

Earth Has Many a Noble City

Caswall

1. Earth has many_a noble city;
Bethl'hem, thou dost all excel:
out of thee the Lord from heaven,
came to rule his Israel.
2. Fairer than the sun at morning
was the star that told his birth,
to the world its God announcing,
seen in fleshly form on earth.
3. Eastern sages at his cradle
make oblations rich and rare;
see them give in deep devotion
gold and frankincense and myrrh.
4. Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:
incense doth their God disclose,
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,
myrrh his sepulchre foreshows.
5. Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshipped
at thy glad Epiphany,
unto thee with God the Father
and the Spirit, glory be.

Inspiration: "O sola magnarum urbium"; Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348 - ca. 413.
Lyrics: 87.87; Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, in "Lyra Catholica", 1849; rev. in "Hymns Ancient and Modern", 1861.