



Claudio Monteverdi – Vespro della Beata Vergine

Versiculum et Responsorium

1. Deus in Adjutorium. Ps. 69(70), 1

Deus, in adjutorium meum intende:

Domine, ad adjuvandum me festina.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me:

make haste, O Lord, to help me.

Gloria Patri et Filio

et Spiritui Sancto.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,

et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
without end. Amen.

Alleluja. Alleluja.

Antifona : Assumpta est Maria in Coelum

Assumpta est Maria in coelum:

gaudent angeli, Laudantes benedicunt Dominum.

Mary is taken up into heaven,

the Angels rejoice, praising, they bless God.

2. Dixit Dominus. Ps. 109(110)

Dixit Dominus Domino meo:

Sede a dextris meis: donec ponam inimicos tuos

scabellum pedum tuorum.

The Lord said to my Lord,

sit at my right hand, until I make thine enemies

thy footstool.

Virgam virtutis tuæ emittet Dominus ex Sion:

dominare in medio inimicorum tuorum.

The Lord shall send out the rod of thy strength from

Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies.

Tecum principium in die virtutis tuæ

in splendoribus sanctorum:

ex utero ante luciferum genui te.

At thy beginning in thy day of glory

in the splendour of the holy places,

before the first light I begat thee.

Juravit Dominus, et non poenitebit eum:

tu es sacerdos in æternum

secundum ordinem Melchisedech.

The Lord hath sworn, and will not repent:

thou art a priest for ever

after the order of Melchisedech.

Dominus a dextris tuis
confregit in die iræ suæ reges.
The Lord at thy right hand
shall destroy kings in the day of his wrath.
*Judicabit in nationibus, implebit ruinas:
conquassabit capita in terra multorum.*
He shall judge among the nations, fill them with the
dead, and smash heads in many lands.

*De torrente in via bibet¹
propterea exaltabit caput.*
He shall drink of the brook in the way:
thus shall he raise his head.

*Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.
*Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
without end. Amen.

3. Nigra Sum. Cant.cant. 1,4; [2,3;] 2,11-12

Nigra sum sed formosa filia² Jerusalem.
I am a black but comely daughter of Jerusalem.
Ideo dilexit me rex et introduxit in cubiculum suum et dixit mihi:
Therefore the king hath delighted in me
and brought me to his chamber and said to me:
Surge, amica mea, et veni.
Jam hiems transiit, imber abiit, et recessit.
Arise, my love, and come.
For the winter is passed, the rain is over and gone;
*Flores apparuerunt in terra nostra,
tempus putationis advenit.*
Flowers have appeared in our land,
the time of pruning is at hand.

Antifona : Maria Virgo

*Maria virgo assumpta est
Ad ethereum thalamum
In quo rex regus stellate sedet solio.*
Mary the Virgin is taken up
into the heavenly chamber,
in which the King of kings sits upon His starry throne

4. Laudate Pueri Domine. Ps. 112(113)

*Laudate, pueri, Dominum:
laudate nomen Domini.*
Praise the Lord, ye servants:

¹ All the 1610 part-books have *bibit*, a Latin error arising from confusion with the other, correct, futures ending in *-it*.

² *filix* in the Vulgate; *filia* in the tenor part-book and correct in a Marian context; Nigra = suntanned: cf.the Black Madonna.

praise the name of the Lord.
Sit nomen Domini benedictum,
ex hoc nunc, et usque in sæculum.
 Blessed be the name of the Lord,
 from this time forth for evermore.
A solis ortu usque ad occasum,
laudabile nomen Domini.
 From the rising to the setting of the sun,
 the Lord's name be praised.
Excelsus super omnes gentes Dominus,
et super coelos gloria ejus.
 The Lord is high above all nations,
 and his glory above the heavens.
Quis sicut Dominus Deus noster, qui in altis habitat,
et humilia respicit in coelo et in terra?
 Who is like the Lord our God, who dwelleth on high,
 Yet respecteth humbly what is in heaven and earth?
Suscitans a terra inopem,
et de stercore erigens pauperem:
 He raiseth the simple from the dust,
 and lifteth the poor from the mire.
Ut collocet eum cum principibus,
cum principibus populi sui.
 That he may set him with princes,
 even the princes of his people.
Qui habitare facit sterilem in domo,
matrem filiorum lætantem.
 Who maketh the barren woman to keep house,
 a joyful mother of children.
Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.
 Glory be to the Father and to the Son
 and to the Holy Spirit.
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
 without end. Amen.

