

P R E C E S

In the Proper Offices of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, there is given the following beautiful hymn!

Dic sepulchri gloriosi,
Læta mens, miracula;
Quo velut matris pudicæ
Christus alvo prodiit:
Ut prophetarum fideles
Paginæ sponponderant.

In novo conceptus alvo
Virginis puerperæ,
In novo compostus antro
Conquievit pumicis:
Gloriosus hoc et illa,
Vir, puerque prodiit.

Hæc parit corpus caducum,
Omnium spe serius;
Æviternum reddidit illud,
Omnium spe citius;
Illa pannis involutum,
Linteis hoc conditum.

Ex sinu matris futuram
Ad salutem nascitur;
At salute jam parata,
Rupis alvus reddidit;
Ad crucem parens produxit,
At silex ad gloriam.

Ergo te, cœlestis Agni
Purpurata sanguine
Aula ter felix, adorent
Terra, pontus, æthera;
Nec sepulchrum quis vocarit,
Vita de quo nascitur.

Gloria et honor Deo
Usquequaque altissimo,
Una Patri, Filioque,
Inclyto Paraclito,
Cui laus est, et potestas
Per immensa sæcula.
Amen.

Be glad, my soul, and sing the wonders of the
glorious sepulchre, whence came thy Christ, as,
heretofore, from the womb of his Virgin mother.
Thus was it foretold by the truthful prophets.

He was conceived in the pure womb of a Virgin
Mother; so, too, he was buried in a tomb, wherein
no other man had been placed; from both he and
comes the glorious Jesus, as infant first, and then
as man.

The Mother, after long ages of hope, brings him
forth created in mortal flesh; the tomb, though
none had hoped it, restores him clad in immortal-
ity: Mary wrapped him in swathing-bands; the
sepulchre held him in the winding-sheet.

He is born, for the world's salvation, from the
womb of his Mother; he rises from the tomb, af-
ter our salvation has been wrought: the Mother
nursed him for the Cross; the tomb, for glory.

O thrice holy sanctuary! Beautified with the
Blood of the Lamb of God! Let earth, and sea,
and heaven, venerate thee. How strange to call
that a sepulchre, whence life was born!

Glory and honour be, for ever, to the most high
God! To the Father, Son, and Holy Paraclete,
one praise and power, for everlasting ages.
Amen.

Reflections on the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

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We must endeavor to impress on our minds once and for all that the psalmody of the Mass was intended to be clothed with the marvellous melodies contained in the Gregorian antiphony. If, therefore, we wish to appreciate the full artistic beauty of the Roman Liturgy, it is not enough to read, nor even to meditate upon the words of the Missal, for these are like the text of some great drama, the full significance of which cannot be fully grasped until one sees it interpreted on the stage. In the same manner, the Roman Liturgy must be seen and heard in the basilicas, with the music, the sacred vestments, the ritual, and the processions which render it so rich and varied, so sublime and impressive. When carried out as the *Cerimoniale Episcoporum* and the *Missale Romanum* prescribe, the liturgy is seen to be so great a masterpiece of heavenly grace and beauty that no art can ever produce its equal.