O Father, Thou who hast created all

1. O Father, Thou who hast created all, In wisest love, we pray.
2. O Son of God, who diedst for us, behold, We bring our child to Thee;
3. O Holy Ghost, who broodedst o'er the wave, Des cend up'on this child;
4. O Triune God, what Thou command'st is done; We speak, but Thine the might;

Look on this babe, who at Thy gracious call Is entering on life's way;
Thou tender Shepherd, takethim to Thy fold, Thine own for ay to be;
Give him undying life, his spirit live With waters un-defiled;
This child hath scarce yet seen our earthly sun, Yet pour on him Thy light,

Bend o'er him in Thy tenderness, Thine image on his soul impress;
Defend him through this earthly strife, And lead him on the path of life,
Grant him, while yet a babe, to be A child of God, a home for Thee,
In faith and hope, in joy and love, Thou Sun of all, below, above,

O, Father, hear.
O Son of God.
O Holy Ghost.
O Triune God.

Albert Knapp (1798-1864)
trans. by Catherine Winkworth (1827-78)