

SELECTION OF TEN HYMNS

(Draft by Constantin Kontogiannis)

1.O GLADSOME LIGHT (*3d century*)

2.TE DEUM (*4th-5th Century*)

3.CRUCEM TUAM (*4th, 5th century ?*)

4.CHERUBIC HYMN (*6th century*)

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1. O GLADSOME LIGHT (*3d century*)

Presentation

It is the earliest known Christian hymn recorded outside of the Bible that is still in use today. The hymn is part of vespers in the Byzantine Rite, in after Vatican II Catholic Rite and also included in some modern Anglican and Lutheran liturgies.

It is part of the rite of lighting of the lamps (*Lucernarium*) in the evening services
The simple daily act of lighting the lamps at the fall of the day already has a religious dimension in ancient Judaism. The domestic cult of the Greco-Roman world also knew a ritual lighting lamps.

The tradition considers that Saint Athenogenes bishop in Asia Minor is the composer. When about to consummate his martyrdom by fire, he sang this hymn of joy

Lyrics

The initial lyrics by Athenogenes might have been revised by St. Sophronius of Jerusalem (560-638), who was known for his poetry. From then on, they remain unchanged

O Light gladsome of the holy glory of the Immortal Father,
the Heavenly, the Holy, the Blessed,
O Jesus Christ,

having come upon the setting of the sun,
having seen the light of the evening,
we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God.

Worthy it is at all times to praise Thee in joyful voices,
O Son of God, Giver of Life,
for which the world glorifies Thee.

Music

We don't know how this hymn was sung when it was created.

Hereby are suggested some (of the multiple) interpretations in Christian churches as well as a composition by Tavener

1 Byzantine Music , lyrics in greek

The first two are artistic adaptations of the church music, the third is live from a monastery

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFnuxPyRX0c>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0OheX0F15E>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4ditl15iEE>

2 Gregorian music , lyrics in latin

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izd_yxmDJ-w&t=10s

3 Russian Music lyrics in english

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39Fcxx03rd4>

4 Modern Catholic hymn. Lyrics in french

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YwUcHsqRzeM>

5.JOHN TAVENER : Oh Thou Gentle Light

*british composer 1944-2013 lyrics in English and greek
(attached file)*

2. TE DEUM (4th-5th Century)

Presentation

The **Te Deum** is a Christian Latin hymn still sung in the Catholic Church. One of its alleged authors is Bishop Ambrosius of Milan. This hymn probably dates from the end of the fourth century or the beginning of the fifth century.

The earliest known Gregorian melody dates from the 7th century. Many tens of composers of all periods, (such as Lully, Purcell, Campra, Graun, Mozart, Berlioz, Liszt, Dvořák, Bruckner.....), put this prayer to music. This is understandable. Rarely have human words been able to praise with so much power the Divine Majesty!

I propose the version of Bruckner but the choice is open

Lyrics

*Te Deum laudámus: te Dominum
confitémur.*

Te ætérnum Patrem omnis terra venerátur.

*Tibi omnes Angeli; tibi cæli et univérsae
potestátes.*

*Tibi Chérubim et Séraphim incessábili voce
proclámant:*

*Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus, Dóminus Deus
Sábaoth.*

*Pleni sunt cæli et terra majestátis glóriæ
tuæ.*

Te gloriósus Apostolórum chorus;

Te Prophetárum laudábilis númerus;

Te Mártyrum candidátus laudat exércitus.

*Te per orbem terrárum sancta confitétur
Ecclésia:*

Patrem imménsæ majestátis;

Venerándum tuum verum et únicum Fílium;

Sanctum quoque Paráclitum Spíritum.

Tu Rex glóriæ, Christe.

Tu Patris sempitérnus es Fílius.

*Tu ad liberándum susceptúrus hóminem,
non horruísti Vírginis úterum.*

Tu, devícto mortis acúleo,

aperuísti credéntibus regna cælórum.

Tu ad dexteram Dei sedes, in glória Patris.

Judex créderis esse ventúrus.

We praise thee, O God : we acknowledge thee to be the Lord.

All the earth doth worship thee : the Father everlasting.

To thee all Angels cry aloud : the Heavens, and all the Powers therein.

To thee Cherubim and Seraphim : continually do cry,

Holy, Holy, Holy : Lord God of Hosts;

Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty : of thy glory.

The glorious company of the Apostles : praise thee.

The goodly fellowship of the Prophets : praise thee.

The noble army of Martyrs : praise thee.

