

ST. GREGORY

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ANGLORUM APOSTOLUS.

L.M.

A. GREGORY MURRAY, O.S.B.

ST. GREGORY

Anglorum jam apostolus.

1 THAT voice is now by angels heard
Which late to Anglia preached the Word;
But Christian folk, as heretofore,
Saint Gregory's loving aid implore.

2 Rich was thy fortune ; on thy birth
Smiled the deluding shows of earth ;
These didst thou forfeit, Christ's to be,
And serve thy Master, poor as he.

3 Yet he delights to honour still
The humble servant of his will ;
Soon must thou prove, on Peter's throne,
That Peter's spirit was thy own.

4 Noblest of pontiffs, shall not we
Our hope, our glory find in thee,
Feel thee, in peril, at our side,
Who dost with heavenly counsels guide ?

5 What other lips like thine impart
The honied word that soothes the heart,
And lingers in the mind at prayer,
Like fragrant spices on the air ?

6 O thou, whom apostolic care
Made worthy of the apostle's chair,
From sin's enchantment set us free,
And bid us share thy heaven with thee.

7 Praise to the Father, gendered not,
Praise to the Son his love begot ;
Spirit of both, as both Divine,
Eternal majesty be thine.

[ST. PETER DAMIAN, 1007-72. TR. R. A. KNOX]