

Qui nos fecit ex nichilo

Benedicamus Domino trope. Perugia, Biblioteca Comunale Augusta, MS 431 (G 20), fol. 161, and Florence, BNC, MS Panciatichiano 27, fol. 17. Edited and arranged by Leah Stuttard.

'Benedicamus Domino' (Let us bless the Lord) is the short dismissal that ends the daily Offices. In the Middle Ages singers loved to expand it with extra words and music for feast days, and this is one such expansion, found in two Franciscan-connected manuscripts. We sing the first stanza, then the second, then return to the first, with instrumental interludes between the sections.

English translation

Latin (as sung)

Stanza 1

To him who made us out of nothing,
to the Father and to his Son,
and with them the Holy Comforter:
let us bless the Lord.

*Qui nos fecit ex nichilo,
Patri eiusque Filio,
Sancto simul Paraclito:
Benedicamus Domino.*

Stanza 2

The feast day is here for us,
and the glorious solemnity;
now its brightness has shone out:
let us bless the Lord.

*Adest nobis festivitas
et preclaram solemnitas,
Iam refulsit claritas:
Benedicamus Domino.*

Stanza 1 (repeated)

To him who made us out of nothing,
to the Father and to his Son,
and with them the Holy Comforter:
let us bless the Lord.

*Qui nos fecit ex nichilo,
Patri eiusque Filio,
Sancto simul Paraclito:
Benedicamus Domino.*