

514 Veni Redemptor Gentium (4th century)

Saint Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (d. 397AD)

VENI, Redemptor gentium,
Ostende partum Virginis;
Miretur omne saeculum:
Talis decet partus Deum.

To sing in Latin,
use any 88 88 tune.

2. Non ex virili semine,
Sed mystico spiramine
Verbum Dei factum caro
Fructusque ventris floruit.

3. Alvus tumescit Virginis,
Claustra pudoris permanent,
Vexilla virtutum micant,
Versatur in templo Deus. *n1*

4. Procedens de thalamo suo, *n2*
Pudoris aula regia,
Geminæ gigas substantiæ,
Alacris ut currat viam. *n3*

5. Egressus ejus a Patre,
Regressus ejus ad Patrem:
Excursus usque ad inferos,
Recursus ad sedem Dei.

6. Aequalis aeterno Patri,
Carnis trophaeo cingere, *n4*
Infirma nostri corporis
Virtute firmans perpeti.

7. Praesep̄ jam fulget tuum
Lumenque nox spirat novum,
Quod nulla nox interpolet,
Fidēque jugi luceat.

88 88 (LM)

Tune:
VARIOUS

T. Source: *Breviarium Juxta Ritum Sacri Ordinis Praedicatorum Auctoritate Apostolica Approbatum*
Et Reverendissimi Patris Andreas Frühwirth Ejusdem Ordinis Generalis Magistri Permissu Editum
(Tournay: Desclee, 1894) p. 171; *Liber Hymnarius* (Solesmes: Saint Peter's Abbey, 1983) p. 11.

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Literal translation by Fr. Joseph Aquinas Byrnes (d. 1961)

COME, Redeemer of the nations,
show thy birth of the Virgin;
let every age marvel:
such a birth befits God.

2. Not from the seed of man,
but by the mystic breath,
the Word of God was made flesh
and the fruit of the womb did blossom.

3. The womb of the Virgin inflates;
the cloisters of her purity remain;
the banners of her virtues gleam;
God dwells in his temple. *n1*

4. Proceeding from his bridal chamber, *n2*
the royal court of chastity,
the Giant of twofold nature
is eager to run his course. *n3*

5. His coming forth from the Father,
his going back to the Father,
his going into hell,
his return to the throne of God.

6. O thou, equal to the eternal Father,
gird thyself with the trophy of flesh, *n4*
making strong with thine eternal strength
the weakness of our body.

7. Now doth thy manger gleam
and the night breathe forth a new light,
which light may no night impede
and may it shine with undying faith.

[1] Saint John Damascene (d. 749AD): "The holy and animated Ark of the living God, which held within it its own Maker." The Little Office of the Blessed Virgin: "Thou gavest birth to Him that made thee and still remainest a Virgin always."

[2] This stanza adapts the words of the psalmist to the virgin birth. "And he, as a bridegroom coming out of his bride chamber, hath rejoiced as a giant to run the way" (Ps 18.6). Monsignor Knox translates "gigas" as *Great Runner*.

[3] The "course" (via) mentioned in the preceding stanza is here summarized. "I came forth from the Father and am come into the world; again I leave the world, and I go to the Father" (Jn 16.28); "Coming he preached to those spirits that were in prison" (1 Pet 3.19); "And the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God" (Mk 16.19).

[4] How Christ triumphed in the human flesh he assumed is the theme of the *Pange Lingua* by Bishop Fortunatus; cf. page 308.

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Trns: William Morton Reynolds (d. 1876)



1. Sav - ior of the na - tions, come; Vir - gin's Son, here
 2. Not by hu - man flesh_ and blood, By the Spir - it
 3. Won - drous birth! O won - drous Child Of the Vir - gin



make Thy home! Mar - vel now, O heav'n and_ earth,
 of our God Was the Word of God made flesh—
 un - de - filed! Though by all the world dis - owned,



That the Lord chose such_ a birth.
 Wom - an's Off - spring, pure_ and fresh.
 Still to be in heav'n en - throned.

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| 4. From the Father forth He came
And returneth to the same,
Captive leading death and hell—
High the song of triumph swell! | 6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine,
Glorious is its light divine.
Let not sin o'er cloud this light;
Ever be our faith thus bright. |
| 5. Thou, the Father's only Son,
Hast o'er sin the victory won.
Boundless shall Thy kingdom be;
When shall we its glories see? | 7. Praise to God the Father sing,
Praise to God the Son, our King,
Praise to God the Spirit be
Ever and eternally. |

N.B. This melody is excellent for use during Advent.

Text: This version omits the verse beginning "Procédens de thalamo suo."
 T. Source: *Adoremus Hymnal* (1997) #302; *Summit Choirbook* (Dominican Monastery of Our Lady of the Rosary, 1983) #25;
 Melody: Based on "Veni Redemptor Gentium"; for plainsong score, cf. *Liber Hymnarius* (Solesmes: Saint Peter's Abbey, 1983) p. 11.
 M. Source: *New Westminster Hymnal* (1939) p. 146; *Catholic Hymn Book* (1998) p. 278; *Saint Andrew Hymnal, authorized by the Archbishops and Bishops of Scotland for use in the Scottish Dioceses* (1964) p. 203.

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Tune:
 NUN KOMM DER HEIDEN HEILAND

Veni Redemptor Gentium (4th century) 517

Trns: Dr. John M. Neale (d. 1866)



1. Come, Thou Re - deem - er of the earth,
 2. Be - got - ten of no hu - man will,
 3. The vir - gin womb that bur - den gained



And man - i - fest Thy vir - gin - birth:
 But of the Spir - it, Thou art still
 With vir - gin hon - or all un - stained;



Let ev - 'ry age a - dor - ing fall;
 The Word of God in flesh ar - rayed,
 The ban - ners there of vir - tue glow;



Such birth be - fits the God of all.
 The prom - ised fruit to men dis - played.
 God in His tem - ple dwells be - low.

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| 4. Forth from His chamber goeth He,
That royal home of purity,
A <u>giant</u> in two-fold substance one,
Rejoicing now His course to run. | 7. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene. |
| 5. From God the Father He proceeds,
To God the Father back He speeds;
His course He runs to death and hell,
Returning on God's throne to dwell. | 8. All honor, laud and glory be,
O Jesus, Virgin-born, to Thee:
All honor, as is ever meet,
To Father and to Paraclete. |

6. To God the Father equal, Word,
 Thy mortal vesture on Thee gird;
 The weakness of our flesh at length
 Sustaining by Thy changeless strength.

*N.B. This melody is excellent
 for use during Advent.*

T. Source: *Hymns of the Dominican Missal and Breviary* (Fr. Aquinas Byrnes, 1943) p. 57;
Hymnal for the Hours (San Francisco: Benedict XVI Institute, 2014) p. 23.
 Melody: *Rheinfelsisches Deutsches Katholisches Gesangbuch* (1666).
 M. Source: *Gotteslob; Katholisches Gebet- und Gesangbuch Ausgabe für das Bistum Trier* (1975) p. 186; *The Parish Hymnal* (Sister Catherine Cecilia, 1957) p. 1; *Pope Pius XII Hymnal* (Ohio: Gregorian Institute of America, 1959) p. 10.

88 88 (LM)

Tune:
 O HEILAND REISS