



Advent is perhaps the most neglected season, but remains one of the most treasured by the Sisters here at the Priory of Our Lady of Ephesus. The Liturgical year has reached its dramatic close with the Feast of Christ the King and a series of meditations on the Last Judgment. While lamps remain lit in our hearts for the final coming of the Lord, (track 3) a milder tenor creeps into the voice of the Church as Advent begins a new year, and attention is also given to the coming of the Infant Christ into the world (tracks 1, 5, and 14.)

The Annunciation (tracks 2, 4 and 6) the cry of the Baptist (track 15) and the expectation of Our Lady (tracks 11, 13, and 16) are all *leitmotifs* that repeatedly occur in the chants and the Divine Office. The nightly antiphon to Our Lady changes from the familiar *Salve Regina* to the gentle *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, honoring her motherhood (track 12.) A bold, melancholy tone of impatience is joined to those of the prophets and chosen people who waited for the Lord's coming for centuries (tracks 7, 9.) Yet there also remains a sustained strain of *gaudium*, the interior joy characteristic of Advent that lends its name to the Third Sunday, Gaudete Sunday. (Track 10, Offertory of Gaudete Sunday.)

“The life of a priest is an Advent bringing forth the Incarnation in souls,” Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity once said. So our prayers are united in a special way to priests, those commissioned to bring the Body of Christ down to earth and upon our altars each day. May Our Lady keep you all close to her heart this season, and thus also close to the heart of the King Who is to come. We pray that we all “await with her the vision of His most Holy Face” this approaching Christmastide.

—The Sisters

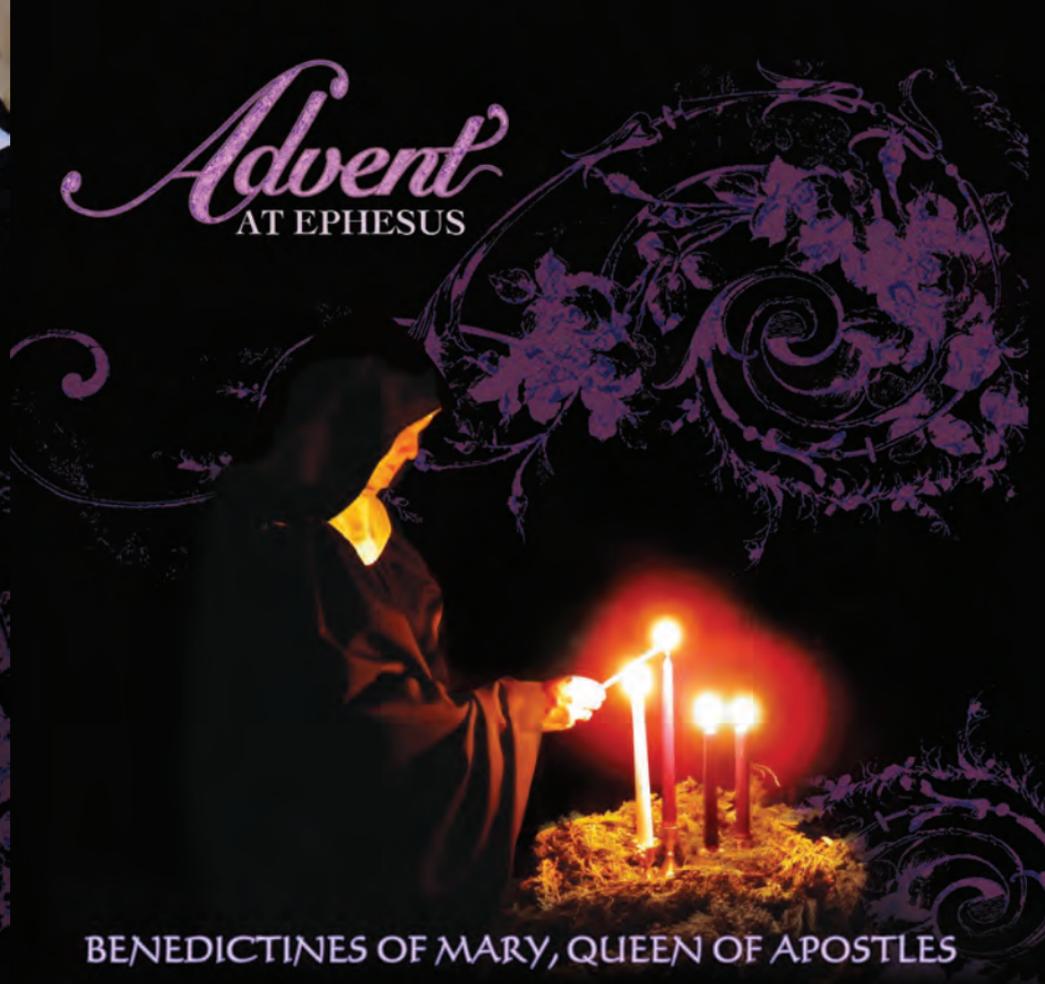
The Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles is a monastic community located in rural Missouri. Consecrated to the Queen of Apostles, their lives are dedicated to contemplative prayer especially for priests. They support themselves primarily by making priestly vestments. Professing full obedience to the Church's teaching, the community upholds a loving commitment to preserving the liturgical heritage of the Church in the Extraordinary Form of the Mass and traditional monastic Office. This is their first recording with De Montfort Music and Decca Records.

