Fortunatus (11 11.11 11.11)

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1 “Welcome happy morning!” age to age shall say;  
   Hell to-day is vanquish’d! Heav’n is won to-day!  
   Lo! the Dead is living, God for evermore!  
   Him, their true Creator, all His works adore:  
   “Welcome happy morning!” age to age shall say.

2 Earth with joy confesses, clothing her for Spring,  
   All good gifts return with her returning King;  
   Bloom in every meadow, leaves on every bough,  
   Speak His sorrow ended, hail His triumph now:  
   Hell to-day is vanquish’d! Heav’n is won to-day!

3 Months in due succession, days of length’ning light,  
   Hours and passing moments praise Thee in their flight;  
   Brightness of the morning, sky and fields and sea,  
   Vanquisher of darkness, bring their praise to Thee:  
   “Welcome happy morning!” age to age shall say.

4 Maker and Redeemer, Life and Health of all,  
   Thou from heav’n beholding man’s abasing fall,  
   Of th’eternal Father true and only Son,  
   Manhood to deliver, manhood didst put on:  
   Hell to-day is vanquish’d! Heav’n is won to-day!

5 Thou, of life the Author, death didst undergo,  
   Tread the path of darkness, saving strength to show;  
   Come then, True and Faithful, now fulfil Thy word;  
   ’Tis Thine own third morning! rise, O buried Lord!  
   “Welcome happy morning!” age to age shall say.
Loose the souls long prison’d, bound with Satan’s chain;
All that now is fallen raise to life again;
Show Thy face in brightness, bid the nations see!
Bring again our daylight: day returns with Thee;
Hell to-day is vanquish’d! Heav’n is won to-day! Amen.

Venantius Fortunatus, c530 - 609;
tr. by John Ellerton, 1826 - 93.