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

Phos Hilaron

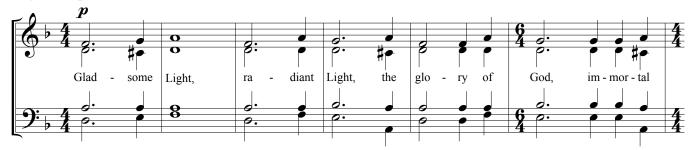
Φῶς ἱλαρὸν ἁγίας δόξης ἀθανάτου Πατρός, οὐρανίου, ἁγίου, μάκαρος, Ἰησοῦ Χριστέ, ἐλθόντες ἐπὶ τὴν ἡλίου δύσιν, ἰδόντες Φῶς ἑσπερινόν, ὑμνοῦμεν Πατέρα, Υἰόν, καὶ ἄγιον Πνεῦμα, Θεόν. Ἄξιόν σε ἐν πᾶσι καιροῖς ὑμνεῖσθαι φωναῖς αἰσίαις, Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ζωὴν ὁ διδούς· διὸ ὁ κόσμος σὲ δοξάζει.

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.

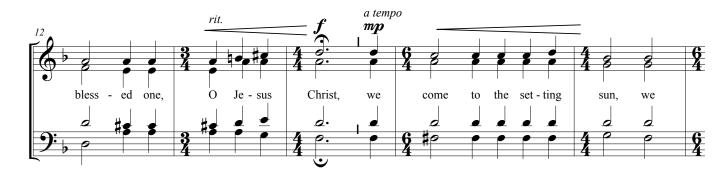
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Phos Hilaron, 4th century hymn English adaptation by Albert Blackwell

Aleksandr Kopilov (1854–1911)









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

