

*Translations by Susan Hellauer unless otherwise noted*

**1 Hymn: Veni creator spiritus**

Veni creator spiritus  
mentes tuorum visita  
imple superna gratia  
que tu creasti pectora.

Come, creator spirit,  
visit the hearts of your people.  
Fill with supernal grace  
the hearts you have made.

Qui paraclitus diceris  
donum dei altissimi  
fons vivus ignis caritas  
et spiritalis unctio:

You who are the comforter,  
gift of the highest God,  
living fount, fire, love,  
and balm for the spirit:

tu septiformis munere  
dextre dei tu digitus  
tu rite promisso patris  
sermone ditans guttura.

bestow the sevenfold gifts,  
you finger of the hand of God;  
fulfill the father's promise,  
enriching us with holy speech.

Accende lumen sensibus  
infunde amorem cordibus  
infirmi nostri corporis  
virtute firmans perpeti.

Kindle light in our senses,  
pour love into our hearts,  
strengthen our weak bodies  
with abiding courage.

Hostem repellas longius  
pacemque dones protinus  
ductore sic te previo  
vitemus omne noxium.

You drive the foe far off,  
and grant lasting peace;  
thus with you leading us,  
may we avoid all harm.

Per te sciamus da patrem  
noscamus atque filium  
te utriusque spiritum  
credamus omni tempore.

Through you may we know  
the father, and the son as well,  
and in you, the spirit, with them both,  
may we have faith forever.

Presta pater piissime  
patrique compar unice  
cum spiritu paraclito  
regnans per omne seculum.

Show us, father, most loving,  
him who is one with you,  
reigning with the spirit comforter  
through every age.

*Translation: Susan Hellauer*

**2 Sequence: Veni spiritus eternorum alme**

Veni spiritus eternorum alme

mentes tuorum visita  
iacentes egris moribus,  
imple superna gratia  
terrigendarum pectora.

Qui altissimi donum  
dei diceris,  
fons perpetuus,  
spiritalis unctio,

tu promissum omnipotentis  
munus esse crederis.  
Apostolos tu linguis  
fundavisti sanctos igneis.

Lumen da te cordibus  
virtute perenni  
firmans miseris.  
Verum affer amorem  
muneraque caritatis plurima.

Hostem depelle invidum,  
da frui pace supera.  
Sic duce tecum previo  
valeamus scandere

etheria convexa.

Come, kind spirit of the ages,

visit the hearts of your people,  
casting out ill conduct;  
fill with supernal grace  
each earth-born heart.

You who are the gift  
of the most high God,  
perpetual fount,  
balm for the spirit,

promised gift of the almighty,  
you merit our faith.  
Upon the holy apostles  
you poured forth fiery tongues.

Give light to hearts,  
strengthening the wretched  
with abiding courage.  
Impart true love  
and the manifold gifts of charity.

Drive away the envious foe,  
grant the joy of heavenly peace.  
Thus lead, going before us,  
that we may have the strength to climb up

to the vault of heaven.

*Translation: Susan Hellauer*

**3 Antiphon: O quam mirabilis est**

O quam mirabilis est  
prescientia divini pectoris  
que prescrivit omnem creaturam.  
Nam cum deus inspexit  
faciem hominis quem formavit  
omnia opera sua  
in eadem forma hominis  
integra aspexit.  
O quam mirabilis est inspiratio  
que hominem sic suscitavit.

O how marvelous is  
the foreknowing in the divinity's heart,  
that foreknew every created thing.  
For when God looked  
upon the face of the human he had formed  
he saw the fullness  
of all his works  
in that same human form.  
O how marvelous is the breath  
that brought humankind to life!

*Translation: Susan Hellauer*

**4 Vision I: The fire of creation**

Et ego homo non calens  
 in forma fortium leonum  
 nec docta exspiratione illorum  
 sed manens in mollitie fragilis coste  
 imbuta mystico spiramine,  
 vidi quasi lucidissimum ignem  
 incomprehensibilem, inexstinguibilem,  
 totum viventem, totum vitam existentem,  
 in se autem flammam acrii coloris habentem.

