

O MAGNE PATER

Hildegard von Bingen, edited by Jeffrey Quick

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. The notation uses square neumes on a four-line staff system. The lyrics are written below the staves, corresponding to the musical phrases. The text is in Latin, with some words in French (e.g., 'obse-cra-mus') and a note regarding the first word.

Text:

O ma-gne Pa- ter,* in ma-gna ne-ces-si-ta-te su- mus. Nunc i-gi-tur ob-se-
cra-mus, ob-se-cra-mus te per ver- bum tu- um per quod nos con-sti-tu-
i- sti ple-nos qui- bus in-di- ge-mus. Nunc pla-ce- at ti-bi, Pa- ter, qui- a te de-
cet, ut a-spi- ci- as in nos per ad-iu-to- ri- um tu- um, ut non de- fi-ci- a-
mus, et ne no-men tu- um in no-bis ob-scu-re- tur, et per ip-sum
no- men tu- um di-gna-re nos ad-iu-va- re.

O magne Pater,
in magna necessitate sumus.
Nunc igitur obsecramus, obsecramus te
per Verbum tuum
per quod nos constitueristi
plenos quibus indigemus.
Nunc placeat tibi, Pater,
quia te decet, ut aspicias in nos
per adiutorium tuum,
ut non deficiamus, et
ne nomen tuum in nobis obscureretur,
et per ipsum nomen tuum
dignare nos adiuicare.

O Father great,
in great necessity we are.
Thus we now beg, we beg of you
according to your Word,
through whom you once established us
full of all that we now lack.
Now may it please you, Father,
as it behooves you—look upon us with
your kindly aid,
lest we should fail again and,
lost, forget your name.
By that your name we pray—
please kindly help and bring us aid!