

Dies Irae

Possibly Thomas of Celano. Latin sequence, 13th century at the latest.

Dies iræ, dies illa,
Solvēt sæclum in favilla:
Teste David cum Sibylla.

The day of wrath, that day,
will dissolve the world in ashes:
(this is) the testimony of David along with the Sibyl.

Quantus tremor est futurus,
Quando iudex est venturus,
Cuncta stricte discussurus!

How great will be the quaking,
when the Judge is about to come,
strictly investigating all things!

Tuba, mirum spargens sonum
Per sepulchra regionum,
Coget omnes ante thronum.

The trumpet, scattering a wondrous sound
through the sepulchres of the regions,
will summon all before the throne.

Mors stupebit, et natura,
Cum resurget creatura,
Iudicanti responsura.

Death and nature will marvel,
when the creature will rise again,
to respond to the Judge.

Liber scriptus proferetur,
In quo totum continetur,
Unde mundus iudicetur.

The written book will be brought forth,
in which all is contained,
from which the world shall be judged.

Iudex ergo cum sedebit,
Quidquid latet, apparebit:
Nil inultum remanebit.

When therefore the Judge will sit,
whatever lies hidden, will appear:
nothing will remain unpunished.

Quid sum miser tunc dicturus?
Quem patronum rogaturus,
Cum vix iustus sit securus?

What then shall I, poor wretch [that I am], say?
Which patron shall I entreat,
when [even] the just may [only] hardly be sure?

Rex tremendæ maiestatis,
Qui salvandos salvas gratis,
Salva me, fons pietatis.

King of fearsome majesty,
Who saves the redeemed freely,
save me, O fount of mercy.

Recordare, Iesu pie,
Quod sum causa tuæ viæ:
Ne me perdas illa die.

Remember, merciful Jesus,
that I am the cause of Your journey:
lest You lose me in that day.

Quærens me, sedisti lassus:
Redemisti Crucem passus:
Tantus labor non sit cassus.

Seeking me, You rested, tired:
You redeemed [me], having suffered the Cross:
let not such hardship be in vain.

Iuste Iudex ultionis,
Donum fac remissionis
Ante diem rationis.

Just Judge of vengeance,
make a gift of remission
before the day of reckoning.

Ingemisco, tamquam reus:
Culpa rubet vultus meus:
Supplicanti parce, Deus.

I sigh, like the guilty one:
my face reddens in guilt:
Spare the imploring one, O God.

Qui Mariam absolvisti,
Et latronem exaudisti,
Mihi quoque spem dedisti.

You Who absolved Mary,
and heard the robber,
gave hope to me also.

Preces meæ non sunt dignæ:
Sed tu bonus fac benigne,
Ne perenni cremer igne.

My prayers are not worthy:
but You, [Who are] good, graciously grant
that I be not burned up by the everlasting fire.

Inter oves locum præsta,
Et ab hædis me sequestra,
Statuens in parte dextra.

Grant me a place among the sheep,
and take me out from among the goats,
setting me on the right side.

Confutatis maledictis,
Flammis acribus addictis,
Voca me cum benedictis.

Once the cursed have been silenced,
sentenced to acrid flames,
Call me, with the blessed.

Oro supplex et acclinis,
Cor contritum quasi cinis:
Gere curam mei finis.

[Humbly] kneeling and bowed I pray,
[my] heart crushed as ashes:
take care of my end.

Lacrimosa dies illa,
Qua resurget ex favilla
Iudicandus homo reus:
Huic ergo parce, Deus:

Tearful [will be] that day,
on which from the glowing embers will arise
the guilty man who is to be judged:
Then spare him, O God.

Pie Iesu Domine,
Dona eis requiem. Amen.

Merciful Lord Jesus,
grant them rest. Amen.