The holy Church throughout all the world : doth acknowledge thee;

The Father : of an infinite Majesty;

Thine honourable, true : and only Son;

Also the Holy Ghost : the Comforter.

Thou art the King of Glory : O Christ.

Thou art the everlasting Son : of the Father.

When thou tookest upon thee to deliver man : thou didst not abhor the Virgin's womb.

When thou hadst overcome the sharpness of death :

thou didst open the Kingdom of Heaven to all believers.

Thou sittest at the right hand of God : in the glory of the Father.

We believe that thou shalt come : to be our Judge.

*Te ergo quæsumus, tuis fámulis súbveni,
quos pretiósó sánguine redemísti.*

*ÆtéRNA fac cum sanctis tuis in glória
numerári.*

We therefore pray thee, help thy servants :
whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious
blood.

Make them to be numbered with thy Saints : in
glory everlasting.

[added later, mainly from Psalm verses:]

*Salvum fac pópulum tuum, Dómine, et
bénedic hæreditáti tuæ.*

*Et rege eos, et extólle illos usque in
ætérnum.*

Per síngulos dies benedícimus te.

*Et laudámus nomen tuum in sáeculum, et in
sáeculum sáeculi.*

*Dignáre, Dómine, die isto sine peccáto nos
custodíre.*

Miserére nostri, Dómine, miserére nostri.

*Fiat misericórdia tua, Dómine, super nos,
quemádmódum sperávimus in te.*

*In te, Dómine, sperávi: non confúndar in
ætérnum.*

[added later, mainly from Psalm verses:]

O Lord, save thy people : and bless thine
heritage.

Govern them : and lift them up for ever.

Day by day : we magnify thee;

And we worship thy Name : ever world without
end.

Vouchsafe, O Lord : to keep us this day without
sin.

O Lord, have mercy upon us : have mercy upon
us.

O Lord, let thy mercy lighten upon us : as our
trust is in thee.

O Lord, in thee have I trusted : let me never be
confounded.

Music

1.Gregorian

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_gcJc1MmCQ

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHl6vWXSGgA>

2.BRUCKNER TE DEUM(1885)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSGBxRP3HAK&feature=related>

3. CRUCEM TUAM (4th, 5th century ?)

Presentation

The text is very ancient . It is sung or recited in the Catholic Church on Good Friday and in the Orthodox Church particularly in the Easter Office as well as in the Liturgy and the Morning Prayer

Generally it is inserted in longer prayers, either mournful either joyful or both

Lyrics

*Crucem tuam adorámus, Dómine
et sanctam resurrectionem tuam
laudámus, et glorificámus
ecce enim propter lignum (crucem)
venit gáudium in univérso mundo.*

we adore Thy Cross, O Lord
and Thy holy Resurrection
we praise and glorify
for behold for the sake of a piece of wood
(the Cross)
Rejoicing has come to the whole world

Music

1. Gregorian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0LU1tGmpQEI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNU9CI2zEJ4>

2. Byzantine

Verses are chanted in alternating sequence in Greek and Latin along with Psalm 148.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f9zlop4e6tA>

3. Ecumenical group Taisé (Music: Jacques Berthier 1994)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FRrYORosgo>

4.CHERUBIC HYMN (6th century)

Presentation

This hymn was composed in the 6th century to be sung during the Byzantine Mass at the newly-consecrated St Sophia Church in Constantinople (Istanbul).

It is sung while the priest brings the chalice with wine and bread to the altar in a procession that symbolizes Jesus' march to His sacrifice.

The hymn is sung slowly in a dramatic atmosphere where the priest asks pardon of the Lord and the believers and everyone prays for persons who are dear to them. The priest also includes in his prayers Psalm 50 and the "crucem tuam"

The hymn symbolically introduces the faithful present in the assembly to the angels gathered around the throne of God

Lyrics

*Οἱ τὰ Χερουβεὶμ μυστικῶς εἰκονίζοντες
καὶ τῇ Ζωοποιῷ Τριάδι
τὸν Τρισάγιον ὕμνον προσάδοντες
πᾶσαν τὴν βιωτικὴν ἀποθώμεθα μέριμναν
ὡς τὸν βασιλέα τῶν ὅλων ὑποδεξόμενοι
ταῖς ἀγγελικαῖς ἀοράτως δορυφορούμενον τάξεσιν·
Ἀλληλούϊα.",*

We who mystically represent the Cherubim
and who sing to the Life-Giving Trinity
the thrice-holy hymn
let us now lay aside all earthly cares
that we may receive the King of all,
escorted invisibly by the angelic orders
Alleluia

