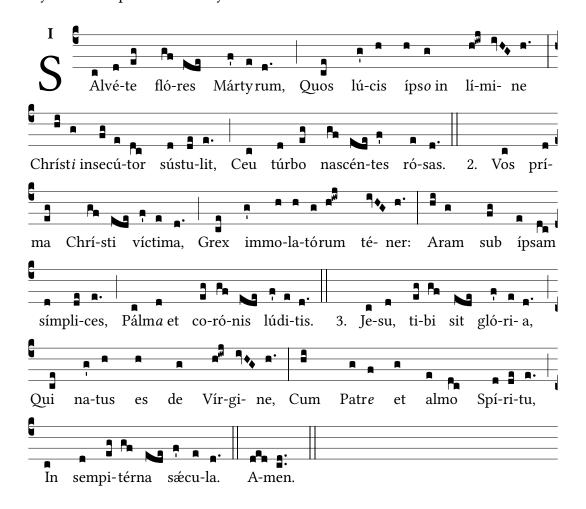
SALVETE FLORES MARTYRUM

Hymn for Vespers of the Holy Innocents.



ALL hail! ye infant Martyr flowers
Cut off in life's first dawning hours:
As rosebuds snapt in tempest strife,
When Herod sought your Saviour's life.
You, tender flock of lambs, we sing,
First victims slain for Christ your King:
Beneath the Altar's Heav'nly ray,
With Martyr Palms and Crowns ye play!
For their redemption glory be,
O Jesu, Virgin-born, to Thee!
With Father, and with Holy Ghost,
For ever, from the Martyr Host!
Amen.
Prudentius

Translation by J. M. Neale