)-earth
ἱδρῶτι μελῶν
with-(the)-sweat of-limbs
ἀεθλευόντων
contending
ἆμαρ ἐπ᾽ ἆμαρ·
day upon day
ῥαίνετο δ᾽ εὐνὰ
was-sprinkled and (the)-bed
κανθῶν λιβάσιν
of-eyes with-drops
ὀλοφυρομένων
lamenting

νύκτ᾽ ἐπὶ νύκτα.
night upon night
νηοὶ δ᾽ ὁπόσοι
temples and as-many-as
δέδμηντο, ἄναξ,
were-built king
ἐπὶ σαῖς ἁγίαις
for your holy
τελετηφορίαις,
rites-of-initiation
ἐπὶ πάντας ἔβαν,
to all I-went
πρηνὴς ἱκέτας
prostrate (a)-suppliant
δάπεδον βλεφάρων
(the)-floor of-(my)-eyelids
δεύων νοτίσι,
wetting with-(the)-moisture
μή μοι κενεὰν
not to-me empty
ὁδὸν ἀντᾶσαι·
(the)-way to-meet
ἱκέτευσα θεοὺς
I-besought (the)-gods
δρηστῆρας, ὅσοι
ministers as-many-as
γονόεν Θρήκης
fertile of-Thrace
κατέχουσι πέδον,
hold (the)-plain

οἵ τ' ἀντιπέρην
those and opposite
Καλχηδονίας
of-Chalcedon
ἐφέπουσι γύας, 465
direct (the)-fields
οὓς ἀγγελικαῖς
whom with-angelic
ἔστεψας, ἄναξ,
you-crowned king
αὐγαῖσι, τεοὺς
rays your
ἱεροὺς προπόλους.
holy ministers
σύν μοι μάκαρες 470
with me (the)-blessed(-ones)
ἐλάβοντο λιτᾶν,
took-part in-prayers
σύν μοι πολέων
with me many
ἐλάβοντο πόνων.
took-part in-toils
οὔ μοι ζωὰ
not for-me (my)-life
τᾶμος δὲ φίλα 475
then and dear
διὰ γᾶν πατρίαν
through land paternal
στυφελιζομέναν,
being-harshly-treated

τὰν ἐξ ἀχέων
which from griefs
ἔστασας, ἄναξ,
you-set king
αὐτὸς ἀγήρως,
yourself ageless
κοίρανε κόσμου.
lord of-(the)-world
ἤδη ψυχᾶς
already of-(my)-soul
ἀποτρυομένας,
worn-out
ἤδη μελέων
already of-limbs
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
καμάτων δὲ γλυκὺ
of-labors and sweet
εὗρεο 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
διά τε ψυχὰν
because-of and (the)-soul
αἰνὰ παθοῖσαν·
dreadful(-things) having-suffered
ἱκέτᾳ δὲ δίδου
to-(the)-suppliant and give
βιοτὰν ἀσινῆ·
(a)-life unharmed
λύε με μόχθων,
loose me from-toils
λύε με νούσων,
loose me from-diseases

λύε μεριμνᾶν
loose from-cares
κηριτρεφέων·
death-nurturing
νεῦσον νοερὰν
grant intellective
προπόλῳ ζωάν.
to-(your)-minister life
μή μοι χθονίους
not to-me earthly
ὄμβρους ἀφένου
showers of-wealth
κρήνειας, ἄναξ,
may-you-make-flow king
ἵνα μὴ τὰ θεοῦ
that not the(-things) of-God
ἄσχολος εἴην·
unoccupied-with I-may-be
μηδὲ κατηφὴς
nor downcast
πενία μελάθροις
poverty to-(my)-halls
ἐγχριμπτομένα
drawing-near
περὶ γᾶν ἕλκοι
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)
ὀρέγοις ἀλκάν.
may-reach-out strength
Ναί, πάτερ, ἁγνᾶς
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 ἀτραπόν·
holy path

σύνθημα δίδου
(a)-token give
σφραγῖδα τεάν,
(a)-seal your
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
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
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 ῥύσιος 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
σπινθῆρα νόου,
(a)-spark of-mind
ἐς βάθος ὕλας
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

ἔσπειρας, ἄναξ.
you-sowed king
τὰν σὰν κούραν
the your daughter
ἐλέαιρε, μάκαρ·
pity blessed(-one)
κατέβαν ἀπὸ σοῦ
I-came-down from you
χθονὶ θητεῦσαι·
on-earth to-serve
ἀντὶ δὲ θήσσας
instead-of and (a)-hireling
γενόμαν δούλα·
I-became (a)-slave
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)-hidden eyes
οὔπω πᾶσαν
not-yet all
ἔσβεσεν ἀλκάν·
it-quenched strength
κέχυται δὲ πολὺς
is-poured and much

ἐφύπερθε κλύδων,
over-(it) (a)-surge
ἀλαῶπα τιθεὶς
blind making
τὰν θεοδερκῆ.
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
ἵμερος ἄγχει.
(the)-longing strangles
σὺ δὲ λάμψον, ἄναξ,
you and make-shine king
ἀνάγωγα φάη·
upward-leading lights
ἅψον δὲ σέλας
kindle and (a)-flame
καὶ πυρκαϊάν,
and (a)-pyre
σπέρμα τὸ βαιὸν
(the)-seed the little

αὔξων ἐν ἐμῷ
increasing in my
κρατὸς ἀώτῳ.
of-(the)-head flower
θρόνισόν με, πάτερ,
enthrone me father
φωτὸς ἐν ἀλκᾷ
of-light in (the)-strength
ζωηφορίου,
life-bearing
ἵνα χεῖρα φύσις
where (a)-hand nature
οὐκ ἐπιβάλλει,
not lays
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
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 εἴη.
fire in-(the)-midst may-be
νεῦσον, γενέτα,
grant begetter
νεῦσον προπόλῳ
grant to-(your)-minister
ἤδη νοεροὺς
already intellective
πετάσαι ταρσούς·
to-spread wings
ἤδη φερέτω
already let-it-bear
σφραγῖδα πατρὸς
(the)-seal of-(the)-father
ἱκέτις ψυχά,
(the)-suppliant soul
δεῖμα μὲν ἐχθροῖς
(a)-terror indeed to-hostile
δαίμοσιν, οἳ γᾶς
daemons who of-earth
ἀπὸ κευθμώνων
from (the)-recesses
ἀναπαλλόμενοι
leaping-up
πνείουσι βροτοῖς
breathe on-mortals
ἀθέους ὁρμάς,
godless impulses

σύνθημα δὲ σοῖς
(a)-token and to-your
ἁγνοῖς προπόλοις,
pure ministers
οἳ κατὰ κλεινοῦ
who throughout glorious
βένθεα κόσμου
(the)-depths of-(the)-world
πυρίων ἀνόδων
of-fiery ascents
κληϊδοφόροι,
key-bearers
ἵνα μοι φάεος
that for-me of-light
πετάσωσι πύλας·
they-may-throw-open (the)-gates
ἔτι δ' ἀλεμάτας
still and idle
ἐπὶ γᾶς ἕρπων
upon earth creeping
μὴ χθονὸς εἴην·
not of-earth may-I-be
πυρίων δ' ἔργων
of-fiery and works
καὶ τῇδε δίδου
also here give
μάρτυρα καρπόν,
(a)-witness fruit
ὀμφὰς 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
ἆται γλυκεραὶ
follies sweet
ἄχαρίς τε χάρις,
graceless and grace
οἷσιν ψυχὰν
by-which (the)-soul
θωπευομέναν
flattered
γᾶ λάτριν ἔχει·
earth (as)-servant holds
ἁ μέγα δειλὰ
the very wretched(-one)

ἰδίων τ᾽ ἀγαθῶν
of-own and good(-things)
ἔπιεν λάθαν,
drank forgetfulness
μέχρις ἐγκύρσῃ
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
ἐπορεξάμενος
having-reached-for
μελιχρῶν ἔθιγεν,
of-honeyed touched
ἦ μέγα κλαύσει
truly greatly will-weep
πικρὰν μερίδα
(a)-bitter portion
τῶν ἀντίξων
of-the opposite(-things)
συνεφελκομένων·
dragged-along
ὅδε γὰρ χθονίας
this for of-earthly
θεσμὸς ἀνάγκας
law necessity

διχόθεν θνατοῖς
from-both-sides for-mortals
βίον οἰνοχοεῖ·
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 πάγᾳ,
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

σπεύδων τανύω
hastening I-stretch
φυγάδας ταρσούς,
fugitive wings
φυγάδας διδύμων
fugitive of-twin
ὕλας δώρων.
of-matter gifts
Ἴδε με, ζωᾶς
See me of-life
νοερᾶς ταμία,
intellective steward
ἴδε σὰν ἱκέτιν
see your suppliant
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
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 ἅλμα βαλεῖν
(a)-swift leap to-cast
ἐπὶ σὰς αὐλάς,
to your courts
ἐπὶ σοὺς κόλπους,
to your bosom
ὅθεν ἁ ψυχᾶς
whence the of-(the)-soul
προρέει παγά.
flows-forth spring
λιβὰς οὐρανία
(a)-drop heavenly
κέχυμαι κατὰ γᾶς·
I-am-poured-out over earth
παγᾷ με δίδου,
to-(the)-spring me give
ὅθεν ἐξεχύθην
whence I-was-poured-out

φυγὰς ἀλῆτις.
(a)-fugitive wanderer
νεῦσον προγόνῳ
grant to-(the)-ancestral
φωτὶ μιγῆναι·
light to-be-mingled
νεῦσον δ' ὑπὸ σοὶ
grant and under you
ταμιευομέναν
stewarded
σὺν ἄνακτι χορῷ
with (the)-king choir
ἀνάγειν ὁσίως
to-offer holily
νοεροὺς ὕμνους·
intellective hymns
νεῦσον δέ, πάτερ,
grant and father
φωτὶ μιγεῖσαν
with-light mingled
μηκέτι δῦναι
no-longer to-sink
ἐς χθονὸς ἄταν.
into of-earth (the)-folly
ὄφρα δὲ ζωᾶς
while and of-life
ὑλοδιαίτου
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 πανομένας
you and ceasing
ἀοῦς ἱερᾶς, 5
of-dawn holy

ζαθέας νυκτὸς
of-very-holy night
μέλπω, γενέτα,
I-sing begetter
παίων ψυχῶν,
healer of-souls
παίων γυίων,
healer of-limbs
δῶτορ σοφίας,
giver of-wisdom
ἐλατὴρ νούσων,
driver-away of-diseases
δῶτορ ψυχαῖς
giver to-souls
ἀπόνου βιοτᾶς,
of-toilless life
ἃν μὴ στείβει
which not treads
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
ἄτῃσι θεοῦ
follies from-God
νοσφιζοίμην.
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
εὐφαμείτω
let-keep-holy-silence
ὅσα κόσμος ἔχει·
whatever (the)-world holds
σὰ γὰρ ἔργα, πάτερ·
your for works father

καταπανέσθω
let-cease

ἀνέμων ῥοῖζος,
of-winds (the)-rush

ἦχος δένδρων,
(the)-sound of-trees

θρόος ὀρνίθων·
(the)-noise of-birds

ἥσυχος αἰθήρ,
quiet (the)-ether

ἥσυχος ἀὴρ
quiet (the)-air

κλυέτω μολπᾶς·
let-it-hear (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
ἁγίων ὕμνων
of-holy hymns
κευθμωνοχαρεῖς
recess-delighting
καὶ τυμβονόμοι
and tomb-haunting
δαίμονες ἤδη
daemons now
φυγέτωσαν ἐμὰν
let-flee my
ὁσίαν εὐχάν·
holy prayer
ἀγαθοὶ δ' ὁπόσοι
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 ἵλεῳ
hymns gracious
πεύθοιντο πατρός,
may-learn of-(the)-father

ἵλεῳ δὲ λιτὰς
gracious and (the)-prayers
ἀνάγοιεν ἐμάς.
may-bear-up my
Μονὰς ὦ μονάδων,
Monad O of-monads
πάτερ ὦ πατέρων,
father O of-fathers
ἀρχῶν ἀρχά,
of-beginnings beginning
παγῶν παγά,
of-springs spring
ῥιζῶν ῥίζα,
of-roots root
ἀγαθῶν ἀγαθόν,
of-goods good
ἄστρων ἄστρον,
of-stars star
κόσμων κόσμε,
of-worlds world
ἰδεῶν ἰδέα,
of-forms form
βύθιον κάλλος,
deep beauty
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 ὄγκοις
of-(the)-body on-(the)-masses
ἐπινηξαμένα,
having-floated
δεύτερον ἤδη
second now
κόσμον ἀνάπτει.
(a)-world kindles
Ὑμνῶ σε, μάκαρ,
I-hymn you blessed(-one)
καὶ διὰ φωνᾶς,
and through voice
ὑμνῶ 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
ἀΐεις νοερᾶς.
you-hear intellective

ὑμνῶ δὲ γόνον
I-hymn and (the)-offspring
τὸν πρωτόγονον
the first-born
καὶ πρωτοφαῆ.
and first-shining
Γόνε κύδιστε
Offspring most-glorious
πατρὸς ἀφθέγκτου,
of-(the)-father unutterable
σέ, μάκαρ, μεγάλῳ
you blessed(-one) with-(the)-great
πατρὶ συνυμνῶ,
father I-hymn-together
καὶ τὰν ἐπὶ σοὶ
and the upon you
ὠδῖνα πατρός,
travail of-(the)-father
γόνιμον βουλάν,
fertile counsel
μεσάταν ἀρχάν,
middle beginning
ἁγίαν πνοιάν,
holy breath
κέντρον γενέτου,
center of-(the)-begetter
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 πατήρ,
upon (the)-child (the)-father
αὐτὰ πρόχυσις
herself (the)-outpouring
εὕρετο 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
εὕρετο βλάσταν.]
found (a)-shoot

Μονὰς εἶ τριὰς ὤν,
Monad you-are triad being
μονὰς ἅ γε μένεις
monad which at-least you-remain
καὶ τριὰς εἶ δή.
and triad you-are indeed
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 γενέτᾳ,
(the)-offspring in (the)-begetter
καὶ πάλιν ἔξω
and again outside
τὰ πατρὸς 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
λόγος, ὃν μεγάλῳ
(the)-word whom with-(the)-great
πατρὶ συνυμνῶ,
father I-hymn-together

νόος ἀῤῥήτου
(the)-mind of-(the)-ineffable
τίκτει σε πατρός·
bears you father
καὶ σὺ κυηθεὶς
and you conceived
λόγος εἶ γενέτου,
(the)-word are of-(the)-begetter
πρῶτος πρώτας
first of-(the)-first
προθορὼν ῥίζας,
having-leapt-forth root
ῥίζα δὲ πάντων
root and of-all
τῶν μετὰ κλεινὰν
the(-things) after glorious
τὰν σὰν γένναν·
the your birth
μονὰς ἄῤῥητος,
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

