

Hail thee, festival day (Ascension)**Refrain:**

*Hail thee, festival day!
Blest day that art hallowed forever;
day when our God ascends
high in the heavens to reign.*

Lo, the fair beauty of earth,
from the death of the winter arising,
every good gift of the year
now with its Master returns. *Refrain*

Daily the loveliness grows,
adorned with the glory of blossom;
heaven her gates unbars,
flinging her increase of light. *Refrain*

Christ in his triumph ascends,
who hath vanquished the devil's dominion;
gay is the woodland with leaves,
bright are the meadows with flowers. *Refrain*

Christ overwhelms the domain
of Hades and rises to heaven;
fitly the light gives him praise--
meadows and ocean and sky. *Refrain*

Loosen, O Lord, the enchained,
the spirits imprisoned in darkness;
rescue, recall into life those
who are rushing to death. *Refrain*

So shalt thou bear in thine arms
an immaculate people to heaven,
bearing them pure unto God,
pledge of thy victory here. *Refrain*

Jesus, the health of the world,
enlighten our minds, thou Redeemer,
Son of the Father supreme,
only-begotten of God! *Refrain*

Equal art thou, co-eternal,
in fellowship ay with the Father;
in the beginning by thee
all was created and made. *Refrain*

And it was thou, blessèd Lord,
who discerning humanity's sorrow,
humbledst thyself for our race,
taking our flesh for thine own. *Refrain*

Words: Venantius Fortunatus (530-609);

trans. Percy Dearmer, 1906

Music: Salve, festa dies

Meter: Irr.