

The Heavenly Word Proceeding Forth

Neale + Caswall

1. The heav'nly Word proceeding forth,
yet leaving not the Father's side,
and going to his work on earth
had reached at length life's eventide.
2. By false disciple to be given
to foemen for his blood athirst,
himself, the living bread from heav'n,
he gave to his disciples first.
3. To them he gave, in twofold kind,
his very flesh, his very blood:
in love's own fullness thus designed
of the whole man to be the food.
4. O saving Victim, op'ning wide
the gate of heav'n to man below,
our foes press on from ev'ry side,
thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.
5. To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
the God whom heav'n and earth adore,
from men and from the angel host
be praise and glory evermore.

Inspiration: "Verbum supernum prodiens"; Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1274.

Lyrics: 88.88; st. 1-4, John M. Neale, 1818-1866, in "The Hymnal Noted", 1851; st. 5-6, Edward Caswall, 1814-1878, in "Lyra Catholica", 1849.