

LINE-BY-LINE ANALYSIS OF THE CREATION LIBRETTO'S SOURCES

English text is taken from the original full-score, published by Artaria, Vienna, 1800

NOTE: References to Thomson's The Seasons are: Spring [Sp], Summer [Su], Autumn [A], Winter [W]

PART ONE

No. 1a & 1b

Introduction (Representation of Chaos)

Accompanied Recitative (Raphael)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
And the earth was without form, and void; and
darkness was upon the face of the deep.

Gen. I. 1-2

Chorus

And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the
waters. And God said: Let there be Light, and there
was Light.

Gen. I. 2-3

Accompanied Recitative (Uriel)

And God saw the Light, that it was good; and God
divided the Light from the darkness.

Gen. I. 4

No.2

Air (Uriel)

Now vanish before the holy beams
The gloomy dismal shades of dark.
The first of days appears.
Disorder yields to order fair the place;
Affrighted fled hell's spirits black in throngs:
Down they sink in the deep of abyss
To endless night.

Hail, holy light ... of the Eternal coeternal beam [PL III] From before her vanished Night, shot through with orient beams [PL VI] ..with him fled the shades of Night [PL IV] Thus was the first day... [PL VII] Darkness fled, Light shone, and order from Disorder sprung [PL III] Headlong themselves they threw down ... to the bottomless pit [PL VI] ... and would have fled affrighted [PL VI] ...into this wild abyss [PL II] ... where eldest Night and Chaos hold eternal anarchy [PL II]

Chorus

Despairing cursing rage attends their rapid fall.
A new created world springs up at God's command.

Torment, and loud lament, and furious rage [PL VIII] ... hurled headlong flaming from th'ethereal sky ... down to bottomless perdition [PL I] ...the new created world [PL III, IV, VII, X]

No.3

Recitative (Raphael)

And God made the firmament, and divided the waters,
which were under the firmament, from the waters,
which were above the firmament: and it was so.

Gen. I. 7

Accompanied

Outrageous storms now dreadful arose;
As chaff by the winds are impelléd the clouds.
By heaven's fire the sky is enflamed,
And awful rolled the thunders on high.
Now from the floods in steams ascend
Reviving showers of rain,
The dreary, wasteful hail,
The light and flaky snow.

...or whirled in air or into vacant chaff shook waste [A] ...th'outrageous flood / wild outrageous tumult [Sp/Su] Like the chaff which the wind driveth away [Ps. 1] Fire and hail, snow and vapour; wind and storm fulfilling his word [Ps. 148] ... the yielding air admits their stream, incessant vapours roll ... with the big stores of steaming oceans charged [Seasons] ... the dreary waste [Thompson Ps. CIV]

No.4**Solo (Gabriel) & Chorus**

The marv'lous work beholds amazed
The glorious hierarchy of heav'n;
And to th'ethereal vaults resound
The praise of God, and of the second day.

No.5**Recitative (Raphael)**

And God said, Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering of waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

No.6**Air (Raphael)**

Rolling in foaming billows
Uplifted roars the boist'rous sea.
Mountains and rocks now emerge:
Their tops into the clouds ascend.

Through th'open plains, outstretching wide
In serpent error, rivers flow.
Softly purling glides on
Thro' silent vales the limpid brook.

No.7**Recitative (Gabriel)**

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself upon the earth: and it was so.

No.8**Air (Gabriel)**

With verdure clad the fields appear
Delightful to the ravished sense;
By flowers sweet and gay
Enhanced is the charming sight.
Here vent their fumes the fragrant herbs;
Here shoots the healing plant.
By loads of fruits th'expanded boughs are press'd;
To shady vaults are bent the tufty groves;
The mountain's brow is crown'd with closéd wood.

