



Juv. preface (fol. 1 CUL Gg.5.35)

1. *Evangelia*, preface (1.1-27):

Immortale nihil mundi conpage tenetur,
 Non orbis, non regna hominum, non aurea Roma,
 Non mare, non tellus, non ignea sidera caeli.
 Nam statuit genitor rerum irreuocabile tempus,
 Quo cunctum torrens rapiat flamma ultima mundum.
 Sed tamen innumeros homines sublimia facta 6
 Et uirtutis honos in tempora longa frequentant,
 Adcumulant quorum famam laudesque poetarum.
 Hos celsi cantus, Smyrnae de fonte fluentes,
 Illos Minciadae celebrat dulcedo Maronis. 10
 Nec minor ipsorum discurrit gloria uatum,
 Quae manet aeternae similis, dum saecula uolabunt
 Et uertigo poli terras atque aequora circum
 Aethera sidereum iusso moderamine uoluet.
 Quod si tam longam meruerunt carmina famam, 15
 Quae ueterum gestis hominum mendacia nectunt,
 Nobis certa fides aeternae in saecula laudis
 Immortale decus tribuet meritumque rependet.
 Nam mihi carmen erit Christi uitalia gesta,
 Diuinum in populis falsi sine crimine donum. 20
 Nec metus, ut mundi rapiant incendia secum
 Hoc opus; hoc etenim forsitan me subtrahet igni
 Tunc, cum flammiumoma descendet nube coruscans
 Iudex, altithroni genitoris gloria, Christus. 24
 Ergo age! sanctificus adsit mihi carminis auctor
 Spiritus, et puro mentem riget amne canentis
 Dulcis Jordanis, ut Christo digna loquamur.

Nothing of this world's making is immortal,
 Not the earth, not the kingdoms of men, not golden Rome,
 Not the sea, not the land, not the fiery stars of the sky.
 For the Creator has set an irrevocable time for things,
 In which a final torrent of flame will grip this world entire.
 And yet lofty deeds and the distinction of power
 Do crowd around countless men time and again,
 Whose fame and praise the poets heap up.
 Some are celebrated in lofty songs flowing from the font
 Smyrna, others by the sweetness of Mincidian Maro.
 No less does the glory of the prophets themselves issue forth,
 Lasting like eternity, while the ages fly by and
 The turning of the axis wheels the land and sea
 Around the starry sky in bidden moderation.
 But even if those songs did deserve such lasting fame,
 Songs that bind lies to the deeds of ancient men,
 My sure faith in an eternity of everlasting praise
 Will render me immortal glory and reward my merit.
 For my song will be of the life-giving deeds of Christ,
 A divine gift among the people without the sin of falsehood.
 And nor do I fear that the fires of this world will grip
 My work along with them; for perhaps it will spare me
 From the blaze, when He descends, shining in flame-spewing
 Cloud, the Judge, the Glory of the high-throned Creator,
 Christ. So come, Holy Spirit, be the author of my song,
 And dip my heart into the pure streams of sweet-singing
 Jordan, that I may speak things worthy of Christ!