Hymns for
St. Stephen Martyr, Dec. 26
St. John the Evangelist, Dec. 27
Holy Innocents, Dec. 28

Text
Harry Hagan, OSB

for traditional hymns
Unison Voice & Keyboard

Saint Meinrad
Liturgical Music
Good King Wenceslas looked out,  
On the Feast of Stephen,  
When the snow lay round about,  
Deep and crisp and even;  
In the cold a serf he spied  
And bestowed his favor,  
Welcomed him that Christmastide  
As his Christ and Savior.

Stephen too by charity  
And his proclamation  
Served his King most faithfully,  
Lord of every nation.  
He embraced his Master’s call,  
Faith his only armor,  
Dying at the feet of Saul:  
First of all the martyrs.

Let us like Good Wenceslas  
By this celebration  
Join the mystery of the cross  
To the incarnation.  
Let the earth sing: Hodie!  
Jubilate Deo!  
With the angels: Gloria!  
In excelsis Deo!

lines 1-4 by John Mason Neale  
remainder by Harry Hagan, OSB  
June 25, 2002  
Tune: TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM, 13c,  
from Piae Cantiones, 1582.

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Good King Wenceslas

A Liturgical Hymn for the Feast of St. Stephen Martyr

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM
from Piae Cantiones, 1582

lines 1-4 by John Mason Neale
remainder by Harry Hagan, OSB
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Good King Wenceslas looked out On the Feast of Stephen,
Stephen too by charity And his proclamation.
Let us like Good Wenceslas By this celebration.

When the snow lay round about, Deep and crisp and even;
Served his King most faithfully, Lord of every nation.
Join the mystery of the Cross To the incarnation.

In the cold a serf he spied And bestowed his favor,
He embraced his Master's call, Faith his only armor,
Let the earth sing: Hodie! Jubilate Deo!

Welcomed him that Christmas As his Christ and Saviour.
Dying at the feet of Saul: First of all the martyrs.
With the angels: Gloria! In excelsis Deo!
Beloved John
for Lauds on December 27
the Feast of St. John the Evangelist

Beloved John the Gospel heard
and gave himself to Christ the Word,
the Word made flesh of God's own will,
the Word that dwells among us still.

Beloved John saw seven signs
that showed Christ human and divine.
And all who saw and then believed
have from his fullness life received.

Beloved John the last meal shared
when Jesus gathered them in prayer
that as the Father and the Son
we with and in him may be one.

Beloved John at Mary's side
saw his Beloved crucified.
but Easter Day he saw his Christ:
the living Way, the Truth, the Life.

Verse for the Feast of St. John:
Beloved John, we keep your feast
to celebrate this time of peace
when Christ, the Light of truth and grace,
arose to shine upon our race.

If not sung on the Feast of St. John,
the following verse may be sung:
  Beloved John, our guard and guide,
  as you in Christ are glorified
  may we be filled with truth and grace
  that we with you may see his face.

February 27, 2008
Lauds Hymn for the Feast of St. John the Evangelist
Tune: PUPER NOBIS NASCITUR, 15th c. German
adapted by Michael Pretorius, 1609
Chant: A solis ortus cardine, adpt. by Columba Kelly, OSB
Beloved John
The Feast of St. John the Evangelist: Dec. 27

Text by Harry Hagan, OSB
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Latin carol, 16th cent.
adapt., Michael Praetorius, 1609
harm., George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904

Beloved John the Gospel heard and gave him
Beloved John saw seven signs that showed Christ
Beloved John the last meal shared when Jesus
Beloved John at Mary’s side saw his Jesus
Beloved John, we keep your feast and celebrate

self to Christ the Word: the Word made flesh of
human and divine. And all who saw and
made his prayer: that as the Father and
crucified. But Easter Day he
brate this time of peace when Christ, the Light of

God’s own will, the Word that dwells among us still.
then believed have from his fullness life received.
and the Son we with and in him may be one.
saw his Christ: the living Way, the Truth, the Life.
truth and grace, arose to shine upon our race.
That Worried Tyrant Herod Froze
Hymn for the Feast of the Holy Innocents

That worried tyrant, Herod, froze to hear a child in swaddling clothes as David's promised prince was born to rule and reign as God had sworn.

Enraged, that foolish king decreed: "Let every boy in Judah bleed. Lest this pretender's shoot should bud, make every cradle run with blood."

But evil triumphed not that day, for Christ was safely borne away. And Herod by his wicked deed sowed martyrs for the Church's seed.

As Rachel would not be consoled because her own lay dead and cold, let us each life as Christ's defend for we on him for life depend.

Hail, newborn martyrs of the Prince! Hail noble Holy Innocents! May all deprived of life as you in Christ be born to live anew.