No.9**Recitative (Uriel)**

And the heavenly host proclaimed the third day, praising God and saying:

So sang the hierarchies [PL VII] ...for which both Heav'n Earth shall high extol thy praises, with th'innumerable sound of hymns and sacred songs, wherewith thy throne encompassed shall resound thee ever blest [PL III] ...resound his praise [PL V] ... So Ev'n and Morning chorus sang the second day [PL VII] The ethereal arch how swelled immense [A] He spreadeth out the Heavens like a vault [Ezra 16]

Gen. I. 9, 10

Lashed into foam, the fierce-conflicting brine
Seems o'er a thousand raging waves to burn.
Meantime the mountain billows, to the clouds
In dreadful tumult swelled, surge above surge,
Burst into chaos with tremendous roar. [W]
.... The mountains huge appear
Emergent, and their broad backs upheave
Into the clouds, their tops ascend the sky. [PLVII]

...through Plain ...with serpent error wand'ring [PL VII]) ... which sweetly through the verdant vales doth glide [Thompson Ps. CIV] ...brook that purls along the vocal grove ... gently diffused into a limpid plain [Su] ...if through plain, soft-ebbing [PL VII]

Gen. I. 11

...the bare Earth ...brought forth the tender grass, whose verdure clad her universal face with pleasant green; then herbs of every leaf, that sudden flowered, opening their various colours, and made gay her bosom, smelling sweet [PL VII]

...those aromatic gales that inexhaustive flow [Sp]

last rose, as in a dance, the stately trees, and spread their branches hung with copious fruit, or gemmed their blossoms. With high woods the hills were crowned, with tufts the valleys and each fountainside [PL VII]

And the evening and the morning were the third day [Gen. I. 13] ... 'the heavenly host' = twice in PL ...and hymning praised God [PL VII]

No.10**Chorus**

Awake the harp, the lyre awake!
 In shout and joy your voices raise!
 In triumph sing the mighty Lord!
 For he the heavens and earth
 Has clothed in stately dress.

No.11**Recitative (Uriel)**

And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of heaven to divide the day from the night, and to give light upon the earth; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and for years. He made the stars also.

No.12**Accompanied Recitative (Uriel)**

In splendour bright is rising now
 The sun, and darts his rays;
 An am'rous, joyful happy spouse,
 A giant proud and glad
 To run his measur'd course.
 With softer beams and milder light steps on
 The silver moon through silent night.
 The space immense of th' azure sky
 Innum'rous host of radiant orbs adorns.

And the sons of God announcéd the fourth day,
 In song divine, proclaiming thus his pow'r:

No.13**Chorus**

The heavens are telling the glory of God,
 The wonder of his works displays the firmament.

To day that is coming speaks it the day;
 The night, that is gone, to following night.

In all the lands resounds the word,
 Never unperceivéd, ever understood.

Awake, lute and harp! [Ps. 57] ...with joy and shout the hollow universal orb they filled, and touched their golden harps, and hymning praised God and all his works [PL VII] Let the Heavens rejoice, and let the Earth be glad [Ps. 96] Great triumph and rejoicing was in Heaven [PL VII] ... thou art clothed in majesty and Honour [Ps. 104]

Gen. I. 14 (part), 15 (part), 14 (part), 16 (part)

... and all th' horizon round invested with bright rays, jocund to run his Longitude through Heav'ns high road [PL VII] In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, which cometh forth as a bridegroom out of his chamber and rejoiceth as a giant to run his course [Ps. 19]

Less bright the moon [PL VII] Then silent Night ... and this fair Moon [PL IV] Amid the radiant orbs that more than deck, that animate the sky ... from the dread immensity of space [Su] ... amid whose azure thron'd, the radiant sun how gay [A]

'Sons of God' = twice in PL ... And the evening and the morning were the fourth day [Gen. I. 19] ... Thy works ... proclaim thy power, and to the choir celestial Thee resound [Su]

The heavens declare the glory of God;
 And the firmament showeth his handiwork.
 One day telleth another, and one night certifieth another. [Ps. 19] Their sound is gone out into all lands and their words unto the ends of the world. There is neither speech nor language but their voices are heard among them [Ps. 19]

There is no language, tongue, or speech,
 Where their sound is not heard,
 In all the earth and coasts thereof
 Their knowledge is conferred.
 [Sternhold & Hopkins Ps. 19]

Their pow'rful language to no realm
 Or region is confined;
 'Tis Nature's voice, and understood
 Alike by all mankind.
 [Tate & Brady Ps. 19]

Soon as the morning trembles o'er the sky, and, unperceived, unfolds the spreading Day [Sp] ... shade, unperceived, so softening into shade [Thomson 'Hymn on the Seasons']

PART TWO**No.14****Accompanied Recitative (Gabriel)**

And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly
the moving creature that hath life, and fowl, that may
fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

No.15**Air (Gabriel)**

On mighty pens uplifted soars
The eagle aloft, and cleaves the sky,
In swiftest flight, to the blazing sun.

