

# VERBUM SUPERNUM

CENTO HARMONIZATION by Laurent Chaumonot (b. 1979)

*In this hymn, Saint Thomas Aquinas (d. 1274) imitates the 6th-century hymn "Verbum Supernum." Calvinist Jean-Jacques Rousseau (d. 1778) was so impressed he said he would have given all his poetry to be its author.*

1. VÉR - bum su - pÉR - num pró - di - ens,

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**1. VÉrbum supérnum pródiens,  
Nec Pátris línquens dÉxteram,  
Ad ópus súum éxiens,  
Vénit ad vítæ vÉsperam.**

Nec Pá - tris lín-quens dÉx - te - ram,

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1. The Word most high coming forth, yet not leaving the Father's right hand, having done his work, comes to the evening of his life.

**2. In mórtem a discípulo  
Súis tradéndus aémulis,  
Príus in vítæ férculo  
Se trádidit discípulis.**

Ad ó - pus sú - um é - xi - ens,

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2. When the disciple was about to give him over to his enemies for death, first he gave himself as food of life to his disciples;

**3. Quíbus sub bína spécie  
Cárnem dédit et sáanguinem:  
Ut dúplicis substántiæ  
Tótum cibáret hómínem.**

Vé - nit ad ví - tæ vé - spe - ram.

Vé - nit ad ví - tæ vé - spe - ram.

3. To whom under two kinds he gave his flesh and blood, that he should feed man's twofold nature.

2. In mór-tem a di - scí - pu - lo Sú - is tra - dén-dus aé - mu - lis,

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2. In mór-tem a di - scí - pu - lo Sú - is tra - dén-dus aé - mu - lis,

Prí - us in ví - tæ fér - cu - lo Se trá - di - dit di - scí - pu - lis.

Prí - us in ví - tæ fér - cu - lo Se trá - di - dit di - scí - pu - lis.

Prí - us in ví - tæ fér - cu - lo Se trá - di - dit di - scí - pu - lis.

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3. Quí - bus sub bí - na spé - ci - e Cár - nem dé - dit et sán - gui - nem:

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3. Quí - bus sub bí - na spé - ci - e Cár - nem dé - dit et sán - gui - nem:

Ut dú - pli - cis sub - stán - ti - æ Tó - tum ci - bá - ret hó - mi - nem.

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The following is from the Profession of Faith of Pope Pius IV, which was drawn up shortly after the conclusion of the Council of Trent: "I profess ... that in the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist, there is truly, really, and substantially, the Body and Blood, together with the Soul and Divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that there is made a conversion of the whole substance of the bread into the Body, and of the whole substance of the wine into the Blood; which conversion the Catholic Church calls Transubstantiation. I also confess, that under either kind alone, Christ is received whole and entire, and a true Sacrament."

LITERAL TRANSLATION  
by the Rev'd Fr. Adrian  
Fortescue (d. 1923)

**4. Se náscens dédit sócium,  
Convéscens in edúlium,  
Se móriens in prétium,  
Se régnans dat in praémium.**

4. When he was born he  
came to be our friend, at  
supper he gave himself to  
be our food, dying he is  
our ransom, reigning he  
shall be our reward.

**5. O salutáris hóstia,  
Quæ caéli pándis óstium,  
Bélla prémunt hostília;  
Da róbur, fer auxílium.**

5. O SAVING Victim,  
who openest the gate of  
heaven, war rages round  
us; give strength, bring  
help.

**6. Úni trinóque Dómino  
Sit sempitérna glória,  
Qui vítam sine término  
Nóbis dónet in pátria.**

6. To the Lord three and  
one be glory for ever;  
and may he give us life  
without end in our home  
above.

4. Se ná - scens dé - dit só - ci - um,

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Con - vé - scens in e - dú - li - um,

Con - vé - scens in e - dú - li - um,

Con - vé - scens in e - dú - li - um,

Se mó - ri - ens in pré - ti - um,

Se mó - ri - ens in pré - ti - um,

Se mó - ri - ens in pré - ti - um,

Se ré - gnans dat in praé - mi - um.

Se ré - gnans dat in praé - mi - um.

Se ré - gnans dat in praé - mi - um.

5. O SA - LU - TÁ - RIS HÓ - STI - A, Quæ cae - li pán - dis ó - sti - um,

5. O SA - LU - TÁ - RIS HÓ - STI - A, Quæ cae - li pán - dis ó - sti - um, —

5. O SA - LU - TÁ - RIS HÓ - STI - A, Quæ cae - li pán - dis ó - sti - um,

Bél - la pré - munt ho - stí - li - a; Da ró - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.

Bél - la pré - munt ho - stí - li - a; Da ró - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.

Bél - la pré - munt ho - stí - li - a; Da ró - bur, fer au - xí - li - um.

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6. Ú - ni tri - nó - que Dó - mi - no Sit sem - pi - tér - na gló - ri - a,

6. Ú - ni tri - nó - que Dó - mi - no Sit sem - pi - tér - na gló - ri - a, —

6. Ú - ni tri - nó - que Dó - mi - no Sit sem - pi - tér - na gló - ri - a,

Qui ví - tam sí - ne tér - mi - no Nó - bis dó - net in pá - tri - a.

Qui ví - tam sí - ne tér - mi - no Nó - bis dó - net in pá - tri - a.

Qui ví - tam sí - ne tér - mi - no Nó - bis dó - net in pá - tri - a.