

Earth has many a noble city

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Bethlehem, thou dost all excel:  
out of thee the Lord from heaven  
came to rule his Israel.

Fairer than the sun at morning  
was the star that told his birth,  
to the world its God announcing  
seen in fleshly form on earth.

Eastern sages at his cradle  
make oblations rich and rare;  
see them give, in deep devotion,  
gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Sacred gifts of mystic meaning:  
incense doth their God disclose,  
gold the King of kings proclaimeth,  
myrrh his sepulcher foreshows.

Jesus, whom the Gentiles worshiped  
at thy glad epiphany,  
unto thee, with God the Father  
and the Spirit, glory be.