His welcome bids to morn the merry lark,
And cooing calls the tender dove his mate.
From ev'ry bush and grove resound
The nightingale's delightful notes.
No grief affected yet her breast,
Nor to a mournful tale were tun'd
Her soft enchanting lays.

No.16**Recitative (Raphael)**

And God created great whales, and ev'ry living
creature that moveth. And God blessed them, saying,

Be fruitful all, and multiply!
Ye wingéd tribes, be multiplied,
And sing on every tree!
Multiply, ye finny tribes,
And fill each wat'ry deep!
Be fruitful, grow, and multiply!
And in your God and Lord rejoice.

No.17**Recitative (Raphael)**

And the angels struck their immortal harps,
and the wonders of the fifth day sung.

No.18a**Trio****Gabriel**

Most beautiful appear,
With verdure young adorned,
The gently sloping hills.
Their narrow, sinuous veins
Distill, in crystal drops,
The fountain fresh and bright.

Gen. I. 20

..... the steep-ascending eagle soars with upward
pinions through the flood of day, and, giving full his
bosom to the blaze, gains on the sun... [Su]
They summ'd their pens, and soaring th'air sublime,
With clang despised the ground... [PL VII]

Up springs the lark, Shrill voiced and loud, the
messenger of morn. ... Every copse deep-tangled, tree
irregular, and bush are prodigal of harmony... while
the stock-dove breathes a melancholy murmur through
the whole. [Sp] the cooing dove flies thick in
amorous chase. [Sp] But let not chief the nightingale
lament her ruined care ... where all abandoned to
despair, she sings her sorrows through the night, and,
on the bough sole-sitting, still at every dying fall takes
up again her lamentable strain. [Sp] Nor then the
solemn Nightingale ceased warbling, but all night tun'd
her soft lays [PL VII]

Gen. I. 21 (part), 22 (part)

Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas,
and let fowl multiply in the earth [Gen. I. 22]
... new tribes visit the spacious heavens [Sp]
... the finny race [Sp]
... shoals of fish that with their fins and shining scales
glide under the green wave [PL VII]
Rejoice in the Lord [Ps. 33 & 97]

And the cherubic host in thousand choirs touch their
immortal harps of golden wires (At a Solemn Music)
And the evening and morning were the fifth day
[Gen. I. 23]

With freshest green he clothes the fragrant mead
[Thompson Ps. CIV] ... From the moist meadow ...
the vivid verdure runs [Sp] ... while murmuring
waters fall down the slope hills [PL IV]
... o'erflowing thence, the congregated stores, the
crystal treasures of the liquid world, through the stirred
sands a bubbling passage burst, and, welling out
around the middle steep or from the bottoms of the
bosomed hills in pure effusion flow. [A]
... through veins of porous earth ... rose a fresh
fountain [PL IV]

Uriel

In lofty circles plays,
And hovers through the sky,
The cheerful host of birds.
And in the flying whirl
The glitt'ring plumes are dyed,
As rainbows, by the sun.

Raphael

See flashing through the wet
In throngéd swarms the fry
On thousand ways around.

Upheavéd from the deep,
Th' immense Leviathan
Sports on the foaming wave.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

How many are thy works, O God!
Who may their numbers tell?
Who, O God?

No.18b**Trio and Chorus**

The Lord is great, and great his might,
His glory lasts for ever and for evermore.

No.19**Recitative (Raphael)**

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living
creature after his kind; cattle and creeping thing, and
beasts of the earth after their kind.

No.20**Accompanied Recitative (Raphael)**

Straight opening her fertile womb,
The earth obey'd the word,
And teem'd creatures numberless,
In perfect forms, and fully grown.
Cheerful, roaring, stands the tawny lion.
In sudden leaps the flexible tiger appears.
The nimble stag bears up his branching head.

With flying mane, and fiery look,
Impatient neighs the sprightly steed.