www.benedictinesofmary.org

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Advent

AT EPHESUS



BENEDICTINES OF MARY, QUEEN OF APOSTLES

7. COME THOU, REDEEMER OF THE EARTH

1. Come Thou, Redeemer of the earth,
In Thy admired Virgin birth,
Let every age in wonder fall
Such birth befits the God of all.
Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, Thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised fruit to man displayed.

2. The Virgin's womb that burden gained
Its virgin honor still unstained,
The banners there of virtue glow
God in His temple dwells below

8. ANGELUS AD VIRGINEM

1. *Angelus ad virginem sub intrans in conclave.
Virginis formidinum demulcens inquit "Ave."
Ave regina virginum, coeliteraque dominum
Concipies et paries intacta, salutem hominum.
Tu porta coeli facta medella criminum.*

2. *Quomodo conciperem, que virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem, que firma mente vovi?
Spiritus sancti gratia perficiet hec omnia;
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas, securo, quod castimonia
Manebit in te pura Dei potentia.'*

3. *Ad hac virgo nobilis respondens inquit ei;
Ancilla sum humilis Omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi celesti nuntio, tanta secreti conscio,
Consentiens et cupiens videre factum quod audio,
Parata sum parere Dei consilio.*

4. *Eia Mater Domini, qua pacem reddidisti
Angelis et homini, cum Christum genuisti;
Tuum exora filium ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, et deleat peccata;
Prestans auxilium vita frui beata post hoc exsilium.*

8. REGNANTEM SEMPITERNAM

*Regnantem sempiterna
Per secula susceptura
Contio, devote concrepra
Factori reddendo debita.
Cui iubilant agnina calicis, eius vultu exhilarata:*

Rottenburg Hymnal/ St. Ambrose

Proceeding from His chamber free
That royal home of purity
A giant in twofold substance one
Rejoicing now His course to run.

3. O equal to Thy Father Thou!
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now:
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.
Thy cradle here will shine so bright,
As darkness yields to newer light,
Where endless love shall reign serene
And twilight never intervene.

Anonymous 13th-14th C.

1. The angel, coming secretly to the Virgin, calming the Virgin's fear, said: "Hail, Hail, Queen of virgins! You shall conceive the Lord of Heaven and Earth and give birth, remaining a virgin, to the salvation of mankind; you, made the Gateway of Heaven, the cure for sin."

2. "How shall I conceive, since I know not man? How shall I break what I have resolutely vowed?" "The grace of the Holy Spirit shall perform all this. Fear not, but rejoice, confident that chastity will remain pure in you by the power of God."

3. At this, the noble Virgin, replying said to him: "I am the humble servant of almighty God. To you heavenly messenger, who know so great a secret, I give my assent and desire to see done what I hear, and I am ready to obey God's will."

