

Rorate Caeli: Saturday Mass of Our Lady in Advent

Saturday 7 December 2024 at 7:30 a.m.

SUNG BY REBECCA CLABORN, KATHERINE HILL & MARGARET CORMIER

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Offertory Motet (PLEASE BE SEATED)

Salve, Virgo virginum

English, 14th century

Salve virgo virginum
parens genitoris,
salve lumen luminum,
radius splendoris.
Salve flos convallium
stilla veri roris;
nostra spes in te.

*Hail, Virgin of virgins,
mother of the Father,
hail, light of lights,
ray of brightness.
Hail, lily of the valley,
drop of purest dew;
our hope is in thee.*

Salve virgo regia
porta salutaris,
veri viri nescia,
quia deum paris.
Ave, quia deica
prole fecundaris;
nostra spes in te.

*Hail, royal Virgin,
portal of salvation,
knowing no man;
for it is God whom you bear.
Hail, for thou art made fruitful
with the divine offspring;
our hope is in thee.*

Ave nostre spei
finis et salutatis,
ave per quam rei
letantur cum tutis.
Ave speciei,
decus et salutis;
nostra spes in te.

*Hail, means of our hope
and salvation;
hail to thee, through whom
the guilty and saved rejoice together.
Hail, ornament of beauty,
of glory and wholesomeness;
our hope is in thee.*

Communion Motet

Veri floris sub figura

from the Hortus Deliciarum,

German, ca. 1180

(PLEASE REMAIN KNEELING OR SEATED)

Veri floris sub figura

The pious zeal of our priest

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The pious zeal of our priest

*Quem produxit radix pura,
Cleri nostri pia cura
Florem fecit mysticum
Preter usum laicum
Sensum trahens tripicum
Floris a natura.*

*Floris decor non decrescit,
Qui non aret nec marcescit
Sic flos ille casum nexit,
Quem produxit virginis
Ortus expers seminis,
Quem nostre propaginis
Modus expavescit.*

*Aurum faber suo more
Ignis domands in ardore
Flexu ducit levioere
Sic conflavit media
ignem pium gratia,
Quo flecti iustitia
Posset a rigore.*

*Ex hoc igne pietatis
Flos emersit caritatis
In incude castitatis,
Quem faber paraclitus
Formavit divinitus,
Inflexens humanitus
Aurum deitatis.*

*His flos multis argumentis
Sensum pie movet mentis.
Sceptrum regis prepotentis
Signat auri pretium,
Rubor latus saucium
Splendor vero gaudium,
Christi resurgentis.*

*has shown the mystic flower
beneath the appearance of a true flower,
sprung from a pure stem.
Paying no heed to the custom of lay people
he drew a pictured meaning
from the nature of the flower.*

*The beauty of a flower does not decrease
if it neither dries nor fades.
Likewise, the flower the Virgin brought forth
can never fall.
It grew without a seed.
Mankind, so limited in means of perpetuation,
worships her in fear.*

*The craftsman, through his skill,
shapes in gentle forms
the gold he softens in the heat of the fire.
Likewise, the grace come amidst men
has inflamed a fire of piety;
thanks to it, justice can bend
and become less severe.*

*From this fire of piety
there came forth, on the anvil of purity,
the flower of charity
to which the craftsman, the paraclete,
gives his shape in godhead,
fashioning in human shape
the gold of divinity.*

*By these manifold meanings
the symbol of the flower aroused
the understanding of pious hearts.
The sceptre of the powerful King
marked with this sign the value of gold.
His purple is the wounded side, and his splendour
is the joy of the risen Christ.*

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