Great is Our Happiness

Great is, O King, our happiness in thy kingdom, thou, our king.

We dance before thee, our king, by the strength of thy kingdom.

May our feet be made strong; let us dance before thee, eternal.

Give ye praise, all angels, to him above who is worthy of praise.

Zulu, South Africa

O holy Virgin, instrument of our strength and power . . . Thou wast the means whereby the salvation of the world was accomplished, and through whom God was reconciled to the sons of mankind . . .

What an unheard-of thing for the potter to clothe himself in a clay vessel, or the craftsman in the handicraft. What humility beyond words for the Creator to clothe himself in the body of a human creature.

And now I cry unto thy Son, O Virgin, saying:

. . . Take speed, O Lord, to build me into a fortress for the Holy Spirit.

Ethiopian Orthodox prayer