

Scivias Medieval Ensemble: Liturgy, Songs, and Carols for the Feast of St. Nicholas
Translations

Intonent Hodie

Let the voices of the church sing out today.
Thus this joyful day
shone forth in a rejoicing world
with a jubilant heart and merry mouth.

This famous saint, the lord's subject,
was placed in a cradle;
he avoided the breast, denied his flesh,
and thrice on Saturday the little boy fasted.

To the wretched parent, his boy drowned
in the dangerous sea
he granted what was asked; he heard his prayers,
and gave the drowned boy back to his father.

To the three virgins lacking food
and needing money
he restored honor, saving them from error,
giving back to the maidens the flower of virginity.

Exultemus et letemur

Let us be glad and rejoice, let us honor Nicholas,
let us sing his praises (and go softly),
let us praise him with singing (and hear me).

Everything here, rejoice: here is the praiseworthy
patron.
Every rank renders thanks (and go softly),
to exalt the new worthy one (and hear me).

Master, may this your paean be our love of Nicholas;
may he be our guide (and go softly),
let the reader say "command, o lord" (and hear me).

Gaudens in Domino

Praising the lord on this holy day,
let the throng of all the faithful rejoice

with hymns and organs, in praise of the bishop
whose miracles the church sings;

who from his infancy, by divine grace,
served the lord with a devoted heart.

And thus, o reader, step forward and begin,
and with your first notes, say: "Command, o lord."

Ora pro nobis beate Nicholae

Pray for us, blessed Nicholas.

Fulget Nicholaus

St. Nicholas shines, a gem of bishops,
a splendid leader, angelic splendor,
as a golden star in heaven's throne,
by the sun's ray more clearly illuminating
the ethereal axis.

To Nicholas the protector may new songs be given,
who, after so many outstanding marvels of virtue,
was approved in the contest. He feared not,
and was not lacking the martyr's crown.

Nicholas, mighty bishop, ornament of the clergy
and mirror of the Church, solace of our land,
refuge of thy followers, grant, we ask thee,
that we might be favorably judged.

Songs of Godric of Finchale

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison
Christ and St Mary so carried me with a crutch
That I never had to tread upon this earth with my
bare foot.
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison
Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison

Sainte Marie virgine

Saint Mary, Virgin,
Mother of Jesu Christ of Nazareth,
Receive, shield, help your Godric;
Received, bring him on high with you in God's
kingdom.

Saint Mary, bower of Christ,
Purest of maidens, flower of mothers,
Efface my sins, reign in my mind,
Bring me to joy with that same God.

Sainte Nicholas godes druth

Saint Nicholas, God's beloved,
graciously make beautiful dwelling places for us.
Through your birth, through your bier,
Saint Nicholas, bring us safely there.

Nicholai presulis

Let us celebrate the feast of bishop Nicholas,
singing happy melodies together.
With sweet songs we'll ornament this day,
letting our voices soar high and quick.

On such a natal feast, our ancestors' tradition
teaches that the devotion of the faithful should
harmonize in joy, so let fear give way to dancing.

Now, therefore let the sweet songs of the just —
with drums and chorus and every kind
of musical instruments — sing to the God of gods.

Psallat chorus/Eximie pater/Aptatur

Triplum: Let the choir sing a new song
with melody on the organ,
o great father, in your name.
Protect us under your shelter, lord.
Nicholas, by your prayer
gather us with the angelic host
and the army of saints
which is prepared for us.

Duplum: O excellent and royal father,
merciful ruler and renowned teacher:
pray Jesus son of Mary
for the servants of this church this day.
O Nicholas, teach us today
the right path to our heavenly home
so that we may enjoy the eternal rest
which is prepared for us.

Tenor: [is prepared]

Gaudeat ecclesia

Let the church rejoice, revering the liturgy of our
protector and his glorious deeds.
*Nicholas, hasten, look upon us, free us, purge out the
sins of our hearts.*
The life of this holy bishop shines forth in miracles
learned in his cradle. *Nicholas, hasten...*
While still an infant, he practiced fasting and did not
fall into sin. *Nicholas, hasten...*
Three virgins who lacked resources, he helped with
gifts. *Nicholas, hasten...*
Therefore, let us revere this feast, sing praises and
give thanks to God. *Nicholas, hasten...*

Nicholaus pontifex

While still an infant he fasted strictly. He who is said
to be the font and head of all confessors abstained
from food in his cradle. He did not suckle at the
breast; nor did he eat except once only on
Wednesdays and Fridays.
Nicholas, Nicholas, Grant us joy!