4. O Mother of the Lord, who restored peace to angels and men when you gave birth to Christ, beg your Son that He may show Himself favorable to us and wipe away our sins, offering help to enjoy the blessed life after this exile.

Early Medieval Gregorian Chant (Sequence for 2nd Sunday of Advent)

O faithful people, indebted to our Maker,
Who is worthy of song, and awaiting Him
from all eternity, hail the King; to Whom
the heavenly multitudes sing joyfully,
at the sight of His glad countenance;

4. *Secundo ut cum fulserit
Mundumque horror cinxerit,
Non pro reatu puniat,
Sed nos pius tunc protegat.*

5. *Summo Parenti gloria
Nataque sit victoria,
Et Flamini laus debita
Per saeculorum saecula. Amen.*

16: LIKE THE DAWNING

1. Like the dawning of the morning
On the mountains golden heights,
Like the breaking of the moonbeams
On the gloom of cloudy nights,
Like a secret told by angels
Getting known upon the earth,
Is the Mother's expectation
Of Messiah's speedy birth.

2. Thou wert happy, blessed Mother
With the very bliss of heav'n,
Since the angel's salutation
In thy raptured ear was given;

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4. So that when for the second time He comes
Resplendent, and surrounds the world with fear,
May He then not punish us according to our guilt,
But graciously protect us.

5. Virtue, honor, praise and glory
To God the Father with the Son,
And the Holy Comforter,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Koln Hymnal/ Fr. E. Faber

Since the *ave* of that midnight
When thou wert anointed Queen,
Like a river overflowing
Hath the grace within thee been.

3. Thou hast waited, child of David,
And thy waiting now is o'er.
Thou hast seen Him, blessed Mother,
And wilt see Him evermore.

O, His human face and features,
They were passing sweet to see!
Thou beholdest them this moment,
Mother show them now to me.

All proceeds designated by the contract either by flat fee, advance or royalties will be directed to the Benedictines of Mary, Queen of Apostles, which is a registered charity. The funds will be used to assist the Sisters in realizing their goal of the construction of a permanent monastery building.

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18. ADJUVABIT EAM

*Adjuvabit eam Deus vultu suo,
Deus in Medio ejus non commovebitur.*

1. Lo Jesse's rod shall blossom, and David's Son hold sway.
The promised one shall save us, and humbly show the way.
The crooked road is straightened, and rougher paths made plain
Within the heart prepared by Him, the honor of His reign.

14. O COME DIVINE MESSIAH

1. O come Divine Messiah
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing of triumph
And sadness flee away.

Sweet Savior haste; come, come to earth;
Dispel the night and show Thy face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace;
O come Divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing of triumph, and sadness flee away.

16. VOX CLARA

1. *Vox clara ecce intonat,
Obscura quæque increpat:
Procul fugentur somnia;
Ab æthere Christus promicat.*
2. *Mens iam resurgat torpida
Quæ sorde exstat saucia;
Sidus refulget iam novum,
Ut tollat omne noxium.*
3. *E sursum Agnus mittitur
Laxare gratis debitum;
Omnes pro indulgentia
Vocem demus cum lacrimis,*

Benedictines of Mary

God shall help her with His countenance;
God dwelleth in her, she shall not be moved.

2. In hope she longed to see Him, her God, the unborn child
Beneath her heart all burning the world to reconcile.
Though hardened hearts refuse Him and offer Him no room,
He rested full contented within her sacred womb.
3. So come to her thy mother, the channel of all grace;
Await with her the vision of His most holy face.

Traditional French/ Abbe Pellegrin

2. Shalt come in peace and meekness,
And lowly will Thy cradle be;
All veiled in human weakness,
Thy majesty we'll see.

3. O Christ, whom nations sigh for,
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Come break the captive fetters;
Redeem the long-lost fold.

6th C. Gregorian Chant (Advent Hymn for Laude)

1. Lo, a clear voice admonishes,
Penetrating all darkness:
Let dreams be banished afar;
Christ shines forth from on high.
2. Let the slothful soul now rise,
No longer lying prostrate on the ground:
A new star shines forth
To take away all that is harmful.
3. Behold, the Lamb is sent to us
To free us *gratis* from our debt;
With tears let us all together
Ask for pardon.

