

The Antiphons and Psalms for Lauds & Second Vespers of the Office of St David

From the *Life of St David* by the clerk Rhygyfarch (1056-1099):

Then Patrick arrived at length at the place which was named Vallis Rosina; and perceiving that the place was pleasant, he vowed to serve God faithfully there. But when he was revolving these things in his mind, an angel of the Lord appeared to him. "God," said he, "has not disposed this place for you, but for a son who is not yet born, nor will he be born until thirty years are past." On hearing these words Saint Patrick grieved and was confounded, but the Lord loved Patrick much, and sent to him his angel to coax him with kindly words, saying to him, "Rejoice, Patrick, for the Lord hath sent me to you that I may show you the whole of the island of Ireland. There the Lord has prepared a seat for you; there you shall shine in signs and miracles, and you shall subdue the whole people to God." At length Patrick was appeased, and he cheerfully quitted the sacred spot for holy David and sailed for Ireland.

I. DICTUS EST PATRICIO

Psalm 93/xcii

Penpont antiphonal mid-14c

ANT I

The angel said to Patrick, "One yet to come after thirty years have passed by, Da-vid, shall a-rise here." The Lord is King, and hath put on glorious appar-el: * the Lord hath put on his apparel, and girded him self with strength.

2. He hath made the **róund** world **so** sure: * that it **cannot be** moved.
3. Ever since the world began hath thy **séat** been **prepared**: * thou art from **everlasting**.
4. The floods are risen, O Lord, the floods have **líft** up **their** voice: * the floods lift **up their** waves.
5. The waves of the sea are mighty, and **ráge** horribly: * but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on **high, is** mightier.
6. Thy testimonies, O **Lórd**, are **very** sure: * holiness becometh thine **house for** ever.
7. Glory be to the **Father**, and **to** the Son, * and to the **Holy** Spirit.
8. As it was in the beginning, is now, and **ever shall** be, * World without **end. Amen.**

And it happened that while the holy David was with the master, Paulens, that the latter lost the sight of his eyes by reason of an intense pain in them. And he summoned all his disciples in succession that they might look into his eyes and bless them, and they did as he had commanded them, and received relief from none of them. At last he invited the holy David to him, and said to him, "Holy David, examine my eyes, for they pain me much."

And the holy David answered and said, "My father, bid me not to look on thy countenance, for these ten years I have laboured at scripture with you, and so far I have not glanced at your face." And Paulens, admiring his excessive modesty, says, "As it is so, it will suffice that you bless my eyes with a touch and I shall be well." And straightway, as he touched them, they were healed in the twinkling of an eye; and when the blindness of his eyes had been expelled, the master received the light which had been removed.

2. INSTRUCTORIS OCULOS

Psalm 100

ANT II

The eyes of his teacher, made dark with so much weep- ing,
 Da- vid opened to the light with a touch of his hand.
 O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands: * serve the Lord with gladness,
 and come before his presence with a song. flex: ...he is God; †

2. Be ye sure that the Lord he is **God**; † it is he that hath made us, and not we **ourselves**; * we are his people, and the **sheep of** his pásture.
3. O go your way into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with **praise**; * be thankful unto him, and speak **good of** his Name.
4. For the Lord is gracious, his mercy is **everlasting**; * and his truth endureth from generation to **gener-átion**.
5. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy **Spir-it**, * As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, World without **end**, **A-men**.

A certain chieftain and druid, called Bwya, spoke, "I grieve to have seen smoke rising from Vallis Rosina, for I hold it as certain that the kindler of that fire shall excel all in power and renown, for that smoke as by a token predicts his fame." His wife, enraged, said to him, "Arise, and take a troop of servants, and with drawn swords follow up that man and his servants who have dared such an offence as to kindle fire on your lands without your bidding." Bwya and his followers arrived to slay David and his disciples, but a fever suddenly took them as they proceeded on their way. Next day his wife, called together her female slaves. "Go you," said she, "to the river which is called Alun, and display your naked bodies in the sight of the saints, and indulge in lewd talk." His disciples, unable to endure this affront, said to holy David, "Let us fly from this place because we cannot dwell here owing to this spiteful molestation." But the father, Saint David, spoke to them. "Know," said he, "that the world hates you, but understand that the people of Israel, accompanied by the ark of the covenant, entered the land of promise and destroyed the people dwelling near and the uncircumcised, which betokens our victory."

3. MISSUS ULTRO FEMINIS

Psalm 63/lxii

ANT III

F or sending those forward women to break the saints' re- solve,
 was the author of the crime pun- ished with her husband.

