

## Lauda Sion Salvatorem – Editor's Notes

"Lauda Sion Salvatorem" is a sequence prescribed for the Roman Catholic Mass for the Feast of Corpus Christi. The original poem was written by St. Thomas Aquinas around 1264, at the request of Pope Urban IV. The Feast of Corpus Christi (Latin for "Body of Christ") is a Catholic liturgical solemnity celebrating the real presence of the body and blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the elements of the Eucharist—known as transubstantiation. The feast is liturgically celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, which typically falls in mid-June.

Hilarión Eslava set this Gregorian chant into a lavish orchestral setting, including two Baritone solos. He also included an organ reduction for use in lieu of the orchestral accompaniment. For purposes of making this a little more accessible to amateur choirs, I chose to also include a poetic English translation in the score, which was not provided in Eslava's original work.

### LATIN LYRICS:

Lauda Sion Salvatorem,  
lauda ducem et pastorem,  
in hymnis et canticis.

Quantum potes, tantum aude:  
quia maior omni laude,  
nec laudare sufficis.

Laudis thema specialis,  
panis vivus et vitalis  
hodie proponitur.

Quem in sacrae mensa cenae,  
turbae fratrum duodenae  
datum non ambigitur.

Sit laus plena, sit sonora,  
sit iucunda, sit decora  
mentis iubilatio.

Dogma datur christianis,  
quod in carnem transit panis,  
et vinum in sanguinem.

Quod non capis, quod non vides,  
animosa firmat fides,  
praeter rerum ordinem.

Caro cibus, sanguis potus:  
manet tamen Christus totus  
sub utraque specie.

Sumit unus, sumunt mille:  
quantum isti, tantum ille:  
nec sumptus consumitur.

Sumunt boni, sumunt mali:  
sorte tamen inaequali,  
vitae vel interitus.

Mors est malis, vita bonis:  
vide paris sumptionis  
quam sit dispar exitus.

Ecce Panis Angelorum,  
factus cibus viatorum:  
vere panis filiorum,  
non mittendus canibus.

In figuris praesignatur,  
cum Isaac immolatur,  
agnus Paschae deputatur,  
datur manna patribus.

Bone pastor, panis vere,  
Iesu, nostri miserere:  
Tu nos pasce, nos tuere,  
Tu nos bona fac videre  
in terra viventium.

Tu qui cuncta scis et vales,  
qui nos pascis hic mortales:  
tuos ibi commensales,  
coheredes et sodales  
fac sanctorum civium.

Amen. Alleluia.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION:

ZION, to Thy Savior sing,  
to Thy Shepherd and Thy King!  
Let the air with praises ring!

All thou canst, proclaim with mirth,  
far higher is His worth  
than the glory words may wing.

Lo! before our eyes and living

is the Sacred Bread life-giving,  
theme of canticle and hymn.

We profess this Bread from heaven  
to the Twelve by Christ was given,  
for our faith rest firm in Him.

Let us form a joyful chorus,  
may our lauds ascend sonorous,  
bursting from each loving breast.

Words a nature's course derange,  
that in Flesh the bread may change  
and the wine in Christ's own Blood.

Does it pass thy comprehending?  
Faith, the law of light transcending,  
leaps to things not understood.

Flesh from bread, and Blood from wine,  
yet is Christ in either sign,  
all entire confessed to be.

Whether one or thousand eat,  
all receive the selfsame meat,  
nor do less for others leave.

Both the wicked and the good  
eat of this celestial Food:  
but with ends how opposite!

With this most substantial Bread,  
unto life or death they're fed,  
in a difference infinite.

Hail! Bread of the Angels, broken,  
for us pilgrims food, and token  
of the promise by Christ spoken,  
children's meat, to dogs denied!

Shown in Isaac's dedication,  
in the Manna's preparation,  
in the Paschal immolation,  
in old types pre-signified.

Jesus, Shepherd mild and meek,  
shield the poor, support the weak;  
help all who Thy pardon sue,

placing all their trust in You:  
fill them with Your healing grace!

Source of all we have or know,  
feed and lead us here below.  
grant that with Your Saints above,  
sitting at the feast of love  
we may see You face to face.

Amen. Alleluia.