Music

Each eastern church has its own ways to sing this hymn. We miss manuscripts before the 12th Century so there is much research concerning the way it was sung. In the 19th century some Russian composers (Tchaikovsky, Rachmaninov and Grechaninov) were inspired

1.Byzantine (greek lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TZPqBwjDUNK>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iAzUvmRPQ1k>

<http://gregorian-chant.ning.com/video/cappella-romana-in-a-virtual-hagia-sophia-cherubic-hymn-in-mode-1>

2.Bulgarian (slavonic lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBc0pE4f50g>

3.Tchaikovsky (excerpt from St John Crysostom Liturgy slavonic lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qSUB2Z8NVs>

5.BEHOLD THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH

Presentation

This hymn is sung during the services of the first three days of Holy Week
It is inspired by the parable of the ten virgins of Matthew's gospel
It is preceded by Verse 26.9 of the book of Isaiah

Lyrics

My soul yearns for you in the night; in the morning my spirit longs for you my Lord
Because your commandments are Light upon the Earth !

Alleluia

The inhabitants of the earth learn righteousness.

Alleluia

Behold, the Bridegroom Cometh in the Middle of the Night;
And blessed is that servant whom He shall find vigilant,
And again unworthy is he whom He shall find heedless.
Beware, therefore, O my soul,
that you will not be overcome by sleep,
lest thou be given up to death,
and be shut out from the Kingdom.
Wherefore, rouse thyself and crying out:
Holy, Holy, Holy are You ,our God,
Have mercy on us.

Music

1.Byzantine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9deOiLJ0Om8> (greek lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyrUVmOHnss> (English lyrics)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ouoj2-j_R28 (alleluias)

2.russian (slavonic lyrics)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fqXQ-hn1TTc>

3.The parable has also inspired Julie Meyer and John Jones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6DuXD6DSTms>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j6UktD2LAIg>

6. VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS (*9th Century*)

Presentation

It is considered as the most famous of all Gregorian hymns. It was composed by **Raban Maur**, great theologian, scholar and 9th century Germanic poet. This hymn is dedicated to the Holy Spirit (Comforter, Source of Life, Fire, Truth !) and commemorates Pentecost

On July 17, 1794, the Carmelite nuns of Compiègne went up to the scaffold singing the Veni Creator, while the Parisian mob kept a respectful silence...

Lyrics

*Veni Creator Spiritus,
mentes tuorum visita,
imple superna gratia,
quae tu creasti, pectora.*

*Qui diceris Paraclitus,
donum Dei altissimi,
fons vivus, ignis, caritas,
et spiritalis unctio.*

*Tu septiformis munere,
dextrae Dei tu digitus
tu rite promissum Patris,
sermone ditans guttura.*

*Accende lumen sensibus,
infunde amorem cordibus,
infirmi nostri corporis
virtute firmans perpeti.*

*Hostem repellas longius
pacemque dones protinus;
ductore sic te praevio
vitemus omne noxium.*

*Per te sciamus da Patrem
noscamus atque Filium,
te utriusque Spiritum
credamus omni tempore.*

(In some instances, this follows)

*Deo Patri sit gloria,
et Filio qui a mortuis
Surrexit, ac Paraclito,
in saeculorum saecula.*

Amen.

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator, come
from thy bright heav'nly throne;
come, take possession of our souls,
and make them all thine own.

Thou who art called the Comforter
best gift of God above,
the living spring, the living fire,
sweet unction and true love.

Thou who art sevenfold in thy grace,
finger of God's right hand;
his promise, teaching little ones
to speak and understand.

O guide our minds with thy blest light,
with love our hearts inflame;
and with thy strength, which ne'er decays,
confirm our mortal frame.

Far from us drive our deadly foe;
true peace unto us bring;
and through all perils lead us safe
beneath thy sacred wing.

Through thee may we the Father know,
through thee th'eternal Son,
and thee the Spirit of them both,
thrice-blessed three in One.

All glory to the Father be,
With his coequal Son;
The same to thee, great Comforter,
While endless ages run.

Amen.

