

Of the Father's Heart Begotten



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| <p>1. Corde natus ex parentis,
Ante Mundi exordium,
Alpha et O cognominatus,
Ipse Fons et Clausula
 Omnium que sunt, fuerunt,
 Que que post futura sunt.
 Sae-cu-lo-rum sae-cu-lis.</p> | <p>2. At his word was all cre- a - - ted;
He com-man-ded it - was done;
Earth and Heav'n and depths of o - - cean,
In their three-fold or - - der one;
 All that grows be-neath the shi- - - - - ning
 Of the orbs of moon and sun
 <i>Sae-cu-lo-rum sae-cu-lis.</i></p> |
| <p>1. Of the Fa-ther's heart be-go - - ten
Ere the world from cha - - os rose,
He is Al-pha and O-me - - ga,
He the Source and He - - the close
 Of what-ev-er is or has - - - - been,
 Or the fu-ture years disclose,
 <i>Sae-cu-lo-rum sae-cu-lis.</i></p> | <p>3. He as-sumed this mor-tal bo - - dy,
Frail and fee-ble, do-omed to die,
That the race from dust cre-a - - ted
Might not per-ish ut - - ter-ly,
 Which the dread-ful Law had se----n- tenced
 In the depths of hell to lie
 <i>Sae-cu-lo-rum sae-cu-lis.</i></p> |
| | <p>4. O that birth, for-ev-er ble-s-sed!
When the Vir-gin, fu - - ll of grace,
By the Ho-ly Ghost con-ci-ev-ing
Bore the sav-ior of - - our race,
 And the child, the world's re- de - - - - mer
 First re-vealed His sac-red face,
 <i>Sae-cu-lo-rum sae-cu-lis.</i></p> |

The tune is from **Piae Cantiones** (1582). The lyric is from Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348 - c.410), a Romano-Spanish lawyer who composed religious poetry that was included into church offices in medieval times. The joining of the melody with the lyrics was the work of J. M. Neale.

Some modern translations render the first line "Of the Father's **love** begotten" but "Of the Father's **heart** begotten" is more accurate.

I usually sing only the first four verses at Christmas Eve with handbell accompaniment.