

Of the Father's love begotten

Corde natus ex parentis

AURELIUS CLEMENS PRUDENTIUS (c. 348–413)

as excerpted in medieval sources,

with medieval refrain and doxology

translated by JOHN MASON NEALE,

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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 Savior 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.

bare: bore

This is He... *O ye heights:* The order of these two stanzas has been reversed from the order in the Latin.

Latin text: Stanzas 4, 7-9, 37 (a common medieval stanza selection for this hymn) from Albert Dressel, editor, *Aurelii Prudenti Clementis quae exstant carmina* (Lipsiae: Hermann Mendelssohn, 1860). Refrain and final stanza from Stiftsbibliothek St. Gallen Codex 413 (ca. 1034–47). Both sources via *Hymnology Archive*.

English 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.)

Original Latin:

Corde natus ex parentis, ante mundi exordium
A et Ω cognominatus, ipse fons et clausula
omnium, quae sunt, fuerunt quaeque post futura sunt
saeculorum seculis.

O beatus ortus ille, virgo cum puerpera
edidit nostram salutem feta sancto spiritu,
et puer redemptor orbis os sacratum protulit,
saeculorum seculis.

Psallat altitudo caeli, psallite omnes angeli,
quidquid est virtutis usquam psallat in laudem Dei:
nulla linguarum silescat, vox et omnis consonet,
saeculorum seculis.

Ecce quem vates vetustis concinebant seculis,
quem prophetarum fideles paginae sponderant,
emicat promissus olim: cuncta conlaudent eum,
saeculorum seculis.

Te senes et te iuventus, parvulorum te chorus,
turba matrum virginumque simplices puellulae,
voce concordēs pudicis perstrepat concentibus
saeculorum seculis.

Tibi christe sit cum patre agioque pneumate,
ymnus decus, laus perennis, gratiarum actio,
honor virtus victoria, regnum aeternaliter,
seculorum seculis.

Note: The medieval additions are marked in italics in both the Latin original and in the English translation. The full Latin hymn has 38 stanzas and begins “Da puer plectrum.”