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
ἀγαθῶν δώρων
of-good gifts
γονίμου ζωᾶς.
of-fertile life
Σοὶ μὲν ἀγήρως
To-you indeed (the)-ageless
ἄπονον τροχιὰν
toilless course
σφαῖρα κυλίνδει·
(the)-sphere rolls
ὑπὸ σὰν τάξιν
under your order
κύτεος μεγάλου
of-(the)-vault great
βριαραῖς δίναις
with-mighty whirls
ἑβδομὰς ἄστρων
(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 ἄστρων
of-gray stars
ἀγέλα νέμεται.
(the)-herd grazes

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
ζωάν τε νέμεις.
life and assign
σὺ νόου πρύτανις
you of-mind president
ταμίας τε θεοῖς
steward and to-gods
θνατῶν θ' ὁπόσοι
of-mortals and as-many-as
νοερᾶς μοίρας
of-intellective portion
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
βλάστημα τεᾶς
(the)-sprout of-your
κρέμαται σειρᾶς·
hangs chain
χὠπόσα τᾶς σᾶς
and-as-many-as of-the your
στέρεται πνοιᾶς,
are-deprived breath
ἀπὸ σῶν κόλπων
from your bosom
δρέπεται συνοχὰν
plucks (its)-coherence
πορθμευομέναν
ferried
διὰ σᾶς ἀλκᾶς
through your strength
ἐξ ἀρρήτων
from ineffable
πατρικῶν κόλπων
paternal bosom
κρυφίας μονάδος,
of-hidden monad

ὅθεν ὁ ζωᾶς
whence the of-life
ὀχετὸς προρέων
channel flowing-forth
φέρεται μέχρι γᾶς
is-borne as-far-as earth
διὰ σᾶς ἀλκᾶς,
through your strength
δι᾽ ἀτεκμάρτων
through unfathomable
νοερῶν κόσμων·
intellective worlds
ἔνθεν δέχεται
thence receives
καταβαίνοισαν
descending
ἀγαθῶν κράναν
of-goods (the)-spring
νοεροῦ μορφά,
of-intellective form
κόσμος ὁρατός.
world visible
Ἅλιον οὗτος
(The)-sun this(-world)
δεύτερον ἔσχεν
second had
ὑστεροφεγγοῦς
later-shining
φωτὸς γενέταν,
of-light (as)-begetter

ὀμματολαμπῆ
eye-shining
τᾶς γινομένας
of-the coming-to-be
καὶ φθειρομένας
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 κύδιστε.
offspring most-glorious
Πάτερ ἄγνωστε,
Father unknowable
πάτερ ἄρρητε,
father ineffable
ἄγνωστε νόῳ,
unknowable to-mind
ἄρρητε λόγῳ,
ineffable to-word
νόος ἐσσὶ νόου,
mind you-are of-mind

ψυχᾶν ψυχά,
of-souls soul
φύσις εἶ φυσίων.
nature you-are of-natures
γόνυ σοι κάμπτων,
(the)-knee to-you bending
ἴδε τοῦτο, λάτρις
see this servant
πίπτω κατὰ γᾶς
I-fall on earth
ἱκέτας ἀλαός·
suppliant blind
σὺ δέ, φωτοδότα
you but light-giver
φωτὸς νοεροῦ,
of-light intellective
ἐλέαιρε, μάκαρ,
pity blessed(-one)
ἱκέτιν ψυχάν·
(the)-suppliant soul
σεῦε δὲ νούσους,
drive and diseases
σεῦε μερίμνας
drive cares
τὰς ψυχοβόρους,
the soul-devouring
σεῦε δ' ἀναιδῆ
drive and (the)-shameless
κύνα τὸν χθόνιον,
dog the earthly

δαίμονα γαίας
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

τὰς θεοδιφεῖς
the God-seeking
βλάπτων ὁρμάς·
harming impulses
ἕταρον δὲ δίδου
(a)-companion and give
ξυνωνόν, ἄναξ,
partner king
ἁγίας ἅγιον
of-holy holy
ἄγγελον ἀλκᾶς,
(an)-angel of-strength
ἄγγελον εὐχᾶς
(an)-angel of-prayer
τᾶς θεολαμποῦς,
of-the God-shining
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
σῶμα δὲ σώζοι
(the)-body and may-be-save
καθαρὸν νούσων,
pure of-diseases

πνεῦμα δὲ σώζοι
(the)-spirit and may-he-save
καθαρὸν λώβας,
pure of-outrage
ψυχᾷ δ’ ἐπάγοι
to-(the)-soul and may-he-bring
παθέων λάθαν,
of-passions forgetfulness
ἵνα καὶ ζωὰν
that also (the)-life
τὰν γαιοτραφῆ
the earth-nourished
τοῖς σοῖς ὕμνοις
by-the your hymns
πιαίνηται
may-be-fattened
ταρσὸς ψυχᾶς·
(the)-wing of-(the)-soul
ἵνα καὶ ζωὰν
that also (the)-life
τὰν μετὰ μοίρας,
the(-one) after (the)-fates
τὰν μετὰ δεσμοὺς
the(-one) after (the)-bonds
τοὺς χθονοβριθεῖς,
the earth-weighted
καθαρὰν ὕλας,
pure of-matter

ὅσον ἐξανύω
as-much-as I-accomplish
ἐπὶ σὰς αὐλάς,
to your courts
ἐπὶ σοὺς κόλπους,
to your bosom
ὅθεν ἁ ψυχᾶς
whence the of-(the)-soul
295 προρέει παγά.
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
ἱκέτιν ψυχάν.
(the)-suppliant soul

Ὑμνῶμεν 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.

Ὑμνῶμεν κοῦρον νύμφας,
Let-us-hymn (the)-son of-(the)-bride
νύμφας οὐ νυμφευθείσας
of-(the)-bride not wedded
ἀνδρῶν μοιραίαις κοίταις·
of-men by-fated beds
ἄρρητοι πατρὸς βουλαὶ
ineffable of-(the)-father counsels
ἔσπειραν Χριστοῦ γέννᾳν, 5
sowed of-Christ (the)-birth
ἁ σεμνὰ νύμφας ὠδὶς
the august of-(the)-bride travail
ἀνθρώπου φῆνεν μορφάν,
of-man showed (the)-form
ὃς θνατοῖσιν πορθμευτὰς
who to-mortals (as)-ferryman
ἦλθεν φωτὸς παγαίου·
came of-light spring-born

ἁ δ' ἄρρητος σευ βλάστα
the and ineffable your shoot
αἰώνων οἶδεν ῥίζαν.
of-ages knows (the)-root
αὐτὸς φῶς εἶ 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
ψυχαῖς ἐλλάμπεις ἁγναῖς·
on-souls you-shine pure
αὐτὸς μὲν κόσμου κτίστας,
yourself indeed of-(the)-world creator
κλεινῶν σφαιρωτὰς ἄστρων,
of-glorious sphere-maker stars
κέντρων γαίας ῥιζωτάς,
of-centers of-earth rooter
αὐτὸς δ' ἀνθρώπων σωτήρ.
yourself and of-men savior
σοὶ μὲν Τιτὰν ἱππεύει,
for-you indeed (the)-Titan rides
ἀοῦς ἄσβεστος παγά,
of-dawn unquenchable spring
σοὶ δ' ἁ ταυρῶπις μήνα
for-you and the bull-faced moon
τὰν νυκτῶν ὄρφναν λύει
the of-nights darkness looses
σοὶ καὶ τίκτονται καρποί,
for-you also are-born fruits

σοὶ καὶ βόσκονται ποῖμναι.
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 εἱρχθεῖσαν θνατοῖς,
in-limbs confined mortal

μοίρας θ' ὑλαίοις μέτροις·
of-fate and in-material measures

νούσων ἐκσώζοις λώβας
from-diseases may-you-save outrages

ἀσκηθῆ γυίων ἀλκάν.
unhurt of-limbs (the)-strength

Νεῦσον μὲν μύθοις πειθώ,
Grant indeed to-words persuasion

νεῦσον δ' ἔργοισιν κῦδος
grant and to-works glory

ἀρχαίαις πρέψαι φάμαις
ancient to-befit renowns

τᾶς Κυράνας καὶ Σπάρτας·
— of-Cyrene and of-Sparta

λύπαις δ' ἄστιπτος ψυχὰ
by-griefs and untrodden (the)-soul
πραεῖαν ζωὰν ἕλκοι
(a)-gentle life may-draw
θρέπτειραν, δισσὰς γλήνας
nursing (her)-two eyes
ἐς σὸν φέγγος τείνοισα,
toward your light stretching
ὡς ἐξ ὕλας φοιβαθεὶς
that from matter made-bright
ἀστρέπτους οἴμους σπεύσω,
unturning paths I-may-hasten
φύξηλις γαίας μόχθων,
fugitive from-earth's toils
μιχθῆναι ψυχᾶς παγᾷ.
to-be-mingled with-(the)-soul's spring
Τοίαν ἄχραντον ζωὰν
Such spotless life
τῷ σῷ κραίνοις φορμικτῇ,
for-the your may-you-accomplish lyre-player
εὖτ' 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
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
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
τάν μοι πέμποις σὺν πατρὶ
which to-me may-you-send with (the)-father
ἄρδοισαν ψυχᾶς ταρσούς,
watering of-(my)-soul (the)-wings
κράντειραν θείων 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 ἑνοτήτων ἐπέκεινα
of-ineffable unities beyond
θεὸν ἄμβροτον, θεοῦ κύδιμον υἷα,
God immortal of-God (the)-glorious son
μόνον ἐκ μόνου πατρὸς παῖδα θορόντα
alone from alone father (a)-child having-leapt
στεφανώσομεν σοφοῖς ἄνθεσιν ὕμνων,
let-us-crown with-wise flowers of-hymns
ὅν βουλᾶς πατρικᾶς ἄφραστος ὠδὶς
whom of-counsel paternal unutterable travail
ἀγνώστων ἀνέδειξε παῖδα κόλπων,
from-unknowable showed (as)-child bosom
ἃ πατρὸς λοχίους ἔφηνε καρποὺς
which of-(the)-father birth showed fruits
καὶ φήνασα φάνη μεσσοπαγὴς νοῦς·
and having-shown appeared (as)-middle-fixed mind
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 κρυπτὸν εἶ πατρὸς 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 νωμᾷς,
you indeed of-heaven (the)-wise rim govern
τὰν δ' ἄστρων ἀγέλαν ἀεὶ 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 ἀμφιχορεύεις,
you and also nature perishing dance-around
ἀμέριστον περὶ γᾶν πνεῦμα μερίζεις,
undivided around earth spirit divide
καὶ παγᾷ τὸ δοθὲν πάλιν συνάπτεις,
and to-(the)-spring the(-thing) given again join
θνατοὺς ἐκ θανάτου λύων ἀνάγκας.
mortals from death loosing necessity
Ἱλήκοις 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

εὐρίπων προχοὰν στᾶσον ἀλῆτιν,
of-straits (the)-outflow stop wandering
τερσαίνων ὀλοοὺς κλύδωνας ὕλας·
drying destructive surges of-matter
ψυχᾶς καὶ μελέων ἔρυκε νούσους·
of-soul and of-limbs keep-off diseases
παθέων οὐλομέναν κοίμισον ὁρμάν·
of-passions destructive lull (the)-impulse
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 δρέπῃ σχολὰν ἀκύμων,
that for-me (the)-mind may-pluck leisure waveless
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

Πρῶτος νόμον εὑρόμαν

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.

Πρῶτος νόμον εὑρόμαν
First (the)-measure I-found
ἐπὶ σοί, μάκαρ, ἄμβροτε,
for you blessed(-one) immortal
γόνε κύδιμε παρθένου,
offspring glorious of-(the)-virgin
Ἰησοῦ Σολυμήϊε,
Jesus of-Solyma
νεοπαγέσιν ἁρμογαῖς
with-newly-fixed harmonies
κρέξαι κιθάρας μίτους.
to-strike of-(the)-lyre (the)-strings
Ἀλλ' εὐμενέοις, ἄναξ,
But may-you-be-kindly king
καὶ δέχνυσο μουσικὰν
and receive (the)-music
ἐξ εὐαγέων μελῶν.
from holy songs

ὑμνήσομεν ἄφθιτον
we-will-hymn (the)-imperishable
θεὸν υἷα θεοῦ μέγαν,
God son of-God great
αἰωνοτόκου πατρὸς
of-(the)-age-begetting father
τὸν κοσμογόνον κόρον,
the world-creating son
τὰν παντομιγῆ φύσιν,
the all-mingled nature
σοφίαν ἀπερείσιον,
wisdom boundless
τὸν ἐπουρανίοις 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
μάγος ἁ 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 εἶ, λίβανον δέχου·
God you-are frankincense receive
χρυσὸν βασιλεῖ φέρω·
gold to-(the)-king I-bring
σμύρνῃ τάφος ἁρμόσει.
for-myrrh (the)-tomb will-fit
Καὶ γᾶν ἐκάθηρας,
And earth you-cleansed
καὶ πόντια κύματα,
and of-(the)-sea waves
καὶ δαιμονίας ὁδούς,
and daemonic roads
ῥαδινὰν χύσιν ἀέρος,
(the)-slender flow of-air
καὶ νερτερίους μυχούς,
and nether recesses
φθιμένοισι βοηθόος
to-the-dead helper
θεὸς εἰς ἀΐδην σταλείς.
God to Hades sent

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

Ὑπὸ δώριον ἁρμογὰν

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

λύπαις ἄβατον διδοὺς
to-griefs untrodden giving
καὶ νύκτα καὶ ἁμέραν.
both night and day
λάμποις 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 ἐμᾷ·
to-youth may-you-assign my
λιπαρὸν δὲ φέροις ἔτος
rich and may-you-bring (a)-year
ἐς γήραος ἁδονάν,
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)

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
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, ἱκέταν.
because-of your father suppliant
γνωτάν τε συνωρίδα
sister and (the)-pair
τεκέων τε φυλάσσοις,
of-children and may-you-guard
ὅλον ἡσυχίδαν δόμον
whole quiet (my)-house
ὑπὸ σᾷ χερὶ κρύπτοις·
under your hand may-you-hide
καί μοι ζυγίων, ἄναξ,
and to-me of-yoke king
ξυνήονα δεμνίων
(the)-partner of-bed
ἀπόνουσον, ἀπήμονα,
free-of-disease unharmed

