

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 Mutoxia Project website (Reference: Mutoxia-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
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Phos Hilaron

Φῶς ἰλαρὸν ἀγίας δόξης ἀθανάτου Πατρός,
οὐρανίου, ἀγίου, μάκαρος, Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ,
ἐλθόντες ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλίου δύσιν, ἰδόντες φῶς ἑσπερινόν,
ὑμνοῦμεν Πατέρα, Υἱόν, καὶ ἅγιον Πνεῦμα, Θεόν.
Ἄξιόν σε ἐν πᾶσι καιροῖς ὑμνεῖσθαι φωναῖς αἰσίαις,
Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ζῶν ὁ διδούς· διὸ ὁ κόσμος σε δοξάζει.

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

Aleksandr Kopilov (1854–1911)

p

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

7

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

12

rit. *f* *a tempo* *mp*

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

17

p

see the light of the eve - ning, we praise the Fa - ther,

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Source of score: Mutopia-2008/02/21-1324

21 *rit.* ***ff*** *a tempo*
mf

praise the Son, and praise the ho - ly Spi - rit: one God. How

25

meet it is, how fit - ting to praise Thee at all

29 *p*

times in joy - ful voic - es. Son of God, of all

34

life the Giv - er, let all life glo - ri - fy Thee.