

(Tone 2)

VERSE: If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand? But there is
forgiveness with Thee.

CHOIR: **Come, let us greatly rejoice in the Lord,
as we sing of this present mystery.
The wall which divided God from man has been
destroyed.**

**The flaming sword withdraws from Eden's gate;
The cherubim withdraw from the Tree of Life,
and I, who had been cast out through my
disobedience,**

**now feast on the delights of paradise:
For today the father's perfect image,
marked with the stamp of His eternity,
has taken the form of a servant.**

**Without undergoing change He is born from an
unwedded mother;**

**He was true God, and He remains the same,
but through His love for mankind,**

**He has become what He never was: true man!
Come, O faithful, let us cry to Him:**

O God, born of a virgin, have mercy on us!

VERSE: For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O
Lord; my soul has waited for Thy word; my
soul has hoped on the Lord.

CHOIR: *(repeat)* **Come, let us greatly rejoice . . .**

VERSE: From the morning watch until night, from
the morning watch, let Israel hope on the
Lord.

CHOIR: **When the Lord Jesus was born of the holy
virgin,**

the whole universe was filled with light.

The shepherds watched in the fields.

The wise men worshipped and the angels sang.

But Herod was troubled,

for God had appeared in the flesh.

He is the Savior of our souls!

VERSE: For with the Lord there is mercy and with
Him is plenteous redemption and He will
deliver Israel from all His iniquities.

CHOIR: *(repeat)* **When the Lord Jesus . . .**

VERSE: Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him all
peoples!

CHOIR: **Thy Kingdom endures forever, O Christ
our God.**

Thy rule is from age to age.

Made flesh by the Holy Spirit,

made man of the ever-virgin Mary,

Thou hast filled all creation with joy.

The light of Thy coming has shone on us:

Every living creature praises Thee,

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**the Image of the Father's glory.
Light of Light, the radiance of the Father,
The same yesterday, today, and forever,
Thou hast shone forth from the virgin.
O God, have mercy on us!**

VERSE: For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the
truth of the Lord endures forever.

CHOIR: **What shall we offer Thee, O Christ,
who for our sakes hast appeared on earth as man?
Every creature made by Thee offers Thee thanks:
The angels offer a hymn; the heavens, a star;
the wise men, gifts; the shepherds, their wonder;
the earth, its cave; the wilderness, a manger.
and we offer Thee a virgin mother!
O Pre-eternal God, have mercy on us!**

VERSE: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to
the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto
ages of ages. Amen.

CHOIR: **When Augustus ruled alone upon the earth,
the many kingdoms of men came to an end,
and when Thou wast made man of the pure virgin,
the many gods of idolatry were destroyed.
The cities of the world passed under one single rule,
and the nations came to believe in one sovereign
Godhead.**

**The peoples were enrolled by the decree of Caesar,
and we the faithful were enrolled in the name of the
Godhead,
when Thou, our God, wast made man.
Great is Thy mercy, O Lord! Glory to Thee!**