ἐρίηρον, ὁμόφρονα,
loving like-minded
κρυφίων ἀδαήμονα
of-secret unknowing
ὀάρων ἄλοχον σάου·
whisperings (my)-wife keep-safe
ὅσιον δ' ἐφέποι λέχος
holy and may-she-keep (the)-bed
πανακήρατον, εὐαγές,
all-undefiled pure
ἀδίκοις ἄβατον πόθοις.
to-unjust untrodden longings
ψυχὰν δὲ λυθεῖσαν
(my)-soul and loosed
χθονίου βιότου πέδας
of-earthly life (the)-fetters
ἐξαίνυσο 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 σῷ, μάκαρ.
and to-(the)-might your blessed(-one)
πάλιν ὑμνοπολεύσω,
again I-will-sing-hymns

πάλι σοι μέλος ᾄσω,
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
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 ἀρχεγόνῳ νοεράν.
gave to-(the)-first-born intellective
στεφανηφόρε, κύδιμε,
crown-bearing glorious(-one)
σέ, πάτερ, παῖ παρθένου
you father child of-(the)-virgin
ὑμνῶ Σολυμῄδος.]
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
Ἀΐδας ὁ παλαιγενής,
Hades the ancient-born

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
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
Ἀνιόντα σε, κοίρανε,
Going-up you lord
τὰ κατ' ἠέρος ἄσπετα
the 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
αἰθὴρ δὲ γελάσσας,
(the)-ether and having-laughed

σοφὸς ἁρμονίας πατήρ,
wise of-harmony father
ἐξ ἑπτατόνου λύρας
from (the)-seven-toned lyre
ἐκεράσσατο μουσικὰν
mixed music
ἐπινίκιον ἐς μέλος.
victorious into (a)-song
μείδησεν Ἑωσφόρος,
smiled (the)-Morning-star
ὁ διάκτορος ἁμέρας,
the messenger of-day
καὶ χρύσεος Ἕσπερος,
and golden Hesperus
κυθερήϊος ἀστήρ·
(the)-Cytherean star
ἁ μὲν κερόεν σέλας
the indeed horned light
πλήσασα ῥόου πυρὸς
having-filled of-stream of-fire
ἄγεῖτο σελάνα,
led (the)-moon
ποιμὴν νυχίων θεῶν·
shepherd of-nightly gods
τὰν δ' εὐρυφαῆ κόμαν
the and wide-shining hair
Τιτὰν ἐπετάσσατο
(the)-Titan spread
ἄρρητον ὑπ' ἴχνιον·
ineffable under (the)-footstep

ἔγνω δὲ γόνον θεοῦ,
knew and (the)-offspring of-God
τὸν ἀριστοτέχναν νόον,
the best-crafting mind
ἰδίου πυρὸς ἀρχάν.
of-own fire (the)-beginning
Σὺ δὲ ταρσὸν ἐλάσσας
You and (your)-wing having-driven
κυανάντυγος οὐρανοῦ
of-dark-rimmed heaven
ὑπερήλαο νώτων,
leapt-over (the)-backs
σφαίρῃσι δ' ἐπέπτας
to-spheres and flew
νοεραῖσιν ἀκηράτοις,
intellective undefiled
ἀγαθῶν ὅθι παγά,
of-goods where (the)-spring
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
βαθυκύμονος ὕλας·
of-deep-teeming matter

ἀλλ᾽ αὐτὸς ἀγήραος
but itself ageless
αἰὼν ὁ παλαιγενής,
age the ancient-born
νέος ὢν ἅμα καὶ γέρων
young being at-once and old
τᾶς ἀενάω μονᾶς
of-the ever-flowing abiding
ταμίας πέλεται θεοῖς.
steward is to-gods

Μνώεο Χριστέ

X · 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 θεοῖο
son of-God
ὑψιμέδοντος,
high-ruling
οἰκέτεω σεῦ,
of-(the)-servant your
κῆρ᾽ ἀλιτροῖο
in-heart sinful
τάδε γράψαντος·
these(-words) having-written

καί μοι ὄπασσον
and to-me grant
λῦσιν παθέων
(a)-loosing of-passions
κηριτρεφέων,
death-nurturing
τά μοι ἐμφυῆ
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
σάν, ἔνθα φανεὶς
your where appearing
μέλψω ἀοιδὰν
I-will-sing (a)-song
παίονι ψυχᾶν,
to-(the)-healer of-souls
παίονι γυίων,
to-(the)-healer of-limbs
πατρὶ σὺν μεγάλῳ
(the)-father with great
πνεύματί θ' ἁγνῷ.
(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, 5
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
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
χαῖρε, τῶν δακρύων τῆς Εὔας ἡ λύτρωσις·
rejoice of-the tears — of-Eve the redemption
χαῖρε, ὕψος δυσανάβατον ἀνθρωπίνοις 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)
χαῖρε, ἀστὴρ ἐμφαίνων τὸν ἥλιον·
rejoice star showing-forth the sun
χαῖρε, γαστὴρ 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 ἑαυτὴν ἐν ἁγνείᾳ
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

Γνῶσιν ἄγνωστον γνῶναι ἡ παρθένος ζητοῦσα
Knowledge unknowable to-know the virgin seeking
ἐβόησε πρὸς τὸν λειτουργοῦντα·
cried-out to the(-one) ministering
ἐκ λαγόνων ἁγνῶν υἱὸν
from loins pure (a)-son
πῶς ἐστι τεχθῆναι δυνατόν; λέξον μοι·
how is-it to-be-born possible tell me

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

χαῖρε, κλίμαξ ἐπουράνιε, ᾗ 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

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 εὔκαρπον ταύτης νηδὺν
and the fruitful her womb
ὡς 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 Ἐλισάβετ·
ran-up to — Elizabeth
τὸ δὲ βρέφος ἐκείνης εὐθὺς
the and babe of-that(-one) at-once
ἐπιγνὸν τὸν ταύτης ἀσπασμὸν ἔχαιρε
having-recognized the her greeting rejoiced
καὶ ἅλμασιν ὡς ᾄσμασιν ἐβόα πρὸς τὴν θεοτόκον·
and with-leaps as with-songs cried to the God-bearer
χαῖρε, βλαστοῦ ἀμαράντου κλῆμα·
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

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
χαῖρε, τράπεζα βαστάζουσα εὐθηνίαν ἱλασμῶν·
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 ἑτοιμάζεις·
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
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 Ἰωσὴφ ἐταράχθη,
the chaste Joseph was-troubled
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

Ἤκουσαν οἱ ποιμένες τῶν ἀγγέλων ὑμνούντων
Heard the shepherds the angels hymning
τὴν ἔνσαρκον Χριστοῦ παρουσίαν· 80
the incarnate of-Christ coming
καὶ δραμόντες ὡς πρὸς ποιμένα
and having-run as to (a)-shepherd
θεωροῦσι τοῦτον ὡς ἀμνὸν 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, ἀμνοῦ καὶ ποιμένος μήτηρ·
rejoice of-lamb and of-shepherd mother
χαῖρε, αὐλὴ λογικῶν προβάτων· 85
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

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
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 αἴγλῃ·
the its followed radiance
καὶ ὡς λύχνον κρατοῦντες αὐτόν,
and as (a)-lamp holding it
δι᾽ αὐτοῦ ἠρεύνων κραταιὸν ἄνακτα·
through it they-searched-out (the)-mighty lord
καὶ φθάσαντες τὸν ἄφθαστον ἐχάρησαν, αὐτῷ βοῶντες·
and having-overtaken the unovertakable(-one) they-rejoiced to-him crying
Ἀλληλούϊα.
Alleluia

Ἴδον 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 κάμινον 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 θρῃσκείας·
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

χαῖρε, πιστῶν ὁδηγὲ σωφροσύνης·
rejoice of-faithful guide of-chastity
χαῖρε, πασῶν γενεῶν εὐφροσύνη·
rejoice of-all generations gladness
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
ἀφέντες τὸν Ἡρώδην ὡς ληρώδη, μὴ εἰδότα ψάλλειν·
having-left — Herod as (a)-babbler not knowing to-sing
Ἀλληλούϊα.
Alleluia

Λάμψας 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 εἴδωλα ταύτης, σωτήρ,
the for idols of-it savior
μὴ ἐνέγκαντά σου τὴν ἰσχὺν πέπτωκεν·
not having-borne your the strength have-fallen

οἱ τούτων δὲ ῥυσθέντες 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· 135
rejoice of-the idols the guile having-exposed

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

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

χαῖρε, πύρινε στύλε ὁδηγῶν τοὺς ἐν σκότει·
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· 140
rejoice food of-the manna successor

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

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
Ἀλληλούϊα.
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, ἄφθορον,
and having-kept it just-as it-was incorrupt
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

χαῖρε, ξύλον εὐσκιόφυλλον, ὑφ᾽ οὗ σκέπονται πολλοί·
rejoice wood well-shady-leaved under which are-sheltered many

χαῖρε, κυοφοροῦσα ὁδηγὸν πλανωμένοις·
rejoice bearing-in-the-womb (a)-guide for-the-straying

χαῖρε, ἀπογεννῶσα 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

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

διὰ τοῦτο γὰρ ὁ ὑψηλὸς θεὸς
because-of this for the high God

ἐπὶ γῆς ἐφάνη ταπεινὸς ἄνθρωπος,
on earth appeared lowly man
βουλόμενος ἑλκύσαι πρὸς τὸ ὕψος τοὺς αὐτῷ βοῶντας·
wishing to-draw to the height those to-him crying
Ἀλληλούϊα.
Alleluia

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 ἀπερίγραπτος 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 hearing these(-things)
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 hearing
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
χαῖρε, οἴκημα πανάριστον τοῦ ἐπὶ τῶν Σεραφίμ·
rejoice dwelling all-excellent of-the(-one) upon the Seraphim

χαῖρε, ἡ τἀναντία 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 ἠνοίχθη παράδεισος·
rejoice through whom was-opened paradise
χαῖρε, ἡ κλεὶς τῆς Χριστοῦ βασιλείας· 190
rejoice the key of-the of-Christ kingdom
χαῖρε, ἐλπὶς ἀγαθῶν αἰωνίων·
rejoice hope of-good(-things) eternal
χαῖρε, νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε·
rejoice bride unwedded

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 195
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
Ἀλληλούϊα.
Alleluia

Ῥήτορας πολυφθόγγους ὡς ἰχθύας ἀφώνους
Orators many-voiced as fish voiceless
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
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
χαῖρε, τῶν Ἀθηναίων τὰς πλοκὰς διασπῶσα·
rejoice of-the Athenians the webs tearing-apart
χαῖρε, τῶν ἁλιέων 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, ὁλκὰς 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

Σῶσαι θέλων τὸν κόσμον ὁ τῶν ὅλων κοσμήτωρ
To-save wishing the world the of-the all(-things) adorner
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

Τεῖχος εἶ τῶν παρθένων, θεοτόκε παρθένε,
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)

οἰκήσας ἐν τῇ μήτρᾳ σου
having-dwelt in the womb your

καὶ πάντας σοι προσφωνεῖν διδάξας·
and 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

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

χαῖρε, ἡ τὸν σπορέα τῆς ἁγνείας τεκοῦσα·
rejoice you-who the sower of-the purity having-borne

χαῖρε, παστὰς ἀσπόρου νυμφεύσεως·
rejoice bridal-chamber of-seedless wedding

χαῖρε, πιστοὺς κυρίῳ ἁρμόζουσα·
rejoice (the)-faithful to-(the)-Lord joining

χαῖρε, καλὴ κουροτρόφε παρθένων·
rejoice fair nurse of-virgins

χαῖρε, ψυχῶν νυμφοστόλε ἁγίων·
rejoice of-souls bridesmaid holy

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
ἰσαρίθμους γὰρ [τῇ] ψάμμῳ ᾠδὰς
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] βοῶσιν· 245
nothing we-accomplish worthy of-what you-have-given to-us those to-you crying
Ἀλληλούϊα.
Alleluia

Φωτοδόχον λαμπάδα τοῖς ἐν σκότει φανεῖσαν
Light-receiving (a)-torch to-those in darkness having-appeared
ὁρῶμεν τὴν ἁγίαν παρθένον·
we-see the holy virgin
τὸ γὰρ ἄϋλον ἅπτουσα φῶς
the for immaterial kindling light
ὁδηγεῖ πρὸς γνῶσιν θεϊκὴν ἅπαντας, 250
she-guides to knowledge divine all
αὐγῇ τὸν νοῦν φωτίζουσα, κραυγῇ δὲ τιμωμένη ταύτῃ·
with-radiance the mind enlightening with-(the)-cry and honored this
χαῖρε, ἀκτὶς νοητοῦ ἡλίου·
rejoice ray of-(the)-spiritual sun
χαῖρε, βολὶς τοῦ ἀδύτου φέγγους·
rejoice beam of-the unsetting light
χαῖρε, ἀστραπὴ τὰς ψυχὰς καταλάμπουσα·
rejoice lightning the souls illumining

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

χαῖρε, λουτὴρ ἐκπλύνων συνείδησιν·
rejoice laver washing-clean (the)-conscience

χαῖρε, κρατὴρ κιρνῶν ἀγαλλίασιν·
rejoice mixing-bowl mixing exultation

χαῖρε, ὀσμὴ 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

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.
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 holding-together all(-things) by-the hand Lord
ἡγίασεν, ἐδόξασεν, ἐδίδαξε βοᾷν σοι πάντας·
sanctified glorified taught to-cry to-you all
χαῖρε, σκηνὴ τοῦ θεοῦ καὶ λόγου·
rejoice tabernacle — of-God and of-word
χαῖρε, ἁγία ἁγίων μείζων.
rejoice holy than-(the)-holy(-ones) greater
χαῖρε, κιβωτὲ χρυσωθεῖσα τῷ πνεύματι·
rejoice ark gilded by-the spirit
χαῖρε, θησαυρὲ τῆς ζωῆς ἀδαπάνητε·
rejoice treasure of-the life inexhaustible
χαῖρε, τίμιον διάδημα βασιλέων εὐσεβῶν·
rejoice precious diadem of-kings pious
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
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

Ὦ πανύμνητε μῆτερ, ἡ τεκοῦσα τὸν πάντων
O all-hymned mother the(-one) having-borne the of-all
ἁγίων ἁγιώτατον 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
Ἀλληλούϊα.
Alleluia

ANDREW OF CRETE

ΑΝΔΡΕΟΥ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

The Great Canon

Τοῦ μεγάλου κανόνος τὸ πρῶτον τμῆμα

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 this first part of the canon, sung on the first Monday of Lent, closes asking her to guard her city.

