

Of the Father's love begotten

AURELIUS CLEMENS PRUDENTIUS (c. 348–413)

as excerpted in medieval sources,

with medieval refrain and doxology

translated by JOHN MASON NEALE,

translation revised by HENRY W. BAKER

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 for ever blessèd,
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bare the Saviour of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred Face,
Evermore and evermore!

This is He Whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord;
Whom the voices of the Prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now He shines, the long-expected:
Let creation praise its Lord:
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him!
Angel-hosts His praises sing!
All dominions bow before Him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert sing,
Evermore and evermore!

Thee let old men, Thee let young men,
Thee let boys in chorus sing;
Matrons, virgins, little maidens
With glad voices answering;
Let their guileless songs re-echo,
And the heart its praises bring,
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,
Honor, glory, and dominion,
And eternal victory,
Evermore and evermore! Amen.

Text: Henry W. Baker, editor, *Hymns Ancient & Modern* (London: Novello, 1861), via *Hymnology Archive*, omitting the stanzas marked for optional omission. (The omitted stanzas were not in Neale's translation and were translated from other stanzas in Prudentius's text that were not in the common abbreviated text.)