

# MAGNIFICAT – THE LATIN WORKS OF ROBERT PARSONS

## ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS

### 1. **Iam Christus astra ascenderat**

Iam Christus astra ascenderat  
regressus unde venerat,  
promisso Patris munere  
sanctum daturus spiritum

Christ had already ascended to the stars,  
returned from whence he came,  
having promised the Father's gift,  
that he would send the Holy Spirit.

Solemnis urgebat dies,  
quo mystico septemplici  
orbis volutus septies  
signat beata tempora.

The solemn day was drawing near,  
on which, the world's mystical sevenfold cycle  
of seven turns completed,  
he was to ordain the time of blessing.

Dum hora cunctis tertia  
repente mundus intonat,  
orantibus apostolis  
Deum venisse nuntiat.

At the third hour,  
suddenly all the world calls out,  
announcing to the praying apostles  
the coming of God.

De Patris ergo lumine  
decorus ignis almus est,  
quo fida Christi pectora,  
calore Verbi compleat

And so from the light of the Father  
comes a beautiful and nourishing fire  
which fills the hearts of the faithful in Christ  
with the warmth of his word.

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

In those days you filled  
consecrated hearts with your grace;  
forgive now our faults  
and grant us a time of peace.

Sit laus Patri cum Filio  
Sancto simul Paraclito,  
nobisque mittat Filius  
carisma Sancti Spiritus. Amen.

Praise be to the Father, with the Son  
and so too the Holy Paraclete,  
and may the Son send to us  
the gift of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*(A Hymn for the office of Vespers on the feast of Pentecost)*

### 2. **Retribue servo tuo**

Retribue servo tuo, vivifica me:  
et custodiam sermones tuos.

Deal bountifully with your servant,  
that I may live and keep your word.

Revela oculos meos: et considerabo  
mirabilia de lege tua.

Open my eyes, that I may behold  
the marvels of your law.

Incola ego sum in terra: non abscondas  
a me mandata tua.

I am a stranger in the earth: do not  
hide your commandments from me

Concupivit anima mea desiderare  
justificationes tuas: in omni tempore.

My soul is crushed with longing  
after your ordinances at all times.

Increpasti superbos: maledicti qui  
declinant a mandatis tuis.

You rebuke the arrogant, the accursed,  
who wander from you commandments.

Aufer a me opprobrium  
et contemptum:  
quia testimonia tua exquisivi.

Take away reproach  
and contempt from me,  
for I observe your testimonies.

Etenim sederunt principes,  
et adversum me loquebantur:

Even though princes sit,  
and talk against me,

servus autem tuus exercebatur  
in justificationibus tuis.  
Nam et testimonia tua  
meditatio mea est:  
et consilium meum justificationes tuae.  
Amen.

your servant meditates  
on your statutes.  
Your testimonies  
also are my delight,  
they are my counselors.  
Amen.

*(Text: Psalm 119 (118), vv 17-24)*

### **3. Ave Maria**

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

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;  
blessed are you amongst women, and blessed  
is the fruit of your womb. Amen.

*(Devotional antiphon to the Blessed Virgin Mary)*

### **4. Credo quod redemptor meus vivit**

Credo quod redemptor meus vivit,  
et in novissimo die de terra  
surrecturus sum; et in carne mea videbo  
Deum salvatorem meum.

I know that my redeemer lives,  
and I shall stand at the latter day upon  
the earth; and in my flesh shall I see  
God my saviour.

*(Responds for the Dead, text: Job 19, vv 25-26)*

### **5. Libera me, Domine**

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna  
in die illa tremenda quando coeli  
movendi sunt et terra dum veneris  
judicare saeculum per ignem.

Deliver me, O Lord, from eternal death  
on that fearful day when the heavens  
and the earth are moved, when you will  
come to judge the world through fire.

Dies illa, dies irae,  
calamitatis et miseriae,  
dies magna et amara valde.

That day, the day of wrath,  
calamity and misery,  
that terrible and exceedingly bitter day.

Quando coeli movendi sunt ...

*(Responds for the Dead, text: Requiem propers)*

### **6. Peccantem me quotidie**

Peccantem me quotidie  
et non poenitentem,  
timor mortis conturbat me.  
Quia in inferno nulla est redemptio.  
Miserere mei, Deus, et salva me.

Sinning daily  
and not repenting,  
the fear of death disturbs me.  
For in hell there is no redemption.  
Have mercy upon me, O God, and save me

*(Responds for the Dead, text: Requiem propers)*

## 7. O bone Jesu

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Illumina oculos meos, ne umquam  
obdormiam in morte:  
nequando dicat inimicus:  
Prævalui adversus eum.