ᾠδὴ 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

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 θρηνῳδίᾳ; ἀλλ᾽ ὡς εὔσπλαγχνός μοι δὸς
on-the present lamentation but as compassionate to-me give
παραπτωμάτων ἄφεσιν.
of-transgressions forgiveness

Δεῦρο τάλαινα ψυχή, σὺν τῇ σαρκί σου τῷ κτίστῃ πάντων
Come wretched soul with the flesh your to-the creator of-all
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
ἔγνων ἐμαυτὸν γυμνωθέντα θεοῦ
I-knew myself stripped of-God
καὶ τῆς ἀϊδίου βασιλείας καὶ τρυφῆς
and of-the everlasting kingdom and delight
διὰ τὰς ἁμαρτίας μου.
because-of the sins my

Οἴμοι τάλαινα ψυχή! τί ὡμοιώθης τῇ πρώτῃ Εὔᾳ;
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 ἐγεύσω προπετῶς
and you-touched the tree and tasted rashly
τῆς παραλόγου βρώσεως.
of-the senseless food

Ἀντὶ Εὔας αἰσθητῆς ἡ νοητή μοι κατέστη Εὔα,
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 γευόμενος 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 παντὸς
I but what shall-I-suffer setting-aside through all
τὰ ζωηρά σου λόγια;
the life-giving your words

Ὑπερούσιε τριὰς ἡ ἐν μονάδι προσκυνουμένη,
Super-essential trinity the(-one) in unity worshiped
ἆρον τὸν κλοιὸν ἀπ᾽ ἐμοῦ τὸν βαρὺν
take the collar from me the heavy
τὸν τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ ὡς εὔσπλαγχνός μοι δὸς
the(-one) of-the sin and as compassionate to-me give
δάκρυα κατανύξεως.
tears of-compunction

Θεοτόκε, ἡ ἐλπὶς καὶ προστασία τῶν σε ὑμνούντων,
God-bearer the hope and protection of-those you hymning
ἆρον τὸν κλοιὸν ἀπ᾽ ἐμοῦ τὸν βαρὺν
take the collar from me the heavy
τὸν τῆς ἁμαρτίας καὶ ὡς δέσποινα ἁγνὴ
the(-one) of-the sin and as mistress pure
μετανοοῦντα δέξαι με.
repenting receive me

ᾠδὴ β΄
ode 2
Πρόσεχε, οὐρανέ, καὶ λαλήσω καὶ ἀνυμνήσω 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

Πρόσχες μοι ὁ θεὸς ὁ σωτήρ μου ἵλεῳ 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

Ἥμάρτηκα ὑπὲρ πάντας ἀνθρώπους, μόνος ἡμάρτηκά σοι·
I-have-sinned beyond all men alone I-have-sinned against-you
ἀλλ' οἰκτειρον ὡς θεός, σῶτερ, τὸ ποίημά σου.
but have-pity as God savior the work your

Μορφώσας μου τὴν τῶν παθῶν ἀμορφίαν
Having-formed my the of-the passions shapelessness
ταῖς φιληδόνοις ὁρμαῖς
with-the pleasure-loving impulses
ἐλυμηνάμην τοῦ νοῦ τὴν ὡραιότητα.
I-have-ruined of-the mind the beauty

Ζάλη με τῶν κακῶν περιέχει, εὔσπλαγχνε κύριε·
(A)-storm me of-the evils surrounds compassionate Lord
ἀλλ' ὡς τῷ Πέτρῳ κἀμοὶ 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
τὸ κατ᾽ εἰκόνα, σωτήρ, καὶ καθ᾽ ὁμοίωσιν.
the(-thing) according-to (the)-image savior and according-to (the)-likeness

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

Ἐνδέδυμαι διερρηγμένον χιτῶνα, ὃν ἐξυφάνατό μοι
I-have-put-on (a)-torn tunic which wove for-me
ὁ ὄφις τῇ συμβουλῇ, καὶ καταισχύνομαι.
the serpent by-the counsel and I-am-put-to-shame

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

Προσέβλεψα τοῦ φυτοῦ τὸ ὡραῖον καὶ ἠπατήθην 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

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

Ἕνα σε ἐν τρισὶ τοῖς προσώποις θεὸν ἁπάντων ὑμνῶ,
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

Ἄχραντε θεοτόκε παρθένε, μόνη πανύμνητε,
Spotless God-bearer virgin alone all-hymned
ἱκέτευε ἐκτενῶς εἰς τὸ σωθῆναι ἡμᾶς.
entreat earnestly for the to-be-saved us

ᾠδὴ 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
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

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 πλαστουργός μου·
You are the sweet Jesus you are the fashioner my
ἐν σοί, σωτήρ, δικαιωθήσομαι. 80
in you savior I-will-be-justified

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

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

Χαῖρε θεοδόχε γαστήρ, χαῖρε θρόνε κυρίου, 85
Rejoice God-receiving womb rejoice throne of-(the)-Lord
χαῖρε ἡ μήτηρ τῆς ζωῆς ἡμῶν.
rejoice the mother of-the life our

ᾠδὴ 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

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

δικαιοκρῖτα,

just-judge

εἰ καὶ μόνος ἥμαρτον ὡς ἄνθρωπος

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

ὑπὲρ πάντα ἄνθρωπον, φιλάνθρωπε,

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

Ἐγγίζει, ψυχή, τὸ τέλος, ἐγγίζει καὶ οὐ φροντίζεις,
Draws-near soul the end draws-near and not you-take-thought
οὐχ ἑτοιμάζῃ·
not you-prepare
ὁ καιρὸς συντέμνει, διανάστηθι·
the time is-cut-short rise-up
ἐγγὺς ἐπὶ θύραις ὁ κριτής ἐστιν·
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 ψυχή μου, τὰς πράξεις σου, ἃς εἰργάσω,
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 ἁμάρτημα οὐδὲ πρᾶξις,
Not has-been in the life (a)-sin nor deed
οὐδὲ κακία,
nor wickedness
ἣν ἐγώ, σωτήρ, οὐκ ἐπλημμέλησα
which I savior not committed
κατὰ νοῦν καὶ λόγον καὶ προαίρεσιν,
in mind and word and choice
καὶ θέσει καὶ γνώμῃ καὶ πράξει ἐξαμαρτήσας
and in-intent and in-judgment and in-deed having-sinned
ὡς 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
ἧς οὐδὲν ἐν [τῷ] κόσμῳ βιαιότερον·
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 δείλαιον.
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
δεῖγμα, ψυχή 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

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

Γυναῖκάς μοι δύο νόει τὴν πρᾶξίν τε καὶ τὴν γνῶσιν
Wives for-me two understand the action both and the knowledge
ἐν θεωρίᾳ·
in contemplation
τὴν μὲν Λείαν πρᾶξιν, ὡς πολύτεκνον,
— indeed Leah action as many-childed
τὴν Ῥαχὴλ δὲ γνῶσιν, ὡς πολύπονον·
— Rachel and knowledge as much-toiling
καὶ γὰρ ἄνευ πόνων οὐ πρᾶξις, οὐ θεωρία,
and for without toils not action not contemplation
ψυχή, 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
ὡς ὁμοβασίλειον καὶ σύνθρονον·
as sharing-the-kingdom and sharing-the-throne
βοῶ σοι τὸ ᾆσμα τὸ μέγα, τὸ ἐν ὑψίστοις
I-cry to-you the song the great the(-one) in (the)-highest
τρισσῶς ὑμνολογούμενον.
thrice hymned

Καὶ τίκτεις 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 νηδὺς 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

ᾠδὴ ϵ΄
ode 5
Ἐκ νυκτὸς ὀρθρίζοντα, φιλάνθρωπε, φώτισον, δέομαι,
From night rising-early lover-of-mankind enlighten I-beg
καὶ ὁδήγησον κἀμὲ ἐν τοῖς προστάγμασί σου
and guide me-too in the commandments your
καὶ δίδαξόν με, σωτήρ, ποιεῖν τὸ θέλημά σου.
and teach me savior to-do the will your

Ἐν νυκτὶ τὸν βίον μου διῆλθον ἀεί· σκότος γὰρ γέγονε
In night the life my I-passed always darkness for has-become
καὶ βαθεῖά μοι ἀχλὺς ἡ νὺξ τῆς ἁμαρτίας·
and deep to-me (a)-mist the night of-the sin
ἀλλ᾽ ὡς 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
καὶ παράνομον βουλὴν κατὰ θεοῦ ὑψίστου,
and unlawful (a)-counsel against God most-high
μιάνας κοίτην ἐμὴν ὡς τοῦ πατρὸς ἐκεῖνος.
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 Ἰωσὴφ ἀδελφοὶ πεπρακότες
as the before — Joseph brothers having-sold
τὸν τῆς ἁγνείας καρπὸν καὶ τὸν τῆς σωφροσύνης·
the of-the purity fruit and the(-fruit) of-the chastity

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, ψυχή, ἐπράθης τοῖς κακοῖς σου.
you-yourself but whole soul were-sold to-the evils your

Ἰωσὴφ τὸν δίκαιον καὶ σώφρονα νοῦν μίμησαι, τάλαινα
of-Joseph the just and chaste mind imitate wretched
καὶ ἀδόκιμε ψυχή, καὶ μὴ ἀκολασταίνου
and reprobate soul and not be-licentious
ταῖς παρανόμοις 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 ἕνα θεόν, ἅγιος, ἅγιος,
You trinity we-glorify the one God holy holy
ἅγιος εἶ ὁ πατήρ, ὁ υἱὸς καὶ τὸ πνεῦμα,
holy are-you the father the son and the spirit
ἁπλῆ οὐσία, μονὰς ἀεὶ προσκυνουμένη.
simple essence unity always worshiped

Ἐκ σοῦ ἠμφιέσατο 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

ᾠδὴ ϛ΄
ode 6

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 ζωήν μου.
and brought-up from corruption the life my

Τὰ δάκρυα, σωτήρ, τῶν ὀμμάτων μου
The tears savior of-the eyes my
καὶ τοὺς ἐκ βάθους στεναγμοὺς
and the from (the)-depth groans
καθαρῶς προσφέρω, βοώσης τῆς καρδίας,
purely I-offer crying the heart
ὁ θεὸς ἡμάρτηκά σοι, ἱλάσθητί 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 φείσαι, 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, ψυχή, παροιστρήσασα ἐξωμοιώθης τῷ Ἐφραίμ·
As (a)-heifer soul maddened you-resembled — to-Ephraim
ὡς δορκὰς ἐκ βρόχων ἀνάσωσον τὸν βίον,
as (a)-gazelle from snares save the life
πτερωθεῖσα πράξει καὶ νῷ καὶ θεωρίᾳ.
having-taken-wing by-action and mind and contemplation

Ἡ χεὶρ ἡμᾶς Μωσέως πιστώσεται, ψυχή, 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 ἀπογνῷς σεαυτήν, κἂν ἐλεπρώθης.
and not despair-of yourself even-if you-became-leprous

Τριάς εἰμι ἁπλῆ, 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

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

ᾠδὴ ζ΄

ode 7

Ἡμάρτομεν, ἠνομήσαμεν, ἠδικήσαμεν 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 παραδώσῃς ἡμᾶς εἰς τέλος,

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

ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεός.

the of-the fathers God

Ἡμάρτηκα, ἐπλημμέλησα καὶ ἠθέτησα τὴν ἐντολήν σου·

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

ὅτι ἐν ἁμαρτίαις προήχθην καὶ προσέθηκα

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

τοῖς μώλωψι τραῦμα ἐμοί·

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

ἀλλ᾽ αὐτός με ἐλέησον ὡς εὔσπλαγχνος,

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

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
ἴδε μου τὴν ταπείνωσιν, ἴδε καὶ τὴν θλίψιν 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 εὔσπλαγχνος,
and you-yourself me have-mercy-on as compassionate
ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεός.
the of-the fathers God

Σαούλ ποτε, ὡς ἀπώλεσε τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ψυχή,
Saul once when lost of-the father his soul
τὰς ὄνους,
the asses
πάρεργον τὸ βασίλειον εὗρε πρὸς ἀνάρρησιν·
as-a-by-work the kingship found for proclamation
ἀλλ' ὅρα, 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

Δαυΐδ ποτε ὁ πατρόθεος εἰ καὶ ἥμαρτε διττῶς, ψυχή 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
ἁλοὺς 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
ταῖς κατὰ γνώμην ὁρμαῖς.
with-the according-to will impulses

Συνῆψε μὲν ὁ Δαυΐδ ποτε ἀνομήματι 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 διπλῆν·
at-once showing double
ἀλλ' αὐτὴ πονηρότερα εἰργάσω, ψυχή,
but you-yourself more-wicked(-things) wrought soul
μὴ μεταγνοῦσα θεῷ.
not repenting to-God

Δαυῒδ ποτε ἀνεστήλωσε συγγραψάμενος ὡς ἐν εἰκόνι
David once set-up having-written as in (an)-image
ὕμνον, δι᾽ οὗ τὴν πρᾶξιν 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. 235
you-yourself cleanse me

Τριὰς ἁπλῆ, ἀδιαίρετε, ὁμοούσιε, μονὰς ἁγία,
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. 240
soul the of-all God

Ὑμνοῦμέν σε, εὐλογοῦμέν σε, προσκυνοῦμέν σε, θεογεννῆτορ,
We-hymn you we-bless you we-worship you God-begetter
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 προηνέῳξας ἡμῖν τοῖς ἐν γῇ
and you-yourself opened-beforehand to-us those on earth
τὰ ἐπουράνια.
the heavenly(-things)

ᾠδὴ η΄
ode 8
Ὃν 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

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

Ὁ διφρηλάτης Ἠλίας ἅρματι ταῖς ἀρεταῖς ἐπιβὰς
The charioteer Elijah on-(a)-chariot with-the virtues having-mounted
ὡς εἰς οὐρανὸν ἤγετο ὑπεράνω
as to heaven was-carried above
ποτὲ τῶν ἐπιγείων· τούτου οὖν, ψυχή μου,
once the earthly(-things) of-this(-one) then soul my
τὴν ἄνοδον ἀναλογίζου.
the going-up reckon-up

Ὁ Ἐλισσαῖός ποτε δεξάμενος τὴν μηλωτὴν Ἠλιοὺ
— Elisha once having-received the sheepskin of-Elijah
ἔλαβε διπλῆν χάριν παρὰ κυρίου·
took double grace from (the)-Lord
αὐτὴ δέ, ὦ ψυχή μου, ταύτης οὐ μετέσχες
you-yourself but O soul my this not partook
τῆς χάριτος δι᾽ ἀκρασίαν.
the grace because-of incontinence

Τοῦ Ἰορδάνου τὸ ῥεῖθρον πρότερον τῇ μηλωτῇ Ἠλιοὺ
— *of-Jordan the stream formerly by-the sheepskin of-Elijah*
δι᾽ Ἐλισσαιὲ ἔστη ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα·
through Elisha stood here and there
αὐτὴ δέ, ὦ ψυχή μου, ταύτης οὐ μετέσχες
you-yourself but O soul my this not partook
τῆς χάριτος δι᾽ ἀκρασίαν.
the grace because-of incontinence

