

Philippians 2:5-11^{iv}

Let that same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

^{iv} About the Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Today's passage is generally considered to be a hymn to Christ that Paul has adopted to make his own point. The hymn contains an outline of Christ's saving work: divine preexistence (v. 6), incarnation (v. 7), death (v. 8), celestial exaltation (v. 9), heavenly adoration (v. 10) and Jesus' new title (v. 11).

The first stanza (2:6-8) recounts Jesus' own action. His "equality with God" is not a prize to be "exploited" for his own advantage but is a treasure to lay down. The second stanza (2:9-11) stresses God's action. The name God has bestowed on Jesus is "Lord," (Greek, Kyrios), the circumlocution used by Jews to avoid speaking the Name of God, YHWH, and the usual Greek title for a god. This name is now given to Jesus, and the honor due to God is also due him.