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Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel

Benedictus Dominus Deus Israel quia visitavit et fecit redemptionem plebi suæ.
Et erexit cornu salutis nobis in domo David pueri sui.
Sicut locutus est per os sanctorum qui a sæculo sunt prophetarum eius.
Salutem ex inimicis nostris et de manu omnium qui oderunt nos.
Ad faciendam misericordiam cum patribus nostris et memorari testamenti sui sancti.
Iusiurandum quod iuravit ad Abraham patrem nostrum daturum se nobis.
Ut sine timore de manu inimicorum nostrorum liberati serviamus illi.
In sanctitate et iustitia coram ipso omnibus diebus nostris.
Et tu puer propheta altissimi vocaberis præibis enim ante faciem Domini parare vias eius.
Ad dandam scientiam salutis plebi eius in remissionem peccatorum eorum.
Per viscera misericordiae Dei nostri in quibus visitavit nos oriens ex alto.
Illuminare his qui in tenebris et in umbra mortis sedent ad dirigendos pedes nostros in viam pacis.

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed his people;
And hath raised up a mighty salvation for us in the house of his servant David;
As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began;
That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us.
To perform the mercy promised to our forefathers, and to remember his holy covenant;
To perform the oath which he sware to our forefather Abraham, that he would give us;
That we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear;
In holiness and righteousness before him all the days of our life.
And thou, child, shalt be called the Prophet of the Highest, for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways;
To give knowledge of salvation unto his people, for the remission of their sins,
Through the tender mercy of our God, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us;
To give light to them that sit in darkness, and in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

(text from Luke 1:68–79; translation from the Order for Morning Prayer in the *Book of Common Prayer*)

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (*ca.*1525–1594)
edited by Richard Shakeshaft