He raised up the clerics killed in envy, whom the
butcher killed in his wickedness. He enabled three
maidens to marry and saved them from sin when he
mitigated their poverty by giving them bags of
gold. *Nicholas...*

He revived the clerks murdered in envy whom the
butcher wickedly killed. He married off three
daughters, and saved them from sin, relieving their
poverty with an abundance of gold. *Nicholas...*

Exultet hec concio

May this company rejoice greatly in the miracles of
St. Nicholas. *Nicholas is the protector of clerics.*
The spreading of his oil cures many from the torment
of disease. *Nicholas...*
In the great danger of the sea, in jubilation be an aid
to sailors. *Nicholas...*
The threefold gift of gold was truth revealed to the
maidens. *Nicholas...*

Laetabundus exultet fidelis chorus

1. Let the choir of all the faithful exult in their joy.
Alleluia.
2. The Virgin's womb hath given us the King of Kings!
O wonderful mystery!
3. The Angel of the great Counsel is born of the
Virgin, the Sun is born of a Star!
4. The Sun knows no setting; the Star is ever shining,
ever bright.
5. As a star gives forth its ray, so does the Virgin her
Child.
6. The star loses naught of its purity by the ray it
yields, so neither does the Virgin by her Child.
7. The lofty cedar of Lebanon comes down into our
valley, making itself little as the hyssop.
8. He that is the Word of the Most High God deigns
to take a body unto himself; he assumes our flesh.
9. Isaiah had foretold all this; and the Jews, though
they knew the prophecy by heart, see not its
accomplishment in this mystery.

10. If they will not believe their Prophets, let them believe the Sybils, who thus sang:
11. 'Unhappy people, delay not, believe, at least, the ancient oracles! Why wilt thou be cast off, O chosen nation?
12. This is the Child of whom thy books tell thee: he is the Son of a Virgin-Mother.' Alleluia.

Hodie aperuit

Today
was opened unto us a shut-up gate.
For the serpent drew it tight, in woman choked—
yet from it gleams within the dawn
the Virgin Mary's flower.

Ther is no rose of swych vertu

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu;
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space;
Res miranda.

By that rose we may well see
That he is God in persons three,
Pares forma.

The angels sungen the shepherds to:
Gloria in excelsis deo:
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyful birth;
Transeamus.

Jubilemus exultemus

1. Let us rejoice, let us exult, let us sing a song.
2. To the Redeemer, the Creator, the Savior of all.
3. To this, born, the Savior,
all our multitude.
4. Let him praise God, let him praise himself,
for ever and ever.
5. Who today proceeded from Mary
's womb.
6. A true man, king and master
appeared on earth.
7. So blessed, therefore born,
with great joy.

8. Praising, exulting,
Let us bless the Lord.

Gaude, virgo nobilis/Verbum caro factum est

triple: Rejoice, noble Virgin, Mary,
venerable and pious Virgin,
who gave birth to the King of all.
Hail Virgin, sole hope of the faithful,
hail royal Virgin, hail Virgin of virgins,
salvation of men, light of men,
O only hope; son, daughter, soften,
Virgin full of grace.

motet: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among
us,
whose glory we have seen
as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.
Therefore let our assembly
bless the Lord in the highest.
tenor: And in truth.

Verbum patris hodie

The Word of the Father this day
comes forth from a Virgin;
the angelic powers
with jubilant song
bless the Lord.

The angel announced
peace to all good men;
light as of the sun
shone on the shepherds.
Let us give thanks to God. Alleluia.

Nowel out of your slepe arise

Arise and wake out of your sleep,
for God has now taken human form
of a maiden without any equal;
among all women she wins the prize.

And through this fair and wise maiden,
mankind now becomes highly valued;
now angels kneel at the service of man;
and all this happened at this season.

Now man is brighter than the sun,
now man shall dwell in heaven on high.
Blessed be God and His mother,
the Empress of Hell, because this joy has begun.