

# Cor Arca Legem Continens: Lauds Hymn for the Feast of the Sacred Heart

Unknown Composer (18<sup>th</sup> Century)  
translated by Jeffrey C. Kalb, Jr.

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|---|---|
| 1. Cor, arca legem continens<br>Non servitutis veteris,<br>Sed gratiae, sed veniae,<br>Sed et misericordiae.        | O Heart, Thou Ark of Law divine,<br>Not that of former slavery,<br>But mercy, grace, and clemency,<br>That now with justice do combine,           |
| 2. Cor, Sanctuarium novi<br>Intemeratum foederis,<br>Templum vetusto sanctius,<br>Velumque scisso utilius.          | O Heart, Thou Sanctuary pure<br>Of new and lasting Covenant,<br>With fitter veil than that was rent,<br>A Fane more holy to endure,               |
| 3. Te vulneratum caritas<br>Ictu patenti voluit;<br>Amoris invisibilis<br>Ut veneremur vulnera.                     | Thy Charity was ever keen<br>For piercing by an open blow,<br>That, venerating, we might know<br>The wounds afflicting Love unseen.               |
| 4. Hoc sub amoris symbolo<br>Passus cruenta et mystica,<br>Utrumque sacrificium<br>Christus Sacerdos obtulit.       | Within this Icon of His Love,<br>A bloody, mystic Sacrifice,<br>To offer each did Christ suffice<br>As Priest and Victim from above.              |
| 5. Quis non amantem redamet?<br>Quis non redemptus diligit,<br>Et Corde in isto seligat<br>Aeterna tabernacula?     | And who would neither love requite,<br>Redeemed, the Lover yet reject,<br>Nor in that Sacred Heart select<br>Eternal dwellings filled with Light? |
| 6. Jesu, tibi sit gloria,<br>Qui Corde fundis gratiam,<br>Cum Patre et almo Spiritu<br>In sempiterna saecula.       | Dear Jesus, from Thy Heart replete<br>Diffusing grace and sanctity,<br>Eternal glory be to Thee<br>With Father and the Paraclete!                 |
| <i>or</i>   |   |
| 6. Decus Parenti et Filio,<br>Sanctoque sit Spiritui,<br>Quibus potestas, gloria<br>Regnumque in omne est saeculum. | So honor in supernal strain<br>The Parent, Son, and Spirit sage,<br>To Whom belong in every age<br>Unbounded glory, might, and reign.             |