

John Tavener *Ex Maria Virgine***1 I. VERBUM CARO**

Verbum caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis; et vidimus gloriam ejus, gloriam quasi Unigeniti a Patre, plenum gratiae et veritatis. Omnia per ipsum facta sunt, et sine ipso factum est nihil. Et vidimus.

Gloria Patri, et Filio, et Spiritui Sancto. Et vidimus.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us; and we saw his glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth. All things were made through him and without him was nothing made. And we saw.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. And we saw.

- from St. John's Gospel, Chapter 1

Ex Maria. [*Born*] of Mary.

2 II. NOWELL! NOWELL! OUT OF YOUR SLEEP

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
This is the salutation of the Angel Gabriel.

Out of your sleep arise and wake,
For God mankind now hath ytake,
All of a maid without any make,
Of all women she beareth the bell:
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
This is the salutation of the Angel Gabriel.

Now man is brighter than the sun,
Now man in heaven on high shall wone,
Blessed be God this game is begun,
And his mother empress of hell:
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
This is the salutation of the Angel Gabriel.

Now, blessed brother, grant us grace
A Domesday to see thy face,
And in thy court to have a place,
That we now there sing Nowell:
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
This is the salutation of the Angel Gabriel.

- Anon., medieval

Ex Maria Virgine. [*Born*] of the Virgin Mary.

3 III. REMEMBER O THOU MAN

Remember O thou man,
O thou man, O thou man,
Remember O thou man,
Thy time is spent.
Remember O thou man,
How thou art dead and gone,
And I did what I can,
Therefore repent.

Remember God's goodness,
O thou man, O thou man,
Remember God's goodness,
And his promise made.
Remember God's goodness,
How he sent his Son doubtless
Our sins [for] to redress,
Be not afraid.

The angels all did sing,
O thou man, O thou man,
The Angels all did sing
Upon the shepherds' hill,
The Angels all did sing
Praises to our heav'nly King,
And peace to man [living],
With a good will.

To Bethlem did they go,
O thou man, O thou man,
To Bethlem did they go,
The shepherds three.
To Bethlem did they go,
To see where it were so or no,
Whether Christ were born or no
To set man free.

In Bethlem he was born,
O thou man, O thou man,
In Bethlem he was born,
For mankind's sake.
In Bethlem he was born,
For us that were forlorn,
And therefore took no scom,
Our flesh to take.

Give thanks to God alway,
O thou man, O thou man,
Give thanks to God alway,
Most joyfully.
Give thanks to God alway,
For this our happy day,
Let all men sing and say,
Holy, Holy.

- Thomas Ravenscroft (c.1590-1633)

Ex Maria Virgine. [*Born*] of the Virgin Mary.

4 IV. SWEET WAS THE SONG

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang,
When she to Bethlem Juda came,
And was delivered of a Son,
That blessed Jesus hath to name.

"Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby,
Lulla, lulla, lulla, lullaby,
Sweet Babe," sang she.

"My Son and eke a Saviour born,
Who hast vouchsafed from on high
To visit us that were forlorn,

To visit us that were forlorn."

"Lalula, lalula, lullaby,
Sweet Babe," sang she,
And rocked him sweetly on her knee.

- W. Ballet, c. 1600

Ex Maria Virgine. *[Bom] of the Virgin Mary.*

5 V. AVE REX ANGELORUM

Ave rex! Ave rex angelorum! Ave rexque celorum!
Ave princeps que polorum!

*Hail, O King! Hail, King of the angels! Hail, King of the
skies! Hail, Prince of Heaven!*

Hail, most mighty in thy working,
Hail, thou Lord of allae thing;
I offer thee gold as to a king.

Ave rex angelorum!

- Anonymous, medieval

Ex Maria Virgine. *[Bom] of the Virgin Mary.*

6 VI. THERE IS NO ROSE

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu.
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space.
Res miranda. *Wonderful thing.*

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three.
Pariforma. *Equal in form.*

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gaudeamus. *Let us rejoice.*

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth.
Transeamus. *Let us follow.*

- Anon., medieval

Ex Maria Virgine. *[Bom] of the Virgin Mary.*

7 VII. DING! DONG! MERRILY ON HIGH

Ding! Dong! merrily on high
in heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding! Dong! verily the sky
is riven with angel singing.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
let steeple bells be swungen,
And io, io, io

by priest and people sungen.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you dutifully prime
your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

- G.R. Woodward (1838-1934)

Ex Maria Virgine. *[Bom] of the Virgin Mary.*

8 VIII. ROCKING

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling little man.

