Libera nos, salva nos

John Sheppard

This transcription © Copyright Adrian M. Wall, 2011. See http://www.diversvoyces.org.uk/editions for copyright terms.
V Benedictus Patrem et Filium et Sancto Spiritu:
R Laudemus et superexaltamus eum in saecula.
V Benedictus es Domine in firmamento caeli:
R Et laudabilis et gloriosus et superexaltatus in saecula.

V Benedictet custodiat nos omnipotens et misericors Dominus R Amen.

Libera nos salva nos, justifica nos, O beata
salva nos, justifica nos, O beata
salva nos, justifica nos, O beata
salva nos, justifica nos, O beata
salva nos, justifica nos, O beata
salva nos, justifica nos, O beata
salva nos, justifica nos, O beata
salva nos, justifica nos, O beata
Free us, keep us safe and do justly with us, O blessed Trinity.

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost: Let us praise and magnify him for ever.

You are blessed, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven: And praiseworthy and glorified and magnified for ever.

May the almighty and merciful Lord bless and guard us. Amen.

Translation:
Free us, keep us safe and do justly with us, O blessed Trinity.
Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost: Let us praise and magnify him for ever.
You are blessed, O Lord, in the firmament of heaven: And praiseworthy and glorified and magnified for ever.
May the almighty and merciful Lord bless and guard us. Amen.

Sheppard was Informator Choristorum of Magdalen College, Oxford in the 1640s. In the college statutes, Magdalen's founder, William Wayneflete, ordained that college members should recite the antiphon to the Trinity each morning and night, and Sheppard's pair of settings of Libera nos, salva nos appear to have been written for this purpose, probably for use at the end of compline. The cantus firmus of the second setting is a faburden of the plainchant used in the first setting.

Original pitch: A 4th lower.