Music

1 gregorian

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCTQ_Urf6hs

2 gregorian/modern

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4xaxCHV4zE>

3Gustav Malher Symphony 8 1907 (excerpt of the 1st part dedicated to the hymn)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plqzqdEWJNA>

4. **Come Holy Spirit !** (Vertical Church Band)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkTluCNidfi>

7a. O VIS AETERNITATIS (12th Century)

Presentation

Hildegard of Bingen (1098 to 1179), is a mystical Benedictine nun, composer and woman of letters, beatified of the Catholic Church. She was a remarkable woman, a "first" in many fields, known as "Sybil of the Rhine", she produced major works of theology and visionary writings. She was consulted by and advised bishops, popes, and kings. She used the curative powers of natural objects for healing, and wrote treatises about natural history and medicinal uses of plants, animals, trees and stones

The hymn **O Vis Aeternitatis** is part of the **Songs of Ecstasy** a set of sacred songs composed by Hildegard de Bingen

I think that a great part of her poetic and musical work can inspire choreographies, so I also suggest two shorter hymns

Lyrics

O Vis Aeternitatis

R. O vis eternitatis
que omnia ordinasti in corde tuo,
per Verbum tuum omnia creata sunt
sicut voluisti,
et ipsum Verbum tuum
induit carnem
in formatione illa
que educta est de Adam.

R. Et sic indumenta ipsius
a maximo dolore
abstersa sunt.

V. O quam magna est benignitas Salvatoris,
qui omnia liberavit
per incarnationem suam,
quam divinitas exspiravit
sine vinculo peccati.

R. Et sic indumenta ipsius
a maximo dolore
abstersa sunt.

Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui sancto.

R. Et sic indumenta ipsius
a maximo dolore
abstersa sunt.

o power within eternity

R. O power within Eternity:
All things you held in order in your heart,
and through your Word were all created
according to your will.
And then your very Word
was clothed within
that form of flesh
from Adam born.

R. And so his garments
were washed and cleansed
from greatest suffering.

V. How great the Savior's goodness is!
For he has freed all things
by his own Incarnation,
which divinity breathed forth
unchained by any sin.

R. And so his garments
were washed and cleansed
by greatest suffering.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

R. And so his garments
were washed and cleansed
by greatest suffering

Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ef70x-TU0NY>

7b Two short pieces by Hildegard von Bingen

1. Kyrie Eleison

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yXJ0MDTI4Q>

2. Spiritus Sanctus

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VbjqWqPSfiw>

8 NADA TE TURBE (16th century)

Presentation

Saint Teresa of Ávila, also called **Saint Teresa of Jesus**, (28 March 1515 – 4 October 1582), was a prominent Spanish mystic, Roman Catholic saint, Carmelite nun , author, and theologian of contemplative life through mental prayer. She is the author of the hymn

Lyrics

*Nada te turbe,
nada te espante,
todo se pasa,
Dios no se muda;*

Let nothing disturb you
let nothing frighten you,
everything passes,
but God stays

*la paciencia todo lo alcanza;
quien a Dios tiene
nada le falta:
Sólo Dios basta.*

Patience reaches it all;
he who has God
misses nothing
God alone suffices.

*Eleva tu pensamiento,
al cielo sube,
por nada te acongojes,
nada te turbe.*

Lift your thinking
raise up to heaven,
let nothing anguish you,
let nothing disturb you.

*A Jesucristo sigue
con pecho grande,
y, venga lo que venga,
nada te espante.*

Follow Jesus Christ
with an open heart,
and, no matter what may come,
let nothing frighten you

*¿Ves la gloria del mundo?
Es gloria vana;
nada tiene de estable,
todo se pasa.*

See the glory of the world?
It's vainglory;
it is not everlasting,
everything passes.

*Aspira a lo celeste,
que siempre dura;
fiel y rico en promesas,
Dios no se muda.*

Yearn for the celestial
that lasts forever
faithful and rich in promisses,
God doesn't change.

*Ámala cual merece
bondad inmensa;
pero no hay amor fino
sin la paciencia.*

Love what it deserves
immense kindness;
but there is not fine love
without the patience

*Confianza y fe viva
mantenga el alma,
que quien cree y espera
todo lo alcanza.*

Confidence and alive faith
let the soul maintain,
that he who believes and hopes
reaches it all.

*Del infierno acosado
aunque se viere,
burlará sus furoros
quien a Dios tiene.*

Although harassed by hell
one may see himself,
he who has God
will defeat its rage.

*Vénganle desamparos,
cruces, desgracias;
siendo Dios tu tesoro
nada te falta.*

Come abandonment
crosses, misfortunes;
God being your treasure,
you lack nothing.

