

2024-12-31 Meditation for Tuesday of Christmastide is now available at: <https://pgimf.org/meditations/>

Theme song (7th-century hymn):

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

A Madre de Jesu Cristo, Cantiga No. 1 (c. 1250)

Lyrics: Anonymous, cantiga from Spain

Trans: Carol Anne Perry, https://stcpres.org/pieces/des_oge_mais_quer_eu_trobar

Music: Anonymous, cantiga from Spain

Artists: Eno Nome de Marie (soloist), Ensemble medieval Antequera

Video shows the manuscript as the music moves:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KI4YaAlbywo>

[“This is the first song of praise to Holy Mary, enumerating the seven joys she had from her son.”]

[The instrumental introduction establishes the mode/key, some of the melodic gestures, and gets the performers and listeners prepared to hear the Cantiga.]

I:

Des hoge mais quér' éu trobar

From this day forth I will sing

pola Sennor honrrada,

for the Honoured Lady

en que Déus quis carne fillar

in whom God chose to take on

bẽeita e sagrada,

blessed and sacred flesh

por nos dar gran soldada

in order to give us the great gift

no seu reino et nos erdar

of eternal life in His Kingdom.

de vida perlongada,

and to bequeath to his followers

sen havermos pois a passer

eternal life so that
per mort' outra vegada.
we will not suffer death again.

II:

E porên quéro começar
Therefore, I wish to begin
como foi saudada
with how she was hailed
de Gabri, u lle chamar
with Gabriel when he went to summon
foi: "Benaventurada
her: "Oh, Blessed
Virgen, de Dus amada:
Virgin, beloved of God,
do que o mund' ha de salvar
you now bear within you Him
ficas ora prennada;
who will save the world,
e demais ta cdunnada
and your kinswoman
Elisabet, que foi dultar,
Elizabeth, who doubted,
e end' envergonnada."
is thereby proven wrong."

III:

E demais quéro-ll' enmentar
Then I wish to relate to you
como chegou canssada
how she arrived
a Beleên e foi pousar
in Bethlehem. Being weary, she took shelter
no portal da entrada,
at the gates of the city
u pariu sen tardada
and soon thereafter gave birth
Jesú-Crist', e foi-o deitar,
To Jesus Christ.

como mollér menguada,
Like a poor and hapless woman,
u deitan a cevada,
she laid him in the manger
no presév', e apousentar
where they place the barley,
e apousentar
to rest.
ontre bestias d' arada.
among the beasts of the field.

IV:

E non ar quéro obrfidar
Also I must not forget
com' ángeos cantada
how angels sang
loor a Déus foron cantar
a hymn of praise
e "paz en térra dada";
and "peace on earth,"
nen como a contrada
nor how the star
aos tres Reis en Ultramar
showed the way
houv' a strela mostrada,
to the three kings from afar,
por que sen demorada
by which they came
veéron sa oférta dar
with haste to offer their
estranna e preçada.
Rare and precious gifts.

V:

Outra razão queri contar
Another event I wish to relate
que ll' houve pois contada
was that told her
a Madalena: com' estar

by the Magdalene, of how
viu a pédr' entornada
she saw the stone which had been rolled away
do sepulcr' e guardada
from the sepulchre and guarded
do ángeo, que lli falar
by the angel, who spoke
foi e disse: "Coitada
to her and said: Unhappy
mollér, sei confortada,
woman, be comforted,
ca Jesú, que vees buscar,
for Jesus, whom you come to seek,
resurgiu madurgada."
arose this morning."

VI:

E ar quéro-vos demonstrar
Also I wish to tell
gran lediç' aficada
the great and wondrous joy
que houv' ela, u viu alçar
she had when she saw
a nuv' enlumeada
the luminous cloud
séu Fill', e pois alçada
lift up her son. And when he had ascended,
foi, viron ángeos andar
angels appeared walking
ontr' a gent' assuada,
among the crowd
mui desaconsellada,
of bewildered people,
dizend': "Assi verrá julgar,
saying: "Thus he will come to judge,
est' é cousa provada."
this is a proven thing."

VII:

Nen quéro de dizer leixar
Nor do I wish to omit
de como foi chegada
how the abundant
a graça que Déus enviãr
grace God chose to bestow
lle quis, atán graada,
on her was sent. The disciples
que por el' esforçada
God had gathered
foi a companna que juntar
together were inspired and instructed
fez Déus, e enssinada,
by him, and filled
de Spirit' avondada,
with the Holy Spirit,
por que soubéron preegar
so that they could go forth
logo sen alongada.
To preach at once.

VIII:

E, par Déus, non é de calar
And, in God's name, I must not forget to mention
como foi coroada,
how she was crowned.
quando séu Fillo a levar
When she had passed from this world,
quis, des que foi passada
he took her to be united
deste mund' e juntada
with him in heaven
con el no céo, par a par,
to sit by his side
e Reínna chamada,
and be called Queen,
Filla, Madr' e Criada;
Daughter, Mother, and Handmaiden.
Ee porên nos dev' ajudar,

Hence she must help us,
ca x' é nós' avogada.
For she is our Advocate.

Evan
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