The stern decree of the tyrant king did not persuade
the three most righteous Children, who, being cast in
the furnace, confessed God with thanks and sang the hymn:
Bless the Lord and exalt Him, ye works of
the Lord our God.
While casting off far away from us the sleep of sloth,

with watchful soul and spirit, come let us sing out
to Christ, Who is born of a Maiden passing pure:

Bless the Lord and exalt Him, ye works of

the Lord our God.
Let doing good with a righteous life wax great within

the treasury within us, that with our countenance bright, we may chant unto Christ, Who hath been born:

Bless the Lord and exalt Him, ye works of

the Lord our God.
Through working good, let us all increase the talent as a gift unto the Giver; instead of frankincense, gold, and sweet myrrh, let us offer it to Christ, Who doth come to be born of the Maiden and Child of God.
O thou who held-est in thy womb God, Whom nothing can contain, and didst bring forth Joy for the world entire, we ex-tol thee, O thou all-
ho-ly Vir-gin.

Christ doth command those tru-ly wise to be watch-ful at all times, ev-en them that hope in His ad-vent here; for He com-eth to be born of a Vir-gin.
When Thou shalt come the second time, then, O Christ, grant me to dwell with Thy sheep assembled at Thy right hand; for I honour Thine incarnation.

In Thy first coming, Thou didst save fallen Adam, O Christ God; in Thy second, do moreover save them that honour Thy Nativity right-ly.

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