Rest & Hope: Requiem Reflections

Part 1

I. Requiem Æternum (Introit)

Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis.
Te decet hymnus, Deus, in Sion, et tibi reddetur votum in Jerusalem.
Exaudi orationem meam, ad te omnis caro veniet.
Requiem æternam dona eis, Domine: et lux perpetua luceat eis.

(Eternal rest grant them, O Lord: and may light perpetual shine upon them.
To you are hymns duly raised, God, in Zion, and to you vows made in Jerusalem.
Hear my prayer, for all flesh comes to you.
Eternal rest grant them, O Lord: and may light perpetual shine upon them.)

II. As A Deer Desires Water (Psalm)

Antiphon:
As a deer desires water, so my soul has thirst for God.
When shall I see my Creator, when to know the Living Word?

Day and night are full of crying, tears have been my only food,
While the people scorn me, tauting, "Now where is your vaunted God?"

I recall in my soul's sorrow how a throng in former time
Would with me in joy and praise go, pilgrims to the holy shrine.
Antiphon

Why does gloom my soul devour; why do fears within me fight?
God I'll hope in, and praise his power, thrilled like one on mountain height.

'Though loud waves come crashing o'er me, daytime brings Divine Love near.
Evenings fill with singing holy — to my Maker life-long prayer.
Antiphon

Why forget me, Holy One, leaving foes to do me ill?
Soul, while downcast, carry on; hope on high and praise God still.

Although downcast, do no falter; heed, my soul, the Living Word.
As a deer refreshed by water, be now soothed by hope in God.

III. Early, My God, Without Delay (Gradual)

Early, my God, without delay I haste to seek thy face.
My thirsty spirit faints a way without thy cheering grace.
So pilgrims on the scorching sand beneath a burning sky
Long for a cooling stream at hand, and they must drink or die.

Not all the blessings of a feast can please my soul so well,
As when thy rich grace I taste and in thy presence dwell.
Not life itself, with all her joys, can my best passions move,
Or raise so high my cheerful voice as thy forgiving love.

IV. Show Pity, Lord (Kyrie)

Show pity, Lord, O Lord, forgive; let a repenting rebel live.
Are not thy mercies large and free? May not a sinner trust in thee?

My crimes, 'tho great, cannot surpass the pow'r and glory of thy grace.
Great God, thy nature knows no bound, so let thy pardning love be found.

Yet save a trembling sinner, Lord, whose hope still hov'ring 'round thy word
Would light on some sweet promise there, some sure support against despair.

Show pity, Lord; O Lord, forgive; O show pity.

Part 2

V. Dies Iræ (Sequence)

Dies iræ! Dies illa	(Day of wrath! Dreadful day
Solvet sæclum in favilla:	When earth is turned to ash,
Teste David cum Sibylla!	As testified by David and the Sibyl!
Quantus tremor est futurus,	Such tremendous fear the future holds
Quando iudex est venturus,	When the judge is come
Cuncta stricte discussurus!	To assess everything strictly.
Tuba mirum spargens sonum	The trumpet blares a miraculous sound
Per sepulchra regionum,	Into the realm of tombs,
Coget omnes ante thronum.	Calling everyone before the throne.

Mors stupebit, et natura,	Death will marvel, as will Nature,
Cum resurget creatura,	When the creature arises [i.e. humans]
Iudicanti responsura.	To answer its judge.
Liber scriptus proferetur,	The book of records shall open
In quo totum continetur,	In which all is contained,
Unde mundus iudicetur.	From which the world shall be judged.
Iudex ergo cum sedebit,	So as the judge appears
Quidquid latet, apparebit:	Anything hidden will be revealed,
Nil inultum remanebit.	No ill left unpunished.
Quid sum miser tunc dicturus?	What could miserable me say?
Quem patronum rogaturus,	Whose protection could I seek,
Cum vix iustus sit securus?	When even the righteous are not safe?
Rex tremendæ maiestatis,	King of tremendous majesty,
Qui salvandos salvas gratis,	Who graciously saves the redeemed,
Salva me, fons pietatis.	Save me, O spring of mercy.
Recordare, Iesu pie,	Remember, merciful Jesus,
Quod sum causa tuæ viæ:	That I am the reason you came:
Ne me perdas illa die.	Do not lose me on that day.
Quaerens me, sedisti lassus:	Seeking me, you paused weary:
Redemisti crucem passus:	Redeeming [humankind] by suffering the cross:
Tantus labor non sit cassus.	May such exertion not prove useless.
Iuste iudex ultionis,	Righteous and avenging judge,
Donum fac remissionis	May you grant remission
Ante diem rationis.	Upon the day of reckoning.
Ingemisco, tamquam reus:	Sighing, I am accused,
Culpa rubet vultus meus:	My guilty face turns red:
Supplicanti parce, Deus.	Save your supplicant, O God.
Qui Mariam absolvisti,	You who absolved Mary [Magdalene]
Et latronem exaudisti,	And harkened to the thief [at Golgotha]
Mihi quoque spem dedisti.	To me as well offer hope.
Confutatis maledictis,	When the wicked are confounded.
Flammis acribus addictis:	To acrid fire condemned,
Voca me cum benedictis.	Call me among the blessed ones.