Ἡ Σωμανῖτις ποτὲ τὸν δίκαιον ἐξένισεν, ὦ ψυχή,
The Shunammite once the just(-man) entertained O soul
γνώμῃ ἀγαθῇ, σὺ δὲ οὐκ εἰσῳκίσω,
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
ῥιφήσῃ ἔξω θρηνῳδοῦσα.
you-will-be-cast out lamenting

Τοῦ Γιεζῆ ἐμιμήσω, τάλαινα, τὴν γνώμην τὴν ῥυπαρὰν
— *of-Gehazi you-imitated wretched the intent the filthy*
πάντοτε, ψυχή· οὗ τὴν φιλαργυρίαν
always soul whose the love-of-money
ἀπόθου κἂν 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 γεννῆτορ,
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
τριὰς μονὰς ἐλέησόν με.
trinity unity have-mercy-on me

Ὡς ἐκ βαφῆς ἁλουργίδος, ἄχραντε, ἡ νοητὴ πορφυρίς,
As from (a)-dye of-sea-purple spotless(-one) the spiritual purple-robe
τοῦ Ἐμμανουὴλ ἔνδον ἐν τῇ γαστρί σου
— of-Emmanuel within in the womb your
ἡ σὰρξ συνεξυφάνθη· ὅθεν θεοτόκον
the flesh was-woven-together whence God-bearer
ἐν ἀληθείᾳ σε τιμῶμεν.
in truth you we-honor

ᾠδὴ θ΄
ode 9
Ἀσπόρου συλλήψεως ὁ τόκος ἀνερμήνευτος,
Of-seedless conception the birth inexplicable
μητρὸς ἀνάνδρου ἄφθορος ἡ κύησις·
of-(a)-mother husbandless incorrupt the bearing

θεοῦ γὰρ ἡ γέννησις καινοποιεῖ τὰς φύσεις·
of-God for the birth renews the natures
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 ἠσθένησεν,
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
διό μοι, τάλαινα ψυχή, τί ποιήσεις, ὅταν ἔλθῃ
wherefore to-me wretched soul what will-you-do when comes
ὁ κριτὴς 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)
ὧν τοὺς δευτέρους, ὦ ψυχή, ἐμιμήσω, οὐ τοὺς πρώτους,
of-whom the second O soul you-imitated not the first
εἰς θεὸν ἐξαμαρτήσασα.
against God having-sinned

Ὁ νόμος ἠσθένησεν, ἀργεῖ τὸ εὐαγγέλιον,
The law has-grown-weak is-idle the gospel
γραφὴ δὲ πᾶσα ἐν σοὶ παρημέληται,
scripture and all by you has-been-neglected
προφῆται ἠτόνησαν 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
ἰατροῦ τοῦ ὑγιοῦντός σε.
(a)-physician the(-one) healing you

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 νηστείαις
and propitiate Christ with-prayers both and fasts
καὶ ἁγνείᾳ καὶ σεμνότητι.
and with-purity and with-dignity

Χριστὸς ἐνηνθρώπησε, καλέσας εἰς μετάνοιαν
Christ became-man having-called to repentance
λῃστὰς καὶ πόρνας· ψυχή, μετανόησον,
robbers and harlots soul repent
ἡ θύρα ἠνέωκται τῆς βασιλείας ἤδη,
the door has-been-opened of-the kingdom already
καὶ προαρπάζουσιν αὐτὴν Φαρισαῖοι καὶ τελῶναι
and seize-beforehand it Pharisees and tax-collectors
καὶ μοιχοὶ μεταποιούμενοι.
and adulterers changing

Χριστὸς ἐνηνθρώπησε, 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 ἁμαρτίας δίχα,
by-will be-fulfilled the sin without
ὑπογραμμόν σοι, ὦ ψυχή, 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 δήμους 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

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 ἀθυμήσῃς,
showing the human soul not despond
ἄν σοι προσβάλλῃ ὁ ἐχθρός· προσευχῇ τε καὶ νηστείᾳ
if you assails the enemy with-prayer both and fasting
ἐκποδὼν ἀποκρουσθήτω σοι.
out-of-the-way let-him-be-beaten-off by-you

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
ὡς φῶς καὶ φῶτα, καὶ ζωὴν καὶ ζωάς, ζωοποιοῦσαν
as light and lights and life and lives giving-life
καὶ φωτίζουσαν τὰ πέρατα.
and enlightening the ends

Τὴν πόλιν σου φύλαττε, θεογεννῆτορ πάναγνε·
The city your guard God-begetter 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
τροποῦται πάντα πειρασμὸν καὶ σκυλεύει πολεμίους
puts-to-flight every temptation and despoils enemies
καὶ διέπει τὸ ὑπήκοον.
and governs the subject(-people)

COSMAS THE MELODIST

ΚΟΣΜΑ ΤΟΥ ΜΑΙΟΥΜΑ ΚΑΝΟΝΕΣ

Canons

Κανὼν εἰς τὴν Ὕψωσιν 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.

ᾠδὴ 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 πεζεύσοντι·

— for-Israel about-to-go-on-foot

τὴν δὲ ἐπιστρεπτικῶς

the(-sea) and backward

Φαραὼ τοῖς ἅρμασι κροτήσας ἥνωσεν, 5

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

ἐπ᾽ εὔρους διαγράψας τὸ ἀήττητον ὅπλον·

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
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 Ἀμαλὴκ τοῦ πανώλους·
the might having-destroyed of-Amalek the all-destroying
διὸ Χριστῷ ᾄσωμεν
wherefore to-Christ let-us-sing
τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.
— to-God our for he-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
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 ᾄσωμεν
wherefore to-Christ let-us-sing
τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.
— to-God our for he-has-been-glorified

Ὑπέδειξεν οὐρανὸς
Showed heaven
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 πέρασι θεία·
and faith was-spread-out of-earth to-the ends divine
διὸ Χριστῷ ᾄσωμεν
wherefore to-Christ let-us-sing
τῷ θεῷ ἡμῶν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.
— to-God our for he-has-been-glorified

ᾠδὴ 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

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 ῥαπιζομένη 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

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

ᾠδὴ δ΄

ode 4

Εἰσακήκοα, κύριε, τῆς οἰκονομίας σου τὸ μυστήριον,

I-have-heard 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.

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
τῆς ἐν τύπῳ μαρτυρίου σκηνῆς,
of-the in type of-witness tabernacle
σταυροτύποις τάξεσι κλεϊζόμενος.
in-cross-shaped ranks made-famous

Θαυμαστῶς ἐφαπλούμενος τὰς ἡλιακὰς βολὰς ἐξηκόντισεν
Wondrously spread-out the solar rays shot-forth
ὁ σταυρός, καὶ διηγήσαντο
the cross and declared
οὐρανοὶ τὴν δόξαν τοῦ θεοῦ ἡμῶν.
(the)-heavens the glory — of-God our

ᾠδὴ ϵ΄
ode 5
Ὦ 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 ἀοίδιμον ξύλον, ἐν ᾧ ἐτάθη Χριστός,
You the sung-of wood on which was-stretched Christ
ἡ τὴν Ἐδὲμ φυλάττουσα
the — Eden guarding
στρεφομένη ῥομφαία, σταυρέ, ἠδέσθη·
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
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

Μαρμαρυγαῖς ἀκηράτοις φανεὶς 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
ἀπαστράψας, οἰκειοῖ 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

ᾠδὴ ϛ΄
ode 6

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 ἐκδὺς
whence on-the-third-day having-come-out
τὴν ὑπερκόσμιον ἀνάστασιν ὑπεζωγράφησε
the supramundane resurrection he-sketched
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 γήρᾳ καμφθεὶς καὶ νόσῳ τρυχωθεὶς ἀνωρθοῦτο
The(-one) by-old-age bent and by-disease worn was-set-upright
Ἰακὼβ χεῖρας ἀμείψας,
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

Νεαζούσαις θεὶς 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 νομολάτρις λαός·
as elder in-glory the law-serving people
ὑποπτευθεὶς ὅθεν οὗτος
having-been-suspected whence this(-one)
ἐξηπατῆσθαι οὐκ ἠλλοίωσε 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

ᾠδὴ ζ΄

ode 7

Ἔκνοον 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 παρῴκησε·
in-corruption sojourned
ῥίψιν 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
ὡς λύμη τῆς νόσου, μετέδωκεν·
as (a)-plague of-the disease he-imparted
ἀλλ᾽ εὑρηκότες 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 εἶ.
God blessed are-you

Ἔλυσε 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

ὃ νυκτιλόχου δυσθανοῦς ἀνέῳξεν
which of-(a)-night-ambushing hard-dying(-man) opened
εὐγνωμοσύνη κράζοντος·
(the)-good-sense crying
ὁ ὑπερύμνητος τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν
the more-than-hymned of-the fathers and our
θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
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
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
ὁ ὑπερύμνητος τῶν πατέρων καὶ ἡμῶν
the more-than-hymned of-the fathers and our
θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
God blessed are-you

ᾠδὴ η΄
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
hymn the having-come-down-with word
καὶ τὸ πῦρ εἰς δρόσον μεταποιήσαντα.
and the 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

Ὑψουμένου ξύλου ῥαντισθέντος 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 ἑορτάζουσαι·
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

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
raise sacredly and (the)-lance
θεοῦ λόγου σῶμα ἀντιτορήσασαν·
of-God (the)-word (the)-body having-pierced
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 θείᾳ ψήφῳ προκριθέντες ἀγάλλεσθε,
You-who by-the divine vote chosen-before rejoice
Χριστιανῶν πιστοὶ βασιλεῖς,
of-Christians faithful kings
καυχᾶσθε τὸ τροπαιοφόρον ὅπλον λαχόντες θεόθεν,
boast the trophy-bearing weapon having-obtained from-God
σταυρὸν τὸν τίμιον·
(the)-cross the precious
ἐν τούτῳ γὰρ φῦλα πολέμων θράσος
on this for tribes of-wars (the)-boldness
ἐπιζητοῦντα σκεδάζονται εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.
seeking are-scattered to the ages

ᾠδὴ θ΄

ode 9

Μυστικὸς εἶ, θεοτόκε, παράδεισος,

Mystical are-you God-bearer paradise

ἀγεωργήτως βλαστήσασα Χριστόν,

untilled having-sprouted Christ

ὑφ᾽ οὗ τὸ τοῦ σταυροῦ ζωηφόρον 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

Ἀγαλλέσθω τὰ δρυμοῦ ξύλα σύμπαντα

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

ἁγιασθείσης τῆς φύσεως αὐτῶν,

having-been-sanctified the nature their

ὑφ᾽ 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

Ἱερὸν ἠγέρθη κέρας θεόφροσι
Holy was-raised (a)-horn for-the-God-minded
τῆς κεφαλῆς τῶν ἁπάντων 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 προσκυνοῦμεν αὐτὸν
through which now being-raised we-worship him
καὶ μεγαλύνομεν.
and magnify

κατ᾽ ἄλλον εἱρμόν.
after other heirmos
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 διαλέλυται
of-the for foremother the of-all-the-race curse has-been-dissolved
τῷ βλαστῷ τῆς ἁγνῆς 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 ἐάσας ἀναιρέσιμον, κύριε,
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 Μερρᾶς,
whence also (a)-tree loosed once (the)-bitterness of-(the)-waters of-Marah
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,
Unceasingly dipped in-the gloom of-the forefather Lord
διὰ σταυροῦ ἀνύψωσας σήμερον·
through (the)-cross you-raised-up today
ὡς γὰρ τῇ πλάνῃ ἄγαν ἀκρατῶς ἡ φύσις προκατηνέχθη,
as for by-the error very intemperately the nature was-brought-down
παγκλήρως ἡμᾶς πάλιν ἀνώρθωσε
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 ἠγλαϊσμένον,
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.

ᾠδὴ 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

Ῥεύσαντα 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

Ἰδὼν ὁ κτίστης ὀλλύμενον
Having-seen the creator perishing
τὸν ἄνθρωπον, χερσὶν ὃν ἐποίησε,
the man with-hands whom he-made
κλίνας οὐρανοὺς κατέρχεται·
having-bowed (the)-heavens comes-down

τοῦτον δὲ ἐκ παρθένου θείας ἁγνῆς
him and from (a)-virgin divine pure
ὅλον ὁσιοῦται ἀληθείᾳ σαρκωθείς,
wholly he-hallows in-truth having-been-made-flesh
ὅτι δεδόξασται.
for he-has-been-glorified

Σοφία, λόγος καὶ δύναμις,
Wisdom word and power
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

ᾠδὴ γ΄
ode 3
Τῷ πρὸ τῶν αἰώνων
To-the before the ages
ἐκ πατρὸς γεννηθέντι ἀρρεύστως 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 εἶ, κύριε.
holy are-you Lord

Ὁ τῆς ἐπιπνοίας
The of-the inbreathing
μετασχὼν τῆς ἀμείνω Ἀδὰμ χοϊκὸς
having-partaken the better Adam earthy
καὶ πρὸς φθορὰν κατολισθήσας
and to corruption having-slipped-down
γυναικείᾳ ἀπάτῃ
by-womanly deceit
Χριστῷ γυναικὸς βοᾷ ἐξ ὀρῶν·
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 εἶ, κύριε.
holy are-you Lord

Σύμμορφος πηλίνης,
Conformed of-clay
εὐτελοῦς διαρτίας, Χριστέ, γεγονὼς
of-mean frame Christ having-become
καὶ μετοχῇ σαρκὸς τῆς χείρω
and by-participation of-flesh the worse
μεταδοὺς θείας φύτλης,
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
ἅγιος εἶ, κύριε.
holy are-you Lord

Βηθλεὲμ εὐφραίνου,
Bethlehem rejoice
ἡγεμόνων Ἰούδα βασίλεια·
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
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

ᾠδὴ δ΄

ode 4

Ῥάβδος ἐκ τῆς ῥίζης 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 σαρκωθεὶς ἐξ ἀπειράνδρου

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

ὁ ἄϋλος καὶ θεός·

the immaterial and God

δόξα τῇ δυνάμει σου, κύριε.

glory to-the power your Lord

Ὃν πάλαι προεῖπεν Ἰακὼβ

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 σκῦλά τε

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

ἦλθες προνομεύσων, πλάνην τρέπων
you-came to-plunder error turning
εἰς πίστιν θεοτερπῆ·
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 μυητὰς σοφοὺς
of-the words initiates wise
ἀστεροσκόπους χαρᾶς ἔπλησας.
star-gazers with-joy you-filled
ἀστὴρ ἐκ τοῦ Ἰακὼβ 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
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 Tarshish 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

