

" Behold a heav'nly kingdom nigh,  
 " Behold the Lord descends from high,  
 " For him prepare—prepare the way,  
 " And bow beneath his sovereign sway!

Thus many, by the prophet taught,  
 Were soon to true repentance brought,  
 From darkness rous'd, they hear thy voice,  
 And in thy greater light rejoice.

May those who now thy gospel preach,  
 With equal power their hearers teach;  
 May Satan's slaves be hence set free,  
 And all our hearts be turn'd to Thee.

When thou, O Lord, shalt come again,  
 May we, amidst thy glorious train,  
 Approach with hope thy judgment throne,  
 And be accepted for thine own.

*Collect for the fourth Sunday in Advent.*

O Lord, raise up (we pray thee) thy power, and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness, we are sore let and hindered in running the race that is set before us, thy bountiful Grace and Mercy may speedily help and deliver us, through the satisfaction of thy Son our Lord. *Amen.*

METRICAL PARAPHRASE.

By nature, Lord! corrupt and weak,  
 To thee for aid we fly;  
 O let thy power on us descend,  
 And needful strength supply.

When we should run the Christian race,  
 A glorious prize to gain,  
 Sin oft diverts our wand'ring feet,  
 Or loads them with it's chain.

Then help us, Lord, to conquer sin,  
 And break its slavish bands,  
 That we may run with joyful speed,  
 The way of thy commands.

This signal grace may we obtain,  
 O God! for Jesus' sake;  
 Who did for us thy laws obey,  
 And satisfaction make.

*Collect for Christmas-day.*

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and as at this time to be born of a pure Virgin; Grant that we being regenerate, and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit, ever one God, world without end. *Amen.*