Liturgical chant for St Colmcille in Irish and Scottish Sources

Procesional Antiphon

O Columba cultor ecclesie virgo doctor per donum gracie
iam securos in statu patrie salva tue gaudentes glorie.

O Columba, cultivator of the Church,
virgin, teacher through the gift of grace,
now secure in status in the fatherland,
save those rejoicing in your glory.

Processional from the Church of St John the Evangelist, Dublin
Marsh’s Library Dublin, MS Z.4.2.20

Vespers Responsory for the Octave of the Feast

O Columba insignis signifer
mentes mundae ne fallens pestifer
servis officiati maris discrimine.
*Tuis ut placeat circumdatis psallere.
Tibi pre ceteris condece proxime
voce lectie huc aures adhibe.

O Columba, distinguished standard-bearer,
cleanse minds lest the deceiving plague-bearer
harm your servants, so that it may please those
surrounded by danger of the sea to sing praise.

To you before others it is fitting that voices of joy
be closest. Lend an ear here.

Inchcolm Antiphoner, Edinburgh University Library, MS 211/IV

Lauds Hymn

1. Aurora rutilat lucis prenuncia
letos nos excitat a sompnolencia
volentes celebre festum recolere
Columbe venerabilis.

Dawn, harbinger of light, glows red
it rouses us glad ones from sleep
wishing to commemorate again
the celebrated feast of venerable Columba

2. Qui fuit humilis mitis affabilis
vultu vir hilaris vir venerabilis
ortu vir nobilis vir statu stabilis
corpore castus et mente.

who was humble, gentle, approachable
in appearance a cheerful man, a venerable man,
a nobleman by birth, a man steadfast in attitude,
chaste in body and mind.

3. Columbe merita et signa singula
facta prophetica clara miracula
vel dictis dicere vel scriptis scribere
nemo novit totaliter.

No one knows fully how to say in words,
or write in script, the merits of Columba
and his every sign, prophetic deeds,
evident miracles.
4. Relinquens patriam caram Yberniam
per Christi graciam venit Britanniam
per quem ydonea vite primordia
rex gentis sumpsit Britannie.

Leaving Ireland, his dear fatherland,
through the grace of Christ he came to Britain
through whom the king of the people
received admirable beginnings of life in Britain.

5. O pater patrie pastor egregie
Columba tribue nobis spem venie
et labe criminum nostrorum omnium
nost munda sancte Columba.

O father of this land, outstanding pastor,
Columba, grant us hope of forgiveness
from the taint of all our crimes
cleanse us, holy Columba,

6. Qui nobis tribuat peccati veniam
ream diluat et donet patriam
nos tuos famulos omnes catholicos
commenda regi glorie.

who may grant forgiveness of sins to us,
absolve the guilty and vouchsafe this land
commend us all, your catholic servants,
to the King of Glory.

7. Sit laus perpetua sit semper gloria
patri et filio sancto paraclito
simplici Domino qui regit omnia
per cuncta semper secula.

May perpetual praise and glory be
to the Father, Son, and Holy Paraclete,
one Lord who reigns over all
through all ages always.


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