ᾠδὴ ϵ΄
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 ὁδηγηθέντες,
whence of-knowledge-of-God to light having-been-guided
ἐκ νυκτὸς ὀρθρίζοντες
from night rising-early
δοξολογοῦμέν σε, φιλάνθρωπε.
we-glorify you lover-of-mankind

Ἐν δούλοις τῷ Καίσαρος δόγματι
Among slaves by-the of-Caesar decree
ἀπεγράφης πιθήσας καὶ δούλους ἡμᾶς
you-were-enrolled having-obeyed and slaves us
ἐχθροῦ καὶ ἁμαρτίας ἠλευθέρωσας, Χριστέ.
of-(the)-enemy and of-sin you-freed Christ
ὅλον τὸ καθ' ἡμᾶς δὲ πτωχεύσας καὶ χοϊκὸν
all the(-part) like us and having-become-poor and earthy
ἐξ αὐτῆς ἑνώσεως
from very union
καὶ κοινωνίας ἐθεούργησας.
and communion you-made-divine

Ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος, ὡς πάλαι φησίν.
Behold the virgin as of-old it-says
ἐν γαστρὶ συλλαβοῦσα ἐκύησεν
in womb having-conceived bore
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
οὖσαν ἐν πίστει ἀνυμνήσωμεν.
being in faith let-us-hymn

ᾠδὴ ϛ΄
ode 6

Σπλάγχνων Ἰωνᾶν ἔμβρυον ἀπήμεσεν
From-(its)-entrails Jonah (as)-embryo vomited
ἐνάλιος θήρ, οἷον ἐδέξατο·
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 ῥεύσεως
of-which for not he-underwent flux
τὴν τεκοῦσαν κατέσχεν ἀπήμαντον.
the(-one) having-borne-him he-kept unharmed

Ἦλθε σαρκωθεὶς 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

ἐν φάτνῃ τῶν ἀλόγων ἀνακλίνεται,
in (a)-manger of-the irrational(-beasts) is-laid
ῥάκει 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
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 θεός ἐστι
this(-one) mighty God is
καὶ κρατῶν ἐξουσίᾳ τῆς κτίσεως.
and ruling in-authority over-the creation

ᾠδὴ ζ΄

ode 7

Οἱ παῖδες εὐσεβείᾳ
The children in-piety

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 ἑστῶτες ἔψαλλον·
but in (the)-midst of-the flame standing sang

ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
the of-the fathers God blessed are-you

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

ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
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
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
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-worshiped singing
ὁ τῶν πατέρων θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
the of-the fathers God blessed are-you

ᾠδὴ η΄
ode 8

Θαύματος ὑπερφυοῦς ἡ δροσοβόλος
Of-(a)-wonder supernatural the dew-shedding
ἐξεικόνισε κάμινος τρόπον·
pictured furnace (the)-manner
οὐ γὰρ οὓς ἐδέξατο φλέγει νέους,
not for whom it-received burns young(-men)
ὡς οὐδὲ πῦρ
as neither (the)-fire
τῆς θεότητος παρθένου ἣν ὑπέδυ νηδύν·
of-the godhead of-(the)-virgin which it-entered womb
διὸ ἀνυμνοῦντες ἀναμέλψωμεν·
wherefore hymning let-us-sing
εὐλογείτω 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

Ἕλκει Βαβυλῶνος ἡ θυγάτηρ παῖδας
Draws of-Babylon the daughter children
δορικτήτους Δαυῒδ ἐκ Σιὼν αὑτῇ·
spear-won of-David from Zion to-herself
δωροφόρους πέμπει δὲ μάγους παῖδας,
gift-bearing sends and magi children
τὴν τοῦ Δαυῒδ
the — of-David
θεοδόχον θυγατέρα λιτανεύσοντας·
God-receiving daughter to-supplicate

διὸ ἀνυμνοῦντες ἀναμέλψωμεν·
wherefore hymning let-us-sing
εὐλογείτω ἡ κτίσις πᾶσα τὸν κύριον
let-bless the creation all the Lord
καὶ ὑπερυψούτω
and let-it-exalt-above-all
εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.
to all the ages

Ὄργανα παρέκλινε τὸ πένθος ᾠδῆς·
Instruments put-aside the grief of-song
οὐ γὰρ ᾖδον 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)
ἁρμονίαν Βηθλεὲμ ἐξανατείλας Χριστός·
harmony from-Bethlehem having-risen Christ
διὸ ἀνυμνοῦντες ἀναμέλψωμεν·
wherefore hymning let-us-sing
εὐλογείτω 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

Σκῦλα Βαβυλὼν τῆς βασιλίδος Σιὼν
Spoils Babylon of-the queen Zion
καὶ δορίκτητον ὄλβον ἐδέξατο·
and spear-won wealth received
θησαυροὺς Χριστὸς ἐν Σιὼν δὲ ταύτης
treasures Christ in Zion and her
καὶ βασιλεῖς
and kings
σὺν ἀστέρι ὁδηγῷ ἀστροπολοῦντας ἕλκει·
with (a)-star guide star-gazing draws
διὸ ἀνυμνοῦντες ἀναμέλψωμεν·
wherefore hymning let-us-sing
εὐλογείτω 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

ᾠδὴ θ′
ode 9
Μυστήριον ξένον ὁρῶ καὶ παράδοξον!
(A)-mystery strange I-see and paradoxical
οὐρανὸν τὸ σπήλαιον, θρόνον χερουβικὸν
heaven the cave (a)-throne cherubic
τὴν παρθένον, τὴν φάτνην 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

Ἐξαίσιον δρόμον ὁρῶντες οἱ μάγοι.
Extraordinary (a)-course seeing the magi
ἀσυνήθους νέου ἀστέρος ἀρτιφανοῦς
of-unaccustomed new star newly-appeared
οὐρανίου ὑπερλάμποντος.
heavenly outshining
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 ἥκομεν,
his worship we-have-come
μανεὶς ὁ Ἡρώδης ἐταράττετο,
maddened — Herod was-troubled
Χριστὸν ἀνελεῖν ὁ θεομάχος φρυαττόμενος.
Christ to-slay the God-fighter raging

Ἠκρίβωσε 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 ὁδηγούμενοι
by which to (their)-homeland being-guided
δεινὸν παιδοκτόνον ἐγκατέλιπον παιζόμενον.
(the)-dread child-killer they-left mocked

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 exalt those who magnify her, redeem Adam with Eve, and rise on the third day.

ᾠδὴ α΄
ode 1
Κύματι θαλάσσης τὸν κρύψαντα πάλαι
By-(the)-wave of-(the)-sea the(-one) having-hidden 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
ἐνδόξως γὰρ δεδόξασται.
gloriously for he-has-been-glorified

Κύριε θεέ μου, ἐξόδιον ὕμνον
Lord God my (a)-parting hymn
καὶ ἐπιτάφιον
and funeral
ᾠδήν 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
καὶ ᾅδην 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
ἐδονεῖτο τῇ νεκρώσει σου· ὑπὲρ νοῦν ὡράθης γὰρ
were-shaken at-the deadness your beyond mind you-were-seen for
νεκρὸς ζωαρχικώτατος.
dead most-life-originating

Ἵνα σου τῆς δόξης τὰ πάντα πληρώσῃς,
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 ταφεὶς φθαρέντα με
the substance my the(-one) in Adam and buried corrupted me
καινοποιεῖς, φιλάνθρωπε. 20
you-make-new lover-of-mankind

ᾠδὴ 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 hanging
θαμβητικῶς συνείχετο, οὐκ ἔστιν ἅγιος
with-amazement was-gripped not there-is holy
πλήν σου, κύριε, κραυγάζουσα. 25
except you Lord crying

Σύμβολα τῆς ταφῆς σου παρέδειξας,
Signs of-the burial your you-displayed
τὰς ὁράσεις 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 ᾅδου, δέσποτα, οὐκ ἔστιν ἅγιος
even to-those in Hades master not there-is holy
πλήν σου, κύριε, κραυγάζουσιν.
except you Lord crying

Ἥπλωσας τὰς ἀγκάλας καὶ ἥνωσας
You-spread-out the arms and united
τὰ τὸ πρὶν διεστῶτα·
the(-things) the before having-stood-apart
καταστολῇ δέ, σῶτερ, τῇ ἐν σινδόνι 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
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 δύναμίν 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. 40
except you Lord lover-of-mankind

ᾠδὴ δ΄
ode 4
Τὴν ἐν σταυρῷ σου θείαν κένωσιν
The on (the)-cross your divine self-emptying
προορῶν Ἀββακοὺμ ἐξεστηκὼς ἐβόα·
foreseeing Habakkuk being-amazed cried
σὺ δυναστῶν διέκοψας κράτος, ἀγαθέ,
you of-mighty(-ones) cut-through (the)-might good(-one)
ὁμιλῶν τοῖς ἐν ᾅδῃ ὡς παντοδύναμος.
conversing-with those in Hades as all-powerful

Ἑβδόμην 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
ἐκνικήσαντός σου τῆς σαρκὸς ἡ ψυχή σου
having-conquered your from-the flesh the soul your
διῄρηται· σπαράττουσι ἄμφω γὰρ δεσμοὺς
is-divided they-tear both for (the)-bonds
τοῦ θανάτου καὶ ᾅδου, λόγε, τῷ κράτει σου.
of-the death and of-Hades word by-the might your

Ὁ ᾅδης, λόγε, συναντήσας σοι
— Hades word having-met you
ἐπικράνθη, βροτὸν ὁρῶν τεθεωμένον,
was-embittered (a)-mortal seeing deified
κατάστικτον τοῖς μώλωψι 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

ᾠδὴ 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· 60

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

Νεοποιεῖς τοὺς γηγενεῖς

You-make-new the earth-born

ὁ πλαστουργὸς χοϊκὸς χρηματίσας, 65

the fashioner earthy having-been-styled

καὶ σινδὼν καὶ τάφος ὑπεμφαίνουσι

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

τὸ συνόν σοι, λόγε, μυστήριον·

the being-with you word mystery

ὁ εὐσχήμων δὲ βουλευτὴς τὴν τοῦ σὲ φύσαντος
the honorable and councilor the of-the you having-begotten
βουλὴν σχηματίζει,
counsel shapes
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)
ἡ γὰρ σάρξ σου διαφθορὰν οὐκ εἶδε, δέσποτα,
the for flesh your corruption not saw master
οὐδὲ ἡ ψυχή σου εἰς ᾅδην
nor the soul your into Hades
ξενοπρεπῶς ἐγκαταλέλειπται.
strangely has-been-abandoned

Ἐξ ἀλοχεύτου 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
ἀφυπνώσας ὑπερφυῶς ὕπνον φυσίζωον
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

ᾠδὴ ϛ΄
ode 6
Συνεσχέθη, ἀλλ᾽ οὐ κατεσχέθη
He-was-held but not was-held-fast
στέρνοις κητῴοις 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

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

Ἀνῃρέθης, ἀλλ᾽ οὐ διῃρέθης,
You-were-slain but not were-divided
λόγε, ἧς μετέσχες σαρκός·
word of-which you-partook flesh
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
λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ, θεὸς καὶ ἄνθρωπος.
word — of-God God and man

Βροτοκτόνον, ἀλλ᾽ οὐ θεοκτόνον
Mortal-slaying but not God-slaying
ἔφυ τὸ πταῖσμα τοῦ Ἀδάμ·
was the fall — of-Adam
εἰ γὰρ καὶ πέπονθέ σου
if for even has-suffered your
τῆς σαρκὸς ἡ χοϊκὴ οὐσία,
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

Βασιλεύει, ἀλλ᾽ οὐκ αἰωνίζει
Reigns but not lasts-forever
ᾅδης τοῦ γένους τῶν βροτῶν·
Hades over-the race of-the mortals
σὺ γὰρ τεθεὶς ἐν τάφῳ,
you for having-been-laid in (a)-tomb

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
ἐκεῖ καθεύδουσι λύτρωσιν ἀψευδῆ,
there sleeping redemption unlying
σῶτερ γεγονὼς νεκρῶν πρωτότοκος.
savior having-become of-(the)-dead first-born

ᾠδὴ ζ΄
ode 7
Ἄφραστον θαῦμα! ὁ ἐν καμίνῳ ῥυσάμενος
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
εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν τῶν μελῳδούντων·
for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing
λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
redeemer — God blessed are-you

Τέτρωται ᾅδης, 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 μελῳδούντων·
for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing
λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
redeemer — God blessed are-you

Ὄλβιος 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 μελῳδούντων·
for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing
λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
redeemer — God blessed are-you

Νόμῳ θανόντων τὴν ἐν τῷ τάφῳ κατάθεσιν
By-(the)-law of-the-dead the in the tomb laying-down
ἡ τῶν ὅλων δέχεται ζωὴ
the of-the all receives life
καὶ τοῦτον πηγὴν δείκνυσιν ἐγέρσεως
and this(-tomb) (a)-spring shows of-rising
135 εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν τῶν μελῳδούντων·
for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing
λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
redeemer — God blessed are-you

Μία ὑπῆρχεν ἡ ἐν τῷ ᾅδῃ ἀχώριστος
One was the in — Hades inseparable
καὶ ἐν τάφῳ καὶ ἐν τῇ Ἐδὲμ
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 μελῳδούντων·
for salvation of-us the(-ones) singing
λυτρωτά, ὁ θεὸς εὐλογητὸς εἶ.
redeemer — God blessed are-you

ᾠδὴ η΄
ode 8
Ἔκστηθι 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

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

Πέπαυται 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

αἰτεῖται καὶ κηδεύει κραυγάζων·
he-asks-for and buries(-him) crying
οἱ παῖδες εὐλογεῖτε, ἱερεῖς ἀνυμνεῖτε,
you children bless priests hymn
λαὸς ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.
people exalt-above-all to all the ages

Ὢ τῶν θαυμάτων τῶν καινῶν!
O the wonders the new
ὢ ἀγαθότητος! ὢ ἀφράστου ἀνοχῆς!
O goodness O ineffable forbearance
ἑκὼν 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 ἀνυμνεῖτε,
whom children bless priests hymn
λαὸς ὑπερυψοῦτε εἰς πάντας τοὺς αἰῶνας.
people exalt-above-all to all the ages

ᾠδὴ θ′
ode 9
Μὴ ἐποδύρου μοι, μῆτερ, 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

Ἐπὶ τῷ ξένῳ σου τόκῳ τὰς ὠδῖνας φυγοῦσα
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 ὁρῶσα 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

Γῆ με καλύπτει ἑκόντα, ἀλλὰ φρίττουσιν ᾅδου
Earth me covers willing but tremble of-Hades
οἱ πυλωροί, ἠμφιεσμένον βλέποντες στολὴν
the gatekeepers clothed seeing (in-a)-robe
ᾑμαγμένην, μῆτερ, 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

Ἀγαλλιάσθω ἡ κτίσις, εὐφραινέσθωσαν πάντες
Let-exult the creation let-rejoice all
οἱ γηγενεῖς· ὁ γὰρ ἐχθρὸς ἐσκύλευται ᾅδης·
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 Εὔᾳ λυτροῦμαι παγγενῆ
— 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.