Preces meæ non sunt digna:	My prayers are not worthy:
Sed tu bonus fac benigne,	But because you are good, show kindness,
Ne perenni cremer igne.	Not burning in eternal fire.
Inter oves locum præsta,	Among the sheep give [me] a place,
Et ab hædis me sequestra,	And keep me apart from goats,
Statuens in parte dextra.	Putting me at your right side.
Oro supplex et acclinis,	I pray begging and bent,
Cor contritum quasi cinis:	With my heart incinerated in sorrow,
Gere curam mei finis.	Take care with my final fate.
Lacrimosa dies illa,	Such tears on that day,
qua resurget ex favilla	When out of ash arises
Judicandus homo reus.	The guilty person to be judged.
[Nobis] ergo parce, Deus.	Spare [us] therefore, O God.)

VI. The Angels of Heaven (Sanctus)

The angels of heaven are marching around the borders of Zion's holy ground.
Their music harmonious how it doth ring, and this is the heavenly song they sing:
Holy, holy, holiness unto the Lord.
Love ye, love ye, love ye one another.

VII. You Would Know the Secret of Death (Meditation)

You would know the secret of death.
But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life?
The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light.
If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life.
For life and death are one, even as the river and sea are one.

Refrain: [Death and life are one, as the river and the sea;
One are the sea and the river, also one are death and life.]

In the great depths of your hopes and desires lies you secret knowledge of the bright beyond.
For what is it to die but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun?
And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides,
That it may rise and expand, and seek God unencumbered?

Refrain

Only when you drink from the river of silence, only then shall you indeed sing.
And when you have reached the mountain top, then shall you begin to climb.
And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

Refrain

Part 3

VIII. My Shepherd Will Supply My Need (Agnus Dei)

My shepherd will supply my need; Jehovah is his name.
In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.
He brings my wandering spirit back when I forsake his ways,
and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

When I walk through the shades of death, your presence is my stay;
One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
My cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head.

The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
No more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.

IX. Remember Me (Communio)

Remember me when I am gone away,
Gone far away into the silent land;
When you can no more hold me by the hand,
Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.

Remember me when no more day by day
You tell me of our future that you plann'd:
Only remember me; you understand
It will be late to counsel then or pray.

Yet if you should forget me for a while
And afterwards remember, do not grieve:
For if the darkness and corruption leave
A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,
Better by far you should forget and smile
Than that you should remember and be sad.

X. Jerusalem, My Happy Home (Responsory)

Jerusalem, my happy home, when shall I come to thee?
When shall my sorrows have an end? Thy joys when shall I see?

O happy harbor of the saints, O sweet and pleasant soil.
In thee no sorrows may be found, no grief, no care, no toil.

Thy gardens and they gallant walks continually are green;
There grow such sweet and pleasant flowers as nowhere else are seen.

There trees forever more bear fruit and evermore do spring,
There evermore the angels sit and evermore do sing.

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, God grant that I may see
Thine endless joy, and of the same partaker ever be.

XI. In Paradisum (Last Antiphon)

In paradisum deducant te Angeli: in tuo adventu suscipiant te martyres,
Et perducant te in civitatem sanctam Jerusalem.
Chorus angelorum te suscipiat, et cum Lazaro quondam paupere
Æternam habeas requiem.

> (May the angels lead you into paradise: may the martyrs receive you arriving,
> and bring you into the holy city, Jerusalem.
> May the choir of angels receive you and with Lazarus, who was a beggar,
> May you have eternal rest.)

Text compiled by the composer from the following sources.

I. Requiem Æternum — Traditional Medieval Roman Funeral Introit
II. As a Deer Desires Water — Psalm 42 trans. & vers. Christopher J. Hoh, b. 1959
III. Early, My God, Without Delay — Isaac Watts, 1674 - 1748, from Psalm 63
IV. Show Pity, Lord — Erhart Hegenwalt, 16th cent., trans. John C. Jacobi, 1670 - 1750
V. Dies Iræ — Traditional Medieval Roman Sequence attr. Tommaso da Celano, 13th century
VI. The Angels of Heaven — Shaker Song by Ephraim Frost, ?b. 1824
VII. You Would Know the Secret of Death — Kahlil Gibran, 1883 - 1931
VIII. My Shepherd — Isaac Watts, 1674 - 1748, from Psalm 23
IX. Remember Me — Christina Rossetti, 1830 - 1894
X. Jerusalem, My Happy Home — English 17th & 18th Century
XI. In Paradisum — Traditional Medieval Roman Funeral Antiphon