

# Of the Father's Love Begotten

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius

Translation: John Mason Neale, Henry Williams Baker

Melody: “Divinum mysterium” (plainchant)

Harmonization: Benjamin J. Shute

*A note on the harmonizations:*

*Most hymnals today present this plainchant-derived hymn with a 19th/20th-century harmonization that in many cases is best suited to having the melody alone sung and the lower voices supplied by an organ.*

*The style of harmonization given here, by contrast, is intended to recall the flavour of chant and chorale harmonizations from around the turn of the 17th century, allowing for a more natural SATB rendering, while preserving the melody and text familiar to modern congregations.*

*Although notated in C according to modal convention, the setting may be transposed to wherever it is comfortable to sing (in other words, ‘C’ may be sung at whatever frequency is agreeable).*

*I have included two harmonizations, the first without imitation, the second with.*

*-BJS*

# Of the Father's Love Begotten

Text: M. A. C. Prudentius  
trans. J. M. Neale, H. W. Baker

Melody: "Divinum mysterium"  
Harmonization: Benjamin Shute

S  
A  
T  
B

Of the Father's love be-got - ten ere the worlds be-gan - to be, he is Al pha and O me - ga, he the Source, the

S  
A  
T  
B

End - ing he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, ev-er more and

S  
A  
T  
B

ev - er - more!

2. O that birth forever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!
3. This is he whom heav'n-taught singers sang of old with one accord,  
whom the Scriptures of the prophets promised in their faithful word;  
now he shines, the long expected; let creation praise its Lord,  
evermore and evermore!
4. O ye heights of heav'n, 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, ev'ry voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!
5. 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!

**Alternate harmonization (with imitation)**

S  
A  
T  
B

Of the Fa-ther's love be got - ten ere the worlds be gan\_ to be, he is Alpha and O-me - ga, he the Source, the

S  
A  
T  
B

End - ing he, of the things that are, that have\_\_\_\_\_been, and that fu-ture years shall see, ev-er more and

S  
A  
T  
B

ev - er - more!

2. O that birth forever blessèd, when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;  
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