Hymns and Songs - 20th December, 2020

Hark the glad sound! The Saviour comes,

The Saviour promised long: Let every heart prepare a throne, And every voice a song.

He comes, the prisoners to release In Satan's bondage held; The gates of brass before him burst, The iron fetters yield.

He comes, the broken heart to bind, The bleeding soul to cure, And with the treasures of his grace To bless the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, Thy welcome shall proclaim; And heaven's eternal arches ring With thy beloved name.

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; Tender to me the promise of His word; In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name! Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done:

His mercy sure, from age to age the same; His holy name – the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!

Powers and dominions lay their glory by; Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight.

The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word! Firm is his promise, and His mercy sure: Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord To children's children and for evermore!

Timothy Dudley-Smith © 1961

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,

his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame. "All hail", said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favoured lady!" Gloria!

"For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be. All generations laud and honour thee. Thy Son shall be Emmanuel by seers foretold, most highly favoured lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head. "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said. "My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name."

Most highly favoured lady! Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn; and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:

"Most highly favoured lady." Gloria!