

The Christmas Sequence

in verse translation

by Quentin Lister, O.P.

Exaltation
Ring out, oh ye Christian choirs—
Alleluia!

Prince of Princes
Is born of a Maiden-Mother.
Hear and wonder!

Angel of the Counsel, He.
Mother of the Sun is She,
Star and Virgin.

Sun that nevermore shall set,
Star whose beam is brighter yet,
Ever shining.

As a star emits a ray,
So a Virgin on this day,
Bears her First-Born.

Undiminished is the star,
Nor does any blemish mar
Virgin-Mother.

Cedar tree of Libanus
Bends to hyssop, bends to us
In our valley.

Son of Highest God, the Word
Deigns infinity to gird
With a body.

So Isaias sang of old.
So the Synagogues retold.
But their hearts were dead,
were cold
In their blindness.

Can your prophets not convince?
Hear the Gentiles' voices, since
Even Sibyl's words evince
Distant knowledge.

Unhappy Israel,
Hear what your ancients tell.
Heed Sheol's warning knell:
Your punishment.

Christ, Whom your Scriptures all
Echo, a manger stall
Shelters—Come and see—
A Virgin's Child—
Alleluia!