**Gladsome Light**

by

Aleksandr Kopilov

SATB

Vespers; Epiphany; Transfiguration; General

*Gladsome Light* is my English adaptation of the ancient Greek hymn *Phos Hilaron*, matched to music composed by Aleksandr Kopilov (1854–1911) as a setting of *Phos Hilaron* in a Russian translation. I have taken the score, with thanks, from the Mutopia Project website (Reference: Mutopia-2008/02/21-1324). I have included all the score's dynamic and tempo markings, which I assume to be Kopilov's own.

We are told that *Phos Hilaron* dates from the late 3rd or early 4th century—the earliest known Christian hymn, outside of the New Testament, that is still in use today. I have tried to render the Greek text into English as strictly as the music allows. This necessitated two or three alterations of wording and of note placement, but no alteration of Kopilov's marvelous harmony, and no diminishment, I hope, of his music's serene and sacred power.

Albert Blackwell

February 22, 2012
Gladsome Light, radiant Light, the glory of God, immortal Father, Holy one, O heavenly, holy, blessed one, O Jesus Christ, we come to the setting sun, we see the light of the evening, we praise the Father, praise the Son, and praise the holy Spirit: one God. How meet it is, how fitting to praise Thee at all times in joyful voices. Son of God, of all life the Giver, let all life glorify Thee.
Gladsome Light

Phos Hilaron, 4th century hymn
English adaptation by Albert Blackwell

Glad - some Light, ra - diant Light, the glo - ry of God, im - mor - tal

Fa - ther, Ho - ly One, O hea - ven - ly, ho - ly,

bless - ed one, O Je - sus Christ, we come to the set - ting sun, we

see the light of the even - ing, we praise the Fa - ther,
Praise the Son, and praise the holy Spirit: one God. How meet it is, how fitting to praise Thee at all times in joyful voices. Son of God, of all life the Giver, let all life glorify Thee.