

The first system of the musical score consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef and the lower staff is in bass clef. Both staves are in 4/4 time and have a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The music is primarily composed of chords and simple rhythmic patterns, with some melodic lines in the upper staff.

The second system of the musical score also consists of two staves in treble and bass clefs. It continues the musical themes established in the first system, featuring similar chordal textures and rhythmic structures. The notation includes various note values and rests, typical of a hymn accompaniment.

- 1 BRIGHTEST and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.
- 2 Cold on his cradle the dew-drops are shining;
Low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
Angels adore him in slumber reclining,
Maker, and Monarch, and Saviour of all.
- 3 Say, shall we yield him, in costly devotion,
Odours of Edom, and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?
- 4 Vainly we offer each ample oblation;
Vainly with gifts would his favour secure;
Richer by far is the heart's adoration;
Dearer to God are the prayers of the poor.
- 5 Brightest and best of the sons of the morning,
Dawn on our darkness, and lend us thine aid;
Star of the east, the horizon adorning,
Guide where our infant Redeemer is laid.

Reginald Heber (1783–1826)