

Christum Ducem

Composed by St. Bonaventure (1221 – 1274)
Translated by Jeffrey C. Kalb, Jr.

Christum ducem
qui per crucem
 redémit nos ab hóstibus
laudet coetus
noster laetus,
 exúltet caelum láudibus.

Christ our Leader,
and Redeemer
 by Cross and Passion from the foe
worship gladly,
dear assembly.
 Let heaven's joyful praises grow.

Poená fortis
tuáe mortis
 et sánguini effúsió
corda terant,
ut te quaerant,
 Jesu, nostra redéptio.

Let Thy slaying,
debt repaying,
 let merit of Thy Blood outpoured,
quicken surely
hearts to seek Thee,
 sweet Jesus, our redeeming Lord.

Per felices
cicatrices,
 sputa, flagélla, vérbera,
nobis grata
sint colláta
 aeténa Christi múnera.

Through the scarring,
fruitful lashing,
 and spittle of His enemies,
let us gather,
harvest rather,
 the gifts of Christ that ever please.

Nostrum tangat
cor, ut plangat,
 tuórum sanguis vúlnerum,
in quo toti
simus loti
 cónditor alme síderum.

Let Thy grievous
Wounds impress us,
 Thy Blood impel our hearts to mourn.
In this Laver,
cosmic Father,
 may we Thy children be reborn.

Passiónis
tuáe donis
 salvátor, nos inébria,
qua fidélis
dare velis
 beáta nobis gáudia.

Dearest Savior,
let us savor
 the relish of Thy Passion's boon.
Do Thou, Faithful,
make us grateful
 and, drunk with blessed joys, to swoon.