Et audivi ex prefato vivente igne  
 vocem dicentem mihi:  
 O que es misera terra  
 et in nomine femineo  
 indocta de ulla doctrina  
 carnalium magistrorum,  
 scilicet legere litteras  
 per intellegentiam philosophorum  
 sed tantum tacta lumine meo  
 quod tangit te interius  
 cum incendio ut ardens sol.  
 Clama et enarra ac scribe  
 hec mysteria mea  
 que vides et audis in mystica visione.

*Scivias, Part II, Vision I*

And I, a human being, neither ablaze  
 with the strength of strong lions  
 nor learned in their exhalations,  
 remaining in the fragility of the weaker rib,  
 but filled with mystical inspiration,  
 saw: a shining fire,  
 unfathomable, inextinguishable,  
 fully alive and existing full of life  
 with a flame the color of air.

And I heard a voice speaking to me  
 from the living fire I have mentioned:  
 Insignificant earthly creature!  
 Though as a woman  
 you are uneducated in any doctrine  
 of fleshly teachers  
 in order to read writings  
 with the understanding of the philosophers,  
 nevertheless you are touched by my light,  
 which touches your inner being  
 with fire like the burning sun.  
 Shout and tell! And write down  
 these mysteries  
 which you see and hear in the mystical vision!

*Trans. Mark Atherton*

**5 Sequence: O ignis spiritus paracliti**

O ignis spiritus paracliti,  
vita vite omnis creature,  
sanctus es vivificando formas.

O spirit of fire, bringer of comfort,  
life of the life of every creature,  
you are holy, giving life to forms.

Sanctus es unguendo  
periculose fractos,  
sanctus es tergendō  
fetida vulnera.

You are holy,  
anointing those perilously broken;  
you are holy,  
cleansing festering wounds.

O spiraculum sanctitatis,  
o ignis caritatis,  
o dulcis gustus in pectoribus,  
et infusio cordium in bono odore virtutum.

O breath of holiness,  
o fire of love,  
o sweet savor in our breasts,  
infusing hearts with the scent of virtue.

O fons purissime,  
in quo consideratur  
quod deus alienos colligit  
et perditos requirit.

O clearest fountain,  
in which we see  
how God gathers the alienated  
and finds the lost.

O lorica vite  
et spes compaginis membrorum omnium  
et o cingulum honestatis,  
salva beatos.

O breastplate of life  
and hope of the whole human body,  
o belt of honor:  
save the fortunate.

Custodi eos qui carcerati sunt ab inimico  
et solve ligatos  
quos divina vis salvare vult.

Guard those imprisoned by the enemy  
and free those who are bound  
whom the divine power wishes to save.

O iter fortissimum  
quod penetravit omnia  
in altissimis et in terrenis  
et in omnibus abyssis,  
tu omnes componis et colligis.

O mightiest course  
that has penetrated all things,  
in the heavens and on earth  
and in every abyss –  
you reconcile and draw all humanity together.

De te nubes fluunt, ether volat,  
lapides humorem habent,  
aque rivulos educunt  
et terra viriditatem sudat.

From you clouds flow, wind flies,  
stones produce moisture,  
water flows in streams,  
and the earth exudes living greenness.

Tu etiam semper educis doctos  
per inspirationem  
sapientie letificatos.

You are always teaching the learned,  
who, through wisdom's inspiration,  
are made joyful.

Unde laus tibi sit  
qui es sonus laudis  
et gaudium vite  
spes et honor fortissimus  
dans premia lucis.

Whence praise be to you,  
who are the sound of praise,  
the joy of life,  
the hope and greatest honor,  
granting the prize of light.

*Translation: Susan Hellauer*

**6 Vision 2: Wisdom and her sisters**

Vidi etiam quasi in medio prefate  
 australis plage tres imagines,  
 duas videlicet in quodam purissimo fonte stantes  
 circumsepto et ornato superius rotundo  
 et perforato lapide,  
 altera quidem purpureo,  
 altera autem candido fulgore ita circumdata.  
 Tercia autem extra eundem fontem  
 supra prefatum lapidem illius stabat  
 candida veste induta.