To you, Lord Jesus, far and wide, O Mary's child, this Christmastide with Father and the Spirit be all praise: Most Blessed Trinity.

Audit tyrannus anxius from the Liber Cathemerinon Hymn XII:93-100,133-136,125-129; by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 4th century stanza 4 added July 16, 2009 at Einsiedeln

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That Worried Tyrant Herod Froze

The Feast of the Holy Innocents: Dec. 28

Audit tyrannus anxius, from the Cathemerion
by Prudentius, tr. by Harry Hagan, OSB
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PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, 16th cent.
adapt., Michael Praetorius, 1609
harm., George Ratcliffe Woodward, 1904

That worried tyrant, Herod, froze to hear a
Enraged, that foolish king decreed: “Let every
But evil triumphed not that day, For Christ was
As Rachel would not be consoled because her
Hail, newborn martyrs of the Prince! Hail, noble
To you, Lord Jesus, far and wide, O Mary's

child in swaddling clothes as David's promised
boy in Judah bleed. Lest this pretend'er's
safeley borne away. And Herod by his
own lay dead and cold, let we each life as
Holy Inno cents! May all deprived of
child, this Christmas tide with Father and the

prince was born to rule and reign as God had sworn.
shoot should bud, make every cradle run with blood.”
wicked deed sowed martyrs for the Church's seed.
Christ's defend for we on him for life depend.
life as you in Christ be born to live anew.
Spirit be all praise: Most Blessed Trinity.
Beloved John

for Lauds on December 27

Beloved John the Gospel heard and gave himself to Christ the Word, the Word made flesh of God's own will, the Word that dwells among us still.

Beloved John saw seven signs that showed Christ human and divine. And all who saw and then believed have from his fullness life received.

Beloved John the last meal shared when Jesus gathered them in prayer that as the Father and the Son we with and in him may be one.

Beloved John at Mary’s side saw his Beloved crucified. But Easter Day he saw his Christ: the living Way, the Truth, the Life.

Verse for the Feast of St. John:
Beloved John, we keep your feast to celebrate this time of peace when Christ, the Light of truth and grace, arose to shine upon our race. Amen

If not sung on the Feast, the following verse may be sung:
Beloved John, our guard and guide, as you in Christ are glorified may we be filled with truth and grace that we with you may see his face.

February 27, 2008
Lauds Hymn for the Feast of St. John the Evangelist
Metric Tune: Puer nobis nascitur, 15th c. German adapted by Michael Pretorius, 1609

Beloved John

1. Be- lov- ed John the Gos- pel heard
2. Be- lov- ed John saw sev- en signs
3. Be- lov- ed John the last meal shared
4. Be- lov- ed John at Mar- y’s side
5. Be- lov- ed John, we keep your feast

1. ... and gave him- self to Christ the Word:
2. ... that showed Christ hu- man and di- vine.
3. ... saw his Be- lov- ed cru- ci- fied.
4. ... when Jes- us  made his priest- ly prayer
5. ... to cel- e- brate this time of peace

1. ... the Word made flesh of God’s own will,
2. ... have from his full- ness life re- ceived.
3. ... we with and in Him may be one.
4. ... the liv- ing Way, the Truth, the Life.
5. ... when Christ, the Light of truth and grace, arose to shine up- on our race. Amen

for Lauds on December 27

Beloved John
That Worried Tyrant Herod Froze

1. That worried tyrant, Herod, froze
2. Enraged, that foolish king decreed:
3. But evil triumphed not that day,
4. As Rachel would not be consoled
5. Hail, new-born martyrs of the Prince!
6. To hear a child in swaddling clothes

3. For Christ was safely by His wick-ed deed,
4. Let us each live as Christ's defend
5. In Christ be born to live anew.
6. With Fa-ther and the Spirit be

1. As David's promised prince was born
2. Lest this pretender's shoot should bud,
3. And Herod by his wick-ed deed
4. Let every boy in Judea bleed.
5. Hail the noble Holy Innocents!
6. With Fa-ther, Ho-ly, and the Spir-it be

1. To rule and reign as God had sworn.
2. Let every boy in Judea bleed.
3. As David's promised prince was born
4. Let us each live as Christ's defend
5. May all be preserved of life as you read.
6. O Mary, thy child, this Christ was borne.

6. To you, Lord, let us sur-est, her and wide,
5. Hail, new-born men, who of the Prince;
4. As Rachel could not be consoled
3. But evil triumphed not that day;
2. Ere reged that foul ill King de-creed:
1. That worried tyrant, Herod froze

Hymn for the Feast of the Holy Innocents

Audit tyrannus anxius

Liber Cathemerinon

Hymn XII: 93-100, 133-136, 125-129;
by Aurelius Prudentius Clemens, 4th century

stanza 4 added July 16, 2009 at Einsiedeln