.... First wide around, with distant awe, in airy rings
they rove, then, on a sudden struck, retire
disordered; then again approach, in fond rotation
spread the spotted wing and shiver every feather with
desire. while the peacock spreads his every-
coloured glory to the sun. [Sp] ... and the other,
whose gay train adorns him, coloured with the florid
hue of rainbows and starry eyes. [PL VII]

Fowl of the heavens, and fish that through the wet
Sea-paths in shoals do slide, and know no dearth.
[Milton Ps. 8] ... with fry innumerable swarm [PL VII]
... a thousand ways, upward and downward, thwarting
and convulsed.. [Su]

... more to embroil the deep, Leviathan and his
unwieldy train, in dreadful sport tempest the loosened
brine [W] 'Tis there that Leviathan sports and plays
[Thomson Ps. 104] ... There Leviathan, hugest of
living creatures, on the Deep stretched like a
promontory, sleeps or swims [PL VII]

How many are thy wondrous works, O Lord!
[Thompson Ps. CIV] ... What created mind can
comprehend their number? [PL III] ...What thought
can measure thee? [PL VII]

Great are thy works, Jehovah! Infinite thy power [PL
VII] Great is our Lord and great is his power [Ps. 147]
The glory of the Lord shall endure for ever and ever
[Ps. 104] O Jehovah our Lord, how wondrous great
and glorious is thy name through all the earth! [Milton
Ps. 8]

Gen. I. 24

(omitting 'and it was so'; and changing from the
original 'beast of the earth after his kind')

The Earth obeyed, and straight opening her fertile
womb teemed at a birth. Innumerable living creatures,
perfect forms, limbed and full-grown. [PL VII]
... Sporting the lion ramped [PL IV]
... now appeared the tawny lion [PL VII]
... the tiger, darting fierce, impetuous on the prey [Su]
... the swift stag.. bore up his branching head [PL VII]

.... The trembling steed,.... tossing high his head... all
wild he bursts away; and, neighing, on the aerial
summit takes the exciting gale ... [Sp]

So, loose with broken reins, the sprightly Steed
Flies from his stall, and gains the open field;
Or to the pastures ...or to the wonted stream,
To bathe his limbs: he neighs, and bounds from Earth
Luxuriant, prancing, with his chest erect,
And head high toss'd in air: his waving mane
Flows on his neck, and o'er his shoulder plays. [Trapp]

The cattle, in herds, already seeks his food
On fields and meadows green.
And o'er the ground, as plants, are spread
The fleecy, meek, and bleating flocks.

Unnumber'd as the sands, in whirl arose
The hosts of insects. In long dimensions
Creeps, with sinuous trace, the worm.

No.21

Air (Raphael)

Now Heav'n in fullest glory shone;
Earth smiles in all her rich attire;
The room of air with fowl is fill'd;
The water swell'd by shoals of fish;
By heavy beasts the ground is trod.

But all the work was not complete.
There wanted yet that wondrous being,
That, grateful, should God's power admire,
With heart and voice his goodness praise.

No.22

Recitative (Uriel)

And God created Man in his own image. In the image
of God created he him. Male and female created he
him. He breathéd into his nostrils the breath of life,
and Man became a living soul.

No.23

Air (Uriel)

In native worth and honour clad,
With beauty, courage, strength, adorned,
To heav'n erect and tall he stands
A man, the lord and king of nature all.

The large and arched front sublime
Of wisdom deep declares the seat!
And in his eyes with brightness shines
The soul, the breath and image of his God.

With fondness leans upon his breast
The partner for him formed,
A woman, fair and graceful spouse.

Her softly smiling virgin looks,
Of flowr'y spring the mirror,
Bespeak him love, and joy, and bliss.

No.24

Recitative (Raphael)

And God saw every thing that he had made;
and behold, it was very good. And the heavenly
choir, in song divine, thus closed the sixth day.

The cattle in the fields and meadows green;
Those rare and solitary, these in flocks pasturing at
once and in broad herds, upsprung. ... Fleeced the
flocks and bleating rose, as plants. [PL VII]

Unnumber'd as the sands [PL II] ... swarming next
appeared the ... bee [PL VII] ... by myriads forth at
once, swarming they pour [Su] ... these as a line their
long dimension drew, streaking the ground with
sinuous trace [PL VII] ... at once came forth
whatever creeps the ground, insect or worm [PL VII]

Now heaven in all her glory shone, ... Earth in her rich
attire consummate lovely smiled. Air, Water, Earth, by
fowl, fish, beast, was flown, was swum, was walked,
frequent [PL VII]

And of the sixth day yet remained. There wanted yet
the master-work, the end of all yet done; a creature ...
grateful to acknowledge whence his good descends;
thither with heart and voice, and eyes directed in
devotion, to adore and worship God Supreme, who
made him chief of all his works. [PL VII]

