HAIL!
GLADDENING LIGHT

Seán Doherty
2020
SATB a cappella

SDM117

TEXT

Hail! Gladdening Light, of His pure glory poured,

Who is the immortal Father, heavenly, blest,

Holiest of Holies—Jesus our Lord!

Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,

The lights of evening round us shine,

We hymn the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine!

Worthiest art Thou at all times to be sung

With undefiled tongue, Son of our God, giver of Life, alone!

Therefore in all the world, Thy glories, Lord, they own.

PROGRAMME NOTE

'Phos Hilaron' is the earliest known Christian hymn recorded outside of the Bible that is still in use today. Its English translation has received many notable musical settings, including that by Charles Wood (1866–1926), which is arguably definitive. My setting, however, seeks to emphasise the contemplative aspect of the Vespers service, which allows time at the end of the day for reflection. I begin, therefore, with the second stanza of the hymn, to establish the meditative atmosphere before building to the exclamation, 'Hail! Gladdening Light'.

Performance Time: *c*. 5 mins

Seán Doherty Music

seandohertymusic.com

Hail! Gladdening Light

'Phos Hilaron', Ancient Greek Christian Hymn
trans. John Mason Neale (1818–66)

Seán Doherty (b.1987)

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lights _____ shine, _____ We hymn the Ho - ly Spi - rit di -

lights _____ shine _____ We hymn the Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit di -

lights _____ shine, _____ We hymn the Fa - ther, _____ di -

lights of ev'n-ing round ___ us ___ shine, _____ We hymn _____ the Spi - rit di -

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vine! at all ___ times to be sung With un - de - fi - led tongue, ___

vine! Wor - thi-est art Thou _____ to be sung, _____ to be sung, _____

vine! Wor - thi-est art Thou _____ to be sung, to be sung, _____ to be sung, _____

vine! Wor - thi-est art Thou _____ to be sung, _____ to be sung,

Son of God, There-fore in all the world, thy glo-ries,

Son of God, giv-er of life a-lone! in all the world,

Son of God, giv-er of life Hail! thy glo-ries,

Son of God, giv-er of life

Lord, they own. Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!

Lord, they own. Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!

Lord, they own. Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail! Hail!

Lord, Now we rest. Now we

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Hail! Glad-d'ning Light,_____ Hail! Glad - d'ning Light, Hail!___ Glad - d'ning Light,

Hail! Glad-d'ning Light, Hail!___ Glad - d'ning Light,___ Hail! Glad - d'ning Light, Hail!

Hail! Glad-d'ning Light, Hail! Glad - d'ning Light, Hail! Glad - d'ning Light,

Hail! Glad-d'ning Light, Hail! Glad-d'ning Light, Hail! Glad-d'ning Light, Hail!

___ Hail! Glad - d'ning Light, of his pure glo - ry poured_____

___ Glad - d'ning Light,___ of___ glo - ry poured,_____ im-mor-tal

Hail! Glad - d'ning Light,_____ who is the im-mor-tal

Glad-d'ning Light,_____ who is the im-mor-tal

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Fa - ther, heav'n - ly blest,_____ Ho - li-est of Ho - lies, Ho - li-est of Ho - lies,

Fa - ther, heav'n - ly blest,_____ Ho - li-est of Ho - lies, Ho - li-est of Ho - lies,

Fa - ther, heav'n - ly blest, Ho - li-est of Ho - lies, Ho - li-est of Ho - lies, Je - sus our

Fa - ther, heav'n - ly blest, Ho - li-est of Ho - lies, Ho - li-est of Ho - lies, Je - sus our

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Je-sus our Lord!_ Now we are come to the sun's hour... Hail!__

Je-sus our Lord!__ Je-sus our Lord!__ Come to the__ hour of rest._____

Lord!__ Je-sus our Lord!__ We come to_____ rest._____

Lord! Je-sus our Lord! Now we_____ rest.