

REQUIEM FOR THE LIVING TEXTS

Note: In some cases, the traditional texts have been re-arranged slightly. Some extra-liturgical texts have been interpolated, and the traditional Dies Irae has been replaced by a biting essay on the vanity and pain of existence. The two movements which then follow have been inverted from their usual order: the Agnus Dei is offered as a prayer to the Lamb of God for an answer to pain and sorrow, and the Sanctus then follows as an awe-inspired response.

1. Introit - Kyrie

(Choir)

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Exaudi orationem meam,
ad te omnis caro veniet.
Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Hear my prayer, for unto Thee all flesh shall
come.
Lord have mercy; Christ have mercy;
Lord have mercy.*

2. Vanitas Vanitatum

(Choir)

Vanitas vanitatum, omnia vanitas!
Pie Jesu Domine, dona eis requiem.
Lacrimosa,
et locutus est, pereat dies in qua natus sum.

*Vanity of vanities, all is vanity!
(from Ecclesiastes)
Merciful Lord Jesus, grant them rest.
Full of tears,
(from the Dies Irae)
he said, Let the day perish wherein I was
born.
(from Job 3:2-3)*

3. Agnus Dei

(Soprano solo)

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis, dona eis requiem.
(Choir, and solo)
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi,
dona nobis pacem, miserere nobis,
dona eis requiem.

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; grant them rest.*

*Lamb of God,
who takes away the sins of the world,
grant us peace; have mercy on us; grant
them rest.*

4. Sanctus

(Choir)

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

*Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna in the highest!*

5. Lux Aeterna

(Soprano solo, and choir)

Lux aeterna luceat eis, Domine:
Cum sanctis tuis in aeternum: quia pius es.
Et lux perpetua luceat eis.

*May light eternal shine upon them, O Lord,
in the company of Thy saints forever:
for Thou art merciful.
Let perpetual light shine on them.*

(Tenor Solo)

Come unto me,
all ye who labor and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.

(Matthew 28:19)

(Choir, and soprano solo)

Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine,
et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Dona nobis pacem.

*Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
Grant us peace.*