

800 YEARS OF GOSPEL MERCY

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2016 marks the celebration of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy called by Pope Francis, and the 800th anniversary of the Dominican Order. These songs reflect God's gift of merciful love and the Dominican charism of preaching the Gospel of Mercy. May this music lift your mind and heart to God, drawing you to be open to the Lord's abundant gift of mercy.



Recorded by the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation

LYRICS
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GOSPEL OF MERCY

How silent this host, how deep the mystery it conceals
As he lays down his life it is gratitude revealed.
First the bread is lifted up, then his Body on the tree
How his action and word unite in rich harmony.

Bread of Angels, Word of God: give us Eucharistic speech
Act in us through the journey to praise to bless to preach
You have spoken; we were made. Now in us fulfill your word.
Give us strength to proclaim what in silence we have heard.

How wondrous this cup, the font of mercy it unseals:
Jesus thirsts for the one who in faith before him kneels.
First the chalice is raised, then his Blood for us outpoured
How his action and word unite in splendid accord.

Bread of Angels, Word of God: give us Eucharistic speech
Be our food for the journey to praise to bless to preach
In our darkness you are present, light incisive yet serene
Be our strength to show forth what in darkness we have seen.

To our frail humanity wed by the “yes” Mary said,
You took on our flesh and gave yourself as our bread.
Jesus Lord, with my “Amen” I say “yes” to your thirst-
May we in your Sacrament of love be now immersed!

Bread of Angels, Word of God: give us Eucharistic speech
Mystic food for the journey to praise to bless to preach
In your mercy you receive us; we adore you, you alone.
We give thanks to you, Jesus, who in secret we have known.
*To the honor of Almighty God
I make into your hands
these vows for all my life.*

Gospel of Mercy For 800 years, by the mercy of God, Dominicans have been preaching the mercy of Christ to the world through their vocation to praise, to bless, to preach.
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AVE MARIS STELLA

AVE maris stella
Dei mater alma
Atque semper Virgo
Felix caeli porta
 Sumens illud Ave
 Gabrielis ore
 Funda nos in pace
 Mutans Evae nomen.
Solve vincla reis
Profer lumen caecis
Mala nostra pelle
Bona cuncta posce
 Monstra te essem Matrem
 Sumat per te preces,
 Qui pro nobis natus,
 Tulit esse tuus.
Virgo singularis
Inter omnes mitis
Nos culpis solutos
Mites fac et castos
 Vitam praesta puram
 Iter para tutum,
 Ut, videntes Jesus
 Semper collaetemur.
Sit laus Deo Patris
Summo Christo decus
Spiritus Sancto
Tribus honor unus.
HAIL, *O Sea Star shining*

*God's own Mother gracious
And yet ever Virgin,
Gate of heaven joyous.
Taking that first "Ave"
Gabriel's mouth proclaimed,
Found us firm in God's
peace,
Reversing Eva's name.
Destroy the chains of thieves,
Bear light unto the blind,
All our evils, repel,
To us all good things bind.
Show yourself our Mother;
For you he bears our prayers
Who bore us as brothers
When he was born as yours.
Virgin without equal,
Among all meek, the most,
Absolved from every guilt
Make us both meek and chaste.
Show us how a pure life
Shall our way safely light,
That seeing our Jesus
We may always delight.
Praised be the Father, God,
Raise Christ on high rightly,
With Him, the Spirit blest,
One honor to the Three.*

Ave Maris Stella Saint Dominic himself is said to have chanted the Marian hymn, *Ave Maris Stella (Hail, O Star of Ocean)* to his beloved Mother Mary, as he traveled on foot through Europe.

Text: *Ave Maris Stella*, Latin, 9th c.; English trans. © 2008, LBP Communications. Nashville, Tennessee. All rights reserved.

Tune: AVE MARIS STELLA, 66 66, Mode I, alt. 13th c. by Dominican Order.

