Ad festum de septem doloribus Mariae
Prosa: Astat virgo virginum

St. Anselm of Canterbury

Copyright © 2006 Alexander Blachly; rev. 2012
Nunc reposcit debitum atrox naturæ
quod sibi destinuit olim parturit.

Penasque cum fervore extorquent usurers
que communi matribus debebantur iure.

Nunc quasi parturiens experiris vere
quam sit matri proprium nato condoleare.

Nunc amaros gemitus cor displorant
Doloribus quos filium cerneis sustineat.

Gliadio transfigeris doloris re vera
ten-sae cernens filij brachia proceara.

Pendens corpus regium velut in statistat
membraque fundamenta sanguinem sincere.
Cu-rus q-ue-s-o-va-le-at mens aut lin-gua fa-ri
quant-um vir-go cre-di-tur in-tus cru-ci-a-ri.

Dum cеr-nit iam mor-tu-i cor-pus vul-ne-ra-ri
at-que na-ti vi-sce-ra lan-ce-a for-a-ri.

Cor-pus quid-em mor-tu-um nil iam sen-ti-e-bat;
sed ma-ter-num lan-ce-a pe-ctus tran-fi-ge-bat.

Quam fi-xam in fi-li-j la-te-re vi-de-bat
de quo a-que san-gui-nis li-quot ef-flu-e-bat.

Mi-se-re-re, Do-mi-na, mi-se-ris di-gna-re,
quos Ihe-sus re-di-me-re di-gna-tur tam ca-re.

Ip-sa-que te pi-e-tas co-gat nos sal-va-re
que te pa-ti con-pulit pe-na-s, con-tem-pla-re.
Meditationes de gestis Domini nostri Jesu Christi

Pious Mother, have mercy on us perpetually. Amen.

for sorrow then won't prevail as now,
which compelled you to suffer such pains.
whom Jesus deigned to redeem so dearly.
from which a liquid of water and blood flowed out.
but the maternal breast is pierced by the lance
how greatly the virgin is believed to have suffered within—
which are due by law to every mother.
which formerly in her childbirth it had withheld.
such great sorrow tearing at her mind.
but despite her sorrow, her virginal bearing remains intact.
which she saw thrust in her Son's side,
His body is indeed dead and now feels nothing;
the maternal breast is pierced by the lance
The Virgin of Virgins stands by the cross of the Savior—stands transfixed by a sword of greatest sadness.
Watching the pains of her Son and the streams of blood, she feels within what He bears without.
Standing beside the Only-Begotten, the Mother weeps,
from whom she turns in distress, alas!, that she knew not [His pains].
Now she weeps, now laments, now groaning she adores Him, and she saw that her sorrow, her virginal bearing remains intact.
With anxious face the Mother looks again at Him hanging, looks at the blood welling from His wounds.
She sees the face of her Son pale in death—such great sorrow tearing at her mind.
Now the fierce law of nature demands its due, which formerly in her childbirth it had withheld.
And the interest violently extorts those pains which are due by law to every mother.
Now as in childbirth you experience indeed, as would be true of any mother, the feeling of pain for a son.
Now the sorrows which you see your Son endure wring bitter sighs from your heart.
You are pierced through indeed with a sword of sorrow, seeing the arms of your Son stretched up high.
The royal body hanging like a balance-bar, with its sacred members flowing forth blood.
Of whom do I ask that my mind or tongue be able to say how greatly the virgin is believed to have suffered within—
When she now sees the body wounded to death and the inwards of her Son pierced by a spear?
His body is indeed dead and now feels nothing; but the maternal breast is pierced by the lance which she saw thrust in her Son's side, from which a liquid of water and blood flowed out.
Deign to have mercy, Lady, on us wretches, whom Jesus designed to redeem so dearly.
And consider how that kindness will compel you to save us, which compelled you to suffer such pains.
Because of which, O virgin, you will now rejoice safely, for sorrow then won't prevail as now, since after your Son, death can do harm.
Pious Mother, have mercy on us perpetually. Amen.

—transl. AB