The Great Forerunner

Words: The Venerable Bede (673–735); tr. John Mason Neale
Music: Ut queant laxis, 12th century
Arranged: Stuart D. Gathman

The great forerunner of the morn,
With heavenly message Gabriel came,
John, still unborn, yet gave a right
His mighty deeds exalt his fame.
To God the Father, God the Son,
The herald of the Word is born;
that John should be that herald’s name,
his witness to the coming light;
to greater than a prophet’s name;
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
and faith ful hearts shall never fail
and with prophetic utterance told
and Christ, the Sun of all the earth,
of woman born shall never be
praise, honor, might, and glory be
with thanks and praise his light to hail.
his actions great and manifold.
fulfilled that witness at his birth.
a greater prophet than was he.
from age to age eternally.