*Quem expectant omnia terrea, eius nutu examinanda,
Districtum ad iudicia:
Clementem in potentia.
Tua nos salva, Christe, clementia, propter quos passus es dima.
Ad poli astra subleva nitida, qui sorde tergis secula.
Infuse salus vera, effuga pericula.
Omnia ut sint munda, tribue pacifica,
Ut hic tua salvi misericordia
Leti regna post adeamus supena.
Qui regnas secula per infinita. Amen.*

4. GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

1. The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
2. "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady," Gloria!

6. CREATOR ALME SIDERUM

1. *Creator alme siderum,
Æterna lux credentium,
Jesu, Redemptor omnium,
Intende votis supplicium.*
2. *Qui dæmonis ne fraudibus
Periret orbis, impetu
Amoris actus, languidi
Mundi medela factus es.*
3. *Commune qui mundi nefas
Ut expiaret, ad crucem
E Virginis sacrario
Intacta proditis victima.*
4. *Cujus potestas gloria,
Nomenque cum primum sonat,
Et celites et inferi
Tremente curvantur genu.*
5. *Te deprecamur, ultime
Magnum diei Judicem,*

Whom the whole earth awaits,
studying His every command;
He is firm concerning justice, mighty, yet merciful;
Save us, O Christ, in Your mercy,
Who suffered cruel hardships for us. Lift us to the shining
heights of heaven, You, Who in every age wash away our vice.
Give us true health, take away peril. Grant us peace, so that
all may be clean. So that we may be saved here by Your
mercy. Let us come rejoicing afterwards to the heavenly reign.
You who reign forever and ever. Amen.

Traditional Basque

3. Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify His holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!
4. Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Canon D. Thernignon/ 7th C. Anonymous

1. Blessed Creator of the stars,
Eternal light of the faithful,
Jesus, Redeemer of all,
Hear the prayers of Thy servants.
2. Who, lest through wiles of the devil
The earth perish, moved by love
Became the healer
Of the sick world.
3. To atone for the sins of the world
Thou camest from the Virgin's womb,
A spotless victim,
to the cross.
4. Thy glorious power
And Thy name, when heard
Makes angels and men
Bend the knee, trembling.
5. We pray Thee,
Great Judge of the last day,

*Armis superne gratie
Defende nos ab hostibus.*

6. *Virtus, honor, laus, gloria,
Deo Patri cum Filio,
Sancto simul Paraclito,
In seculorum secula. Amen.*

6. HAYL MARY

Hayl Mary ful of grace, Moder in virginitye

1. The Holi Goste is to the sent
From the Fader omnipotent;
Now is God withyn the went
Whan the angel seide Ave.

2. Whan the angel byganne,
Flesh and blode togedre ranne:

7. RORATE CÆLI

Rorate celi desuper, et nubes pluunt iustum.

1. *Ne inascaris Domine, ne ultra memineris iniquitatis:
Ecce civitas Sancti facta est deserta: Sion deserta facta est:
Jerusalem desolata est: domus sanctificationis tue et glorie tue,
Ubi laudaverunt te patres nostri.*

2. *Peccavimus, et facti sumus tamquam immundus nos, et cecidimus
Quasi folium universi: et iniquitates nostre quasi ventus abstulerunt nos:
Abscondisti faciem tuam a nobis, et allisisti nos
In manu iniquitatis nostre.*

3. *Vide Domine afflictionem populi tui, et mitte quem misurus es:
Emite Agnum dominatorem terre,
De Petra deserti ad montem filie Sion:
Ut auferat ipse iugum captivitatis nostre.*

4. *Consolamini, consolamini, popule meus: cito veniet salus tua:
Quare morere consumeris, quia innovavit te dolor? Salva bo te,
Noli timere, ego enim sum Dominus Deus tuus, Sanctus Israel,
Redemptor tuus.*

8. PRÆPARATE CORDA VESTRA

*Præparate corda vestra et servite soli Domino:
et liberabit vos de manibus inimicorum vestrorum.
Præparate corda vestra et servite soli Domino:
ipse dabit benignitatem, et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.*

To defend us from our enemies
With arms of grace from above.