O SPEM MIRAM

O spem miram quam dedisti mortis hora te flentibus:
dum post mortem promisisti te profuturum fratribus!
Imple, pater, quod dixisti nos tuis juvans precibus!
Qui tot signis claruisti in aegrorum corporibus;
nobis opem ferens Christi aegris medere moribus!
Imple, pater, quod dixisti nos tuis juvans precibus!

O the wonderful hope which thou didst give those mourning thee at the hour of death: when thou didst promise that after death thou wouldst help thy brethren!

Fulfill, O Father, what thou didst say, assisting us by thy prayers!

Do thou, who didst shine with so many wonders in the bodies of the sick, heal our sick souls, bringing us the aid of Christ.

Fulfill, O Father, what thou didst say, assisting us by thy prayers!

O Spem Miram (O Wondrous Hope!) The text of this song is taken from the Office prayed on the Feast of St. Dominic.

O SACRED HEAD SURROUNDED

O Sacred Head surrounded by crown of piercing thorn
O bleeding Head so wounded reviled and put to scorn
Death's palid hue comes o'er Thee, the glow of life decays,
Yet angel hosts adore Thee, and tremble as they gaze.

I see Thy strength and vigor all fading in the strife
And death with cruel rigor bereaving Thee of life
O agony and dying! O love to sinners free!
Jesus all grace supplying, O turn Thy face to me
O turn Thy face to me.

In this, thy bitter passion, Good Shepherd think of me,
With Thy most sweet compassion, unworthy though I be:
Beneath Thy cross abiding forever would I rest,
In Thy dear love confiding, and with Thy presence blest,
And with Thy presence blest.

O Sacred Head SurroundedIn imitation of Saint Dominic who frequently meditated on the Passion of Christ, Dominicans have cherished devotion to Our Lord in his suffering and death.
Text: *Salve caput cruentatum*; Ascr. to Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; Tr. by Henry Baker, 1821-1877.

Tune: PASSION CHORALE, 7 6 7 6 D; Hans Leo Hassler 1564-1612; Harm. by J.S. Bach, 1685-1750; Arr. by David Hamilton for the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia, 2009.

SALVE REGINA

Salve, Regína, Mater misericórdiæ, vita, dulcédo et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamámus, éxsules filii Evæ.
Ad te suspirámus geméntes et flentes in hac lacrimárum valle.
Eia ergo, advocáta nostra, illos tuos misericórdes óculos ad nos convérte.
Et Iesum benedíctum fructum ventris tui, nobis, post hoc exsílum, osténde.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo María!

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy:
Hail our life, our sweetness, and our hope.
To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us.
And after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Salve Regina (Hail, O Queen) Dominicans chant this prayer to Our Lady, the Latin *Hail, Holy Queen*, during a nightly procession in her honor, asking her intercession for the Order.

WHILE THE MUSIC PLAYED

While the music played, Cecilia sang in her heart, to her God
Though the darkness raged, Cecilia prayed, "Make my heart immaculate,
That I may not be confounded, Lord; that I may not fear even the sword,
With conscience pure and faith sincere I wait with joy for my Bridegroom is drawing near."

Christ, Lord of Life, perfect Lamb sacrificed,
All I am in Thine, receive me now.

While the music played, Cecilia sang in her heart, to her God
Though the darkness raged, Cecilia prayed, "Make my heart immaculate,
That I may not be confounded, Lord; that I may not fear even the sword,
With conscience pure and faith sincere I wait with joy for my Bridegroom is drawing near."

While the Music Played Saint Cecilia prayed that she would persevere in a life of purity, no matter what came, until death.

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AVE VERUM

Ave Verum Corpus natum de María Vírgine,
Vere passum immolátum in cruce pro hómine,
Cujus latus perforátum fluxit aqua et sángine.
Esto nobis prægustátum mortis in exámine.
O clemens, O pie, O dulcis Jesu, Fili Maríæ.

