



Holy Week Meditation

Sunday, April 13, 2025

Stabat Mater

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who, of thy tender love towards humankind, hast sent thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ to take upon him our flesh, and to suffer death upon the cross, that all humankind should follow the example of his great humility: Mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of his patience, and also be made partakers of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

STABAT MATER

Giovanni Battista Pergolesi

*1. Stabat mater dolorosa
juxta Crucem lacrimosa,
dum pendebat Filius.*

At the Cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last:

*2. Cuius animam gementem,
contristantem et dolentem
pertransiit gladius.*

Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing,
now at length the sword has pass'd.

*3. O quam tristis et afflicta
fuit illa benedicta,
mater Unigeniti!*

Oh, how sad and sore distress'd
Was that Mother highly blest
Of the sole-begotten One!

4. <i>Quae mærébat et dolébat, pia Mater, dum vidébat nati pænas inclyti.</i>	Christ above in torment hangs; She beneath beholds the pangs Of her dying glorious Son.	14. <i>Juxta Crucem tecum stare, et me tibi sociâre in planctu desîdero.</i>	By the Cross with thee to stay; There with thee to weep and pray; Is all I ask of thee to give.
5. <i>Quis est homo qui non fleret, matrem Christi si vidéret in tanto supplicio?</i>	Is there one who would not weep, Whelm'd in miseries so deep, Christ's dear Mother to behold?	15. <i>Virgo virginum præclára, mihi iam non sis amára, fac me tecum plângere.</i>	Virgin of all virgins blest!, Listen to my fond request: Let me share thy grief divine;
6. <i>Quis non posset contristári Christi Matrem contemplári doléntem cum Filio?</i>	Can the human heart refrain From partaking in her pain, In that Mother's pain untold?	16. <i>Fac ut portem Christi mortem, passiónis fac consórtem, et plagas recólere.</i>	Let me, to my latest breath, In my body bear the death Of that dying Son of thine.
7. <i>Pro peccátis suæ gentis vidit Jésum in torméntis, et flagéllis súbditum.</i>	Bruis'd, derided, curs'd, defil'd, She beheld her tender Child All with bloody scourges rent;	17. <i>Fac me plagis vulnerári, fac me Cruce inebriári, et cruóre Filii.</i>	Wounded with his every wound, Steep my soul till it hath swoon'd, In His very blood away;
8. <i>Vidit suum dulcem Natum moriendo desolátum, dum emísit spíritum.</i>	For the sins of his own nation, Saw Him hang in desolation, Till His Spirit forth He sent.	18. <i>Flammis ne urar succénsus, per te, Virgo, sim defénsus in die iudícii.</i>	Be to me, O Virgin, nigh, Lest in flames I burn and die, In his awful Judgment day.
9. <i>Eja, Mater, fons amóris me sentíre vim dolóris fac, ut tecum lúgeam.</i>	O thou Mother! fount of love! Touch my spirit from above, Make my heart with thine accord:	19. <i>Christe, cum sit hinc exire, da per Matrem me veníre ad palmam victóriæ.</i>	Christ, when Thou shalt call me hence, Be Thy Mother my defence, Be Thy Cross my victory;
10. <i>Fac, ut árdeat cor meum in amándo Christum Deum ut sibi compláceam.</i>	Make me feel as thou hast felt; Make my soul to glow and melt With the love of Christ my Lord.	20. <i>Quando corpus moriétur, fac, ut animæ donétur paradísi glória. Amen.</i>	While my body here decays, May my soul thy goodness praise, Safe in Paradise with Thee. Amen.
11. <i>Sancta Mater, istud agas, crucifíxi fige plagas cordi meo válide.</i>	Holy Mother! pierce me through; In my heart each wound renew Of my Saviour crucified:	<p><i>Text: 13th-century Christian hymn Translation by Edward Caswall</i></p> <p>THE SOLEMN PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE</p> <p>Almighty God, we pray thee graciously to behold this thy family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed, and given into the hands of sinners, and to suffer death upon the cross; who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.</p>	
12. <i>Tui Nati vulneráti, tam dignáti pro me pati, pænas mecum dívide.</i>	Let me share with thee His pain, Who for all my sins was slain, Who for me in torments died.		
13. <i>Fac me tecum pie flere, crucifíxo condólere, donec ego víxero.</i>	Let me mingle tears with thee, Mourning Him who mourn'd for me, All the days that I may live:		

Music Participants

Conductor: Dr. Colin MacKnight

Sopranos: Anna Squire & Paige Cullins

Altos: Carolina Kipnis & Stephanie Smittle

Violin 1: Kiril Laskarov

Violin 2: Drew Irvin

Viola: Katherine Williamson

Cello: Jacob Wunsch

Bass: Josh Gebhard

Organ: Jerry Mead

Notes on the Notes: The *Stabat Mater* is a 13th-century Christian hymn to the Virgin Mary that depicts her experience of the Crucifixion. Pergolesi wrote his setting of the *Stabat Mater*, arguably his greatest achievement in sacred music, in the final weeks of his life. Sadly, he died from tuberculosis at the age of just 26, but despite his youth, the work quickly drew admiration from across Europe. One piece of evidence is Johann Sebastian Bach's 1740s parody of the work, in which he borrows Pergolesi's music but replaces the *Stabat Mater* text with a German setting of Psalm 51.