1. Ye angelic hosts, go ye on the way before us;

make your way from Bethlehem to the River Jordan;

and come forth, O thou Baptist John, abandon the wilderness.

Make ready, O river, and rejoice, and let all the earth be filled with gladness, for Christ cometh now

and purgeth Adam's sin away, since He is compassionate.
2. Come ye, with pure mouths and with souls made clean, and let us mystically leave Bethlehem, taking forth our journey;

and as we go with Christ unto the Jordan with eager haste,

let us sing to Him now, O ye tribes of the earth, with joy and jubilation, as we say in faith:

Blessed art Thou Who art now come, our God, glory be to Thee.
3. Dreadful is the mystery and great beyond all telling!

For the Most High God is become like unto mankind;

and now He Who is innocent and knoweth no sin at all cometh forth and asketh to be baptized of John within the Jordan River on this holy day.

Blessed art Thou Who hast appeared;

our God, glory be to Thee.
4. Of a Virgin born as the Flower sprung from David,

Christ our God is come to the waters of the Jordan,
to wash away within its floods the sins of our ancestor.

Dance for joy, O Adam; Eve, be glad; and let Heaven now declare
light and glory; let us nations say:

Blessed art Thou Who art now come, our God, glory be to Thee.