

7. 6. 76
30. 5. 77 ✓
15. 5. 78 ✓
26. 5. 80

Spiritus Domini
(DEC. 22)

V.O. The spirit of the Lord has filled the whole of the earth.

This is the Introit, or Entry Song, in the Latin Gregorian Chant, for the Mass of the Feast of Pentecost, which was yesterday. For our Midday Prayers today, then, I thought to use some more of this music in prayer which is ^{still rather} seldom heard these days. If perhaps you know some Gregorian Chant, you will appreciate the prayerfulness and quiet beauty of this old style of music: if it's new to you, and the Latin words unknown, then listen to it as a prayer, as a contemplative vocalisation of simple words of praise to God, of joy, of petition: words taken mostly from the OT psalms and elsewhere in the Bible, and sometimes from religious poetry — as in what is perhaps one of the most perfect settings of words and music in a hymn, and the best-known of Pentecost texts, *Veri Sancte Spiritus*, Come Holy Spirit. In Europe ^{in recent years (and possibly elsewhere too)} it seems there has been a revival of interest in Gregorian Chant, particularly among young people who've never had a chance to hear it sung before. So, beautiful as the Latin words of this hymn are (and ^{incidentally} impossible to translate satisfactorily into English), the music itself carries an inspiration and a beauty which you can make a prayer to the Holy Spirit. *'Veri Sancte Spiritus'* MUSIC [PHIL.O.1096]

(Salve festa Domini)

"Veri Sancte Spiritus" is the 'sequence' hymn which comes into the texts for the Mass of Pentecost, one of the very few feast-days which have such a

hymn. This one is attributed to an early archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton. But before this hymn found its place in the liturgy, there was another one, which got displaced, by a ninth century monk known as Notker the Stammerer. Here is his prayer: PRAYERS (NCP p.296)

... And two more prayers, which

reflect a thought developed in the writings of some of the Fathers of the Church..... (NCP p.296)

In a different style now, a Pentecost hymn 'O Thou who comest from above' by Samuel Wesley. Another musical setting now of a text from the Pentecost liturgy: *Factus est repente* ^{at the Day of Pentecost came round} — Suddenly comes a sound from heaven as of a mighty wind blowing

Samuel Wesley
(PIL-E-4)

MUSIC (UNIC.E.38)

PRAYERS

"Spiritus Domini.."