

# RESPONSORY OF ST. JOSEPH

Ye that would live and die secure,  
In merit strong, of mercy sure,  
Choose Joseph for your Heavenly friend,  
To guide your steps and bless your end.

He was sweet Mary's consort dear,  
Guardian of Jesus, when exiled here;  
Just and true, of purity untold,  
Say, shall he ask and God withhold?

He worshipp'd at the manger bed,  
And then the Exile comforted;  
And sought our Lord, and joyous found,  
While on His Father's business bound.

He, through sweet toil and patient pains  
The world's Artificer sustains;  
And Whom th'angelic legions praise  
Obedience to His creature pays.

And now he waxes old, and dies;  
But first beholds with loving eyes  
Jesus and Mary—gracious sight—  
Then sleeps entranced in deep delight.

*Antiphon.* Behold the faithful and prudent servant whom the Lord set over His house.

**V.** Pray for us, holy St. Joseph

**R.** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

O God, Who, in Thine ineffable providence, didst vouchsafe to choose blessed Joseph to be the spouse of Thy most holy mother, grant, we beseech Thee, that we may have him for our intercessor in Heaven whom, on earth, we venerate as our protector. Who livest and reignest, world without end. *Amen.*