The great forerunner of the morn

Hymnal 1982 no. 272, Melody: The Truth From Above

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

English traditional melody

The great forerunner of the morn,
With heavenly message Gabriel came,
John, still unborn, yet gave a right
to mighty deeds exalt his fame
To God the Father, God the Son,
the herald of the Word, is born;
that John should be that herald's name,
his witness to the coming light;
to greater than a prophet's name;
and God the Spirit, Three in One,
and faithful hearts shall never fail
and with prophetic utterance told
and Christ, the Sun of all the earth,
of man born shall never be praise,
honour, might, and glory be
with thanks and praise his light to hail.
his actions great and manifold.
full-filled that witness
a greater prophet than was he.
from age to age eternally.

This edition produced by Andrew Sims, 2021