

## The Pearl: Hymn 4

1

(St. Chrysostom: *We Have Not Known Thee As We Ought*)

While on the cross, by faith the thief  
gained for his tortured soul relief,  
but more than this, his lost soul was gained  
by Him Who with man's sin was stained.

There in the cross, amid his strife,  
that wretched thief saw Light and Life.

Jesus the sin of Adam bore  
that sin may shame and kill no more.  
There on the cross, that glorious Head  
consumed the fruit in Adam's stead.  
Light of the world, the Life of Men,  
Jesus gave life to us again.

Fools go astray, yet glimpse the Light,  
though without faith they dwell in night.  
Questions abound to open their eye;  
they probe for answers, blindly they pry.  
Yet though they pry, no Light do they see  
and thus forever fools shall be.

Divers do not their treasure pry;  
merchants a happy greeting cry;  
unless we pry to know whence it came  
the pearl remains no more than a name:  
Neither do kings its origins care,  
as they in crowns on their heads wear.

2

Balaam was foolish when he heard  
from the beast's mouth a warning word.  
For he despised and knew not the Lord  
Who from that beast declared His own Word.  
Likewise the pearl its truth will disclose  
only to him who Jesus knows.

All who possess a heart of stone  
cannot the love of Jesus own.  
He is the Stone they stumble upon  
Who crushes them, and then they are gone.  
Oh, all you deaf ones, listen today  
what this bright pearl to you would say!

Often the Lord has men reprov'd,  
those who by grace will not be mov'd.  
Swallows and oxen, donkey and crow  
shame those who will not Jesus know.  
Likewise the pearl reprov's with its might  
those who refuse to see the Light.

3

Not like the moon, O pearl your light –  
changing and waning through the night,  
but like the sun, much greater than all,  
you light the path for great and small.  
You are a type of Jesus the Son,  
shining His spark for everyone.

See how the pearl with light is fill'd!  
None can remove it though he will'd.  
Light in its beauty in it abides;  
it guards it deep within its sides.  
Light in perfection, light without swirl  
shines through the beauty of the pearl.

But should a man break you apart,  
seeking to have just one small part,  
you are like faith which shatters and dies  
when heresy to own your Light tries.  
Faith must remain together and true,  
lest it be spoiled, O pearl, like you.

Faith which the dying thief declared  
from all corrupting ways is spared.  
Those who would spoil or blot out its Light  
bring judgment on them, dark as the night.  
He who to others Light would deny  
likewise himself blinds his own eye.

Fire and air can sundered be.  
Nothing but light keeps unity!  
Like its Creator, light remains one –  
the Father, Holy Spirit and Son.  
Light begets life, abundant and free,  
yet never shall diminished be.

4

Pearl, if men think that you are art,  
framed by some man to win a heart,  
they are mistaken, for you proclaim  
yourself the work of one sovereign Name!  
Nothing but God could make you so pure  
or let your wondrous light endure.

Yet in your beauty, in your grace,  
you flee before the Savior's face.  
Not even you with Him can compare;  
none like to Him is found anywhere.  
You are like Him, so wondrous and bright,  
but He refracts the Father's Light.

Jesus from two wombs came to be,  
one earthly, one eternally;  
likewise from two this pearl came to be,  
the solid shell, the depths of the sea.  
Thus does the pearl emerge to the earth  
through a type of the second birth.

Hands set you in the crown or ring  
where beauty's vict'ry song you sing.  
Like Him Who triumphed, nailed to a tree,  
you sing Light's glorious victory  
set in earring, necklace, or gown,  
or lifted high upon a crown.