Prima autem imago dicebat:  
 Ego caritas viventis dei claritas sum  
 et sapientia mecum opus suum operata est.  
 In umbra quoque hac sapientia  
 equali mensura omnia metiebatur,  
 ne aliud pondere suo aliud excederet  
 et ne etiam aliud ab alio  
 in contrarium moveri posset,  
 quoniam ipsa superat et constringit  
 omnem diaboli artis maliciam.  
 Et in seipsa et per seipsam  
 consuit omnia pie et leniter  
 que etiam a nullo inimico destrui potuerunt,  
 quoniam inceptionem et finem  
 operum suorum excellenter vidit,  
 que omnia pleniter composuit,  
 ita ut etiam omnia per ipsam regantur.

*De operatione dei, Part III, Vision 3*

**7 Responsory: O felix anima**

O felix anima cuius corpus  
 de terra ortum est,  
 quod tu cum peregrinatione  
 huius mundi conculcasti,

unde de divina rationalitate,  
 que te speculum suum fecit coronata es.

**V.** Spiritus sanctus etiam te  
 ut habitaculum suum intuebatur.

Unde de divina . . .

Gloria patri et filio  
 et spiritui sancto.

Unde de divina . . .

And I saw in the midst of that  
 southern region three forms,  
 two of them standing in a most clear fountain  
 encircled and crowned above by a round,  
 porous stone.

One was in gleaming purple,  
 and the other in dazzling white.  
 The third stood outside that fountain  
 and beneath the stone,  
 clothed in glowing white.

And the first figure said:  
 “I am love, the brightness of the living God,  
 and wisdom has done her work along with me.  
 In the shadow, wisdom portions out  
 all things in equal measure  
 so that one thing may not outweigh another  
 and so that nothing may be moved by another  
 into its opposite.

For wisdom conquers and constrains  
 every sort of devilish malice.  
 In and through herself alone  
 she arranged all things lovingly and gently.  
 They can be destroyed by no enemy,  
 because she sees perfectly  
 the beginning and ending of her works –  
 she who fully composed all things,  
 that all things might be ruled by her.”

*Translation: Susan Hellauer*

O happy soul, you whose body  
 came from the earth,  
 and which you, in your pilgrimage  
 in this world, trampled underfoot:

you are thus crowned by divine rationality,  
 which made you its mirror.

**V.** And the holy spirit saw you  
 as its own habitation.

You are thus crowned . . .

Glory to the father and the son  
 and the holy spirit.

You are thus crowned . . .

*Translation: Susan Hellauer*

8 *Vision 3: The fiery spirit*

Iterumque vocem de celo  
me sic docentem audivi, et dixit:  
scribe ergo secundum me in modum hunc.

Et vidi velut in medio australis aeris  
pulcrum mirificamque in misterio dei  
imaginem quasi hominis formam,  
cuius facies tante pulcritudinis et claritatis erat,  
ut facilius solem quam ipsam inspicere possem.  
Et circulus amplius aureique coloris  
caput eiusdem faciei circumdederat.

Et imago hec dicebat:  
ego summa et ignea vis  
que omnes viventes scintillas accendi  
et nulla mortalia efflavi  
sed illa diiudico ut sunt.  
Circueuntem circulum  
cum superioribus pennis meis,  
id est cum sapientia,  
circumvolans recte ipsum ordinavi.  
Sed et ego ignea vita substantie divinitatis  
super pulcritudinem agrorum flammo  
et in aquis luceo  
atque in sole, luna et stellis ardeo.

*De operatione dei, Part I, Vision 1*

And again I heard a voice from heaven  
instructing me thus. And it said:  
Write therefore what I tell you in this manner.

And I saw as amid the airs of the South  
in the mystery of God a beautiful and marvelous  
image of a human figure;  
her face was of such beauty and brightness  
that I could more easily have stared at the sun.  
On her head she had  
a broad band of gold.

The figure spoke:  
I am the supreme fire and energy.  
I have kindled all the sparks of the living,  
and I have breathed out no mortal things,  
for I judge them as they are.  
I have properly ordained the cosmos,  
flying about the circling circle  
with my upper wings,  
that is with wisdom.  
I am the fiery life of divine substance,  
I blaze above the beauty of the fields,  
I shine in the waters,  
I burn in the sun, moon and stars.

