

Lectio Violant

SAMPLER

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Steve Ely

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SAMPLE

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Cover
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Sufficient vnto the day

Improvisations
on Matthew VI

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Treasures of heauen and earth

Das große Rasenstück, Albrecht Dürer.

Turf smocked in fodder; cock's foot,
bent, smooth meadow. Flushed
bruisewort crewelling, pee-beds
stitched in gold. Bird's-eye blinks
from rumpled bedstraw, milfoil
boad in plumes. Blood-starred
hound's-tongue, slobbery, hackled,
decocted pox bane, cool rich piss.
Sod wick with scrabs. Odalisque
cow mouth cropping and drooling,
back-ended in tit milk, splattering pats.

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Theeues breake thorow

There is the dove, and there is the serpent.

Milky Bathsheba, buttocks erect,
soaping her glory in dew-drenched
windflowers: David tearing his Psalter
from deep rhododendrons.
Perulae wilting, dript confetti;
roding woodcock, vespertine
thrumming of bees. Full beam Venus
driving out drones, Mars riddancing
maids from the rides. Bedded in bracken
with bot flies biting, creamy arse
crack, clocked, cockchafered,
staged in lines, rohypnol.

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Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also

A buxom wench, firm-fleshed, strong-shouldered and smooth skinned.

White flesh split to star-pipped heart.
Found blade unfallen silver.
Skinnydip bob-fest; Adam's pearmain,
ribstoned Eve. God's brandished
burrknot, serpent pitching
bloody ploughman. Flesh
burkha'd in fig leaves and rotting
to dust. Jobs burdened with billions,
sick with canker. Good works
building credit in heaven,
heaven from ploughman's earth:
Al-Raqqa, Brasilia, the City.
Kids scrumping catsheads.
Nancy Jackson—*those were the days!*—
before Apple Ganh and Orchard View,
live paedosex on iPhones.

Thy whole body shalbe full of light

One sharing shack with jays
and leverets, honey hived
in walls. Hearth-rug goat kid,
fetlock splinted, slow worm coiled
in coals. Swifts dip the lintel,
antswarm trawling, henbane herb garth
wick with greens. Gate unhinged
and damp grass trampled, danced
the quaking fields—with Angels,
star-sown, dark earth fallen, scythe-
winged rising, quick with screams.

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How great is that darknesse

Ring road glazed in lights.
Buffering macula, dampened panes;
muted YouTube central heating.
Cold coffee and donuts,
gastro-oesophageal reflux.
The heart's a torn-up map, voyaging
blind through doldrum darkness.
Through muffling glass
high greylags trumpet,
skeining wild and north.

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No man can serve two masters

Walking that kelp-wrecked,
Hesperidean strand, notes
sanderling, turnstone, purple sand.
Shags hard and low across the surf swell,
crab boat's outboard drone. Hauled pots
and crates and nylon holdalls,
pagurus, AKs, shrinkwrapped keys,
the freedom of the golden isle
where phalaropes flirt
and red-throats flume and wail.

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