

## A CHAPTER HOMILY

**F**OR the Alleluia versicle of the Mass of the Aurora for Christmas Day, the Church has chosen the opening words of Psalm 92: 'The Lord hath reigned, he is clothed with beauty: the Lord is clothed with strength and hath girded himself with power'. It is with the beauty of our humanity that the Lord has clothed himself today: he has put on the weakness of a child; but he has reigned, the Lord has reigned from the crib, just as he was to reign from the cross, and now reigns in heaven. Like Moses in the ark, today the Lord is found in a crib; and as the Son is counted of greater worth than the servant, so he will lead the new Israel into the Promised Land; for 'from Egypt I have called my Son'.

It was in an ark that Moses was found; and in an ark that Noe sailed over the waters of the great flood, both, Moses and Noe, bearing with them the seeds of new life. Our Lord, too, himself the Seed of Life, Seed of Abraham, laughed in his crib to see the world which he had come to restore to the green of its youth; for this he had left his country and his kindred and his father's house and come to earth, rejoicing like a giant to run his course: from the height of heaven was his coming forth. And so he laughed, the true Isaac, sharing his father's joy; for he knew that he was to give his life in obedience to his Father's command, obedient unto death.

Now we pray to him, the eternal boy, the new Joseph who once again has clothed himself in heaven with his coat of many colours, made immaculate in his blood; his Mother too he has clothed in gold of Ophir and set her as Queen at his right hand: with her he reigns for ever.

See, then, the Son of David, Son of Abraham, Son born before the daystar!

Vetustatem novitas,  
Umbram fugat veritas,  
Noctem lux eliminat.

Amen. Alleluia.

[C.E.—*Blackfriars, Oxford*. Christmas, 1952]