I. O God, - thou art my God: * early will I seek thee.

2. My soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh also **longeth after** thee: * in a barren and dry land where **no water** is.
3. Thus have I looked for **thee** in ho-**liness**: * that I might behold thy power **and glory**.
4. For thy loving-kindness is **better** than life **itself**: * my lips **shall praise** thee.
5. As long as I live will I magnify thee **on** this **manner**: * and lift up my hands **in thy** Name.
6. My soul shall be satisfied, even as it were with **marrow and** fatness: *when my mouth praiseth thee with **joyful** lips.
7. Have I not remembered **thee** in **my** bed: * and thought upon thee when I **was** waking?
8. Because thou hast **been** my **helper**: * therefore under the shadow of thy wings will I **rejoice**.
9. My soul **hangeth upon** thee: * thy right hand hath **upholden** me.
10. These also that seek the **hurt** of **my** soul: * they shall go **under the** earth.
11. Let them fall upon the **edge** of **the** sword: * that they may be a portion **for foxes**.
12. But the King shall rejoice in God; all they also that swear by **him** shall be **commended**: * for the mouth of them that speak lies **shall be** stopped.
13. Glory be to the **Father**, and to **the** Son, * and to the **Holy Spirit**,
 As it was in the beginning, is now and **ever shall be**, * World without **end**, **A-men**.

When Saint Aeddan had been fully instructed by David he made for Ireland, and on an Easter Eve an angel appeared to him, saying, "Do you know that tomorrow at mealtime poison will be placed by certain of the brethren before the venerable Saint David? Send one of the servants to the father to tell him." Saint Aeddan answered and said, "Neither is there a ship ready, nor is the wind right for sailing." The angel said to him, "Let your fellow disciple, called Scutinus, proceed to the seashore, for I will bear him across thither." The disciple obeyed and entered the water to his knee. And a monster took him and carried him across.

38. When the solemnities of Easter were over, the holy father, Saint David, went to the refectory to a meal with the brethren. There met him his former disciple, Scutinus, who told him all the things which had been done. They joyfully recline together in the refectory, giving thanks to God. When prayer was ended, holy David took the poisoned bread, and dividing it into three parts, gave one to a little dog which stood outside by the door, and as soon as it had tasted the bit it died a wretched death, and all the brethren who saw it were astonished. And holy David threw the second part to a raven, and as soon as it touched it with its beak, it fell lifeless from its ash tree. But the third part holy David held in his hand, and blessed, and ate it with giving of thanks, and all the brethren looked at him, amazed with wonder, for about three hours, no sign of the deadly poison appearing. And holy David told his brethren everything which had been done. And all the brethren stood up and lamented aloud, and cursed those treasonous men.

4. TOXICATE TORTE PANIS

Daniel 3

(transposed 4b)

ANT VI

Once the poisoned morsel had been swallowed from that loaf of twisted bread, both crow and likewise dog soon perished; the saint however was preserved. Benedicite

1. O all ye Works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord: * praise him, and magnify him for ever.

2. O ye Angels of the Lord, **ble**ss ye **the** Lord : * praise him, and magnify **him for** ever.

O ye Heavens, **ble**ss ye **the** Lord : * praise him, and magnify **him for** ever.
O ye Waters that be above the Firmament, **ble**ss ye **the** Lord : * praise him, and magnify **him for** ever.

O all ye Powers of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Sun and Moon, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Stars of Heaven, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Showers and Dew, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Winds of God, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Fire and Heat, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Winter and Summer, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Dews and Frosts, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Frost and Cold, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Ice and Snow, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Nights and Days, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Light and Darkness, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Lightnings and Clouds, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O let the Earth bless the Lord : yea, let it praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Mountains and Hills, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O all ye Green Things upon the Earth, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever. O ye Wells, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Seas and Floods, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Whales, and all that move in the Waters, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O all ye Fowls of the Air, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O all ye Beasts and Cattle, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Children of Men, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O let Israel bless the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Priests of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Servants of the Lord, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye Spirits and Souls of the Righteous, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O ye holy and humble Men of heart, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

O Ananias, Azarias and Misael, bless ye the Lord : praise him, and magnify him for ever.

LET us bless the Father and the Son, with the **Holy Spirit**; * let us praise and exalt Him above **all for** ever.

BLESSED art Thou, Lord, in the firmament of **heaven**; * and worthy of praise, and glorious above all for **ever**. Amen.

At the synod David is asked to preach, and rejects not the wish of the council. They bid him mount the pile of garments, but he refuses. So he orders the boy he had newly raised from the dead to spread his handkerchief under his feet. On this he stands, and expounded the gospel and the law as from a trumpet. In the presence of all a snow-white pigeon, sent from heaven, settled on his shoulders, which remained as long as he preached. While he was holding forth in a voice clear to all, both to those nearest to him and equally to those who were far off, the ground beneath him swells upward and is raised into a hill. Placed on the top he is seen by all, so that standing on a high hill he might lift his voice like a trumpet. On the top of this hill a church is situated. The heresy is expelled. The faith is confirmed in sound hearts. All are in agreement. They pay thanks to God and to Saint David.

