

A solis ortus cardine
From Lands That See the Sun Arise
John M. Neale / SAINT VENANTIUS



1. From lands that see the sun arise,
to earth's remotest boundaries,
the virgin-born today we sing,
the Son of Mary, Christ the King.
2. Blest author of this earthly frame,
to take a servant's form he came,
that liberating flesh by flesh,
whom he had made might live afresh.
3. In that chaste parent's holy womb,
celestial grace hath found its home:
and she, as earthly bride unknown,
yet calls that offspring blest her own.
4. The mansion of the modest breast
becomes a shrine where God shall rest:
the pure and undefilèd one
conceivèd in her womb the Son.
5. That Son, that royal Son she bore,
whom Gabriel's voice had told afore:
whom, in his mother yet concealed,
the infant Baptist had revealed.
6. The manger and the straw he bore,
the cradle did he not abhor:
a little milk His infant fare
who feedeth e'en each fowl of air.
7. The heav'nly chorus filled the sky,
the angels sang to God on high,
what time to shepherds watching lone
they made creation's Shepherd known.

Inspiration: "A solis ortus cardine"; Coelius Sedulius, died, ca. 450.
Lyrics: 88.88; John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, in the "Hymnal Noted", 1851.
Music: SAINT VENANTIUS; Rouen church melody, 16th or 17th cent., included in Paris "Antiphoner", 1681.