

The great forerunner of the morn

Hymnal 1982 no. 272, Melody: The Truth From Above

The Venerable Bede (673-735),
tr. J. M. Neale (1818-1866)

English traditional
melody



1. The great fore - run - ner of the morn,
2. With heav'n - ly mes - sage Ga - briel came,
3. John, still un - born, yet gave a - right
4. His might - y deeds ex - alt his fame
5. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



the her - ald of the Word, is born;
that John should be that her - ald's name,
his wit - ness to the com - ing light;
to great - er than a pro - phet's name;
and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



and faith - ful hearts shall nev - er fail
and with pro - phet - ic ut - t'rance told
and Christ, the Sun of all the earth,
of wo - man born shall nev - er be
praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



with thanks and praise his light to hail.
his ac - tions great and man - i - fold.
ful - filled that wit - ness at his birth.
a great - er pro - phet than was he.
from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.