ᾠδὴ α΄
ode 1
Πόντῳ ἐκάλυψε Φαραὼ σὺν ἅρμασιν
In-(the)-sea covered Pharaoh with chariots
ὁ συντρίβων πολέμους ἐν ὑψηλῷ βραχίονι·
the(-one) crushing wars with (a)-high arm
ᾄσωμεν αὐτῷ, ὅτι δεδόξασται.
let-us-sing to-him for he-has-been-glorified

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

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

ᾠδὴ 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 Ἰερουσαλήμ·
sit in Jerusalem
ἐγὼ δὲ ὡς ἐμὲ παράκλητον ἄλλον,
I and as me comforter another
πνεῦμα τὸ ἐμόν 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

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 ἁρμονίαν θείως συνῆψε,
into one harmony divinely joined
γνῶσιν συνετίζουσα πιστοὺς τῆς Τριάδος,
with-knowledge making-wise (the)-faithful of-the Trinity
ἐν ᾗ ἐστερεώθημεν.
in which we-have-been-made-firm

ᾠδὴ 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
τοῦ σῶσαι τοὺς χριστούς 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 ἐνέφηνεν, ὡς πατρόθεν θεῖον σθένος
and strange in tongues showed-forth as from-the-father divine might
ἐρχόμενόν ἐστιν αὐτοκέλευστον.
coming it-is self-bidden

ᾠδὴ ϵ΄
ode 5
Τὸ διὰ τὸν φόβον σου ληφθέν, κύριε,
The because-of the fear your conceived Lord
ἐν γαστρὶ τῶν προφητῶν καὶ κυηθὲν 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

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
φύσει τῆς ἐν ᾗ κατοπτεύεται ἁγιότητος.
by-nature of-the in which it-is-beheld holiness

ᾠδὴ ϛ΄
ode 6
Ναυτιῶν τῷ σάλῳ τῶν βιωτικῶν μεληµάτων,
Being-seasick in-the surge of-the worldly cares
συμπλόοις ποντούμενος ἁμαρτίαις
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

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 ἡ 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

ᾠδὴ 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 ὑμνῳδίας, οὕτω βοῶντες·
through the hymnody thus crying
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
δι' ἧς Τριὰς κεκήρυκται εἷς 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
εὐλογητὸς εἶ, κράζοντες, ὁ θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν.
blessed are-you crying — God of-the fathers our

ᾠδὴ η΄
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 ζῆλος θεοῦ
and (the)-children zeal for-God
τοὺς ἀναλώτους τῷ πυρὶ ὑμνῳδοὺς 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

Ζωτικῆς ἐξ ὕψους βιαίας φερομένης
Of-life-giving from height violent being-borne
ἠχητικῶς τοῦ πνεύματος
resoundingly of-the spirit
τοῦ παναγίου ἁλιεῦσι πνοῆς
the all-holy to-fishermen breath
πυρίνων εἴδει γλωσσῶν,
of-fiery in-(the)-form tongues

τὰ μεγαλεῖα τοῦ θεοῦ ἐρρητορεύετο·
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

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 στῶμεν ἐν τῷ ὄρει Σιών,
come and let-us-stand on the mountain Zion
ἐν πόλει ζῶντος θεοῦ,
in (the)-city of-(the)-living God
πνευματοφόροις μαθηταῖς νῦν συγχορεύοντες·
with-spirit-bearing disciples now dancing-together
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

ᾠδὴ θ΄
ode 9
Μὴ τῆς φθορᾶς διὰ πεῖραν 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

Ἐπιπαφλάζοντος πάλαι πυρίνου ἅρματος
Roaring of-old (a)-fiery chariot
ὁ ζηλωτὴς καὶ πυρίπνους χαίρων ὀχούμενος
the zealot and fire-breathing rejoicing riding
τὴν νῦν ἐκλάμψασαν ἐπίπνοιαν ἐδήλου
the now having-shone-forth inspiration showed
ἐξ ὕψους ἀποστόλοις, ὑφ᾽ ἧς καταλαμφθέντες
from height to-(the)-apostles by which having-been-illumined
τὴν Τριάδα πᾶσιν ἐγνώρισαν.
the Trinity to-all they-made-known

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
λαοί, φυλαὶ καὶ γλῶσσαι, τὰ θεῖα μεγαλεῖα
peoples tribes and tongues the divine mighty-works
τῆς Τριάδος γνῶσιν μυούμενοι.
of-the Trinity knowledge being-initiated-into

JOHN OF DAMASCUS

ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ ΤΟΥ ΔΑΜΑΣΚΗΝΟΥ ΚΑΝΟΝΕΣ

Canons

Κανὼν ἰαμβικὸς 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.

ᾠδὴ 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

Ἑκὼν 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. 5

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

Ἤνεγκε γαστὴρ ἡγιασμένη λόγον,
Bore (a)-womb hallowed (the)-word
Σαφῶς ἀφλέκτῳ ζωγραφουμένη βάτῳ,
Clearly by-(the)-unburned pictured bush
Μιγέντα μορφῇ τῇ βροτησίᾳ θεόν,
Mingled with-(the)-form the mortal God
Εὔας τάλαιναν νηδὺν ἀρᾶς τῆς πάλαι
Of-Eve (the)-wretched womb from-(the)-curse the of-old
Λύοντα πικρᾶς, ὃν βροτοὶ δοξάζομεν.
Loosing bitter whom mortals we-glorify

Ἔδειξεν ἀστὴρ 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 συμπαθῆ
Clearly poor into (a)-cave the compassionate(-one)
Σὲ σπαργάνοις ἑλικτόν, ὃν γεγηθότες
You in-swaddling-clothes wrapped whom rejoicing
Ἴδον τὸν αὐτὸν καὶ βροτὸν καὶ κύριον.
They-saw the same both mortal and Lord

ᾠδὴ 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
Ὕπερθεν ἀκλόνητον ἐστηριγμένους,
Above unshaken established
Μάκαρ, μελῳδοὺς τῇ βάσει τῆς πίστεως.
Blessed(-one) singers on-the foundation of-the faith

Νύμφης πανάγνου τὸν πανόλβιον τόκον
Of-(the)-bride all-pure the all-blessed offspring
Ἰδεῖν ὑπὲρ νοῦν ἠξιωμένος 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 μελῳδοῦσάν τε τῶν ἀσωμάτων
(A)-rank singing and of-the bodiless(-ones)
Ἄνακτα Χριστόν, ἀσπόρως σαρκούμενον.
(The)-king Christ seedlessly being-made-flesh

Ὕψους ἀνάσσων οὐρανῶν, εὐσπλαγχνίᾳ
Of-(the)-height ruling of-(the)-heavens in-compassion
Τελεῖ καθ' ἡμᾶς ἐξ ἀνυμφεύτου κόρης,
Becomes like us from (an)-unwedded maiden
Ἄϋλος 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
Ἵνα πρὸς αὑτὸν ἑλκύσῃ πρωτόπλαστον.
That to himself he-might-draw first-formed

Γένους βροτείου τὴν ἀνάπλασιν πάλαι
Of-(the)-race mortal the refashioning of-old
Ἄιδων προφήτης Ἀββακοὺμ 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
Ἐξῆλθε λαῶν εἰς ἀνάπλασιν λόγος.
Came-forth of-peoples for (the)-refashioning word

ᾠδὴ δ΄
ode 4
Ἴσος προῆλθες τοῖς βροτοῖς ἑκουσίως,
Equal you-came-forth to-the mortals willingly
Ὕψιστε, σάρκα προσλαβὼν ἐκ παρθένου,
Most-high(-one) flesh having-taken-on from (a)-virgin
Ἰὸν καθᾶραι τῆς δρακοντείας κάρας,
(The)-venom to-cleanse of-the dragon's head
Ἄγων ἅπαντας πρὸς σέλας ζωηφόρον,
Leading all to (the)-light life-bearing
Θεὸς πεφυκώς, ἐκ πυλῶν ἀνηλίων.
God being from gates sunless

Ἔθνη τὰ πρόσθεν τῇ φθορᾷ βεβυσμένα,
Nations the formerly in-the corruption sunk
Ὄλεθρον 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. 45
In the(-things) like us compassionately having-arrived

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
Πατρὸς 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 ξένῃ. 50
(The)-womb to-pass-through by-the self-emptying the strange

ᾠδὴ ϵ΄
ode 5
Ἐκ νυκτὸς ἔργων ἐσκοτισμένοις πλάνης
From (the)-night of-(the)-works darkened of-error
Ἱλασμὸν ἡμῖν, Χριστέ, τοῖς ἐγρηγόρως
(A)-propitiation for-us Christ to-those wakefully

Νῦν σοι τελοῦσιν ὕμνον ὡς εὐεργέτῃ,
Now to-you performing (a)-hymn as to-(a)-benefactor
Ἔλθοις πορίζων εὐχερῆ τε τὴν τρίβον,
May-you-come providing easy and the path
Καθ' ἣν ἀνατρέχοντες εὕροιμεν 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 ἀΰλοις οὐσίαις,
(The)-world joining to-the immaterial essences
Τιθεὶς προσηνῆ τὸν τεκόντα τῇ κτίσει.
Making gentle the(-one) having-begotten to-the creation

Ὁ λαὸς εἶδεν, ὁ πρὶν ἠμαυρωμένος
The people saw the formerly darkened
Μεθ' ἡμέραν φῶς τῆς ἄνω φρυκτωρίας·
By day (the)-light of-the above beacon
Ἔθνη θεῷ δὲ κλῆρον υἱὸς προσφέρει,
Nations to-God and (as)-inheritance (the)-son brings
Νέμων ἐκεῖσε τὴν ἀπόρρητον χάριν,
Distributing there the ineffable grace
Οὗ πλεῖστον ἐξήνθησεν ἡ ἁμαρτία.
Where most blossomed the sin

ᾠδὴ ϛ΄

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

Νυγεὶς ἐγὼ δὲ τοῦ τυραννοῦντος βέλει,

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

Χριστέ, προσαυδῶ τὸν κακῶν ἀναιρέτην

Christ I-call-upon the of-evils destroyer

Θᾶττον μολεῖν σε τῆς ἐμῆς ῥαθυμίας. 70

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

Ὃς ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς θεὸν θεὸς λόγος

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

Νυνὶ κρατύνει, μὴ σθένουσαν 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 δευτέρᾳ κοινωνίᾳ,

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

Αὖθις προφαίνων τῶν παθῶν ἐλευθέραν. 75

Again showing(-it) from-the passions free

Ἵκται 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 ἐγεῖραι 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
Νῦν εὐδοκήσας εἰς βροτῶν σωτηρίαν.
Now having-been-well-pleased for of-mortals salvation

ᾠδὴ ζ΄
ode 7
Τῷ παντάνακτος ἐξεφαύλισαν πόθῳ
By-the of-(the)-all-king they-belittled longing
Ἄπληστα θυμαίνοντος ἠγκιστρωμένοι
Dreadfully raging having-been-hooked
Παῖδες τυράννου δύσθεον γλωσσαλγίαν,
(The)-children of-(the)-tyrant godless tongue-wagging
Οἷς εἴκαθε πῦρ ἄσπετον, τῷ δεσπότῃ
To-whom yielded fire unspeakable to-the master
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 ῥοιζηδὸν νέους,
Saves but bubbling with-a-rush (the)-young(-men)
Ταῖς ἑπταμέτροις καύσεσι 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

Ἀρωγὲ Χριστέ, τὸν βροτοῖς ἐναντίον,
Helper Christ the to-mortals opposed
Πρόβλημα τὴν σάρκωσιν ἀρρήτως ἔχων,
(As)-shield the incarnation ineffably having
Ἴσχυνας, ὄλβον τῆς θεώσεως φέρων,
You-shamed (the)-wealth of-the deification bearing
Μορφούμενος νῦν· ἧστινος δι᾽ ἐλπίδα
Being-formed now of-which because-of hope
Ἄνωθεν εἰς κευθμῶνας ἤλθομεν ζόφου.
From-above into (the)-recesses we-came of-gloom

Τὴν ἀγριωπὸν ἀκρατῶς γαυρουμένην,
The savage-looking intemperately exulting
Ἄσεμνα βακχεύσασαν, ἐξοιστρουμένην
Indecently having-reveled frenzied
Κόσμου καθεῖλες πανσθενῶς ἁμαρτίαν·
Of-(the)-world you-brought-down all-powerfully (the)-sin
Οὓς εἵλκυσε πρίν, σήμερον τῶν ἀρκύων
Whom it-dragged formerly today from-the nets
Σώζεις δὲ σαρκωθεὶς ἑκών, εὐεργέτα.
You-save and having-been-made-flesh willingly benefactor

ᾠδὴ η΄
ode 8
Μήτραν 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 θαυματουργίᾳ μιᾷ
Both and doing by-wonder-working one
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 ἅπασα σὺν τρόμῳ κτίσις,
Youthfully all with trembling creation
Ἄδοξον εὖχος δειματουμένη φέρειν
Inglorious (a)-boast fearing to-bear
Ῥευστὴ γεγῶσα, κἂν σοφῶς ἐκαρτέρει.
Fluid having-been even-if wisely it-endured

Ἥκεις, 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 ἐθνῶν 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

ᾠδὴ θ′
ode 9
Στέργειν μὲν ἡμᾶς, ὡς ἀκίνδυνον φόβῳ,
To-love indeed for-us as (a)-safe(-thing) through-fear
Ῥᾷον σιωπήν· τῷ πόθῳ δέ, παρθένε,
Easier (is)-silence by-the longing but virgin

Ὕμνους ὑφαίνειν συντόνως τεθηγμένους
Hymns to-weave intensely sharpened
Ἐργώδες ἐστιν, ἀλλὰ καί, μῆτερ, σθένος,
Laborious it-is but even mother strength
Ὅση πέφυκεν ἡ προαίρεσις, δίδου.
As-much-as is the choice give

Τύπους ἀφεγγεῖς καὶ σκιὰς παρηγμένας,
Types unlit and shadows passed-away
Ὦ μῆτερ ἁγνή, 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
Ἐπαξίως σὴν εὐλογοῦμεν γαστέρα.
Deservedly your we-bless womb

Πόθου τετευχὼς καὶ θεοῦ παρουσίας
Of-longing having-obtained and of-God's coming
Ὁ χριστοτερπὴς λαὸς ἠξιωμένος
The Christ-delighting people having-been-deemed-worthy
Νῦν ποτνιᾶται τῆς παλιγγενεσίας
Now prays of-the regeneration
Ὡς ζωοποιοῦ· τὴν χάριν δέ, παρθένε,
As life-giving the grace but virgin
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.