Gen. I. 27

... and in thy nostrils breathed the breath of life; ...
and thou becam'st a living soul [PL VII]

... erect and tall, God-like erect, with native honour
clad in naked majesty, seemed lords of all, and worthy
seemed; for, in their looks divine the image of their
glorious Maker shone, truth, wisdom, sanctitude severe
and pure [PL IV]

... his fair large front and eye sublime declar'd
absolute rule [PL IV] ... but endued with sanctity
of reason, might erect his stature, and upright with
front serene govern the rest, self-knowing [PL VII]

... half embracing leaned on our first father; [PL IV]
... so lovely fair that what seemed fair in all the world
seemed now mean, or in her summed up, in her
contained and in her looks, [PL VIII]
... yet innocence and virgin modesty [PL VIII]
... and ... from her air inspired the spirit of love and
amorous delight. [PL VIII]

Gen. I. 31

Here finished he, and all that he had made viewed, and
behold all was entirely good. [PL VII] And the
evening and morning were the sixth day. [Gen. I. 31]

No. 25a**Chorus**

Achievéd is the glorious work; (sp. 'Atchieved')
 The Lord beholds it, and is pleas'd.
 In lofty strains let us rejoice,
 Our song let be the praise of God!

No.25b**Trio Gabriel and Uriel**

On thee each living soul awaits;
 From thee, O Lord, they beg their meat;
 Thou openest thy hand,
 And sated all they are.

Raphael

But as to them thy face is hid,
 With sudden terror they are struck;
 Thou tak'st their breath away,
 They vanish into dust.

Gabriel, Uriel, Raphael

Thou lett'st thy breath go forth again,
 And life with vigour fresh returns.
 Revivéd earth unfolds
 New force and new delights.

No.25c**Chorus**

Achieved is the glorious work; (sp. 'Atchieved')
 Our song must be the praise of God.
 Glory to his Name for ever.
 He sole on high exalted reigns.
 Alleluia.

PART THREE**No.26****Accompanied Recitative (Uriel)**

In rosy mantle appears,
 By tunes sweet awak'd,
 The morning young and fair.

From the celestial vaults
 Pure harmony descends
 on ravishéd earth.

Behold the blissful pair,
 Where hand in hand they go!
 Their flaming looks express
 What feels the grateful heart.

... the Lord shall rejoice in his works [Ps. 104]
 To God the Lord a hymn of praise
 With grateful voices sing [Tate & Brady Ps. 147]
 Sing unto God the Lord with praise,
 Unto the Lord rejoice. [Sternhold & Hopkins Ps. 147]

These wait all upon thee, that thou mayest give them
 meat in due season. When thou openest thy hand, they
 are filled with good [Ps. 104]

When thou hidest thy face, they are troubled; when
 thou takest away their breath, they die, and are turned
 again to their dust. [Ps. 104]

When thou lettest thy breath go forth, they shall be
 made; and thou shalt renew the face of the earth. [Ps.
 104] ... If thou withhold'st, they pine, they faint,
 they die. Thou bountifully opest thy liberal hand, and
 scatterest plenty both on sea and land. Thy vital spirit
 makes all things live below, the face of Nature with
 new beauties glow. [Thomson Ps. 104]

God's awful glory ne'er will have an end, to vast
 eternity it will extend. [Thomson Ps. 104]
 Thou God most high, and thou alone
 Unchanged for ever dost remain:
 Through boundless space extends thy throne,
 Through all eternity thy reign. [Jennens 'Belshazzar']
 ... So sung they, and the Empyrean rung with
 hallelujahs. [PL VII]

Now morn her rosy steps in th'eastern clime advancing
 [PL V] ... But look, the morn, in russet mantle clad,
 [Shakespeare 'Hamlet'] ... Music awakes ... and
 thick around the woodland hymns arise [Su] ... the
 sound of leaves and fuming rills ... and the shrill
 matin-song of birds on every bough [PL V]

... Such music (as 'tis said) Before was never made,
 But when of old the Sons of Morning sung,
 [Milton 'Hymn: on the morning of Christ's Nativity']
 ... the sound symphonious of ten thousand harps, that
 tuned angelic harmonies. The Earth, the Air resounded
 ... [PL VII]

So hand in hand they passed, the loveliest pair that ever
 since in love's embraces met [PL IV] ...looks of
 cordial love [PL III] ...and glowing cheek [PL V]
 ...grateful to acknowledge whence his good descends.
 [PL VII]

A louder praise of God
 Their lips shall utter soon.
 Then let our voices ring,
 United with their song!

