

HYMN : ÆTERNA CHRISTI MUNERA

Office Hymn for the Common of Martyrs

Hymnus
I.



Æ TĒR-na Christi múnera, Et Mártyrum victó-ri-
as, Laudes fe-réntes dé-bi-tas Lætis canámus ménti-bus.
2. Eccle-si-á-rum Principes Bel-li tri-umpha-les duces, Cæ-
léstis aulæ míl-i-tes Et ve-ra mundi lúmi-na. 3. Terró-
re vic-to sá-cu-li, Pœnísque spretis córpo-ris, Mortis sacræ
compé-di-o Vi-tam be-á-tam póssident. 4. Tradúntur ig-
ni Márty-res Et besti-á-rum déntibus : Armá-ta sævit
úngu-lis Tortó-ris in-sá-ni man-us. 5. Nudá-ta pendent



vísce-ra, Sanguis sacrá-tus fúndi-tur : Sed pérma-nent im-
mó-bi-les Vi-tæ pe-rénnis grá-ti-a. 6. De-vo-ta sancto-rum
fi-des, Invicta spes cre-denti-um, Perfecta Christi ca-rí-
tas Mundi tri-umphat principem. 7. In his pa-terna glóri-
a, In his volúntas Spi-rí-tus, Exsúltat in his Fí-li-us ;
Cæ-lum replé-tur gáudi-o. 8. Te nunc Redémptor quæsu-
mus Ut Mártyrum consórti-o Jungas pre-cántes sérvu-
los, In semp-tér-na sá-cu-la. Amen.

Produced by the Society of St. Bede.

Music; retypeset from the Antiphonarium, Gillet,, using Caeciliae typeface.

N.B. This is the original text for this Hymn.

Dominican use ; Verses 1,3,4,5, & 8 Lauds Hymn for the Common of Martyrs.

The Latin text above, commentary and the English translation below is from 'Hymns of the Roman Liturgy, Connelly pg.144.

“The *Aeterna Christi munera* is the oldest of the hymns *In natali martyrum*, and so is the source and inspiration of all other hymns for martyrs. ...”

1. With joy of heart let us sing a hymn as our tribute of praise to Christ's eternal gifts and the martyr's victories.
2. Princes of the churches, war leaders that were honoured with a triumph, picked soldiers of the heavenly court and true lights of the world.
3. They overcame the terrors of the world, despised all tortures inflicted on them and by the short cut of a holy death entered into the light of bliss.
4. They were delivered over to fire and to wild beasts; savage men, armed with hooks of steel, tortured them mercilessly.
5. Their entrails were laid bare and protruded, their holy blood streamed out in profusion; and yet they persevered with the utmost constancy-their reward eternal life.
6. The devoted faith of these holy men, the immovable hope that was theirs as believers and their perfect love of Christ resulted in triumph over the prince of this world.
7. In their persons the glory of the Father was enhanced, the will of the spirit was fulfilled and the Son rejoiced; all heaven was filled with joy.
8. We now ask You, our redeemer, to unite us, Your servants and suppliants, to the company of the martyrs for all eternity.