

# texts & translations

**Ave Maria**, gratia plena, Dominus tecum; benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus Christus. Amen.

(Luke 1:28)

**Salve regina**, mater misericordie,  
Vita dulcedo et spes nostra, salve.  
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Eve.  
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes  
in hac lacrimarum valle.  
Eia 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 semper Maria.

(Marian antiphon)

**Presque transi**, ung peu mains qu'estre mort,  
Vivant en dueil sans avoir nul confort,  
Veoir l'en me peut es liens de Fortune  
Qui sans cesser pis qu'autre me fortune  
Et me combat de plus fort en plus fort.

Helas! je suis contre mon vueil en vie,  
Et si n'est riens dont tant j'aye d'envie  
Que de pouvoir veoir ma fin bien prouchaine.

Mourir ne puis et tousjours m'y convie,  
Et m'est bien tart que du tout je desvie  
A celle fin que soie hors de paine.

Il m'est advis que la mort me tient tort,  
Quant autrement elle ne fait son effort  
De moy vengier de ma vie importune,  
Car je languis sans avoir joye aucune  
Par mon malheur qui me devoure et mort.

Presque transi...

*Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

*Hail, queen, mother of mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope, hail!  
To you we cry, exiled children of Eve;  
to you we sigh, weeping and wailing  
in this vale of tears.  
Come then, our advocate,  
turn your merciful eyes upon us,  
and show us Jesus, the blessed fruit of your womb,  
after this our exile.  
O merciful, O gentle, O sweet ever-virgin Mary!*

*On the verge of death, a little less than dead,  
living in sorrow without any comfort:  
one can see that I am in the bonds of Fortune,  
who without cease treats me worse than any other  
and wars against me harder and harder.*

*Alas! against my will I remain alive,  
and there is nothing I long for so much  
as to see my end very near.*

*Die I cannot, and yet always I seek it,  
and it is high time that I turn away from everything  
in order to be free of pain.*

*It seems to me that Death does me wrong  
when otherwise she makes no effort  
to relieve me of my wearisome life,  
for I languish without any joy whatsoever  
because of the unhappiness that devours and gnaws at me.*

*On the verge of death...*

**Sanctus**, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus sabaoth.  
Pleni sunt celi et terra gloria tua.  
Osanna in excelsis.  
Benedictus qui venit in nomine domini.  
Osanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts.  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

**Agnus dei**, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
miserere nobis.  
Agnus dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,  
dona nobis pacem.

*Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,  
grant us peace.*

**Beata viscera** marie virginis  
cuius ad ubera rex magni nominis  
veste sub altera vim celans numinis  
ditavit federa dei et hominis.

*Blessed womb of the virgin Mary,  
at whose breast the king of great name,  
hiding his divine power in another form,  
enriched the covenant between God and man.*

O mira novitas et novum gaudium  
matris integritas post puerperium.

*O fresh wonder and new joy,  
the mother's chastity after childbirth!*

Legis mosaice clausa misteria  
nux virge mystice nature nescia  
aqua de silice columpna previa  
prolis dominice signa sunt propria.

*The hidden mysteries of the Mosaic law—  
the nut of the mystical rod, defying nature;  
water from a rock; the pillar leading the way—  
these are signs proper to a lordly offspring.*

O mira novitas...

*O fresh wonder...*

Solem quam libere dum purus oritur  
in aura cernere visus non patitur.  
Cernat a latere dum repercutitur  
alvus puerpere qua totus clauditur.

*However bold, the naked eye  
cannot bear to regard the sun rising in the sky.  
But it sees it sideways, when it is reflected  
in the childbearer's womb, in which everything is contained.*

O mira novitas...

*O fresh wonder...*

(Philip the Chancellor)

**Viderunt omnes** fines terre salutare dei nostri:  
jubilare deo omnis terra.

*All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation  
of our God: sing joyfully to God, all the earth.*

*Notum fecit dominus salutare suum: ante conspectum  
gentium revelavit iusticiam suam.*

*The Lord hath made known his salvation:  
He hath revealed his justice in the sight of the peoples.*

Viderunt omnes...

*All the ends of the earth...*

(Gradual for Christmas Day; text set polyphonically in italics)

**Serena virginum**, lux plena luminum,  
templum trinitatis, puritatis specialis talamus,  
archa nove legis, tronus novi regis,  
vellus quod rigavit, qui nostram portavit,  
saccum nostram carnem vestiens:

Nesciens virum deum paris,  
O Maria, mater pia, stella maris singularis,  
stella cuius radius nubem pressit  
quam impresit Eve culpa prius.  
Istud nulla caritas meruit aut castitas  
sed simplex humilitas ancille.

O mamille quarum vene  
fluunt plene mundo lac et mella  
gens misella tollite vas fellitum:  
vas mellitum bibite;  
ecce lac infantium, ecce manna mundo pium,  
ecce pie flos Marie virginis.

Seminis Abrahe stirps inclita,  
balsamus mellita, calamus condita,  
nardus mirra trita,

O pia, trahunt nos ad varia  
laquei predonis. Torrens Babilonis,  
Dalida Samsonis, hostem mundum,  
vas immundum, bellica pacifica,  
spes reorum, lux celorum, virgo regia.

O Maria, cecis via, nostra tympanistris,  
in hoc salo nos a malo salva, stella previa,  
ut concordis vocis manus cordis  
plausu leti trino benedicamus domino.

Deo gratias.

**Sederunt principes** et adversum me loquebantur:  
et iniqui persecuti sunt me.

*Adjuva me, Domine Deus meus: salvum me  
fac propter misericordiam tuam.*

*Sederunt principes...*

(Gradual for St Stephen's Day; text set polyphonically in italics)

*Fairest of virgins, light filled with light,  
temple of the Trinity, bridal chamber of rarest purity,  
ark of the new law, throne of the new king,  
fleece which he moistened with dew, he who took our  
likeness, wearing our flesh:*

*Not knowing a man, you bore God,  
O Mary, holy mother, matchless star of the sea,  
star whose radiance drove off the cloud  
that bore the stamp of Eve's first sin.  
For this no love nor chastity was worthy  
but the simple humility of a handmaiden.*

*O breasts whose streams  
flooded the world with milk and honey!  
Wretched people, put away the bitter jar,  
drink from the honey jar:  
behold the milk of infants, behold the world's holy manna,  
behold the flower of Mary, the holy virgin.*

*O illustrious stock of the seed of Abraham,  
honeyed balsam, crushed calamus,  
nard and rubbed myrrh,*

*O holy one, we are drawn to error  
by the Deceiver's snares. The ruin of Babylon,  
Samson's Delilah, the enemy, the world,  
the unclean vessel, the violent: pacify them all,  
O hope of sinners, light of Heaven, virgin queen.*

*O Mary, path for the blind, our timbrel player,  
in this rough sea save us from evil, O guiding star,  
that with harmonious voices, hands and hearts  
we may clap joyfully and thrice bless the Lord.*

*Thanks be to God.*

*The rulers were seated in council and spoke against me:  
and my enemies persecuted me.*

*Help me, O Lord my God: save me  
because of your mercy.*

*The rulers were seated...*