The impassable and boisterous sea of tossing waves,
the Lord by His divine command once dried up mightily;
and He guided through its midst the tribes of the Israelites
to pass there-through on foot. To Him let us all sing; in glory is
He glorified.

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Our Creator's love and condescension past all speech,

which from the Virgin first shone forth, filled all the world with light;

and again, our Saviour Christ Himself is now come to perform

another mystery in Jordan's stream to work the strange rebirth

of mortal men.
The Forerunner John, the Voice of God the Word, doth now come to the Jordan, ministering unto an awesome deed;

rich in true Divinity, Christ cometh to make paupered Adam to be rich again through God the Spirit's grace, by the gift of Baptism.

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Both soul and body free from stain of the guiltless Children quaked,
trembling with terror; yet the unrelenting fire fed with endless fuel drew back and retired; and when the everliving flame had gone out, an everlast ing song of praise was sent on high: O all ye works, praise ye the Lord and exalt Him, and supremely exalt Him unto all the ages.
I shall know you to be in truth Mine elected vessels, if My gift be signed in you, a-blaze with three-fold light; Christ the Word thus spake unto them that abide deep in indolence, burdened with languour and sloth, as He was going unto saving Baptism; for through its means, I come to give you a new way leading to salvation and life endowned with freedom.
That deed accomplished in Thee now is clean contrary to the natural order; the lesser must be blessed by the greater, even as all will agree. Hence, I am afraid to touch Thy head with my hand; for it behooveth not the grass to near the Fire, the Forerunner cried to the Lord and Redeemer; do Thou rather sanctify me, which am Thy servant.
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 shaking off from our lowly souls the sleep of sloth,
with watchful heart and spirit come let us cry out
to Him that doth come to cleanse souls within the streams:

Bless the Lord and exalt Him, ye works of
the Lord our God.
Let righteous deeds now suffice in us, with souls made rich
in lofty contemplation, that shining brightly
in both, we may cry unto Him Who cleanseth all:
Bless the Lord and exalt Him, ye works of
the Lord our God.
With word and deed, let us all enhance our talent with a blessed two-fold labour; as faithful servants in faith let us bring to the Master what He gave, Who doth come to be baptized to fashion our souls anew.
Thou hast magnified, O Christ, Thy pure Mother,
the Theotokos; from whom, O Maker of all,
Thou didst don a body with human passions,
which became the ransom delivering us from all our errors. As we call Thy Mother blest, all we
generations magnify Thy Name.
Let us cast off from ourselves all defilement and stain of passion, and rightly take up a wise understanding of most divine Baptism; for our Maker cometh to grant a strange and wondrous cleansing, being baptized in the streams, and to show to all a new and saving change.
Spurning not a servant's form, Christ God humbled
Himself by free choice; and as we look unto Him,
let us be exalted in heart and spirit,
humbling now ourselves underneath His mighty hand, ye
faithful, that with pure and blameless deeds, we may
honour Him now baptized for our sakes.
O thou who held-est in thy womb God, Whom no-thing can con-tain, and didst bring forth Joy for the world en-tire, we ex-tol thee, O thou all-
ho-ly Vir-gin.

Come, as we cast off from our-selves all the griev-ous filth of sin, let us, cleansed, now look on Him cleans-ing all in di-vine streams, ev-en Je-
sus our Mast-er.
Cleansed with the streams of fervent tears, let us draw nigh unto Christ, as he cometh willingly entering River Jordan in the flesh to be baptized.

At Thy Nativity, O Christ, we kept feast with Magi Kings and with shepherds; Lord, now accept us all, that reverence Thee, Who dost come to be baptized.