*Trans. Mark Atherton*

**9 Hymn: O ignee spiritus**

O ignee spiritus laus tibi sit  
qui in timpanis et citharis operaris.

Mentes hominum de te flagrant  
et tabernacula animarum eorum  
vires ipsarum continent.

Unde voluntas ascendit  
et gustum anime tribuit  
et eius lucerna est desiderium.

Intellectus te in dulcissimo sono  
advocat ac edificia tibi  
cum rationalitate parat  
qui in aureis operibus sudat.

Tu autem semper gladium  
habes illud abscidere  
quod noxiale pomum  
per nigerrimum homicidium profert.

Quando nebula voluntatem  
et desideria tegit,  
in quibus anima volat  
et undique circuit.

Sed mens est ligatura voluntatis et desiderii.

Cum vero animus se ita erigit  
quod requirit pupillam mali videre  
et maxillam nequicie  
tu eum citius in igne  
comburis cum volueris.

Sed et cum rationalitas  
se per mala opera ad prona declinat,  
tu eam cum vis stringis  
et confringis et reducis  
per infusionem experimentorum.

Quando autem malum ad te gladium suum educit  
tu illud in cor illius refringis  
sicut in primo perduto angelo fecisti  
ubi turrim superbie illius  
in infernum deiecisti.

Et ibi aliam turrim  
in publicanis et peccatoribus elevasti  
qui tibi peccata sua cum operibus suis confitentur.

Unde omnes creature  
que de te vivunt te laudant  
quia tu preciosissimum unguentum es  
fractis et fetidis vulneribus  
ubi illa in preciosissimas gemmas convertis.

Nunc dignare nos omnes ad te colligere  
et ad recta itinera dirigere. Amen.

O fiery spirit, praise be to you  
who play on the timbrel and lyre.

The minds of men take fire from you,  
and the tabernacles of their souls  
restrain their powers,

whence the will rises up  
and gives savor to the soul;  
and its lamp is desire.

With sweetest sound the intellect  
calls upon you and makes a place  
for you with reason,  
which brings forth works of gold.

But you always hold a sword  
to cut off  
what the poisoned apple  
produces through blackest murder.

When clouds darken the will  
and its desires,  
then the soul flies about  
and circles everywhere.

But the mind is the bond of the will and of desire.

And when the soul rises up  
to look into the eye of evil  
and the jaws of wickedness,  
you quickly consume it  
with fire as you will.

But when reason  
falls prostrate through evil,  
you restrain it through your power  
and strangle and smash it  
through a flood of experiences.

And when evil draws its sword upon you,  
you shatter it in its own heart,  
as in the beginning you did to the lost angel,  
hurling the tower of his pride  
down into hell.

And there you raised another tower  
in publicans and sinners  
who confess to you the sinfulness of their works.

Whence all creatures  
who have life from you praise you,  
because you are the most precious ointment  
for broken and fetid wounds,  
which you change into most precious jewels.

Now deign to gather us all to you  
and guide us on the right path. Amen.

**10 Vision 4: Love**

In vera visione spiritus vigilans corpore,  
 vidi quasi pulcherrimam puellam  
 in tanto fulgore splendide faciei fulgentem  
 quod eam perfecte intueri non poteram.  
 Et pallium candidius nive  
 et clarius stellis habebat.  
 Solem autem et lunam in manu dextera tenebat  
 ac eos suaviter amplectebatur.

Et audivi vocem mihi dicentem:  
 puella hec quam vides caritas est  
 que in eternitate habitaculum habet.  
 Nam cum deus voluit mundum creare  
 declinavit se in suavissimo amore  
 et omnia necessaria previdit  
 quemadmodum pater filio suo hereditatem preparat.  
 Ac sic in magno ardore  
 omnia opera sua disposuit.  
 Tunc creatura in his speciebus  
 ac in formis suis creatorem suum agnovit,  
 quoniam caritas in principio materia  
 eiusdem creature sic fuit.  
 Ubi deus dixit: fiat, et facta est,  
 quia omnis creatura quasi in ictu oculi  
 per illam formata est.

