

DIES IRAE

Mode I plainsong  
Harm. Achille Bragers (1887-1955)

1. Day of wrath and doom impending, Da - vid's word with Sib-yl's blending,

The first system of musical notation for 'Dies Irae'. It consists of a treble and a bass staff joined by a brace on the left. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Heaven and earth in ash-es ending! 2. O what ear man's bos-om rendeth,

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

When from heaven the Judge descendeth, On whose sen-tence all dependeth!

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

3. Wondrous sound the trum - pet flingeth, Through earth's sepulchres it ringeth,

The fourth system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

All be - fore the throne it bringeth. 4. Death is struck, and na - ture quaking,

The fifth system of musical notation. It continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

All creation is awaking, To its Judge an answer making. 5. Lo! the book ex-actly worded,

Wherein all hath been record-ed; Thence shall judgment be a ward-ed.

6. When the Judge his seat at-tain-eth, And each hidden deed arraigneth,

Nothing un - avenged remain-eth. 7. What shall I, frail man, be pleading?

Who for me be in-ter-ceding, When the just are mer-cy needing?

8. King of maj-es - ty tre-mendous, Who dost free sal - va-tion send us,

Fount of pit-y, then befriend us! 9. Think, kind Je - sus! my sal - va - tion

Caused thy wondrous In-car-nation; Leave me not to rep-ro - bation.

10. Faint and weary thou has sought me, On the Cross of suff'ring bought me;

Shall such grace be vainly brought me? 11. Righteous Judge! for sin's pol-lu - tion

Grant thy gift of ab-so-lu-tion, Ere that day of re-tri-bu-tion.

12. Guilty, now I pour my moaning, All my shame with anguish own-ing;

Spare, O God, thy suppliant groaning! 13. Through the sin-ful woman shriven,

Through the dy-ing thief for given, Thou to me a hope hast giv-en.

14. Worthless are my prayers and sighing, Yet, good Lord, in grace complying,

Res-cue me from fires un-dying. 15. With thy sheep a place provide me,

From the goats a - far di-vide me, To thy right hand do thou guide me.

16. When the wicked are confounded, Doomed to shame and woe unbounded,

Call me, with thy Saints surrounded. 17. Low I kneel, with heart's sub-mission.

See, like ash-es my con-tri - tion! Help me in my last con-di - tion!

18. Ah! that day of tears and mourning! From the dust of earth returning,

19. Man for judgment must prepare him: Spare, O God, in mer - cy spare him!

20. Lord, allpitying, Jesus blest, Grant them thine e - ternal rest. A - men.

*Dies irae dies illa*

Thomas of Celano, 13th cent.; Tr. William Josiah Irons (1812-83)  
alt. *Order for Funerals*, Anglican Ordinariate