

EDITOR'S NOTES FOR *TANTUM ERGO A TRES VOCES*

The text of the "*Tantum Ergo*" consists of the last two stanzas of "*Pange lingua gloriosi corporis mysterium*", a hymn written by Saint Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) for the Feast of Corpus Christi. In Catholic liturgy, "*Tantum Ergo*" expresses the doctrine that the bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ during the celebration of the Eucharist, and is sung at the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

Hilarión Eslava wrote at least two musical settings for the "*Tantum Ergo*", and several versions of each of those. This particular piece is a fairly short and simple 3-part chorus accompanied by organ – the sort of composition smaller churches could easily perform. The other known version (CPE-644) is set to the tune of the *Marcha Real* (Spanish national anthem), and can be found on the hilarioneslava.org website as well as the following MuseScore link:

<https://musescore.com/user/29381772/scores/22887580>

LATIN LYRICS	ENGLISH TRANSLATION
Tantum ergo Sacramentum Veneremur cernui: Et antiquum documentum Novo cedat ritui: Præstet fides supplementum Sensuum defectui.	Hence so great a Sacrament Let us venerate with heads bowed And let the old practice Give way to the new rite; Let faith provide a supplement For the failure of the senses.
Genitori, Genitoque Laus et iubilatio, Salus, honor, virtus quoque Sit et benedictio: Procedenti ab utroque Compar sit laudatio. Amen.	To the Begetter and the Begotten, Be praise and jubilation, Hail, honor, virtue also, And blessing too: To the One proceeding from Both Let there be equal praise. Amen.