

He Put On My Body That I May Embrace His Word

The Cherubim praise and the Seraphim glorify. All join to celebrate this feast, beholding God on earth and man in heaven, the Most High below according to the dispensation, and the lowly raised by God's love for mankind (...).

And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed, He had the power, He descended, He redeemed (...).

The Ancient of Days has become an infant! He who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne is placed in a manger! (...)

He who has broken the shackles of sin is tied by fetters because He desired it! He wanted to transform vileness into honor and clothe shame with glory, to make what is point of contempt a means to virtue! For that reason He put on my body that I may embrace His Word! He took my flesh and gave me His Spirit.

In natalem Christi diem.

ἐκ τοῦ ἁγίου Ἰωάννου τοῦ Χρυσοστόμου

Ἦμνῆ τὰ Χερουβὶμ, δοξολογῆ τὰ Σεραφὶμ, πάντες ἐορτάζουσι Θεὸν ἐπὶ γῆς ὀρῶντες, καὶ ἄνθρωπον ἐν οὐρανοῖς· τὸν ἄνω κάτω δι' οἰκονομίαν, καὶ τὸν κάτω ἄνω διὰ φιλανθρωπίαν...

Καὶ μὴ ζῆτει πῶς· ὅπου γὰρ βούλεται Θεὸς, νικᾶται φύσεως τάξις. Ἠβουλήθη γὰρ, ἠδυνήθη, κατήλθεν, ἔσωσε...

Ὁ Παλαιὸς ἡμερῶν παιδίον γέγονεν, ὁ ἐπὶ θρόνου ὑψηλοῦ καὶ ἐπηρμένου καθήμενος ἐν φάτνῃ τίθεται, ...

Ὁ τὰ τῆς ἁμαρτίας διασπῶν δεσμὰ σπαργάνοις ἐμπλέκεται, ἐπειδὴ τοῦτο θέλει. Θέλει γὰρ τὴν ἀτιμίαν ποιῆσαι τιμὴν, τὴν ἀδοξίαν ἐνδύσαι δόξαν, τὸν τῆς ὑβρεως ὄρον, ἀρετῆς δεῖξαι τρόπον. Ὅθεν ὑπέρχεται τὸ ἐμὸν σῶμα, ἵνα ἐγὼ χωρῆσω τὸν αὐτοῦ Λόγον· καὶ λαβὼν τὴν ἐμὴν σάρκα, δίδωσί μοι τὸ ἑαυτοῦ Πνεῦμα.

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