

## The Pearl: Hymn 3

1

(Tallis: *Canon*)

Though here in bare simplicity,  
you did not hide yourself from me,  
O pearl, whom merchants seek and love,  
you are a gift from God above.

Clothed only in the light of day  
like Eve, before she fell away –  
he who deceived her cursèd be –  
in you the Light of Christ I see.

O pearl, O type of mys'tries bright,  
your glory triumphs o'er the night,  
on holy women clothed with you  
the Light of Eden's glow shines through.

2

(Joanna: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*)

The pearls of Ethiopia all glisten so bright!  
God gave them to Gentiles and brought them the Light.

Thus also to India your radiances reach  
in your pure, clear light Jesus' brilliance to teach.

The servant of Candace emerged in the Light  
as Philip baptized him and washed him from night.  
Abounding in joy from the truth of the Word,  
he finished his journey, redeemed by the Lord.

And he made disciples of men black and white,  
and taught them to live in God's glorious Light.  
And African women to God's love were won,  
and offered to God as new pearls of the Son.

3

(Toulon: *I Greet Thee, Who My Sure Redeemer Art*)

The Queen of Sheba, seeking wisdom came  
to glimpse the Light of Solomon's great fame.  
She was enlightened, then she went away  
back to her people with the Light of day.

Bright in her native land the holy Light  
shone to dispel the darkness of the night.  
Up sprang the Day of everlasting life  
Rescuing men from death and fear and strife.

4, 5

(Neumark: *If Thou But Suffer God to Guide Thee*)

Within the sea are many creatures  
of varied sizes, large and small;  
with different ways and different features,  
the Light shines through them one and all.  
Like Jesus, in His holy birth,  
though small, they all can light the earth.

The crown is for the head intended,  
the eye for beauty searches far.  
The ear to holiness is bended;  
so though you in the sea now are:  
Come forth to sojourn on the land  
upheld by God's great loving hand!

The Word within the ear finds hearing,  
the radiant pearl rests in my hand.  
O warn us by your Light endearing  
to hear that we may understand.  
May we gain wisdom from your Light:  
O warn us by your beacon bright!

Show us the beauty of the Savior;  
refract His glory to our eyes,  
that we may dwell within His favor,  
His Word be our most precious prize!  
I hear and see both leaf and tree:  
Let them be likewise Light to me!

O radiant pearl, of Light a token,  
of holy, glorious Light a womb,  
of Jesus you have clearly spoken  
to point to life beyond the tomb.  
The Kingdom's beauty in your swirl  
of Light is seen, O radiant pearl!

Give not your pearls to unbelievers,  
for it becomes them not at all.  
For faith alone makes us receivers  
of grace to heed our Savior's call.

When once this pearl we have obtained,  
no greater wealth could e'er be gained.

O pearl, let not your Light be wasted  
on blinded eyes sunk down in mire!  
All who God's love have never tasted  
shall be consumed by holy fire.  
You are of Light too clear and fine  
to be cast down and trod by swine.

This pearl a thing of time and space is,  
yet in her beauty I can see  
majestic visions, holy places –  
glimpses of vast eternity!  
In purse, in seal, in treasury  
the pearl declares God's love for me.

In heaven's holy, gated city,  
none who unclean are shall abide.  
Locked out are they and without pity;  
all who know Jesus dwell inside.  
The pearl adorns the gates of heav'n;  
to her what glory has been giv'n!