

Guiseppe Verdi: Requiem Text and translation

I. REQUIEM

Requiem aeternam dona eis Domine:
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion,
et tibi redetur votum in Jerusalem:
exaudi orationem meam,
ad te omnis caro veniet.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine:
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them.

You, O God, are praised in Sion, and unto you shall
the vow be offered in Jerusalem.

Hear my prayer:
unto you will all flesh come.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy.

2. DIES IRAE

Dies Irae

Dies iræ, dies illa,
Solvat sæclum in favilla,
Teste David cum Sibylla.
Quantus tremor est futurus,
Quando iudex est venturus,
Cuncta stricte discussurus!

The day of wrath - that day
will reduce the world to ashes
as foretold by David and the Sibyl.
How much fearfulness there will be
when the Judge will come,
investigating everything rigorously!

Tuba mirum

Tuba mirum spargens sonum,
Per sepulchra regionum,
Coget omnes ante thronum.
Mors stupebit et natura,
Cum resurget creatura,
Judicanti responsura.

The trumpet, spreading an astonishing sound
through tombs everywhere,
will summon everyone before the throne.
Death and nature will marvel
when all creation arises
to respond to the Judge's summons.

Liber scriptus

Liber scriptus proferetur,
In quo totum continetur,
Unde mundus judicetur.
Iudex ergo cum sedebit,
Quidquid latet apparebit,
Nil inultum remanebit.

The book which contains everything
from which the world will be judged will be
revealed.
And so when the Judge takes his seat, anything
hidden will be revealed:
nothing will remain unpunished.

Dies iræ, dies illa,
Solvat sæclum in favilla,
Teste David cum Sibylla.

The day of wrath - that day
will reduce the world to ashes
as foretold by David and the Sibyl.

Quid sum miser

Quid sum miser tunc dicturus,
Quem patronum rogaturus,
Cum vix justus sit securus!

What then shall I, a miserable sinner, say?
What advocate can I call upon when even a just
man is apprehensive?

Rex tremendae

Rex tremendæ majestatis,
Qui salvandos salvas gratis,
Salva me, fons pietatis.

King of tremendous majesty,
who freely saves those who have to be saved,
Save me, fountain of mercy.

Recordare

Recordare, Jesu pie,
Quod sum causa tuæ viæ:
Ne me perdas illa die.
Quærens me, sedisti lassus,
Redemisti crucem passus,
Tantus labor non sit cassus.
Juste judex ultionis,
Donum fac remissionis,
Ante diem rationis.

Remember, merciful Jesus,
That I am the cause of your journey, lest you
forsake me on that day.
As you seek me, you sit down weary:
you redeemed [me] when you suffered death on
the Cross: let all that hardship not be in vain.
Just Judge of revenge,
grant remission
before the day of reckoning.

Ingemisco

Ingemisco tamquam reus,
Culpa rubet vultus meus,
Supplici parce, Deus.
Qui Mariam absolvisti,
Et latronem exaudisti,
Mihi quoque spem dedisti.
Preces meæ non sunt dignæ,
Sed tu bonus fac benigne,
Ne perenni cremer igne.
Inter oves locum præsta,
Et ab hædis me sequestra,
Statuens in parte dextra.

I sigh like someone who is guilty:
my face goes red with guilt:
Spare the suppliant, O God.
You who absolved Mary,
and listened to the robber,
gave hope to me, too.
My prayers are not worthy:
however, Good [Lord], have mercy,
lest I be burned up by eternal fire.
Grant me a place among the sheep,
and take me out from among the goats,
placing me on the right side.

Confutatis

Confutatis maledictis,
Flammis acribus addictis,
Voca me cum benedictis.
Oro supplex et acclinis,
Cor contritum quasi cinis,
Gere curam mei finis.

Once the cursed have been rebuked
and sentenced to acrid flames,
summon me to be with your blessed ones.
I pray as a kneeling suppliant,
my contrite heart like ashes;
take care of me at my end.

Dies iræ, dies illa,
Solvat sæclum in favilla,
Teste David cum Sibylla.

The day of wrath - that day
will reduce the world to ashes
as foretold by David and the Sibyl.

Lacrymosa

Lacrimosa dies illa,
Qua resurget ex favilla,
Judicandus homo reus.
Huic ergo parce Deus.
Pie Jesu Domine,
Dona eis requiem! Amen.

Sorrowful will be that day
on which the man who is to be judged arises from
the ashes.
Spare him therefore, O God.
Blessed Jesus, Christ Our Lord,
grant them rest and peace. Amen.

3. OFFERTORIO

Domine Jesu Christe, rex gloriae,
libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum
de poenis inferni et de profundo lacu.

Libera eas de ore leonis, ne absorbeat eas tartarus,
ne cadant in obscurum:

Sed significet sanctus Michael repraesentet eas
in lucem sanctam,
quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini eius.

Hostias et preces tibi, Domine, laudis offerimus.

Tu suscipe pro animabus illis, quarum hodie memoriam
facimus, fac eas, Domine, de morte transire ad vitam,
quam olim Abrahae promisisti et semini eius.

Libera animas omnium fidelium defunctorum de poenis
inferni et de profundo lacu, de morte transire ad vitam.

Lord Jesus Christ, King of Glory,
deliver the souls of all the faithful departed from
the pains of hell and from the bottomless pit.

Deliver them from the lion's mouth, and neither let
them fall into darkness,
nor let the black abyss swallow them up.
But may your standard bearer St. Michael appear in
holy light on their behalf.
Once you promised this to Abraham and his
descendants.

O Lord we offer you a sacrifice of prayers and
praise.

Accept it on behalf of those who we commemorate
today and let them pass from death to life as you
promised to Abraham and his descendants.

Liberate from infernal punishment and from the
deep lake the souls of all the faithful who have died
so that they may pass to [eternal] life.

4. SANCTUS

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Benedictus, qui venit in nomine Domini.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

5. AGNUS DEI

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem.

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona eis requiem sempiternam.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, grant them rest.

O Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the
world, grant them eternal rest.

6. LUX AETERNA

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine,
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum,
quia pius es.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

O Lord, let perpetual light shine on them
for evermore with your saints, because
you are merciful.

Grant them eternal rest O Lord, and may light
perpetual shine upon them.

7. LIBERA ME

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna,
in die illa tremenda;
Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra.
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Tremens factus sum ego et timeo,
dum discussio venerit atque ventura ira.

Dies irae, dies illa,
dies calamitatis et miseriae,
dies magna et amara valde.

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.

Libera me, Domine, de morte aeterna,
in die illa tremenda;
Quando coeli movendi sunt et terra.
Dum veneris judicare saeculum per ignem.

Libera me Domine de morte aeterna,
in die illa tremenda.
Libera me, Domine.

Deliver me, O Lord, from everlasting death on
that dreadful day when the heavens and the
earth shall be moved,
when you will come to judge the world by fire.

I quake with fear and I tremble as I await the
day of account and the wrath to come.

That day, the day of anger,
of calamity, and of misery,
that great day of intense bitterness.

Grant them eternal rest, O Lord,
and may perpetual light shine upon them.

Deliver me, O Lord, from everlasting death on
that dreadful day when the heavens and the
earth will be moved,
when you will come to judge the world by fire.

Deliver me O Lord on that dreadful day
from everlasting death.
Deliver me, O Lord.

(Translation: John Naylor)