

A HYMN FOR THE ANNUNCIATION

SOPHRONIUS¹

Be full of joy, O mother of heavenly delight!
Be full of joy, who helpeth forth the sum of all delight!
Be full of joy, O seat of saving joy!
Be full of joy, O spring of an immortal joy!
Be full of joy, O mystic dwelling-place of joy unspeakable!
Be full of joy, O wondrous fertile-ground of inexpressible delight!
Be full of joy, most happy fountain of unchanging joy!
Be full of joy, O treasured bearer of eternal joy!
Be full of joy, O flowering stem of life-yielding delight!
Be full of joy, unwedded mother of our God!
Be full of joy, O virgin yet inviolate in the bearing of a child!
Be full of joy, most marvellous of all the marvels that we see!
Who shall be able to tell thy glory?
Who shall dare to speak thy wonders?
Who shall be confident to proclaim thy greatness?
Thou hast embellished the nature of men;
Thou hast risen above the files on the Angels;
Thou hast overshadowed the brilliance of the Archangels;
Thou hast transcended the dignity of the Thrones;
Thou hast diminished the sublimity of the Dominations;
Thou hast run before in the way of the Principalities;
Thou hast made weak the strength of the Powers;
Thou hast shown thyself stronger than the Virtues;
Thou hast outstripped with earthly eyes the many-eyed Cherubim;
Thou hast surpassed the six-winged Seraphim by the God-wakened
Thou hast risen above all creatures, [flight of thy soul;
And hast shone forth in the fullness of purity before all;
Thou hast graciously received the Creator of all creation,
And being found with child
Thou hast brought Him forth,
For thou of all creatures art born to be the mother of God.

¹ *Oratio in SS. Deiparac Annuntiationem* 18, M. 873, 3237B. Translated by B.B.