Blessed city, heavenly Salem Hymnal 1982 no. 518

Melody: Urbs beata Jerusalem 8 7. 8 7. 8 7.

Words from AMNS



Part 1

Blessèd city, heavenly Salem,

vision dear of peace and love,

who of living stones art builded

in the height of heaven above,

and, with angel hosts encircled,

as a bride dost earthward move.

From celestial realms descending,

bridal glory round thee shed,

meet for him whose love espoused thee,

to thy Lord shalt thou be led;

all thy streets and all thy bulwarks

of pure gold are fashionèd.

Bright thy gates of pearl are shining,

they are open evermore;

and by virtue of his merits

thither faithful souls do soar,

who for Christ’s dear name in this world

pain and tribulation bore.

Many a blow and biting sculpture

polished well those stones elect,

in their places now compacted

by the heavenly Architect,

who therewith hath willed for ever

that his palace should be decked.

Part II

Christ is made the sure foundation,

Christ the head and corner-stone,

chosen of the Lord, and precious,

binding all the Church in one,

holy Sion’s help for ever,

and her confidence alone.

All that dedicated city,

dearly loved of God on high,

in exultant jubilation

pours perpetual melody,

God the One in Three adoring

in glad hymns eternally.

Part III

To this temple, where we call thee,

come, O Lord of Hosts, to-day;

with thy wonted loving-kindness

hear thy servants as they pray,

and thy fullest benediction

shed within its walls alway.

Here vouchsafe to all thy servants

what they ask of thee to gain,

what they gain from thee for ever

with the blessèd to retain,

and hereafter in thy glory

evermore with thee to reign.

Doxology

Laud and honour to the Father,

laud and honour to the Son,

laud and honour to the Spirit,

ever Three, and ever One,

consubstantial, co-eternal,

while unending ages run.

Words: Latin, c. 7th century, translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866)

Music: Mode ii, 13th century, *Nevers MS*.