

# The great forerunner of the morn

Hymnal 1982 no. 271, Melody: Ut queant laxis

The Venerable Bede (673-735),  
tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

Mode ii



1. The great fore - run - ner of the morn,  
2. With heav'n - ly mes - sage Ga - briel came,  
3. John, still un - born, yet gave a - right  
4. His might - y deeds ex - alt his fame  
5. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



the her - ald of the Word, is born;  
that John should be that her - ald's name,  
his wit - ness to the com - ing light;  
to great - er than a pro - phet's name;  
and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



and faith - ful hearts shall nev - er fail  
and with pro - phet - ic ut - t'rance told  
and Christ, the Sun of all the earth,  
of wo - man born shall nev - er be  
praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



with thanks and praise his light to hail.  
his ac - tions great and man - i - fold.  
ful - filled that wit - ness at his birth.  
a great - er pro - phet than was he.  
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.