5. Pulchra Es. *Cant.cant .6,3-4*

Pulchra es, amica mea,
suavis et decora filia Jerusalem.
 Thou art beautiful, my love,
 a sweet and comely daughter of Jerusalem.
Pulchra es, amica mea, suavis et decora sicut
Jerusalem, terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.
 Thou art beautiful, my love, sweet and comely as
 Jerusalem, terrible as an army arrayed for battle.
Averte oculos tuos a me,
quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.
 Turn thine eyes from me,
 for they make me flee away.

Antifona : Exaltata est

Exaltata est sancta Dei genitrix

Super choros angelorum ad celestia regna.

The holy mother of God has gone up
to the heavenly kingdom, above the choirs of angels.

6. Lætatus Sum. Ps.121(122)

Lætatus sum in his, quæ dicta sunt mihi:

in domum Domini ibimus.

I was glad when they said to me:

we will go into the house of the Lord.

Stantes erant pedes nostri, in atriis tuis, Jerusalem.

Our feet shall stand in thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem, quæ ædificatur ut civitas:

cujus participatio ejus in idipsum.

Jerusalem, that is built as a city

that is at one with itself.

Illuc enim ascenderunt tribus,

tribus Domini testimonium Israël

ad confitendum nomini Domini.

For thither the tribes go up,

the tribes of the Lord, to the testimony of Israël,

to give thanks to the name of the Lord.

Quia illic sederunt sedes in iudicio,

sedes super domum David.

For there are the seats of judgement,

the thrones of the house of David.

Rogate quæ ad pacem sunt Jerusalem:

et abundantia diligentibus te.

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:

they shall prosper that love thee.

Fiat pax in virtute tua:

et abundantia in turribus tuis.

Peace be within thy walls,

and plenty within thy palaces.

Propter fratres meos, et proximos meos,

loquebar pacem de te:

For my brethren, and my companions,

I will seek peace for thee.

Propter domum Domini Dei nostri,

quæsi vi bona tibi.

For the house of the Lord our God,

I will seek to do thee good.

Gloria Patri et Filio

et Spiritui Sancto.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,

et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
without end. Amen.

7. Duo Seraphim. Is. 6,3; Joh.Epist.I. 5,7-8

Duo Seraphim clamabant alter ad alterum:

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus.

Two seraphim cried to one another:

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.

The whole earth is full of his glory.

Tres sunt, qui testimonium dant in coelo:

Pater, Verbum et Spiritus Sanctus:

et hi tres unum sunt.

There are three who bear witness in heaven:

the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit:

and these three are one.

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth.

Plena est omnis terra gloria ejus.

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God of Sabaoth.

The whole earth is full of his glory.

Antifona : Post Partum

Post partum virgo inviolate permansisti

Dei genitrix intercede pro nobis.

After childbirth thou didst still remain an inviolate virgin:

O Mother of God, intercede for us.

8. Nisi Dominus. Ps. 126(127)

Nisi Dominus ædificaverit domum,

in vanum laboraverunt qui ædificant eum.

Unless the Lord build the house,

they labour in vain who build it.

Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem,

frustra vigilat qui custodit eam.

Except the Lord keep the city,

he watcheth in vain who keepeth it.

Vanum est vobis ante lucem surgere:

surgite postquam sederitis,

qui manducatis panem doloris.

It is vain for you to rise before dawn:

rise later, ye who have eaten the bread of sorrows;

Cum dederit dilectis suis somnum:

ecce, hæreditas Domini filii:

merces, fructus ventris.

When he will give sleep to his chosen.

Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord;

a reward, the fruit of the womb.

Sicut sagittæ in manu potentis:

ita filii excussorum.

As arrows in the hands of the mighty,

thus are the children of outcasts.

Beatus vir qui implevit desiderium suum ex ipsis:

non confundetur cum loquetur

inimicis suis in porta.

Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them:

they shall not be ashamed when they confront

their enemies in the way.

Gloria Patri et Filio

et Spiritui Sancto.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,

et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
without end. Amen.

