

Editor's Notes for El Penitente (Plegaria)

Here is a beautiful plegaria (prayer) by Hilarión Eslava for either soprano or tenor vocalist. It is intended for a 5-piece string ensemble accompaniment, but also provided with a keyboard reduction. It also sounds great playing the strings with the keyboard. Lyrics are in Italian and Spanish, and are copied below, along with an English translation.

ITALIAN LYRICS:

IL PENITENTE

Si pietà se vostra grazia aspettar posi o ancor,
date pace all' alma mia e riposo a questo cor,
pietà Signor, pietà Signor,
Ah! date pace all' alma mia e riposo a questo cor,
Mi sara per sempre dolce una speme un raggio sol,
di veder eternamente il mio santo redentor.
Se pietà se vostra grazia aspettar posi o ancor,
date pace all' alma mia e riposo a questo cor,
Pietà Signor! Pietà Signor!
Ah! date pace all' alma mia e riposo a questo cor,
Mi sara per sempre dolce, una speme un raggio sol,
di veder eternamente,
di veder eternamente il mio santo redentor,
di veder eternamente il mio santo redentor,
di veder eternamente il mio santo redentor,
pietà Signor
Ah si, pietà Signor.

SPANISH LYRICS:

EL PENITENTE

Si me es dado Dios clemente alcanzar vuestra piedad,
conceded paz a mi alma y una santa caridad,
Señor piedad, Señor piedad,
¡Ah! conceded paz a mi alma y una santa caridad,
Desparezcan mis pecados,
Vuestra gracia logre yo para ver eternamente a mi santo redentor.
Si me es dado Dios clemente alcanzar vuestra piedad,
Conceded paz a mi alma y una santa caridad,
¡Señor piedad! ¡Señor piedad!
¡Ah! conceded paz á mi alma y una santa caridad,
Desparezcan mis pecados,
Vuestra gracia logre yo para ver eternamente,
para ver eternamente a mi santo redentor,

para ver eternamente a mi santo redentor,
para ver eternamente a mi santo redentor,
piedad Señor
Ah si, piedad señor.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

THE PENITENT

If God will give me clemency to receive his mercy,
Grant peace to my soul and a rest to my heart,
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy,
Ah! grant peace to my soul and rest to my heart,
Let my sins disappear,
Your grace lets me eternally see my holy redeemer
If God will give me clemency to receive his mercy,
Grant peace to my soul and a rest to my heart,
Lord, have mercy; Lord, have mercy,
Ah! grant peace to my soul and rest to my heart,
Let my sins disappear,
Your grace lets me eternally see my holy redeemer
see eternally my holy redeemer,
see eternally my holy redeemer,
see eternally my holy redeemer,
Mercy, Lord
Ah yes, mercy Lord.