

O Come Divine Messiah

"Venez, divin Messie"

Words & Music by Abbot and hymn-writer Pellegrin, M. l'abbé (Simon-Joseph)

A D *G D*
 O come, Divine Messi - ah.
A D F#m G E *A*
 The world in si - lence waits the day,
 D *G D*
 When hope shall sing its tri-umph,
A^{5th fret} D *A A^{sus4} A D⁵*
 And sadness flee a- way.

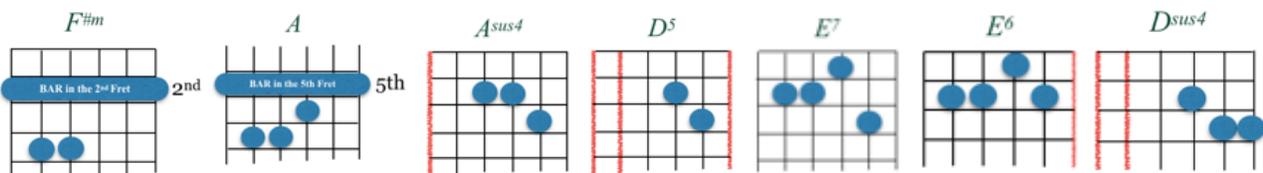
REFRAIN

A D⁵ A⁷ D⁵ G D⁵ A D
 Dear Sa - vior haste! Come, come to earth.
 G A G D A
 Dispel the night and show your face.
A G D E E⁷ E⁶ E⁷ A
 And bid us hail the dawn of grace.
A D *G D*
 O come, divine Messiah,
A D F#m G E A
 The world in silence waits the day,
 D D⁵ D D^{sus4} D
 When hope shall sing its tri - - umph,
A^{5th fret} D *A A^{sus4} A D⁵*
 And sadness flee away.

A D *G D*
 O come Desired of nations,
A D F#m G E A
 Whom priest and prophet long foretold.
 D *G D*
 Will break the captive fetters,
A^{5th fret} D *A A^{sus4} A D⁵*
 Re - - -deem the long lost fold.

REFRAIN

A D *G D*
 O come in peace and meekness,
A D F#m G E A
 For lowly will your cradle be:
 A D *G D*
 Though clothed in human weakness,
A^{5th fret} D *A A^{sus4} A D⁵*
 We shall your God - - -head see.



Scripture and History

Abbot and hymn-writer Pellegrin, M. l'abbé (Simon-Joseph) (1663-1745) wrote “**Venez, divin Messie**” (“**O Come Divine Messiah**”). Born at Marseille, the son of a judicial tribunal headquarters advisor of the French monarchy, Simon-Joseph was at first designated for an ecclesiastical career, from which he retained the courtesy title abbé. Though he was for a time a novitiate of the Servite Order, he soon embarked on a career as a ship's bursar.

Returning to France in 1703, he settled in Paris and composed his earliest poems, among them an *Epître à Louis XIV*, praising the Sun King's military successes, which gained the king's attention and the Académie française prize in 1704.

Pellegrin succeeded in escaping the urging of his superiors that he become more fully integrated with his order; instead a papal dispensation enabled him to enter the Cluniac order that advocated for and implemented a series of changes within medieval monasticism focused on restoring the traditional monastic life, encouraging art, and caring for the poor. This put him at the service of various boarding schools, for which he provided numerous pious translations of *cantiques spirituelles*, (hymns, psalms or other song of praise taken from biblical or holy texts other than the Psalms) and set them to familiar tunes from the opera. At the same time his services were retained for the theaters and the opera, which permitted an otherwise unknown poet Rémi the epigram:

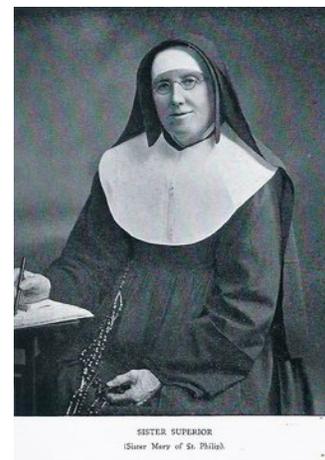
“Catholic in the morning and idolater in the evening, he dined from the altar and supped from the theatre.”

No image of Simon-Joseph exists on the net, but we do have his “Venez, divin Messie” which perfectly captures the sense of pent-up, exuberant expectation that makes this such a wonderful hymn.

Wikipedia and [Michael Sean Winters](#)

The English translation of "Venez, divin Messie" beginning "O come, divine Messiah" is by English Notre Dame Sister Mary of St. Philip, SND, aka Mary Frances Lescher (1825-1904). She was one of the first English members of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur when they established their training college at Mount Pleasant in Liverpool, England, in about 1850. She and at least one other SND sister wrote both translations and original hymns and songs over the course of their long professional lives.

www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com



Sister Superior
(Sister Mary of St. Philip)
Lescher
1825-1904