Hail, True Body, born of the Virgin Mary,
who truly suffered sacrifice on the Cross for man,
from whose pierced side blood and water flowed.
Be for us a foretaste of the test of death.
O sweet, O merciful, O Jesus, Son of Mary.

Ave Verum (Hail True [Body]) The words of this song honor Christ, who was crucified and poured out his blood for us all and now feeds us with his very body and blood in the Eucharist. The words are attributed to Innocent VI and this polyphonic version was written by Gustav Tappert.

Text: *Ave verum*, attr. to Innocent VI, d. 1362

Tune: Rev. Gustave H. Tappert, b. 1872

THIS VIRGIN KEPT HER FAITH

This virgin kept her faith, her God adored,
Who wisely lit her lamp; with oil stored,
She runs with joy and love to meet her Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia.

How good it is for me to God to cling.
you hold me by my hand, Your strength You bring;
Your counsel gave great fame to my ending.
Alleluia, alleluia.

My prize I find in You, my Love from birth;
I ask not more from heaven nor from earth.
My body and my soul You give their worth.
Alleluia, alleluia.

If pain and failure cause me great distress,
It is Your presence, lord, that does me bless;
And close against Your Heart my heart I press.
Alleluia, alleluia.

For all who stray from You fall into dust;
They fall away from You when they break trust.
But I keep faith with You for my heart must.
Alleluia, alleluia.

My joy is that each word of God's I heed,
My safety and security in need.
I must proclaim His fame, His ev'ry deed.
Alleluia, alleluia.

This Virgin Kept Her Faith The text of this chant-based hymn is from the proper introit for the Feast of Saint Catherine of Siena.

Text: Based on the proper introit and psalm (Psalm 73) for Saint Catherine of Siena, © 2008, LBP Communications. Nashville, Tennessee. All rights reserved.

Tune: QUAM BONIS, 64 64 64 with alleluias, © 2008, harmony © 2015, LBP Communications, Nashville, Tennessee. All rights reserved.

O LUMEN

O Lumen Ecclésiæ, Doctor veritatis,
Rosa paciéntiæ, Ebur castitátis,
Aquam sapiéntiæ propinásti gratis:
Prædicátor grátia, nos junge beátis.

O light of the Church, teacher of Truth,
rose of patience, ivory of chastity.
You freely poured forth the waters of wisdom.
Preacher of grace, unite us with the blessed.

O Lumen (O Light [of the Church]) The text of this chant is an antiphon from Vespers of the feast of Saint Dominic. It is sung by Dominicans each night while returning to their places in choir after the Salve Procession.

HEART OF LOVE

Behold the depths of the love of this Heart.
Heart of Jesus, O heart of Love.

Delight of saints, Desire of souls,
Object of our love, Guardian from our foes.
Let your love imprint Your image deep in my heart.
Never to be lost, O Sacred Heart.

Bruised for our sins, Pierced willingly,
Sparing no expense, Mercy flowing free.
We put all our confidence in You, King of kings,
In your love and mercy, Heart of Christ.

All praise to You O Sacred Heart
From Your precious side never let me part.
Be my life, my hope, my refuge, King of my heart.
Keep me close within Your Heart of Love.

Heart of Love This is a song of tender praise to the mercy which flows from the Heart of Christ.

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TO YOU DO WE COME

To you do we come seeking mercy,
O Mother of Christ our God.
Do not turn away, nor despise our prayer,
but be pleased to hear our plea.
Entreat your Son, our God, to save our souls.

To You Do We Come This Slavonic Marian hymn is a setting of the *Sub tuum praesidium* (We Fly to Thy Patronage), a prayer sung at each hour of the Divine Office in Orthodox and Eastern Rite monasteries, begging our Mother Mary to plead for mercy on our behalf.

Text: *Pod tvoyu milost'*, Slavonic version of the *Sub tuum praesidium*, sung at each hour of the Divine Office in Orthodox and Eastern Rite monasteries. © translation by the Monks of New Skete, P.O. Box 128, Cambridge, New York 12916. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

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