In Paradisum

May the angels lead you into paradise, may the martyrs come to receive you, and lead you into the holy city, Jerusalem.

May the choir of angels receive you, and where Lazarus is poor no longer, there may you have eternal rest.

I am the resurrection and the life: whoever believes in me, even if he/she dies will live: and all who live and believe in me, will never die.

These three antiphons for the burial of the dead may be found in the Graduale Triplex (Solesmes, 1979), in three forms of notation: traditional four-line staves with neums; together with sigla from Laon and St Gall manuscripts. Although traditionally only the first two antiphons tend to be sung (and set by other composers), the third (from the story of the Raising of Lazarus in John 11:25f) provides a fitting conclusion.

The music always moves along freely. Textual accents are always assumed to be on the penultimate syllable, unless indicated by an acute accent (e.g. há-be-as, sus-ci-pi-ant); other syllables are sung lightly. A smaller-sized note in the score (liquecent — e.g. sanc-tam, quon-dam, ae-ter-nam) acts as a passing note to the next note, and is “semi-vocalized”.

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