How Bright Appears the Morning Star 278

1. How bright appears the Morning Star  
   with mercy beaming from afar;  
   the host of heav'n rejoices;  
   O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod,  
   O Son of man, and Son of God,  
   we too will lift our voices.  
   Jesus, Jesus, holy, holy,  
   yet most lowly, now draw near us;  
   great Immanuel, kindly hear us.
2. Though circled by the hosts on high,  
   he deigned to cast a loving eye  
   upon his helpless creature;  
   the whole creation's Head and Lord,  
   by highest seraphim adored,  
   assumed our very nature.  
   Jesus, grant us through your merit  
   to inherit your salvation;  
   hear, O hear our supplication.
3. Rejoice, O heav'ns, and earth reply;  
   with praise, you sinners, fill the sky,  
   for this, his incarnation.  
   Incarnate God, put forth your pow'r;  
   ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,  
   till all know your salvation.  
   Amen, amen! Hallelujah!  
   Hallelujah! Praise be given  
   evermore by earth and heaven.

TEXT: Philipp Nicolai (1599). Tr. John Christian Jacobi (1722); recast by William Mercer (1855-59)

TUNE: Philipp Nicolai (1599). Harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (ca. 1731)

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