9. Audi Coelum.

Audi, coelum, audi verba mea plena

desiderio et perfusa gaudio. Audio

Hear, O heaven, hear my words full
of longing and pervaded by joy. *I hear*

Dic, quæso, mihi: Quæ est ista

quæ consurgens ut aurora rutilat,

ut benedicam? Dicam

Tell me, I pray, who is she

that shines like the dawn in her rising,

that I might bless her? *I will tell*

Dic nam ista pulchra ut luna,

electa ut sol, replet lætitia

terras, coelos, maria. Maria

Tell me, for she, beauteous as the moon,

radiant as the sun, fills with joy the earth,

heavens and seas. *Mary*

Maria virgo illa dulcis prædicta de

propheta Ezekiel, porta orientalis³? Talis

Mary, that sweet virgin foretold by the prophet

Ezekiel, the gateway to the East? *Even she*

Illa sacra et felix porta per

quam mors fuit expulsa

introducitur⁴ autem vita? Ita

That sacred and happy portal through

which death was driven out

and life brought in? *Even so*

Quæ semper tutum est medium

inter homines⁵ et Deum

pro culpis remedium? Medium

She who is always a sure intermediary

between men and God,

the cure for our sins? *The Mediator*

Omnes hanc ergo sequamur qua cum

gratia mereamur vitam æternam.

Consequamur. Sequamur

³ The Eastern Gate of Jerusalem faces the Mount of Olives.

⁴ *introduxit* in the tenor part-book; *introducitur* in the quintus; *-cta* is the more correct.

⁵ *hominis* in the tenor part-book; *hominem* in the quintus; *-nes* (meaning men or mankind) would be correct.

Let us all therefore follow her through
whose grace we may be granted eternal life.

Let us go with her. *Let us follow*
Præstet nobis Deus, Pater hoc et Filius
et Mater cujus nomen invocamus dulce
miseris solamen. Amen

May God help us, God the Father, and the Son,
and the Mother on whose sweet name we call
as a comfort to the wretched. *Amen*

Benedicta es, virgo Maria,
in sæculorum sæcula.

Thou art blessed, virgin Mary,
for ever and ever...

Antifona : Paradisi portae

Paradisi portae per te nobis aperte sunt
que hodie gloriosa cum angelis triumphans.

Through Thee have the gates of Paradise been thrown open to us O thou who this day dost
triumph so gloriously among the Angels.

10. Lauda Jerusalem. Ps. 147

Lauda, Jerusalem, Dominum:
lauda Deum tuum, Sion.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem;
praise thy God, O Zion.

Quoniam confortavit seras portarum tuarum:
benedixit filiis tuis in te.

For he hath strengthened the bars of thy gates;
he hath blessed thy children within thee.

Qui posuit fines tuos pacem:
et adipe frumenti satiat te.

He maketh peace in thy borders,
and filleth thee with the finest wheat.

Qui emittit⁶ eloquium suum terræ:
velociter currit sermo ejus.

He sendeth his commandment to the earth;
his word runneth swiftly.

Qui dat nivem sicut lanam:
nebulam sicut cinerem spargit.

He giveth snow like wool;
he scattereth hoar frost like ashes.

Mittit crystallum suum sicut buccellas:
ante faciem frigoris ejus quis sustinebit?

He casteth forth his ice like morsels;
before his cold who can stand?

Emittet verbum suum, et liquefaciet ea:
flabit spiritus ejus, et fluent aquæ.

He sendeth out his word, and melteth them;
his spirit blows, and the waters flow.

⁶ *emittet* in the cantus part-book; -it elsewhere.

*Qui annunciate verbum suum Jacob:
justitias et judicia sua Israël.*

He sheweth his word unto Jacob,
his statutes and judgements to Israël.

*Non fecit taliter omni nationi:
et judicia sua non manifestavit eis.*

He hath not dealt so with any nation;
and his judgments he hath not made manifest.

*Gloria Patri et Filio
et Spiritui Sancto.*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit.

*Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,
et in sæcula sæculorum. Amen.*

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
without end. Amen.

11. Sonata Sopra Sancta Maria.

Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Capitulum : In omnibus requiem quaesivi

*In omnibus requiem quaesivit et in hereditate ejus morabor
Tunc praecepit et dixit mihi creator omnium et qui creator omnium
et qui creavit me requievit in tabernacula meo.*

In all these I sought rest, and I shall abide in the inheritance of the Lord.