- from the Czech carol *Hajej, Nynje*
translated by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)

Ex Maria Virgine. *[Bom] of the Virgin Mary.*

9 IX. UNTO US IS BORN A SON

Χαίρε Μαρίαμ. Chéray Mariám. *Hail Mary!*

O Mary, you gave suckle
to Him who feeds us all.

Unto us is born a Son,
King of quires supernal:
See on earth his life begun,
Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heav'n descending low,
Comes on earth a stranger;
Ox and ass their owner know,
Becradled in a manger.

Yā sayyidātna Maryamu 'alaykis salām!
O, our Lady Mary, may peace be upon you!

O Mary, you gave suckle
to Him who feeds us all.

This did Herod sore affray,
And grievously bewilder,
So he gave the word to slay,
And slew the little childer.

Of his love and mercy mild,
This the Christmas story;
And O that Mary's gentle child
Might lead us up to glory.

Yā sayyidātna Maryamu 'alaykis salām!
O, our Lady Mary, may peace be upon you!

O Mary, you gave suckle
to Him who feeds us all.

O and A and A and O,
Cum cantibus in choro,
Let our merry organ go,
Benedicamus Domino.

Χαίρε Μαρίαμ. Chéray Mariám. *Hail Mary!*

O Mary, you gave suckle
to Him who feeds us all.

- translated by G.R.Woodward with interpolations
from Eastern Orthodox and Islamic sources

Ex Maria. *[Born] of Mary.*

10 VERBUM CARO

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Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. And we saw.

- from St. John's Gospel, Chapter 1

14 MARIENHYMNE

Die Heilige Jungfrau ist das Gottgedenken;
Deswegen sagt der Engel: „Voll der Gnad.“
Der Name Gottes, der das Herz erfreut:
Dies ist der Wein, den sie uns wollte schenken;

Und nicht nur ihre Worte, die ihr kennt –
Auch ihrer Schönheit strahlend Sakrament.
- from *Maria* by Frithjof Schuon

*The Holy Virgin is remembrance of God;
Therefore the angel says: "Hail, full of grace."
The Name of God, which fills our hearts with joy:
This is the wine she wanted to bestow;*

*And not her words alone, which you know –
But also her beauty's radiant sacrament.*

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15 O THOU GENTLE LIGHT

Φως ιλρον αγιας δοξης, αθανατου Πατρος, ουρανιου, αγιου, μακαρος, Ιησου Χριστες ελθοντες επι την ηλιον δυσιν, ιδοντες φως εσπερινον, υμνουμεν, Πατερα, Υιον, και αγιον Πνευμα Θεου, Αξιον σε εν πασι καιροις, υμνισθαι φωναις αισιας. Υιε Θεου, ζωνη ο διδους Διο ο κοσμος σε δοξαζει.

Fos ilaron ayias dhoxis, athanatu Patros, ouraniou, ayiou, makaros, lisou Xhriste elthondes epitin iliou dhisin, idhondes fos esperinon, imnoumen Patera, lion, ke ayion Pnevma Theon. Axion se en pasi keris, imnisthe fones esies. lie Theou, zoin o dhidhous dhio o kosmos se dhoxazi.

*O thou gentle light
of the holy glory of the Father immortal,
heavenly holy blessed Jesus Christ.*

*Now we are come to the setting of the sun,
and behold the light of evening,
We hymn thee Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God.*

*Worthy it is at all times to magnify Thee with pure voices,
O Son of God, who bestoweth life,
therefore all the world doth glorify Thee.*

- Greek, before 4th century

16 ANGELS

*'Secondary lights of the Trinity, having a royal glory,
are the brilliant, invisible angels.'*

- St Gregory the Theologian

Bright beings from the realm of light,
Messengers from the Lord of Might!
Silent as dawn and swift as sound,
Your presence shines where God is found.

When Jacob lay in deep despair,
Angelic waves in vision fair
Disclosed at Bethel, Heaven's gate,
And broke his chain of evil fate.

Angel and maid in stillness met,
And Mary's "Yes", lest we forget,

Sprang from a Spirit touched by grace,
Through Gabriel's word and golden face.

Unseen as air, in fiery power,
Angelic hordes made demons cower,
And won with Christ in holy flight,
Salvation's gift from human plight.

The sun's bright beams bring light to earth,
And angels bless our pain and mirth,
May Angel hosts transport us high
To God in Heaven when we die.

- Keith Walker
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