

The Voice That Breathed O'er Eden
By:Rev. John Keble (1792-1866)
From: the Salisbury Hymn-book, 1857
Tune:St. Alphege
Comp:Henry J. Gauntlett, 1852

1)The voice that breathed o'er Eden,
That earliest wedding-day,
The primal marriage blessing,
It hath not passed away.

2)Still in the pure espousal
Of Christian man and maid
The Holy Three are with us,
The threefold grace is said.

3)For dower of blessd children,
For love and faith's sweet sake,
For high mysterious union
Which naught on earth may break.

4)Be present, heavenly Father,
To give away this bride,
As Eve Thou gav'st to Adam
Out of his own pierced side.

5)Be present, gracious Savior,
To join their loving hands,
As Thou didst bind two natures
In Thine eternal bands.

6)Be present, Holiest Spirit,
To bless them as they kneel,
As Thou for Christ, the Bridegroom
The heavenly spouse dost seal.

7)O spread Thy pure wing o'er them:
Let no ill power find place,
When onward to Thine altar
The hallowed path they trace,

8)To cast their crowns before Thee,
In perfect sacrifice,
Till to the home of gladness
With Christ's own bride they rise! Amen.