# Pange Lingua in loving memory of my grandmother, Rafaela A. Tan

Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1274

Ricky Manalo



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<sup>\*</sup>Translation: Tell, O tongue, the mystery of the glorious Body.



### Pange Lingua

(Complete Text)

Thomas Aquinas, 1227-1274 Ricky Manalo Cantor/Choir 1. Pan ge, lin gua, 2. No bis da tus, 3. In su pré mae. 4. Ver bum ca ro. 5. Tan tum er go. 6. Ge ni tó ri. glo - ri ó si ris sté um, 1. cor po my 2. no - bis tus in cta ne, 3. no - cte coe nae, re cúm bens cum frá bus, 4. pa - nem ve rum ver - bo car nem cit, 5. sa - cra - mén nu tum ve ne ré mur cér i, 6. Ge - ni - tó ti que laus ju bi 0, gui pre 1. san nís si, que 2. tus, et in mun do con ver sá 3. ob ple ser vá ta le ne ge 4. fit que san guis Chri sti me rum, 5. et an tí quum do cu mén tum 6. sa lus, ho nor, quo que tus 1. quem in di pré ti - um. mun 2. spar bi sé mi - ne,. so ver li - bus, . 3. bus gá ci in le dé et, sen sus - cit,\_ Si vo dat rí tu - i;\_ no sit dí cti ο;. 1. fru - ctus tris si su - i lá mo ras co tus ci - bum dé du tur bae - 0 nae ad fir mán dum sin cé rum cor 5. prae - stet fi des sup - ple mén tum 6. pro - ce dén ti u tró que 1. Rex ef fú dit gén ti um. 2. mi clau ór di ro sit ne. se dat su is má ni bus. 4. so súf la fi des fi cit. 5. sén - su um de fé ctu i. 6. com - par lau dá sit ti o.

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#### Performance Notes

"Pange Lingua" is a beautiful ostinato chant based on the prayer written by St. Thomas Aquinas (1227–1274). The traditional chant (mode III) has been a popular choice to sing during the transfer of the eucharist which takes place at the end of the Holy Thursday evening Mass. It has been my experience, however, that the singing of the traditional chant has posed certain challenges for the assembly. First, those members of the assembly who may not be familiar with the musical style of Gregorian chant usually find it difficult to sing the mode III setting. If this occurs, the choir/cantor usually becomes the dominant voice during this ritual moment rather than the assembly. Also, because the traditional chant is strophic in structure, the assembly becomes dependent upon the worship aid and usually has to choose between singing (looking down) or watching. My version of the "Pange Lingua," on the other hand, being ostinato in form, frees the assembly to participate through the singing of the simple ostinato while watching the ritual action of the transfer. You may want to begin it by going through the refrain once instrumentally. Slowly build up the repetitions by creating a mantra-like atmosphere, *i.e.*, through the singing of the verses, the addition of the choir parts, and the use of dynamics. Be careful not to drag the tempo, as distinct from creating a prayerful mantra atmosphere.

The octavo presents two sets of verses for the choir. The first set, which is heard in the recording, consists of only three verses for those ritual moments which may not require the entire prayer: verses one and two are short paraphrases of some of the verses found in Aquinas' prayer while the third verse serves as a doxology. The second set features the entire prayer by Aquinas as translated by Edward Caswall. Feel free to pick and choose between these two sets. For example, the doxological verse of Set One could be sung in between groupings of verses from Set Two. Whatever you choose, I recommend the ritual action being the overriding criterion since the assembly is already singing the principal theme throughout.

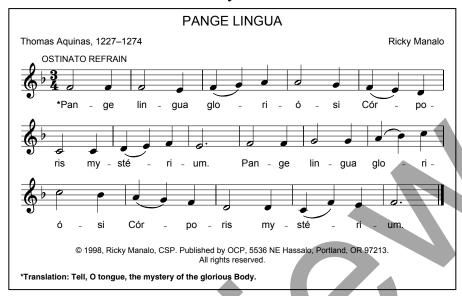
--R.M.

## **English Verses**

- Sing, my tongue, the Savior's glory,
   Of his flesh the mystery sing;
   Of the Blood all price exceeding,
   Shed by our immortal King.
   Destined for the world's redemption,
   From a noble womb to spring.
- Of a pure and spotless Virgin
  Born for us on earth below,
  He, as man, with us conversing,
  Stayed, the seeds of truth to sow:
  Then he closed in solemn order
  Wondrously his life of woe.
- 3. On the night of that last supper Seated with his chosen band, He, the Paschal victim eating, First fulfills the Law's command; Then as food to the disciples Gives himself with his own hand.

- 4. Word made flesh, the bread of nature By his word to Flesh he turns; Wine into his Blood he changes What though sense no change discerns? Only be the heart in earnest, Faith its lessons quickly learns.
- 5. Down in adoration falling,
  This great Sacrament we hail;
  Over ancient forms of worship
  Newer rites of grace prevail;
  Faith will tell us Christ is present
  When our human senses fail.
- 6. To the everlasting Father,
  And the Son who made us free,
  And the Spirit, God proceeding
  From them Each eternally,
  Be salvation, honor, blessing,
  Might and endless majesty. Amen.

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