Then the creator of all things commanded, and said to me: and he that made me, rested in my tabernacle.

12. Ave Maris Stella.

Ave maris stella,

Dei Mater alma

Atque semper Virgo

Felix coeli porta.

Hail, star of the sea,

bountiful mother of God

and ever Virgin,

happy gate of heaven.

Sumens illud Ave

Gabrielis ore,

Funda nos in pace,

Mutans Evæ nomen⁷.

Taking that Ave

from the mouth of Gabriel,

preserve us in peace,

giving Eve a new name.

Solve vincla reis,

Profer lumen cæcis,

Mala nostra pelle,

⁷ *Mutans nomen* can mean, just as in English, to rearrange the letters (Eva to Ave), or to “give a new name” as in redemption.

Bona cuncta posce.

Loose the chains of the bound,
bring light to the blind,
drive out our ills,
invoke all things good.

Monstra te esse matrem,

Sumat per te preces,

Qui pro nobis natus,

Tulit esse tuus.

Show thyself to be a mother,
may he who was born for us
receive our prayers through thee.

Virgo singularis,

Inter omnes mitis,

Nos culpis solutos,

Mites fac et castos.

Singular virgin,
more gentle than all,
absolve us from sin and
make us gentle and pure.

Vitam præsta puram,

Iter para tutum,

Ut videntes Jesum

Semper collætémur.

Grant us a pure life,
prepare a safe way,
that in seeing Jesus
we may rejoice for ever.

Sit laus Deo Patri,

Summo Christo decus,

Spiritui Sancto

Trinus⁸ honor unus. Amen.

Praise be to God the Father,
glory to Christ on high,
and with the Holy Spirit
one triple honour. Amen.

Antifona : Hodie Maria virgo

Hodie Maria virgo celos ascendit gaudete

quia cum christo regnat in eternum.

Today the Virgin Mary ascended into heaven;
rejoice, for she reigns with Christ forever.

13. Magnificat. Luc. 1,46-55

1 *Magnificat anima mea Dominum:* My soul doth magnify the Lord,

2 *et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.* and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my saviour.

3 *Quia respexit humilitatem ancillæ suæ:*
ecce enim ex hoc

⁸ In some modern editions *Trinus*, which is in all the part-books, has been changed unnecessarily to *Tribus*

beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden:

for behold from henceforth

all generations shall call me blessed.

4 *Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:*

et sanctum nomen ejus.

For he that is mighty hath done great things to me,

and holy is his name.

5 *Et misericordia ejus a progenie in progenies*

timentibus eum.

And his mercy is on them that fear him

from generation to generation.

6 *Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:*

dispersit superbos mente cordis sui.

He hath shewed strength with his arm;

he hath scattered the proud of heart.

7 *Deposuit potentes de sede,*

et exaltavit humiles.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat,

and hath exalted the lowly.

8 *Esurientes implevit bonis:*

et divites dimisit inanes.

He hath filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he hath sent empty away.

9 *Suscepit Israël puerum suum,*

recordatus misericordiae suae.

He hath sustained Israël his servant,

remembering his mercy.

10 *Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros,*

Abraham et semini ejus in saecula.

As he promised to our forefathers,

Abraham and his seed for ever.

11 *Gloria Patri et Filio*

et Spiritui Sancto.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit.

12 *Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,*

et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,

without end. Amen.

Oratio : Famulorum tuorum

Famulorum tuorum, quaesumus, Domine delictis ignosce ut, qui tibi placere de actibus nostris non valemus genetricis Filii tui Domini nostri intercessione salvemur.

Per eundem Dominum nostrum Jesus Christum Filium tuum qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitate spiritus sancti Deus,

Per omnia saecula saeculorum.

Pardon the faults of your servants, we pray, O Lord,

that we, who cannot please you by our own deeds,

may be saved through the intercession of the Mother of your Son and our Lord.

Through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son,

Who livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God,

for ever and ever.

Benedicamus Domino – Deo Gratias

Salve Regina

*Salve Regina, Mater Misericordiae,
Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, Salve!
Ad te clamamus, exsules filii [H]evae,
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes,
In hac lacrimarum valle.
Eja ergo, Advocata nostra,
Illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
Nobis, post hoc exilium, ostende,
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.*

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of mercy,
[Hail] our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve,
to thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn, then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us,
and after this, our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.