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LAETABUNDUS¹

Joy abounding,
Let the faithful chorus thunder
Alleluia!
Wit confounding,
Comes from maiden womb in wonder
Heaven's Ruler.

Angelic Counsellor is He,
Virgin-born,—O mystery—
Sun from star:
Sun unvexed by eve's decline,
Star which shall forever shine,
Gleaming far.

As the star its ray will yield,
Born in joy, is He revealed,
Mary's Son.
Star in beaming undefiled
Mary bears her royal Child,
Stainless one!

Lebanon's high cedar tree
Gentle o'er the hyssop bends
In the dell.
Word made flesh, high Majesty
To our lowly form descends:
Emmanuel!

Though Isaias sang his reign,
Hears the Synagogue in vain,
Sight unseeing to remain,
Light repelling.
If the prophets deal deceit,
Let her kneel where Gentiles
meet
Songs of Sibyl to repeat,
Bliss foretelling.

O tribe of misery,
Hark the ancients' plea:
Wherefore be accursed
Eternally?
Behold, in manger laid,
Whom olden Writ portrayed:
Christ, the Son conceived
And born of Maid!
Alleluia!

¹ The Sequence, or Prose, sung, according to the Dominican Missal, in the Third Mass of Christmas Day and in the Masses of the Epiphany and the Purification. Its author was St. Bernard of Clairvaux. The translation follows the metre and the rhyme scheme of the original. Cf. DOMINICANA, December, 1928, Vol. XIII, No. 4, p. 280.