

2022-12-30 Meditation for the 6<sup>th</sup> Day in the Octave of Christmas is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

Theme song (7<sup>th</sup>-century hymn for Advent):  
Creator of the stars of night  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call

In sorrow that the ancient curse  
Should doom to death a universe . . . .

***Beata viscera es Virgo Maria*** (verses 1 and 3 with refrain)

Lyrics: Philippe le Chancelier (c. 1160-1236)  
Trans. Isaac Siefker: <https://lyricstranslate.com/en/beata-viscera-blessed-womb.html>  
Music: Perotinus/Pérotin (fl. 1200), the 'School of Notre Dame' (Paris)  
Artists: Cecilia Bartoli, Sistine Chapel Choir, Massimo Palombella (dir.)  
Recorded in the Sistine Chapel  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YCQ2X3QAXHA>

Verse 1

[Soloist, unaccompanied]  
*Beata viscera*  
Blessed flesh  
*Marie virginis*  
of the Virgin Mary,  
*cuius ad ubera*  
at whose breasts  
*rex magni nominis;*  
the king of eminent name,  
*veste sub altera*  
concealing, under altered guise,  
*vim celans numinis*  
the force of divine nature,  
*dictavit federa*  
has sealed a pact  
*Dei et hominis.*

of God and man.

Refrain

[Soloist sings line 1, the highest point of the melody when exclaiming, "O".]

*O mira novitas*

O astonishing novelty

[Boy sopranos sing next two lines:]

*et novum gaudium,*

and unaccustomed joy

*matris integrita*

of a mother still pure

[Soloist sings 4<sup>th</sup> line of the refrain]

*post puerperium*

after childbirth.

Verse 3:

[Soloist while men sing a drone/sustained pitch]

*Fermenti pessimi*

Those who drunk the dregs

*qui fecam hauserant,*

of the most villanous ferment

*ad panis azimi*

hasten at the promises

*promisa properant:*

of unleavened bread;

*sunt Deo proximi*

they are the ones

*qui longe steterant,*

who had long stood close to God

*et hi njovissimi*

and these the newest

*qui primi fuerant.*

who were first.

Refrain

[Soloist, accompanied by men singing two sustained notes.]

*O mira novitas*

O astonishing novelty

[Boy sopranos sing next two lines:]

*et novum gaudium,*  
and unaccustomed joy  
*matris integra*  
of a mother still pure

[Soloist sings 4<sup>th</sup> line of the refrain]

*post puerperium.*  
after childbirth.



Pérotin, *Beata viscera* (conductus), Wolfenbüttel, Hs 1099

Evan

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