

Christian Prayer: October

Salve Regina

Many of the more ancient prayers from the Church's tradition were originally composed in Latin.

These days, mostly, they are prayed in the vernacular - in this country usually English.

One that is still regularly prayed in Latin is a hymn to Our Lady, the Salve Regina.

When it is prayed in Latin, it is generally sung to the traditional plainsong setting.

This can be found on YouTube, for example <https://bit.ly/2C7HG5f>

When the English text is used, it is generally concluded with the responsory printed below.

Salve, Regina, Mater misericordiæ,
vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.
Ad te clamamus exsules filii Hevæ,
Ad te suspiramus, gementes et flentes
in hac lacrimarum valle.
Eia, ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos
misericordes oculos ad nos converte;
Et Jesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui,
nobis post hoc exilium ostende.
O clemens, O pia, O dulcis Virgo Maria.

The standard English translation is

Hail, holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope.
To thee do we cry,
Poor banished children of Eve;
To thee do we send up our sighs,
Mourning and weeping in this vale of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
Thine eyes of mercy toward us;
And after this our exile,
Show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.
Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