*Letter to Abbot Adam of Erbrach, c. 1166*

In a true vision of the spirit in a waking state,  
 I saw the likeness of a beautiful girl  
 shining with a splendour so bright  
 that I could not look upon her properly.  
 She had a cloak whiter than snow  
 and brighter than a star.  
 And she had in her right hand the sun and the moon,  
 gently embracing them.

And I heard a voice saying these things to me.  
 The girl you see is Love,  
 who has her dwelling in eternity.  
 For when God wanted to create the world,  
 he inclined himself in the sweetest affection,  
 and foresaw all things necessary,  
 just as a father provides an inheritance for his son;  
 and in this way he ordered all his works  
 in a great burning fire of love.  
 Then every creature in every species  
 and form acknowledged its creator,  
 for in the beginning Love was the base matter  
 from which all creatures came.  
 And God said 'Let it be done', and it was done,  
 for every creature was made through Love  
 in the twinkling of an eye.

*Trans. Mark Atherton*

**11 Antiphon: Caritas habundat in omnia**

Caritas habundat in omnia  
 de imis excellentissima super sidera  
 atque amantissima in omnia  
 quia summo regi osculum pacis dedit.

Love flows down to all things,  
 most exalted from the depths up to the stars,  
 and most loving toward all,  
 for she gave the highest king the kiss of peace.

**12 Antiphon: O eterne deus**

O eterne deus nunc tibi placeat  
 ut in amore illo ardeas ut membra illa simus  
 que fecisti in eodem amore  
 cum filium tuum genuisti  
 in prima aurora ante omnem creaturam  
 et inspice necessitatem hanc que super nos cadit  
 et abstrahe eam a nobis propter filium tuum  
 et perduc nos in leticiam salutis.

O eternal God, now may it please you  
 to burn so with love, that we may become the limbs  
 that you made in that same love  
 with which you begot your son  
 in the first dawn, before every other creature.  
 Consider the need that falls to our lot:  
 take it from us for your son's sake,  
 and lead us into the joy of salvation.

**13 Hymn: Beata nobis gaudia**

Beata nobis gaudia  
 anni reduxit orbita  
 cum spiritus paraclitus  
 effulsit in discipulos.

The year's circle brings  
 blessed joys to us again,  
 when the comforting spirit  
 shone forth among the disciples.

Ignis vibrante lumine  
 lingue figuram detulit  
 verbis ut essent proflui  
 et caritate fervidi.

It brought a fire of shimmering light  
 in the shape of a tongue upon them,  
 that they might be fluent  
 with words and fervent charity.

Dudum sacrata pectora  
 tua replesti gratia.  
 Dimitte nunc peccamina  
 et da quieta tempora.

You once filled devoted hearts  
 with your grace:  
 forgive our sins,  
 grant us peaceful times.

Sit laus patri cum filio  
 sancto simul paraclito  
 nobisque mittat filius  
 charisma sancti spiritus.

Praise be to the father, with the son,  
 and likewise to the holy comforter,  
 And may the son send us  
 the balm of the holy spirit.

Amen.

Amen.

*Translation: Susan Hellauer*

**A note on pronunciation**

Perhaps because it was a second language for everyone who used it, medieval Latin took on many elements of pronunciation of the vernacular dialect or language of each region or country. In Germany, the pronunciation of Latin was very much influenced by the sounds of German as it was spoken in the Middle Ages.

The pronunciation of German Latin that we are using in this recording is based on linguistic research published by Harold Copeman and Vera U. G. Scherr in *Singing Early Music: The Pronunciation of European Languages in the Late Middle Ages and Renaissance*. Edited by Timothy J. McGee with A.G. Rigg and David N. Klausner, Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1996.

**Acknowledgments**

For their generous help and advice, Anonymous 4 would like to thank Prof. Rebecca Baltzer (University of Texas at Austin), Prof. Ruth Steiner (Catholic University of America and the CANTUS chant database), Prof. Anne Robertson and Mr. Ray Gadke (University of Chicago), Prof. Elizabeth Davis (Columbia University), Prof. Susan Boynton (Columbia University), Prof. Margot Fassler (Yale University) and Douglas Freundlich (Harvard University).