

GLORY TO GOD



THE ANGELIC HYMN



- ◆ **Gloria in excelsis Deo** is the title and beginning of a hymn known also as the **Greater Doxology**
- ◆ **Also called the Angelic Hymn.**
- ◆ The Minor Doxology is
 - ◆ *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end AMEN*

Psalmi Idiotici



- ◆ It is an example of the compositions by individuals in imitation of the biblical Psalter
- ◆ Popular in the 2nd and 3rd centuries.
- ◆ Other surviving examples of this lyric poetry are the Te Deum and the Phos Hilarion

The Structure of the Hymn

- ◆ Begins with the words that the angels sang when the birth of Christ was announced to shepherds in Luke 2:14
- ◆ Other verses were added very early, forming a doxology, in the 4th century this became part of morning prayers
- ◆ It is still recited in the Byzantine Rite Orthros service.

Where it came from

- ◆ The Latin translation is traditionally attributed to Saint Hilary of Poitiers (c. 300–368) who may have learned it while in the East (359–360).
- ◆ The Latin translation of the Bible was commissioned only in 382, that's why we sing *excelsis* to translate the Greek word *ὑψίστοις* (the highest) in Luke 2:14
- ◆ not the word *altissimis*, which Saint Jerome preferred for his translation.

Historic Use of the hymn

- ◆ 498–514 At the Mass of Christmas Day, then on Sundays and the feasts of martyrs, but only by bishops
- ◆ Later extended to priests, at first only at Easter and on the day of their ordination
- ◆ By the end of the 11th century priests, as well as bishops, used it in the Mass on Sundays and feasts outside of Lent and Pre-Lent.
- ◆ After the 12th century Advent began to be considered a penitential period in imitation of Lent, to the exclusion therefore of the *Gloria in excelsis Deo*.

The Structure of the Hymn

3 Stanza's of acclamation:

- ◆ First – To God the Father
- ◆ Second and Third – to God the Son
 - ◆ Praising Christ in both his divine and human nature

YOU ALONE ARE

- ◆ HOLY
- ◆ LORD
- ◆ MOST HIGH.... These titles belong to both Christ and also to the Father
- ◆ *In the glory of God the Father.....this glory refers to the presence of God , God's otherness.....*

The Revised Text

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God,
heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,

you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;

you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have
mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.



Reflection

- ◆ What's the difference for you between the following kinds of prayer:
- ◆ Praising God
- ◆ Blessing God
- ◆ Adoring God
- ◆ Glorifying God?
- ◆ What stands out for you in the new translation?