O Adonai.

In manus tuas Domine  
commendo spiritum meum:  
redemisti me,  
Domine Deus veritatis

O Messias.

Locutus sum in lingua mea:  
Notum fac mihi finem meum,

O Agios.

Et numerum dierum  
meorum quis est:  
ut sciam quid desit mihi.

O Heloi.

Dirupisti, Domine, vincula mea:  
tibi sacrificabo hostiam laudis,  
et nomen Domini invocabo.

O Emmanuel.

Periit fuga a me:  
et non est qui requirat  
animam meam.

O Christe.

Clamavi ad te Domine, dixi:  
Tu es spes mea, portio mea  
in terra viventium.

O rex noster!

Fac mecum signum in bonum,  
ut videant qui oderunt me,  
et confundantur: quoniam tu Domine  
adiuvisti me et consolatus es me.

O Rabbi,

Signatum est super nos lumen vultus  
tui Domine: dedisti laetitia in corde  
meo. Amen.

*(Text: The verses of St Bernard)*

O Good Jesus.

Give light to my eyes, that I never  
fall asleep in death:  
lest the enemy say:  
'I have prevailed over him.' (Ps 13(12), v4)

O Supreme Being.

Into your hands O Lord  
I commend my spirit:  
you have redeemed me  
O Lord God of truth. (Ps 31(30), v6)

O Anointed Deliverer.

I have said with my tongue:  
'Let me know my end

O Holy One.

And the number of my days:  
that I may know what is  
wanting in me.' (Ps 39(38), vv 5-6)

O Lord.

You, Lord, have broken my chains:  
I will offer you a sacrifice of praise  
and invoke the name of the Lord. (Ps 116(115), v7)

O God with us.

I cannot flee,  
and nobody cares about  
my soul.

O Christ.

I have cried to you, O Lord, saying:  
'You are my hope, my share  
in the land of the living.' (Ps 142(141), vv6-7)

Our King!

Make me a standard for good,  
so that those who hate me may see it  
and be overthrown: because you Lord  
have helped and consoled me. (Ps 86(85), v16)

O Teacher.

The light of your face has shone upon  
us, O Lord: you have given joy to my  
heart. Amen. (Ps 5(4), v7)

## 8. Domine quis habitabit

Domine quis habitabit in tabernaculo tuo:  
aut quis requiescet in monte sancto tuo?  
Qui ingreditur sine macula:  
et operatur iustitiam.  
Qui loquitur veritatem in corde suo:  
qui non egit dolum in lingua sua.  
Nec fecit proximo suo malum:  
et opprobrium non accepit  
adversus proximos suos.

*(Text: Psalm 15 (14), vv 1-3)*

Lord who may dwell in your tabernacle?  
Who may rest on your holy hill?  
The one whose walk is without stain:  
and who does what is just.  
Who speaks the truth from the heart,  
who has no slander in his tongue  
Who does his friend no wrong:  
nor takes up a reproach  
against his neighbour.

## 9. Magnificat

Magnificat anima mea Dominum.

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord.

Et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo,  
salutari meo.

And my spirit rejoices in God,  
my saviour.

Quia respexit humilitatem  
ancillae suae:  
ecce enim ex hoc  
beatam me dicent omnes generationes.

For he has looked with favour on  
the lowliness of his handmaiden:  
behold from henceforth  
all generations shall call me blessed.

Quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est:  
et sanctum nomen eius.

For he that is mighty has done great  
things for me: and holy is his name.

Et misericordia eius a progenie in  
progenies: timentibus eum.

And his mercy is on them that fear him  
throughout all generations.

Fecit potentiam in brachio suo:  
dispersit superbos  
mente cordis sui.

He has shown the power of his arm:  
he has scattered the proud  
in their conceit.

Deposuit potentes de sede,  
et exaltavit humiles.

He has put down the mighty from their seat,  
and has exalted the humble and meek.

Esurientes implevit bonis:  
et divites dimisit inanes.

He has filled the hungry with good things:  
and the rich he has sent empty away.

Suscepit Israel puerum suum:  
recordatus misericordiae suae.

He has sustained his servant, Israel,  
in remembrance of his mercy.

Sicut locutus est ad patres nostros:  
Abraham, et semini eius in saecula.

As he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

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 saecula saeculorum. Amen.

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