

Humbly I Adore Thee, Hidden Deity

Text: Adoro Te devote,
attr. St. Thomas Aquinas, 1225–74; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–66

Plainchant, Mode V

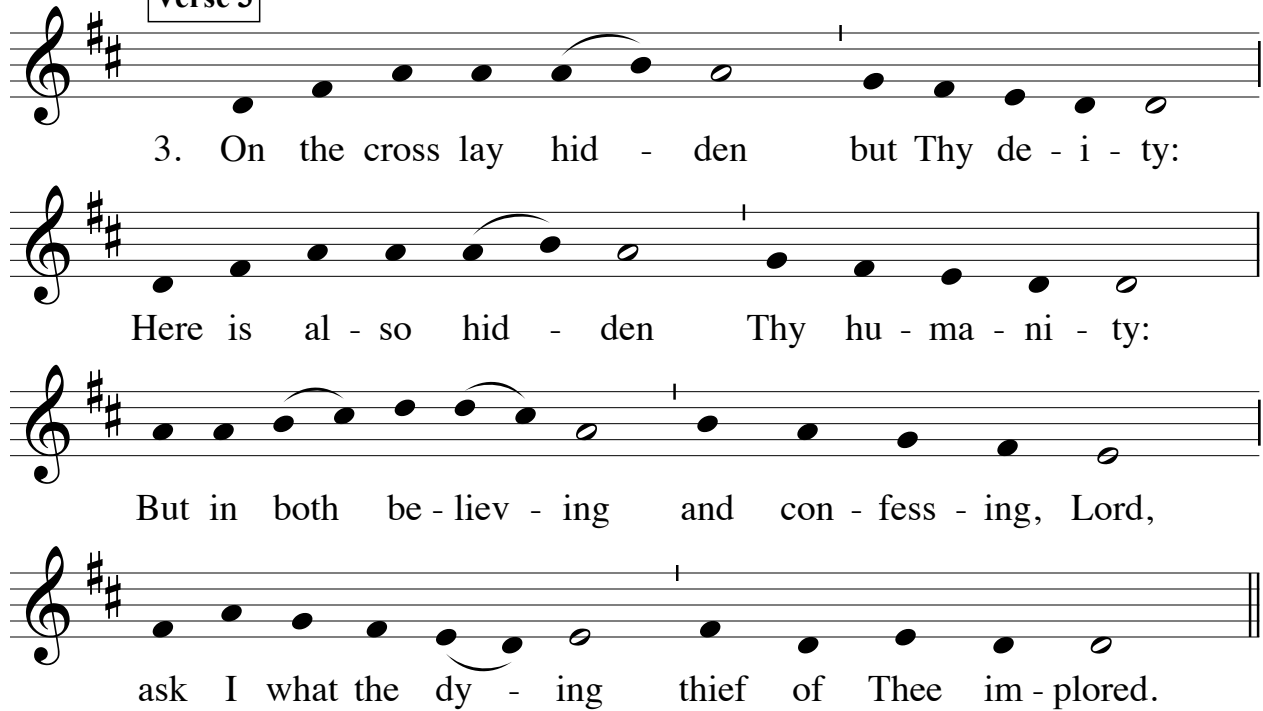
Verse 1

1. Hum-bly I a - dore_ Thee, hid - den De - i - ty,
Which be - neath these fig - ures art con - cealed from me:
Whol - ly in_ sub - mis - sion Thee my spir - it hails,
For in con - tem - plat - ing Thee it whol - ly fails.

Verse 2

2. Taste and touch and vis - ion in Thee are de - ceived:
But the hear - ing on - ly may be well be - lieved:
I be - lieve_ what - ev - er God's own Son de - clared;
Noth - ing can be tru - er than Truth's ve - ry Word.

