

The following literal translation comes from *The Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal*, but **we have not included** its “annotations.” That is to say, the *Brébeuf Hymnal* includes footnotes with biographical information about the composers and translators, theological explanations, notes on translation, and so forth. These have been omitted below.

Literal translation

1. O Christ, Redeemer of all,
Only-begotten of the Father,
alone born of the Father
inexpressibly and before the beginning:
2. Thou light, thou radiance of the Father,
thou undying hope of all,
pay heed to the prayers that thy servants
pour forth throughout the earth.
3. Recall, O Founder of salvation,
that thou didst once take on
the cast of our body
through birth of a flawless virgin.
4. Thus does this day bear witness,
as it courses on a yearly orbit,
that thou, who alone art the world’s salvation,
camest nigh from the Father’s throne.
5. The sky, the land, the sea,
and everything that is in them,
revel in song as they praise
this day, the founder of thy coming.
6. We too, who have been redeemed
with thy holy blood,
meeting the day of thy birth,
sing together a new hymn.
7. Glory to thee, O Lord,
who wast born of the Virgin,
with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
forever and ever.

Robert Campbell

1. Lamb, whose blood for all men streamed,
Light, that shone ere morning beamed,
God and God’s eternal Son,
Ever with the Father one;
2. Splendor of the Father’s light,
Star of hope for ever bright,
Hearken to the prayers that flow
From thy servants here below.
3. Lord, remember that for love
Thou didst leave thy throne above,
Man’s frail nature to assume
In the holy Virgin’s womb.
4. Now thy Church, each circling year,
Celebrates that love so dear;
Love that brought thee here alone,
For the guilty to atone.
5. Let not earth alone rejoice,
Seas and skies unite their voice
In a new song, to the morn
When the Lord of life was born.
6. Ransomed by the holy tide
Shed from thy most precious side,
Joyful let us hail the morn
When the Lord of life was born.
7. Virgin born, to thee be praise,
Now and through eternal days;
Father, equal praise to thee,
With the Spirit, ever be.

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