5. UT ATTENDAT POPULUS

Psalm 148

ANT VIII

T hat all who were there might hear how well he could rea- son,
 the earth did rise in a mound, a fit- ting place for him to stand.

1 O praise the Lord of heaven: * - praise him in the height.

- 2 Praise him, all ye **angels** of his: * - **praise** him, **all** his host.
 - 3 Praise him, sun and **moon**: * praise him, **all** ye **stars** and light.
 - 4 Praise him, all ye **heavens**: * and ye waters that are **above** the **heavens**.
 - 5 Let them praise the Name of the **Lord**: * for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they **were** cre-ated.
 - 6 He hath made them fast for ever and **ever**: * he hath given them a law which shall **not** be **broken**.
 - 7 Praise the Lord upon **earth**: * ye **dragons**, **and** all deeps;
 - 8 Fire and hail, snow and **vapours**: * wind and storm, **fulfilling** **his** word;
 - 9 Mountains and all **hills**: * fruitful trees **and** all **cedars**;
 - 10 Beasts and all **cattle**: * - **worms** and **feathered** fowls;
 - 11 Kings of the earth and all **people**: princes and all **judges** **of** the world;
 - 12 Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the **Lord**:
 * for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above **heaven** **and** earth.
 - 13 He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall **praise** him:
 * even the children of Israel, even the **people** that **serveth** him.
- Glory be to the Father and to the **Son**: * and to the **Holy Spirit**.
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever **shall** be: * world without end. Amen.

And thus continuing into old age David was renowned as the head of all the Britannic race and the honour of his country, which old age he completed in around one hundred and forty-seven years.

When the day was drawing nigh for compensating the hallowed rewards of good deeds, on the eighth day before the first of March, while the brethren were observing matins, an angel addressed him, announcing in a loud voice, "The long-desired day," said he, "is now reckoned near at hand." The holy bishop recognised the friendly voice, and said to him with a joyful mind, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." The brethren merely received the sound into their ears without distinguishing the words, for they had heard them conversing together and were fallen to the earth in terror. Then the whole monastery is filled with angelic harmonies and sweet-smelling fragrance. The holy bishop calling with a loud voice, with mind intent on heaven, says, "Lord Jesus Christ, receive my spirit." Again the angel speaks in a clear voice, the brethren understanding the same, "Prepare and gird yourself. On the first of March the Lord Jesus Christ, accompanied by a great host of angels, will come to meet you."

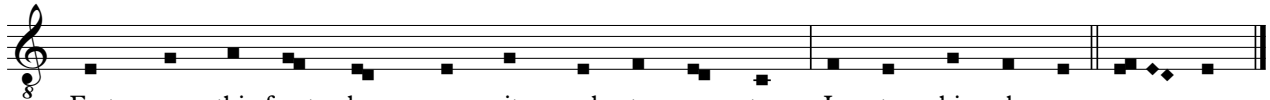
Hymn

Hymn for Feasts of a Confessor
transl. Ch. Winfred Douglas 1922

Iste confessor



1. This the Con-fes - sor of the Lord, whose tri - umph Now all the faith - ful ce - le-brate, with glad-ness
3. Sick ones of old time, to his tomb re - srt - ing, Sore-ly by ail-ments man - i fold af - flict - ed.
5. His be the glo - ry, pow-er and sal - va - tion, Who o-ver all things reign-eth in the high - est,



Erst on this feast - day mer - it - ed to en - ter In - to his glo - ry.
Oft - times have wel - comed health and strength re - turn - ing, At his pe - ti - tion.
Earth's might - y fab - ric rul - ing and di - rect - ing, One God, three Per - sons. A - men.

Even verses set c. 1430 by Guillaume Dufay (sung by semichorus):

2. Sainly and prudent, modest in behavior,
Peaceful and sober, chaste was he, and lowly.
While that life's vigor, coursing through his
members,
Quickened his being.

4. Whence we in chorus gladly do him honor,
Chanting his praises with devout affection,
That in his merits we may have a portion,
Now and forever.

AD MAG. I.

Help us * by the heaven-ly aid that works
 through Da-vid: That be-ing guarded at its part-ing from
 this earthly flesh, with exulta-tion our spir-it may place its
 hope in the di- vinely giv- en grace of glo- rious
for second ending
 life. life.

Magnificat from the First Service by Thomas Tomkins (sung by choir:)

My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
 For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.
 For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.
 For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.
 And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.
 He hath showed strength with his arm:
 he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.
 He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.
 He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our
 forefathers, Abraham and his seed, for ever.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.