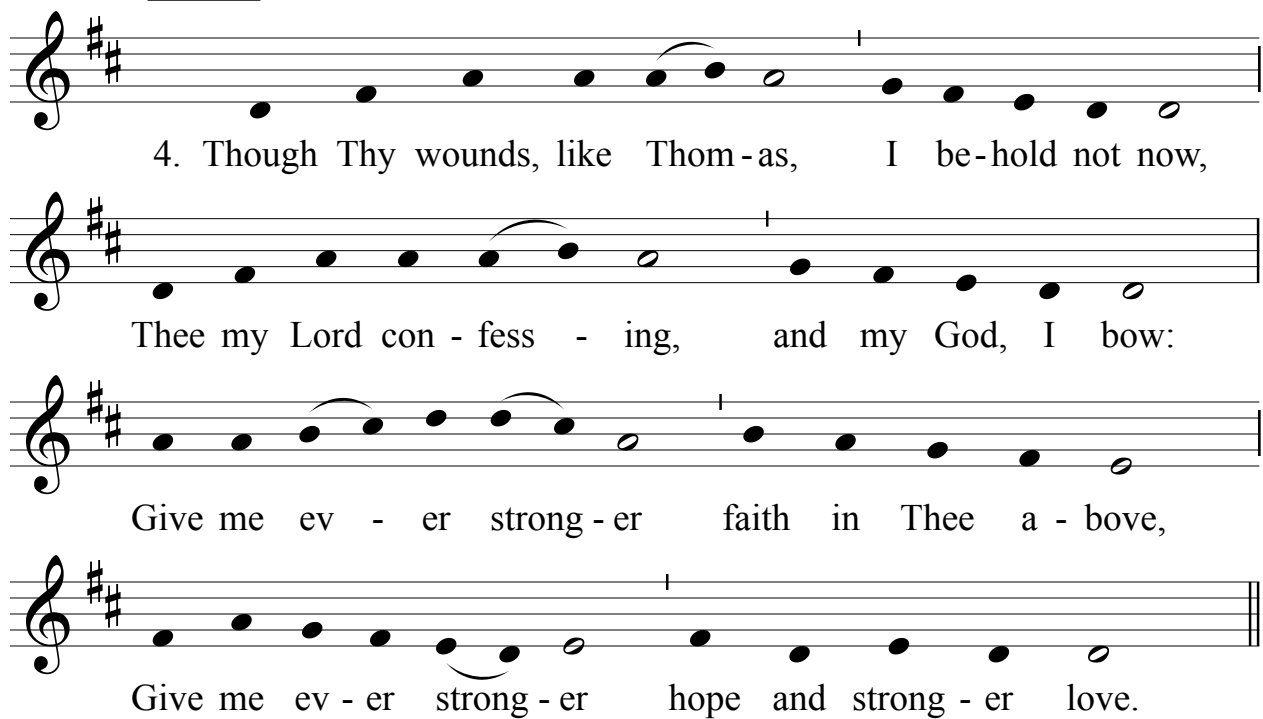
Verse 3



3. On the cross lay hid - den but Thy de - i - ty:
Here is al - so hid - den Thy hu - ma - ni - ty:
But in both be - liev - ing and con - fess - ing, Lord,
ask I what the dy - ing thief of Thee im - plored.

The musical notation for Verse 3 consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is written in a treble clef. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). The third staff continues: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). The fourth staff concludes the verse: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

Verse 4



4. Though Thy wounds, like Thom-as, I be-hold not now,
Thee my Lord con - fess - ing, and my God, I bow:
Give me ev - er strong - er faith in Thee a - bove,
Give me ev - er strong - er hope and strong - er love.

The musical notation for Verse 4 consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The melody is written in a treble clef. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notes are: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). The second staff continues the melody: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). The third staff continues: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). The fourth staff concludes the verse: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), D5 (half), E5 (quarter), D5 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes.

Verse 5

5. O most sweet me - mor - ial of His death and woe,
 Liv - ing Bread, which giv - est life to man be - low,
 Let my spi - rit ev - er eat of Thee and live,
 And the blest fru - i - tion of Thy sweet-ness give!

The text for *Adoro te devote* was composed by St. Thomas Aquinas. Pope Urban VI asked him to write five Eucharistic Hymns for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, which he instituted as a Solemnity in 1264.

This text (19 C. trans. by John Mason Neale) brings up a lot of questions to think about. Here are some and perhaps you have your own questions about these words!

Verse 1:

- What (or who) is the the "Hidden Deity"? Why is it hidden?
- What does "contemplating Thee it wholly fails" mean?
- Is it OK to not fully understand the greatness of God?

Verse 2:

- Why are taste, touch, and vision "deceived"? Is God's presence
- What does this verse say about believing what God tell us?
- What is "Truth's very Word"? (HINT: Why is "Word" capitalized?)

Verse 3:

- What did the "dying thief" ask of Jesus? What did his request have to do with faith?
- What was Jesus' response to him (and others who had faith)?

Verse 4:

- What does the disciple Thomas have to do with faith—believing what one does not see?

Verse 5:

- How does the "living bread" give life to us today and forever?