ᾠδὴ 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. 5

us has-brought-over (the)-victory-song singing

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
τρανῶς ἀκουσόμεθα, ἐπινίκιον ᾄδοντες.
clearly we-will-hear (the)-victory-song singing

Οὐρανοὶ μὲν ἐπαξίως εὐφραινέσθωσαν,
Heavens indeed worthily let-rejoice
γῆ δὲ ἀγαλλιάσθω·
earth and let-exult
ἑορταζέτω δὲ κόσμος ὁρατός τε ἅπας
let-keep-feast and (the)-world visible both all
καὶ ἀόρατος·
and invisible
Χριστὸς γὰρ ἐγήγερται, εὐφροσύνη αἰώνιος.
Christ for has-been-raised gladness eternal

ᾠδὴ 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 φωτός,

Now all(-things) have-been-filled with-light

οὐρανός τε καὶ γῆ καὶ τὰ καταχθόνια·

heaven both and earth and the(-things) beneath-the-earth

ἑορταζέτω 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

ᾠδὴ δ΄

ode 4

Ἐπὶ τῆς θείας φυλακῆς ὁ θεηγόρος Ἀββακοὺμ

Upon the divine watch the God-speaking Habakkuk

στήτω μεθ᾽ ἡμῶν καὶ δεικνύτω

let-him-stand with us and let-him-show

φαεσφόρον 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

Ἄρσην μὲν ὡς διανοίξας τὴν παρθενεύουσαν νηδὺν

(A)-male indeed as having-opened the virgin womb

πέφηνε Χριστός· ὡς βροτὸς δὲ

has-appeared Christ as mortal and

ἀμνὸς προσηγόρευται· ἄμωμος δὲ ὡς ἄγευστος

(a)-lamb he-is-called spotless and as untasting

κηλῖδος τὸ ἡμέτερον πάσχα,

of-blemish the our Pascha

καὶ ὡς θεὸς ἀληθὴς 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 ἑκουσίως
crown Christ willingly
ὑπὲρ πάντων τέθυται 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 ἔλαμψεν ἥλιος.
of-righteousness for-us shone (the)-sun

Ὁ θεοπάτωρ μὲν Δαυῒδ πρὸ τῆς σκιώδους κιβωτοῦ
The ancestor-of-God indeed David before the shadowy ark
ἥλατο 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

ᾠδὴ ϵ΄

ode 5

Ὀρθρίσωμεν 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

καὶ Χριστὸν ὀψόμεθα δικαιοσύνης ἥλιον,

and Christ we-will-see of-righteousness (the)-sun

πᾶσι ζωὴν ἀνατέλλοντα.

to-all life making-rise

Τὴν ἄμετρόν σου εὐσπλαγχνίαν

The immeasurable your compassion

οἱ ταῖς τοῦ ᾅδου σειραῖς συνεχόμενοι δεδορκότες

those by-the — of-Hades chains held having-beheld

πρὸς τὸ φῶς ἠπείγοντο, Χριστέ, ἀγαλλομένῳ ποδί,

to the light hastened Christ with-exulting foot

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

ᾠδὴ ϛ΄
ode 6

Κατῆλθες 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 ἐξανέστης τοῦ τάφου.
as from (the)-sea-monster Jonah you-rose from-the tomb

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 ἀνέῳξας ἡμῖν παραδείσου τὰς πύλας.
and you-opened to-us of-paradise the gates

Σωτήρ μου τὸ ζῶν τε καὶ ἄθυτον
Savior my the living both and unsacrificed
ἱερεῖον ὡς θεὸς σεαυτὸν ἑκουσίως
victim as God yourself willingly
προσαγαγὼν τῷ πατρὶ συνανέστησας
having-brought to-the father you-raised-with(-you)
παγγενῆ τὸν Ἀδάμ, ἀναστὰς ἐκ τοῦ τάφου.
all-the-race — Adam having-risen from the tomb

ᾠδὴ 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

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

ὃν δὲ ὡς θνητὸν μετὰ δακρύων ἐζήτουν,

whom and as mortal with tears they-sought

προσεκύνησαν χαίρουσαι ζῶντα θεόν,

they-worshiped rejoicing living God

καὶ πάσχα τὸ μυστικὸν σοῖς, Χριστέ,

and (the)-Pascha the mystical to-your Christ

μαθηταῖς εὐηγγελίσαντο.

disciples they-announced

Θανάτου ἑορτάζομεν νέκρωσιν,
Of-death we-celebrate (the)-deadening
ᾅδου 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

Ὡς ὄντως ἱερὰ καὶ πανέορτος
As truly sacred and all-festal
αὕτη ἡ σωτήριος
this the saving
νὺξ καὶ φωταυγής, τῆς λαμπροφόρου ἡμέρας
night and light-radiant of-the brightness-bearing day
τῆς ἐγέρσεως οὖσα 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

ᾠδὴ η΄
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
ἑορτῶν ἑορτὴ καὶ πανήγυρίς ἐστι πανηγύρεων,
of-feasts (the)-feast and festival it-is of-festivals
ἐν ᾗ εὐλογοῦμεν Χριστὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.
in which we-bless Christ to the ages

Δεῦτε τοῦ καινοῦ τῆς ἀμπέλου γεννήματος,
Come of-the new of-the vine fruit
τῆς θείας εὐφροσύνης, ἐν τῇ εὐσήμῳ ἡμέρᾳ
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
ὑμνοῦντες αὐτὸν ὡς θεὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.
hymning him as God to the ages

Ἆρον κύκλῳ τοὺς ὀφθαλμούς σου, Σιών, καὶ ἴδε·
Raise around the eyes your Zion and see
ἰδοὺ γὰρ ἥκασί σοι θεοφεγγεῖς ὡς φωστῆρες
behold for have-come to-you God-illumined as luminaries
ἐκ δυσμῶν καὶ βορρᾶ καὶ θαλάσσης καὶ ἑῴας τὰ τέκνα σου,
from west and north and sea and east the children your
ἐν σοὶ εὐλογοῦντα Χριστὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.
in you blessing Christ to the ages

Πάτερ παντοκράτορ καὶ λόγε καὶ πνεῦμα,
Father almighty and word and spirit
τρισὶν ἑνιζομένη 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

ᾠδὴ θ΄
ode 9
Φωτίζου, φωτίζου ἡ νέα Ἰερουσαλήμ·
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, ἁγνή, τέρπου, θεοτόκε,
you and pure delight God-bearer
ἐν τῇ ἐγέρσει τοῦ τόκου σου.
in the rising of-the offspring your

Ὦ θείας! ὦ φίλης! ὦ γλυκυτάτης σου φωνῆς!
O divine O dear O sweetest your voice
μεθ' ἡμῶν ἀψευδῶς γὰρ ἐπηγγείλω ἔσεσθαι
with us unlyingly for you-promised to-be
μέχρι τερμάτων αἰῶνος, Χριστέ·
until (the)-ends of-(the)-age Christ
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
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.

ᾠδὴ 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 ὁδηγήσαντι

and in (the)-depth of-(the)-sea on-foot dry-shod having-guided

ᾠδὴν 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 ζοφερὸν χειμῶνα ἀπήλασε τῆς ἁμαρτίας ἡμῶν·

the gloomy winter drove-away of-the sin our

αὐτὸν ἀνυμνήσωμεν, ὅτι δεδόξασται.

him let-us-hymn for he-has-been-glorified

Ἡ βασιλὶς τῶν ὡρῶν τῇ λαμπροφόρῳ ἡμέρᾳ
The queen of-the seasons to-the brightness-bearing day
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 σφραγῖδες,
(The)-gates of-death Christ nor of-the tomb (the)-seals
οὐδὲ κλεῖθρα τῶν θυρῶν σοι ἀντέστησαν·
nor (the)-bars of-the doors to-you withstood
ἀλλ᾽ ἀναστὰς ἐπέστης τοῖς φίλοις σου, εἰρήνην, δέσποτα,
but having-risen you-stood-among the friends your peace master
δωρούμενος τὴν πάντα νοῦν ὑπερέχουσαν.
granting the(-one) all mind surpassing

ᾠδὴ γ΄
ode 3
Στερέωσόν με, Χριστέ, ἐπὶ τὴν ἄσειστον πέτραν
Make-firm me Christ upon the unshakable 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
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 μώλωπάς σου, Χριστέ, οὓς ἑκουσίως 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

ᾠδὴ 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

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 ἐγεύσατο, τὴν πάλαι γεῦσιν ἰώμενος·

Gall indeed he-tasted the of-old tasting healing

νυνὶ δὲ σὺν κηρίῳ μέλιτος τοῦ φωτισμοῦ μεταδιδοὺς

now and with (a)-honeycomb of-honey of-the illumination imparting

Χριστὸς τῷ προπάτορι

Christ to-the forefather

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 σήν, 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
ἀναπιμπλᾷ τὸν κόσμον ὁ Δίδυμος.
fills the world the Twin

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 ἁφῆς πλησθεῖσα τῆς χάριτος.
from the touch having-been-filled with-the grace

ᾠδὴ 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, φιλάνθρωπε.
the peace to-the world grant lover-of-mankind

Ἐπιστὰς τοῖς φίλοις ἀθυμοῦσιν ὁ σωτὴρ
Having-stood-among the friends despondent the savior
τῇ παρουσίᾳ ἅπασαν ἀπελαύνει 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

Ὢ τῆς ἀληθῶς ἐπαινουμένης τοῦ Θωμᾶ
O the truly praised — of-Thomas
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 ἡμῖν
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 φιλάνθρωπος.
you-provide profitably Christ as lover-of-mankind

ᾠδὴ ϛ΄
ode 6

Τὸν προφήτην διέσωσας
The prophet you-saved
ἐκ τοῦ κήτους, φιλάνθρωπε·
from the sea-monster lover-of-mankind
κἀμὲ τοῦ βυθοῦ τῶν πταισμάτων ἀνάγαγε, δέομαι.
me-too from-the depth of-the faults bring-up I-beg

Τὸν Θωμᾶν οὐ κατέλιπες
— Thomas not you-forsook
βαπτιζόμενον, δέσποτα,
plunged master
βυθῷ ἀπιστίας, παλάμας προτείνας εἰς ἔρευναν.
in-(the)-depth of-unbelief (the)-palms having-held-out for searching

Ὁ σωτὴρ ἡμῶν ἔλεγε·
The savior our said
ψηλαφῶντές με ἴδετε
touching me see
ὀστέα καὶ σάρκα φοροῦντα· ἐγὼ οὐκ ἠλλοίωμαι.
bones and flesh wearing I not have-been-changed

Τὴν πλευρὰν ἐψηλάφησε
The side touched
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

ᾠδὴ ζ΄
ode 7
Εἰκόνι λατρεύειν μουσικῆς συμφωνίας
To-(an)-image to-pay-worship of-musical concord
συγκαλουμένης λαοὺς
calling-together peoples
ἐκ τῶν ᾠδῶν Σιὼν ᾄδοντες πατρικῶς οἱ παῖδες Δαυΐδ
from the songs of-Zion singing ancestrally the children of-David
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 εἶ.
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

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

Οὐ μάτην διστάσας ὁ Θωμᾶς τῇ ἐγέρσει
Not in-vain having-doubted — Thomas to-the rising
σου οὐ κατέθετο,
your not assented
ἀλλ᾽ ἀναμφίλεκτον ἔσπευδεν ἀποδεῖξαι ταύτην, Χριστέ,
but undisputed hastened to-show it Christ
τοῖς πᾶσιν ἔθνεσιν· 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

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 ᾔσθετο 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
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

ᾠδὴ η΄

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

Ἐπιποθήσας σου τὴν χαρμόσυνον θέαν

Having-longed-for your the joyful sight

τὸ πρὶν ἠπίστει 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

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
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 ἀνέῳξε, Θωμᾶ·
for-us opened Thomas
θεολογήσας γλώσσῃ γὰρ θεοφορουμένῃ,
having-spoken-of-God with-tongue for God-borne
ὑμνεῖτε, ἔλεγες
hymn you-said
καὶ ὑπερυψοῦτε Χριστὸν εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.
and exalt-above-all Christ to the ages

ᾠδὴ 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

Σοῦ τὴν φαεινὴν ἡμέραν καὶ ὑπέρλαμπρον, Χριστέ,

Your the shining day and resplendent Christ

τὴν ὁλόφωτον 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

Σὲ τὸν χοϊκῇ παλάμῃ ψηλαφώμενον πλευρὰν

You the(-one) by-earthy palm touched (in-the)-side

καὶ μὴ φλέξαντα ταύτην

and not having-burned it

πυρὶ τῷ τῆς ἀΰλου 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
οὐ βλεφάροις 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 ἁγνῆς
and you having-become-man from the pure(-one)
ἡ πολυθεΐα 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

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 φωνὴ
of-Isaiah now the prophet the voice
σήμερον ἐν τῇ τοῦ μείζονος προφητῶν κυήσει
today in the of-the greater than-prophets bearing
Ἰωάννου πεπλήρωται·
of-John has-been-fulfilled
Ἰδού, γάρ φησιν, ἀποστελῶ τὸν ἄγγελόν μου
Behold for he-says I-will-send the angel my
πρὸ προσώπου σου,
before (the)-face your
ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδόν σου·
who will-prepare the way your

οὗτος οὖν, ὡς τοῦ ἐπουρανίου βασιλέως
this(-man) then as of-the heavenly king
στρατιώτης προδραμών,
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
ἁγνείαν γὰρ παντελῆ καὶ σωφροσύνην ἀσπασάμενος
purity for complete and chastity having-embraced
εἶχε μὲν τὸ κατὰ φύσιν, ἔφυγε δὲ τὸ παρὰ φύσιν, 10
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

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 ἁμαρτίαις 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
οἴμοι! λέγουσα, ὅτι νύξ μοι ὑπάρχει,
woe-is-me saying for night to-me is
οἶστρος ἀκολασίας ζοφώδης τε καὶ ἀσέληνος,
(a)-frenzy of-licentiousness dark both and moonless
ἔρως τῆς ἁμαρτίας·
(a)-yearning of-the sin
δέξαι μου τὰς πηγὰς τῶν δακρύων
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
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 Εὔα τὸ δειλινὸν
whose in the paradise Eve (in)-the evening
κρότον τοῖς ὠσὶν ἠχηθεῖσα τῷ φόβῳ ἐκρύβη·
sound in-the ears having-heard-ring in-the fear hid
ἁμαρτιῶν 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 παρίδῃς
not me the your handmaid overlook
ὁ ἀμέτρητον ἔχων τὸ ἔλεος.
the(-one) immeasurable having the mercy