6. Power, honor, praise and glory
To God the Father, with God the Son
And the Holy Comforter,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Traditional English

Mary bare bothe God and manne
Thorw vertu and thorw dygnyte,

3. So seith the Gospel of Syn Johan
God and man is made but one
In flesh and blode in body and bone
O God in personys thre.

5th C. Gregorian Chant / Isaiah 45:8

Ye heavens drop down dew from above and let the clouds rain
down the Just.

1. Be not angry, O Lord, remember no more our iniquities.
Behold the city of the Holy One is deserted: Sion is laid desolate:
Jerusalem is laid waste: the home of Thy sanctification and of
Thy glory, where our fathers praised Thee.

2. We have sinned, and we are become like the unclean;
We are fallen like the leaves, and our sins, like the storm,
Have carried us away. Thou hast hidden Thy face from us
And hast thrown us into the power of our sins.

3. Behold, O Lord, the affliction of Thy people, and send Him
Whom Thou wilt send forth, the Lamb, the ruler of the earth,
From the rock of the desert to the mountain of the daughter of
Sion, that He may take away the yoke of our captivity.

4. Be comforted, be comforted, O My people:
Thy Savior shall come quickly. Why hath grief devoured thee?
Why hath sorrow disfigured thee? I will save thee: fear not: for
I am the Lord thy God the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer.

Carlo Rossini/ Matins Responsory

Prepare your hearts and serve only the Lord: and He will
free you from the hands of your enemies. Prepare your
hearts and serve only the Lord; He shall give His goodness
and our land shall give her fruit.

9. O COME, O COME EMMANUEL

1. O Come, O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

2. O Come, of all the nations King,
The world awaits its ransoming.
Remove our sin and faithlessness,
Unite us who Thy name confess.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

3. O Come, Thou dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thy advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

10. BENEDIXISTI DOMINE

*Benedixisti Domine terram tuam
Avertisti captivitatem Jacob,
Remisisti iniquitatem plebis tue.*

11. MARIA WALKS AMID THE THORN

1. Maria walks amid the thorn, *Kyrie eleison!* (Lord have
mercy.) Which seven years no leaf has borne,
She walks amid the wood of thorn *Jesu et Maria* (Jesus
and Mary)

2. What 'neath her heart doth Mary bear? *Kyrie eleison!*
A little child doth Mary bear
Beneath her heart He nestles there. *Jesu et Maria*

3. And as with Child she passes near, *Kyrie eleison!*
Lo! roses on the thorns appear,

12. ALMA REDEMPTORIS MATER

*Alma Redemptoris Mater, que pervia celi porta manes,
Et stella maris, succurre cadenti
Surgere qui curat populo: tu quæ genuisti,
Natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem:
Virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore
Sumens illud Ave, peccatorum miserere.*

Traditional 12th C. Latin

And death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

4. O Come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heav'nly home.
Make safe the way that leads to Thee,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

5. O Come, thou Wisdom from on high
Who orders all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in Thy ways to go.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

Oreste Ravanello/ Ps. 84 (Offertory 3rd Sunday of Advent)

Lord, Thou hast blessed Thy land:
Thou hast turned away the captivity of Jacob:
Thou hast forgiven the iniquity of Thy people.

Medieval German

Lo! roses on the thorns appear. *Jesu et Maria*

4. What shall this Infant called be? *Kyrie eleison!*
The Christ this Child shall called be,
His name from all eternity. *Jesu et Maria!*

5. Who hath the world from sin set free, *Kyrie eleison!*
This child alone and only He,
He hath the world from sin set free. *Jesu et Maria!*

11th C. Gregorian Chant/ Herman the Lame

Holy Mother of our Redeemer, thou gate leading to heaven
and star of the sea; help the falling people who seek to rise,
thou who, all nature wondering, didst give birth to thy holy
Creator. Virgin always, hearing the greeting from Gabriel's
lips, take pity on sinners