

Christ is born, give ye
glory. Christ is come
from Heaven, receive
ye Him. Christ is on
earth, be ye exalted.
Sing unto the Lord
all the earth and sing
praises in gladness,
O ye peoples, for He
hath been glorified.

IN CALLING the Magi by a star, Heaven brought the first-
fruits of the nations unto Thee, a Babe lying in a manger;
and they were astonished that there was neither sceptre nor
throne, but only the uttermost poverty. For what is meaner
than a cave? And what is lowlier than swaddling clothes? Yet
in them the riches of Thy Divinity shone forth. O Lord,
glory be to Thee.

HYPAKOE̅, *Menaion* December 25.

LET US THEN ALSO FOLLOW THE MAGI, let us separate
ourselves from our barbarian customs, and make our
distance therefrom great, that we may see Christ, since they
too, had they not been far from their own country, would
have missed seeing Him. Let us depart from the things of
earth. For so the wise men, while they were in Persia, saw
but the star, but after they had departed from Persia, they
beheld the Sun of Righteousness. Or rather, they would not
have seen so much as the star, unless they had readily risen
up from thence. Let us then also rise up; though all men be
troubled, let us run to the house of the young Child; though
kings, though nations, though tyrants interrupt this our
path, let not our desire pass away. For so shall we thorough-
ly repel all the dangers that beset us. Since these too, except
they had seen the young Child, would not have escaped their
danger from the king. Before seeing the young Child, fears
and dangers and troubles pressed upon them from every
side; but after the adoration, it is calm and security; and
no longer a star but an angel receives them, having become
priests from the act of adoration; for we see that they of-
fered gifts also. St John Chrysostom, Homily VII on St Matthew, p. 47

Menaion
December 25
Canon, Ode 1
Troparion 1