

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany (Series A)

“Songs of Thankfulness and Praise” (*Lutheran Service Book*, #394; *Christian Worship*, #82, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, 310#)

“Manifest”

This is not so much a hymn for the day, as it is a hymn to be sung as the Epiphany season begins to draw to a close. It may be easiest to simply allow the poet himself to describe his poem: “Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany—Recapitulation of the successive Epiphanyes or Manifestations of Christ, which have been already presented in the services of the former weeks through the season of Epiphany; and Anticipation of that future great and glorious Epiphany, at which Christ will be manifested to all, when He will appear again to judge the world.” (*Holy Year: or Hymns for Sundays, Holidays, and Other Occasions throughout the Year*, London, 1862.)

God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus, his baptism, the miracle at the wedding at Cana, his healing of many, and his victory over Satan during his temptation and his final triumph on the cross. (Stanzas 1, 2, & 3) And then there is the anticipation, in stanza four, inspired by Revelation 19 when the Risen and Ascended Lord will return and bring all into his eternal reign in heaven. Stanza five is a final prayer for the grace to see the Christ as he continues to be revealed to us in sacred Scriptures and that his Spirit might mold our lives to be more like his.

Hymns can make for excellent reviews, don't you think?



Barry L. Bobb
Carmel, IN

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star to the sages from afar,
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem:
anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana wedding guest in thy Godhead manifest;
manifest in pow'r divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in man made manifest.

Sun and moon shall darkened be, stars shall fall, the heav'ns shall flee;
Christ will then like lightning shine, all will be his glorious sign;
all will then the trumpet hear, all will see the Judge appear;
thou by all will be confessed, God in man made manifest.

Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, present in thy holy Word—
grace to imitate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;
that we might become like thee at thy great epiphany
and may praise thee, ever blest, God in man made manifest.

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807-85, alt. (Nephew of the famous poet, William Wordsworth.)

Tune: ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR George J. Elvey, 1816-93.

Both text and tune are in the public domain.

[This devotion was prepared for the website of the Center for Church Music. It may be downloaded and duplicated for local use.]