

Anni nostri sicut aranea

Psalm 89/90:9-10

Orlande de Lassus (c.1532-1594)

Sacræ cantiones ... liber quartus (Gardano press, Venice, 1566)

5

Cantus An - ni no - stri si - cut a - ra - ne - a,

Quintus An - ni no - stri, an - ni

Altus An - ni no - stri, an - - ni

Tenor An - ni no - stri,

Sextus An - ni no - stri, an - ni no -

Bassus An - ni no - stri, an - ni

10

An - ni no - stri si - cut a - ra - ne - a, si - cut a -

no - - stri si - cut a - - ra - ne - a, an -

no - stri si - cut a - ra - ne - a, si - cut a - ra - - ne - a,

an - ni no - stri, an - ni no - stri, an - ni no - stri

stri, an - ni no - stri, an - ni no - stri, An -

no - stri si - cut a - ra - ne - a, an - ni no -

15

ra - ne - a me - di - ta - bun - tur, me - di - ta - bun - tur.

- ni no - stri si - cut a - ra - ne - a me - di - ta - bun - tur. Di -

si - cut a - ra - ne - a me - di - ta - bun - tur.

si - cut a - ra - ne - a me - di - ta - bun - tur.

- ni no - stri si - cut a - ra - ne - a me - di - ta - bun - tur.

stri si - cut a - ra - ne - a me - di - ta - bun - tur.

20

Di - es an - no - rum no - stro - rum in ip - -

- es an - no - rum no - stro - rum in ip - -

Di - es an - no - rum no - stro - rum in ip - -

in ip - - sis

in ip - - sis

in ip - - sis

25

- sis se - ptu - a - gin - ta an - ni. Si au -

- sis se - ptu - a - gin - ta an - ni. Si au -

- sis se - ptu - a - gin - ta an - ni. Si au - tem

se - ptu - a - gin - ta an - ni. Si au - tem, si

se - ptu - a - gin - ta an - ni. Si au - tem

se - ptu - a - gin - ta an - ni. Si au - tem

30

35

tem in po - ten - ta - ti - bus, oc - to - gin -

- tem in po - ten - ta - ti - bus, oc - to -

in po - ten - ta - ti - bus, oc - to - gin - ta an - ni, oc - to -

au - tem in po - ten - ta - ti - bus, oc - to - gin - ta an - ni,

in po - ten - ta - ti - bus, oc - to - gin - ta an - ni,

in po - ten - ta - ti - bus, oc - to - gin - ta an - ni,

40

45

50 55

lor, la-bor et do - lor, et do-lor, la - bor et do - lor.
 la - bor et do - lor, la - bor et do - lor, et do - lor.
 do - lor, et do-lor, la - bor et do - lor.
 et do - lor, la-bor et do - lor, la - bor et do - lor.
 bor et do - lor, la-bor et do - lor, la - bor et do - lor.
 do - lor, la - bor et do - lor.

Anni nostri sicut aranea meditabuntur.

Dies annorum nostrorum in ipsis septuaginta anni.

Si autem in potentatibus octoginta anni,
 et amplius eorum labor et dolor.

Our years shall be considered as a spider.

The days of our years in them are threescore and ten years.

But if in the strong they be fourscore years:
 and what is more of them is labour and sorrow

Douay-Rheims translation

Note the use of *aranea* in line one: this is Jerome's translation out of the Septuagint, which uses ἀράχνη (aráchnē), meaning literally a spider or a spider's web, but metaphorically as something thin and fragile. the Hebrew שְׁנֵינִי (hegeh) has no meaning of literal spiders. My copy of the New English Translation of the Septuagint (NETS) by Pietersma and Wright renders the line our years I would ponder like a cobweb. I chose the Douay Rheims translation as almost all other English translations work from the Hebrew and do not reflect the Latin phrasing.