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. **Verbum supérnum pródiens,**
   Nec Pátris línquens déxteram,  
   Ad ópus súum éxiens,  
   Vénit ad vítae vésperam.

2. In mórtem a discípulo  
   Súis tradéndus aémulis,  
   Prius in víte férculo  
   Se trádidit discípulis.

3. Quíbus sub bína spécie  
   Cárnem dédit et sánquænem:  
   Ut dúplicis substántiæ  
   Tótum cibáret hóminem.

3. To whom under two kinds  
   he gave his flesh and blood,  
   that he should feed man’s twofold nature.
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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. 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 SAVING Victim, who openest the gate of heaven, war rages round us; give strength, bring help.

6. To the Lord three and one be glory for ever; and may he give us life without end in our home above.
5. O SALUTÁRIS HÓSTI- A, Quæ caè-li pán-dis ó-sti- um,

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

6. Únī tri-nó-que Dó-mi-no Sit sem-pi-té-rna gló-ri-a,

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

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