

ST. THOMAS AQUINAS ON JESUS, ST III Q 53-59

CHRISTOLOGY

Christ's Resurrection (Q 53)

- Christ's resurrection was necessary
 - To show God's justice
 - To confirm our faith
 - To confirm our hope
 - To encourage our righteousness
 - To complete the work of salvation
- The third day is fitting because
 - it shows the power of his divinity and the reality of his humanity
 - it shows the perfection of the number three
 - it shows that a new age has dawned
- Christ was the first to rise from the dead
 - All others who rose from the dead did not do so perfectly, to a state where death no longer is possible
- Christ was the cause of his own resurrection
 - In his divinity and in his humanity

The Quality of Christ's Rising (Q 54)

- He had a true body in the resurrection; if this were not so, he would not have been truly raised
 - The body was the same body, with the same form and the same nature
 - It passed through doors by virtue of his Godhead
 - The glorified body can be visible as it is wished
 - The glorified body can appear glorious or not
- The body was glorified
 - The splendor of the glorified body is the color of the natural body and the brightness can be displayed at will
 - It has natural qualities; the glory of the soul keeps it incorruptible
 - It does not need food but can eat
- Christ's body rose entire, with flesh and blood: the same nature but different in glory
- The scars are fittingly retained
 - as a sign of his glory
 - to confirm faith in the resurrection
 - to retain the manner of his death in his intercession
 - to evidence his mercy
 - to condemn the wicked

The Manifestation of the Resurrection (Q 55)

- Christ's resurrection was not manifest to all because only those who had been prepared were capable of understanding
- Christ's resurrection is to a divine life; it is therefore manifest through angels. It seems it could not be manifest directly.

- He did not live continuously with them lest his glorified life be hidden
- He was able to change his shape for those who were not ready to believe in him; or they were prevented from recognizing him by Satan
- He demonstrated his resurrection by the proofs of its reality
- Christ gave sufficient proofs of his resurrection through angels, through the scriptures, in his body, and in the various aspects of his soul

The Causality of the Resurrection (Q 56)

- Christ's resurrection is the cause of the resurrection of our bodies
- Christ's resurrection is the cause of the resurrection of our souls

The Ascension of Christ (Q 57)

- He ascended to be in a place of incorruption, matching his resurrected state
 - His ascended state is better for us than not ascended
- He ascended in his human nature through the power of his divine nature
- He ascended by his divine power and by his glorified soul moving his glorified body
- He ascends above every body
- He ascended above every spiritual creature
- His ascension is the cause of our salvation
 - On our part because we are lifted up by faith, hope, love, and reverence
 - On his part because he prepares the way and intercedes for us

Christ's Sitting at the Right Hand of the Father (Q 58)

- It was fitting that he is seated at the right hand of the Father in the sense of remaining with him and exercising his power
- He does this as divine, sharing in the glory, beatitude, and judiciary power of the Father
- He does this as human, through the grace of union
- It is proper to Christ as equal to the Father and above all creature

Christ's Judiciary Power (Q 59)

- Judiciary power is especially proper to Christ
- It is proper to Christ as man because of his kinship with humanity, because he is the cause of resurrection, because he is without sin
- It belongs to the humanity of Jesus because he is God, because he is head, and because he is full of grace
- Christ judges all things human
- Christ judgment occurs fully at the end of time
- Christ judges the angels

CHRISTOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF CHRISTMAS CAROLS

O Holy Night (1847)

O Holy Night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining.

Till He appeared and the Spirit felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! Oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, the night when Christ was born;
O night, O Holy Night , O night divine!
O night, O Holy Night , O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
O'er the world a star is sweetly gleaming,
Now come the wisemen from out of the Orient land.
The King of kings lay thus lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friends.
He knows our need, our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains he shall break, for the slave is our brother.
And in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
With all our hearts we praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His power and glory ever more proclaim!
His power and glory ever more proclaim!

Original French text: Placide Cappeau de Rocquemaure
English text: John Sullivan Dwight (1813-1893)
Tune: Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

O Little Town of Bethlehem (1868)

O little town of Bethlehem
How still we see thee lie
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight

For Christ is born of Mary
And gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth

And praises sing to God the King
And Peace to men on earth

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in
Be born to us today
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us
Our Lord Emmanuel

Text: Phillips Brooks

Tune (St. Louis): Lewis Redner

Hark the Herald Angels Sing (1739)

Hark the herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heav'n adored
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with man to dwell
Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings
Ris'n with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Text: Charles Wesley

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn (1840)

Away in a Manger (1883)

Away in a manger,
No crib for His bed
The little Lord Jesus
Laid down His sweet head
The stars in the bright sky
Looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus
Asleep on the hay

The cattle are lowing
The poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus
No crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus
Look down from the sky
And stay by my side,
'Til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus,
I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever
And love me I pray
Bless all the dear children
In Thy tender care
And take us to heaven
To live with Thee there

Tu Scendi dalle Stelle (1754)

Tu scendi dalle stelle, o Re del cielo,
e vieni in una grotta al freddo e al gelo.

O Bambino mio divino, io ti vedo qui tremar;
o Dio beato! Ah quanto ti costò l'avermi amato!

A te, che sei del mondo il Creatore,
mancano panni e foco, o mio Signore.
Caro eletto pargoletto, quanto questa povertà
più m'innamora, giacché ti fece amor povero ancora.

Tu lasci il bel gioir del divin seno,
per venire a penar su questo fieno.
Dolce amore del mio core, dove amore ti trasportò?
O Gesù mio, perché tanto patir? Per amor mio!

Ma se fu tuo voler il tuo patire,
perché vuoi pianger poi, perché vagire?
Mio Gesù, t'intendo sì! Ah, mio Signore!
Tu piangi non per duol, ma per amore.

Tu piangi per vederti da me ingrato
dopo sì grande amor, sì poco amato!
O diletto - del mio petto,
se già un tempo fu così, or te sol bramo
Caro non pianger più, ch'io t'amo e t'amo

Tu dormi, Ninno mio, ma intanto il core
non dorme, no ma veglia a tutte l'ore
Deh, mio bello e puro Agnello
a che pensi? dimmi tu. O amore immenso,
un dì morir per te, rispondi, io penso.

Dunque a morire per me, tu pensi, o Dio
ed altro, fuor di te, amar poss'io?
O Maria, speranza mia,
s'io poc'amo il tuo Gesù, non ti sdegnare
amalo tu per me, s'io nol so amare!

Italian translation of *Quando Nacette Ninno* by Alphonsus Maria de' Liguori