

Note • The Brébeuf Hymnal contains many splendid melodies for this hymn by Saint Thomas Aquinas—in both Latin and English. That hymnal also contains numerous settings for the (sixth century) “Pange Lingua Gloriosi” by Bishop Fortunatus which Aquinas used as a model for his Eucharistic setting.

Learn more: <https://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>

“**cérnu**i” means “prostrate on the ground.” Remember, if I’m prostrate on the ground, **I** am **not** sitting in a **chair**. Therefore: “cérnu” = “**Chair-No-I**”

5.

Tántum er-go Sa-cra-mén-tum
So-great, therefore, (this) Sacrament,
Venerémur cér-nu-i :
Let-us-adore (it) bending-low :
Et an-tí-quum documéntum
And (the) ancient covenant
Nó-vo cé-dat rí-tu-i :
To-the-New shall-yield, to-this-rite :
Praé-stet fí-des suppleméntum
Provide-may faith (a) supplement
Sén-su-um deféctui.
For-our-senses’ deficiency.

The following “assistance for comprehension” is courtesy of *The Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal* :

346 Pange Lingua Gloriosi (1264 AD)

St. Thomas Aquinas, Dominican Priest (d. 1274AD)

PANGE lingua gloriósi
 Córporis mystérium
 Sanguinisque pretiósí,
 Quem in mundi prétium
 Fructus ventris generósi,
 Rex effúdit géntium.

2. Nobis datus, nobis natus
 Ex intácta Virgine,
 Et in mundo conversátus, *n1*
 Sparso verbi sémine,
 Sui moras incolátus
 Miro clausit órđine. *n2*

3. In suprémae nocte cenae
 Recumbens cum frátribus,
 Observáta lege plene
 Cibis in legálibus, *n3*
 Cibum turbae duodénae
 Se dat suis mánibus.

4. Verbum caro, panem verum
 Verbo carnem éfficit,
 Fitque sanguis Christi merum,
 Et si sensus defícit,
 Ad firmándum cor sincérum
 Sola fides súfficit.

TANTUM ergo Sacraméntum
 Venerémur cérnuí:
 Et antiqúum documéntum
 Novo cedat ritui:
 Praestet fides suppleméntum
 Sénsuum deféctui.

6. Genitóri, Genitóque
 Laus et jubilátio,
 Salus, honor, virtus quoque
 Sit et benedíctio:
 Procedéti ab utróque *n4*
 Compar sit laudátio.

87 87 87
 Tune:
 VARIOUS

[1] “Having lived”: *conversari* also means “interact with others.”
 [2] *Miro clausit ordine*: on “scheme,” cf. *Pange lingua* of Fortunatus, verse 3: *Hoc opus nostrae salutis ordo deoposcerat* (“This work the scheme of our salvation required”). The common Jewish name for the Paschal supper is “Seder” (*Ordo*).

Pange Lingua Gloriosi (1264 AD) 347

Assistance for comprehension

PUBLISH, O tongue, the mystery
 of the glorious Body
 and the precious Blood
 that, as the cost of the world,
 he who was the fruit of a noble womb,
 the King of the nations, poured forth.

2. Given for us, born for us
 of a Virgin unblemished,
 and having lived in the world, *n1*
 strewing the seed of the word,
 he closed the periods of his abiding
 with a wondrous scheme. *n2*

3. On the night of that paramount supper
 reclining with his brethren,
 having kept the Law fully
 through the foods of the Law, *n3*
 with his own hands he gives himself
 as food to the host of twelve.

4. The Word who is flesh, makes true bread
 to be flesh through his word,
 and wine becomes the blood of Christ,
 and if sense fails,
 faith by itself is enough
 to assure the guileless heart.

THEREFORE let us reverence
 a Sacrament so great:
 and let the ancient injunction
 yield to the new observance:
 let faith furnish support
 to the inadequacy of the senses.

6. To the Begetter, and the Begotten
 be praise and triumph,
 salvation, worship, and power
 and blessing also be:
 to the one proceeding from each of them *n4*
 be equivalent praising.

[3] “Foods of the Law”: pre-eminently the Paschal lamb, but also the other ritual foods of the Seder.

[4] “Proceeding from each”: cf. Nicene creed, “who proceeds from the Father and the Son.” The double procession of the Holy Spirit is denied by the schismatic Greeks; St. Thomas Aquinas died *en route* to the Second Council of Lyon (1274), where the Greek bishops embraced this doctrine and returned to Catholic unity; but later they reneged.

THIS NEW COLLECTION, with its marvelous CHORAL SUPPLEMENT and 3-volume (spiral bound) ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT, has been described as “the peerless and indispensable resource for any parish musician serious about authentic Catholic music.” • <https://ccwatershed.org/hymn/>