

The Great Forerunner of the Morn

Neale / TALLIS' CANON

1. The great fore - run - ner of the morn, the her - ald of the Word, is born;
2. With heav'n - ly mes - sage Ga - briel came, that John should be that her - ald's name,
3. Though not yet born, John gave a - right his wit - ness to the com - ing Light;
4. Of wom - an born shall nev - er be a great - er proph - et than was he,
5. All praise to God the Fa - ther be, all praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee,

1. and faith - ful hearts shall nev - er fail with thanks and praise his light to hail.
2. and with pro - phet - ic ut - t'rance told his ac - tions great and man - i - fold.
3. and Christ, the Sun of all the earth, ful - filled that wit - ness at his birth.
4. whose might - y deeds ex - alt his fame to great - er than a proph - et's name.
5. whom with the Spir - it we a - dore for ev - er and for ev - er - more.

Inspiration: Luke 1: 5-25, 39-45; "Praecursor altus luminis"; attr. to St. Bede the Venerable, 673-735.
Lyrics: 88.88; John M. Neale, 1818-1866, in "The Hymnal Noted", 1852.
Music: TALLIS' CANON; Thomas Tallis, ca. 1505-1585.