O virgo simul et mater

Motetorum Liber Secundus, Venice, 1577 edition (heirs of Girolamo Scotto)

Giovanni P. da Palestrina
(1525 - 1594)
edition: Joachim Kelecom

O virgo simul et mater
lux maxima mundi
vertice laeta sedes
victa meis tandem lacrimis
huc flumina flecte
lumina splendidius quae mihi sol nitent
aspice ut insanis
iam iam miser obruar undis

ni tua det faciles
aura beata vias
affer operm precor
o nostrae spes certa salutis
ispsa salus hominum
de gremio ortha tuo.

O virgin and mother simultaneous
greatest light on earth
highest see of joyfulness
overcome by my tears,
alter this watery flow
through thy splendid radiance that mimicks to
me the sun.
And behold how I, poor wretch,
am inundated by these insane waves.
Let Thy blessed grace offer me an easy way,
grant help, I beseech Thee.

O, you, our certain path to salvation,
You, the certain salvation of mankind
that sprang from your womb.
Editorial notes:
* text by Hippolytus Capilupus
* note values halved, barlines added
* music transcribed from the partbooks, available through www.imslp.org - all partbooks in pristine condition for this motet.
* Latin spelling modernised
* mm. 70/71: editorial clash because of different pentachords between voices; printing mistake also possible
* editorial ficta suggestions between brackets
* text repeats between square brackets, after Theodor de Witt (1881, Breitkopf&Härtel)