

2025-01-06 Meditation for Epiphany 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

Benedicam Dominum in omni tempore, BuxWV 113 (published 1683)

Lyrics: Psalm 34:1-3 (Vulgate with NRSV translation)

Music: Dieterich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

Artists: L'Ensemble Pygmalion, Raphaël Pichon (dir.), live, Château de Versailles,

The video is worth watching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1aPGE93nY>

I. [Overture]

[After a massive chord is held and ornamented for two whole measures, the activity begins as one group of instruments alternates with another—strings, woodwinds, brass.]

II. [The five soloists quickly alternate with choir and orchestra. Dramatic pauses provide added excitement.]

Benedicam Dominum in omni tempore;

I will bless the Lord at all times;

III. [The soloists are featured, the choir joining to provide emphasis.]

Semper laus ejus in ore meo.

His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

IV. [The choir rapidly alternates with orchestra.]

In Domino laudabitur anima mea:

My soul makes its boast in the Lord:

- V. [These two phrases can be sung either in the same spirit and tempo, or the choir can occasionally sing slowly when depicting the humble (“mansueti”). Ultimately “lætentur” wins the day.]

Audient mansueti, et lætentur.

let the humble hear, and be glad

[The instruments bring this section to a close.]

- VI. [The soloists begin this section, sometimes singing in imitation.
The choir concludes the section by singing in a stately tempo.]

Magnificate Dominum mecum,
O magnify the Lord with me,

- VII. [The soloists sing very quickly, portraying the word “exaltemus”.]

et exaltemus nomen ejus in idipsum.
and let us exult his name together.

[Text is repeated:

Magnificate Dominum mecum, et exaltemus nomen ejus in idipsum.]

- VIII. *Alleluia.*
Alleluia.