

SALVE FESTA DIES

Irregular

Refrain, Unison

1 Hail thee, Fe - sti - val Day! blest day that art hal - lowed for

ev - - er; day when the Lord from heaven shone on the

Fine *vv. 2, 4*

world with his grace. 2 Lo! in the like - ness of fire, on  
4 Hark! in a hun - dred - tongues Christ's

those who a - wait his ap - pear - ing, he whom the -  
own, his cho - sen a - post - les, preach to a -

Music Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Lord fore - told — sud - den - ly, swift - ly, de - scends.  
hun - dred tribes — Christ and his won - der - ful works. D.C.

*vv. 3, 5*  
3 Forth from the Fa - ther he comes with his seven - fold —  
5 Praise to the Spi - rit of life, all — praise to the

mys - - ti - cal dow - ry, pour - ing on hu - man  
fount of our be - ing, light that now light - ens

souls in - fi - nite rich - - es of God. —  
all, life that in all now a - bides. — D.C.

c. 14th century (York Processional)  
translated Gabriel Gillett (1873-1948)

*Salve, festa dies, toto venerabilis aevo*

- ALL \*1 *Hail thee, Festival Day!*  
*blest day that art hallowed for ever;*  
*day when the Lord from heaven*  
*shone on the world with his grace.*
- WOMEN 2 *Lo! in the likeness of fire,*  
*on those who await his appearing,*  
*he whom the Lord foretold*  
*suddenly, swiftly, descends.*
- MEN 3 *Forth from the Father he comes*  
*with his sevenfold mystical dowry,*  
*pouring on human souls*  
*infinite richness of God.*
- WOMEN 4 *Hark! in a hundred tongues*  
*Christ's own, his chosen apostles,*  
*preach to a hundred tribes*  
*Christ and his wonderful works.*
- ALL 5 *Praise to the Spirit of life,*  
*all praise to the fount of our being,*  
*light that now lightens all,*  
*life that in all now abides.*

\* *Verse 1 is also sung as a refrain after each verse.*

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*translated Gabriel Gillett (1873–1948)*