*Id, pues, bienes del mundo;
id dichas vanas;
aunque todo lo pierda,
sólo Dios basta.*

Go, then, wordly goods
go, vain happiness;
even if everything is lost
God alone suffices

Music

1.Ecumenical group Taisé (Music: Jacques Berthier)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=go1-BoDD7CI>

2.Mina Mazzini

<http://lyricstranslate.com/fr/nada-te-turbe-let-nothing-disturb-you.html>

3. Virtual choir of Carmelites

<https://fr.aleteia.org/2014/08/30/la-chanson-aleteia-de-la-semaine-nada-te-turbe-la-chorale-virtuelle-des-carmelites/>

9 GERMAN MASS : Introduction (1827)

Presentation

This mass was composed by **Franz Schubert** in 1827 on a text of Johann Philipp Neumann

Lyrics

1. Zum Eingang

Wohin soll ich mich wenden,
wenn Gram und Schmerz mich drücken?
Wem künd' ich mein Entzücken,
wenn freudig pocht mein Herz?
Zu dir, zu dir, o Vater, komm ich in Freud'
und Leiden,
du sendest ja die Freuden,
du heilest jeden Schmerz.

Ach, wenn ich dich nicht hätte,
was wär' mir Erd' und Himmel?
Ein Bannort jede Stätte ich selbst
in Zufalls Hand.
Du bist's, der meinen Wegen ein
sich'res Ziel verleihet,
und Erd' und Himmel weihet
zu süßem Heimatland.

Doch darf ich dir mich nahen,
mit mancher Schuld beladen?
Wer auf der Erde Pfaden ist deinem Auge rein?
Mit kindlichem Vertrauen eil'ich
in Vaters Arme,
erbarm',
o Herr, dich mein!

Süß is dein Wort erschollen:
"Zu mir, ihr Kummervollen!
Zu mir! Ich will euch laben,
euch nehmen Angst und Not."
Heil mir! Ich bin erquicket!
Heil mir! Ich darf entzückt
mit Dank und Preis und Jubel
mich freun in meinem Gott.

1. Introit

Where shall I turn
when sorrow and pain oppress me?
With whom share my delight
when my heart beats in joy?
To thee, to thee, O Father, do I come in joy
and sorrow,
Thou sendest every joy,
thou healest every pain.

Ah, if I had not thee,
what would earth and heaven be for me?
A place of exile everywhere,
I myself at the mercy of fortune.
It is thou that givest my path
a sure goal,
And makest heaven and earth
a sweet homeland.

Yet do I dare approach thee,
burdened with so much guilt?
Who on the paths of earth is pure in your eyes?
With childlike trust I hurry
into my father's arms,
full of repentance I beg:
Have mercy, O Lord, upon me!

How sweet thy word sounded:
"To me, you heavy laden!
To me, I will refresh you,
take away your anxiety and trouble."
Blessed am !! I am brought to life again!
Blessed am !! I may in joy
with thanks and praise and jubilation
rejoice in my God.

Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9pJpZW-xw3o>

10 TWO HYMNS IN ARABIC

Presentation

From its beginning Christianity spread in Egypt and the Middle East. There are still important Christian communities which held on to stay in their native lands.

Here are two representative hymns : a contemporary one and a very ancient

1.A Contemporary Coptic Hymn

The Coptic Church is the most important of the Middle East; it lives under pressure from Muslim extremists but the faithful are courageous and proud to be the descendants of the first Christians ... and the Pharaohs. This type of hymn is also sung in Lebanon

Lyrics (english translation)

Exalt the name of Christ, lift His name up with your songs

Call the heroes, His heroes, to walk ahead of you with the cross" ;

Say He is risen and death has no power,

and there is no forgiveness except through His blood;

and the Light of the Gospel is greater;

Say he conquered darkness and its power;

He brightened our days; and the light of day is greater;

Say He conquered His enemies;

we conquered by witnessing to Him and by His blood;

and our inheritance with Him is greater;

live the joy of heaven, as Satan dons the clothes of grief;

and our praises are greater

Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HnXJ7IWH3PU>

2. An ancient byzantine hymn of Good Friday

This hymn is the 15th and most popular antiphon of Good Friday in Eastern Churches

I think that its recitative interpretation by the famous libanese singer Fayruz is just a summit!

Lyrics (english translation)

Today He who suspended the earth amid the waters is suspended on a piece of wood (*thrice*)

The king of the heavenly hosts wears a crown of thorns

The one who cloaked the heaven in clouds Is wrapped in a mock purple mantle

He who freed Adam in the Jordan accepted to receive a blow

The bridegroom of the Church is transfixed with nails

The Virgin's Son is pierced with a lance

We kneel and worship before your Passion, oh Christ (*thrice*)

Reveal also to us Your glorious resurrection

Music

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76eYSmEmISI>