No.27

Hymn Eve, Adam

By thee with bliss, O bounteous Lord,
 The heav'n and earth are stored.
 This world, so great, so wonderful.
 Thy mighty hand has fram'd.

Chorus

For ever blessed be his pow'r!
 His name be ever magnified!

Adam

Of stars the fairest, O how sweet
 Thy smile at dawning morn!
 How brighten'st thou, O sun, the day,
 Thou eye and soul of all!

Chorus

Proclaim in your extended course
 Th'almighty pow'r and praise of God!

Eve

And thou, that rules the silent night,
 And all ye starry host,
 Spread wide and ev'ry where his praise
 In choral songs about!

Adam

Ye strong and cumbrous, strong elements,
 Who ceaseless changes make;
 Ye dusky mists, and dewy steams,
 Who raise and fall through the air:

Eve, Adam and Chorus

Resound the praise of God our Lord!
 Great his name, and great his might.

Eve

Ye purling fountains, tune his praise;
 And wave your tops, ye pines!
 Ye plants, exhale, ye flowers, breathe
 At him your balmy scent!

Adam

Ye that on mountains stately tread,
 And ye that lowly creep;
 Ye birds that sing at heaven's gate,
 And ye that swim the stream;

Lowly they bowed adoring, and began their orisons,
 each morning duly paid in various styles ... such
 prompt eloquence flowed from their lips [PL V]

These are thy glorious works, Parent of good,
 Almighty! Thine this universal frame, thus wondrous
 fair: thyself how wondrous then! [PL V]

On Earth join, all ye his creatures, to extol Him first,
 him last, him midst, and without end. [PL V]

Fairest of stars ... that crown'st the smiling morn with
 thy bright circket, praise him in thy sphere while day
 arises ... thou Sun, of this world both eye and soul,
 acknowledge him thy greater; [PL V]

... sound his praise in thy eternal course [PL V]

... Moon, that now meet'st the orient Sun, now fliest
 with the fixed stars, fixed in their orb that flies;
 ... resound his praise ... with songs and choral
 symphonies, day without night, circle his throne
 rejoicing... [PL V]

Air, and ye elements, that in quaternion run perpetual
 circle, multiform, and mix and nourish all things, let
 your ceaseless change vary to our great Maker still new
 praise. Ye mists and Exhalations, that now rise from
 hill or streaming lake ... or wet the thirsty earth with
 falling showers, rising or falling, [PL V]

... still advance his praise. [PL V]
 Great is our Lord and great is his power [Ps. 147]

... and wave your tops, ye Pines, with every plant, in
 sign of worship wave. Fountains, and ye that warble,
 as ye flow, melodious murmurs, warbling tune his
 praise. [PL V]

... Now gentle gales fanning their odoriferous wings,
 dispense native perfumes, and whisper whence they
 stole those balmy spoils. [PL IV]

... Ye that in Waters glide, and ye that walk the Earth
 and stately tread, or lowly creep...
 ... Ye birds, that, singing, up to Heaven-gate ascend ...
 [PL V]

Eve, Adam and Chorus

Ye living souls, extol the Lord!
Him celebrate, him magnify!

Eve, Adam

Ye valleys, hills, and shady woods,
Our raptur'd notes ye heard;
From morn to ev'n you shall repeat
Our grateful hymns of praise.

Chorus

Hail! bounteous Lord! Almighty, hail!
Thy word call'd forth this wond'rous frame.
Thy pow'r adore the heav'n and earth;
We praise thee now and evermore.

No.28**Recitative Adam**

Our duty we performed now,
In off'ring up to God our thanks.
Now follow me, dear partner of my life!
Thy guide I'll be; and every step
Pours new delights into our breast,
Shews wonders ev'rywhere.
Then may'st thou feel and know
The high degree of bliss the Lord allotted us,
And with devoted heart His bounty celebrate.
Come, follow me. Thy guide I'll be.

Eve

O thou for whom I am. My help, my shield,
My all! Thy will is law to me.
So God, our Lord, ordains: and from obedience
Grows my pride and happiness.

