

CHRISTMAS I

O LORD, open ☩ thou our lips:
**And our mouth shall shew
forth thy praise.**

O God, make ☩ speed to save us:
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and
to the Holy Ghost:
**As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be : world without
end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord:
The Lord's Name be praised.

OF the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending he,
Of the things that are, that have
been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Saviour of our race;
And the babe, the world's
Redeemer,
First revealed his sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

**Christ, to thee, with God the
Father,
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
Hymn and chant and high
thanksgiving
And unwearied praises be,
Honour, glory, and dominion
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore!**

Divinum mysterium

¶ Ps. 45. Eructavit cor meum.

MY HEART is inditing of a good matter
: I speak of the things which I have
made únto the King.

**My tongue is the pén : of a réady
writer.**

Thou art fairer than the children of mén: full
of grace are thy lips, because God hath
blessed thée for ever.

**Gird thee with thy sword upon
thy thigh, O thou most Míghty :
according to thy wórship and
renown.**

Good luck have thou with thine hónour : ride
on, because of the word of truth, of meekness,
and righteousness; and thy right hand shall
teach thee térrible things.

**Thy arrows are very sharp, and
the people shall be subdued unto
thée : even in the midst among
the Kíng's enemies.**

Thy seat, O God, endureth for éver : the
sceptre of thy kingdom is á right sceptre.

**Thou hast loved righteousness,
and hated iníquity : wherefore
God, even thy God, hath
anoínted thee with the oil of
gladness abóve thy fellows.**

All thy garments smell of myrrh, aloes, and
cássia : out of the ivory palaces, whereby théy
have made thee glad.

**Kings' daughters were among
thy honourable wómen : upon
thy right hand did stand the
queen in a vesture of gold,
wrought about with dívers
colours.**

Hearken, O daughter, and consider, incline thine éar ; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house.

So shall the King have pleasure in thy beauty : for he is thy Lord God, and wórship thou him.

And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift : like as the rich also among the people shall make their supplication before thee.

The King's daughter is all glorious within : her clothing is of wrought gold.

She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of néedle-work : the virgins that be her fellows shall bear her company, and shall be bróught unto thee.

With joy and gladness shall they be bróught : and shall enter into thé King's palace.

Instead of thy fathers thou shalt have children : whom thou mayest make princés in all lands.

I will remember thy Name from one generation to anóther : therefore shall the people give thanks unto thee, wórld without end.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Són: and tó the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever sháll be: world without end. Amen.

Here beginneth the 41st chapter of the prophecy of Isaiah.

KEEP silence before me, O islands; and let the people renew their strength: let them come near; then let them speak: let us come near together to judgment. Who raised up the righteous man from the east, called him to his foot, gave the nations before him, and made him rule over kings? he gave them as the dust to his sword, and as driven stubble to his bow. He pursued them, and passed safely; even by the way that he had not gone with his feet.

Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he. The isles saw it, and feared; the ends of the earth were afraid, drew near, and came. They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.

So the carpenter encouraged the goldsmith, and he that smootheth with the hammer him that smote the anvil, saying, It is ready for the soldering: and he fastened it with nails, that it should not be moved.

But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away. Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that

contended with thee: they that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought. For I the LORD thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm Jacob, and ye men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the LORD, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth: thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff. Thou shalt fan them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the whirlwind shall scatter them: and thou shalt rejoice in the LORD, and shalt glory in the Holy One of Israel.

When the poor and needy seek water, and there is none, and their tongue faileth for thirst, I the LORD will hear them, I the God of Israel will not forsake them. I will open rivers in high places, and fountains in the midst of the valleys: I will make the wilderness a pool of water, and the dry land springs of water. I will plant in the wilderness the cedar, the shittah tree, and the myrtle, and the oil tree; I will set in the desert the fir tree, and the pine, and the box tree together: That they may see, and know, and consider, and understand together, that the hand of the LORD hath done this, and the Holy One of Israel hath created it.

Is 41:1—20 AV

Here endeth the first lesson.

MY soul ✠ doth magnify the LORD :
**and my spirit hath rejoiced
in God my saviour.**

For he hath regarded : the lowliness of his handmaiden.

**For behold, from henceforth : all
generations shall call me blessed.**

For he that is mighty hath magnified me :
and holy is his name.

**And his mercy is on them that
fear him : through out all
generations.**

He hath shewed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

**He hath put down the mighty
from their seat : and hath
exalted the humble and meek.**

He hath filled the hungry with good things :
and the rich he hath sent empty away.

**He remembering his mercy hath
holpen his servant israel : as he
promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and
to the Holy Ghost :

**As it was in the beginning, is now
and ever shall be : world without
end. Amen.**

Here beginneth the 10th chapter of the
gospel according to S. John.

JESUS said unto his disciples, Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they

understood not what things they were which he spake unto them. Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep. The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine. As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, [and] one shepherd.

Jn 10:1—16 AV

Here endeth the second lesson.

LORD, now ☩ lettest thou thy servant depart in peace :
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen : thy sal-vation :

**Which thou hast prepared:
before the face of all people,**

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

**Glory be to the Father, and to
the Son : and to the Holy Ghost:**

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

**I BELIEVE in God, the Father
almighty, Maker of heaven and
earth, And in Jesus Christ his
only Son our Lord, Who was
conceived by the Holy Ghost,
Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered
under Pontius Pilate, Was
crucified, dead and buried, He
descended into hell; The third
day he rose again from the dead,
He ascended into heaven, And
sitteth on the right hand of God
the Father almighty: From
thence he shall come to judge
the quick and the dead. I believe
in the Holy Ghost, The holy
catholick Church, The
communion of saints, The
forgiveness of sins, The
resurrection ☩ of the body, And
the life everlasting.**

The Lord be with you :
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy upon us:
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR FATHER, which art in
heaven, Hallowed be thy
Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy
will be done, In earth as it is in
heaven. Give us this day our daily
bread. And forgive us our
trespasses, As we forgive them
that trespass against us. And lead
us not into temptation; But
deliver us from evil.

O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us:
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen:
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteous-ness:
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people:
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord:
Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

O God, make clean our hearts within us:
And take not thy holy Spirit from us.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end.
Amen.

O GOD, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give: That both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee we being defended from the fear of our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness : Through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

LIGHTEN our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord: And by thy great mercy

defend us from all perils and dangers of this night: For the love of thine only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord be with you :
And with thy spirit.

Let us bless the Lord:
Thanks be to God.

May the souls ✠ of the faithful through the mercy of God rest in peace:
And rise in glory.

¶ *The sermon follows.*

¶ *The prayers follow.*

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night,
All seated on the ground, [twice]
The angel of the Lord came down,
And glory shone around. [thrice]

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

**‘To you in David’s town this day
Is born of David’s line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord;
And this shall be the sign:**

**‘The heavenly Babe you there shall find,
To human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swaddling bands,
And in a manger laid.’**

Thus spake the seraph, and
 forthwith
 Appeared a shining throng[^]
 Of angels praising God, who thus
 Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
 And to the earth be peace;
 Goodwill henceforth from heaven
 to men
 Begin and never cease.

Bethlehem's Plain (Jackson)

C.M.
 Tune: "Bethlehem's Plain" (Second Tune). From *The Oldham Psalms*.

m While shep-herds watched . . their flocks by . . night,

All seat-ed on the ground, all seat-ed on the . . ground,

The an-gel of the Lord came down, And glo-ry shone a-round, and
 And glo-ry shone a-

glo-ry shone a-round, and glo-ry shone a-round,
 -round, and glo-ry shone a-round, . . . shone a-round,