No.29**Duet Adam**

Graceful consort! At thy side
Softly fly the golden hours.
Ev'ry moment brings new rapture,
Ev'ry care is put to rest.

Eve

Spouse adored! At thy side
Purest joys o'erflow the heart.
Life and all I am is thine;
My reward thy love shall be.

Both

The dew-dropping morn, O how she quickens all!
The coolness of even, O how she all restores!
How grateful is of fruits the savour sweet!
How pleasing is of fragrant bloom the smell!
But, without thee, what is to me
The morning dew, the breath of even,
The sav'ry fruit, the fragrant bloom?
With thee is every joy enhancéd,
With thee delight is ever new;

Who shall with us extol thy goodness infinite [PL IV]
... but let us ever praise him, and extol his bounty [PL IV]

Witness if I be silent, morn or even, to hill, or valley,
fountain, or fresh shade, made vocal by my song, and
taught his praise. [PL V]

Hail universal Lord! Be bounteous still to give us only
good; [PL V] Thine this universal frame [PL V]
Let the Heavens rejoice, and let the Earth be glad [Ps.
96] ... therefore shall the people praise thee for
ever and ever. [Ps. 45]

... for we to him indeed all praises owe and daily
thanks [PL IV] ... but follow me, and I will bring
thee where... [PL IV] Sole Partner and sole part of
all these joys... [PL IV]

I come thy guide to the garden of bliss [PL VIII]

But let us ever praise him, and extol / His bounty [PL
IV] Yet God hath here / Varied his bounty so with new
delights, / As may compare with Heaven [PL V]

O sole, in whom my thoughts find all repose... [PL V]
My author and disposer, what thou bidd'st unargued I
obey. So God ordains: God is thy law, thou mine: to
know no more is woman's happiest knowledge and her
praise. [PL IV] O thou for whom and from whom I
was formed ... what thou hast said is just and right.
[PL IV] ...Can we want obedience then to him [PL V]

With thee conversing, I forget all time,
All seasons, and their change; all please alike. [PL IV]

Awake, my fairest, my espoused... [PL V]
... sole partner, and sole part, of all these joys [PL IV]
... worthy well thy cherishing, thy honouring, and thy
love [PL VIII]

Sweet is the breath of morn, her rising sweet,
With charm of earliest birds; pleasant the Sun,
When first on this delightful land he spreads
His orient beams, on herb, tree, fruit and flower,
Glistening with dew; fragrant the fertile Earth
After soft showers; and sweet the coming on
Of grateful Evening mild
But neither breath of morn, when she ascends
With charm of earliest birds; nor rising Sun
On this delightful land; nor herb, fruit, flower,
Glistening with dew; nor fragrance after showers:
Nor grateful Evening mild; nor silent night,

.... without thee is sweet. [PL IV]
 With thee is life incessant bliss;
 Thine, it whole shall be.

No.30

Recitative (Uriel)

O happy pair! and always happy yet,
 If not, misled by false conceit,
 Ye strive at more, as granted is,
 And more to know, as know ye should!

No.31

Chorus

Sing the Lord, ye voices all,
 Utter thanks, ye all his works!
 Celebrate his pow'r and glory!
 Let his name resound on high!
 The Lord is great; his praise shall last for aye.
 Amen.

... the pleasant savoury smell so quickened appetite
 [PL V] ... the humid flowers, that breathed their
 morning incense [PL IX]

Sleep on, blest pair! And, O! yet happiest if ye seek no
 happier state, and know to know no more. [PL IV]

Ah gentle pair, ye little think how nigh your change
 approaches [PL IV]

Yet happy pair; enjoy, till I return, short pleasures, for
 long woes are to succeed. [PL IV]

Sing unto the Lord, and praise his name [Ps. 96]

Sing unto God the Lord with praise,

Unto the Lord rejoice! [Ps. 147 Sternhold & Hopkins]

... He, celebrated, rode triumphant through mid
 Heaven, into the courts ... on high; who into glory him
 received... [PL VI]

Let them praise the name of the Lord [Ps. 148] Let
 everything that hath breath praise the Lord. [Ps. 150]

All praise be given unto thee,

O God, the Lord most high,

From this time forth for evermore,

Amen, amen, say I. [Ps. 89 Sternhold & Hopkins]