The heavenly Word, proceeding forth AMNS 253 Melody: Verbum supernum prodiens L.M.



Part 1

The heavenly Word, proceeding forth

yet leaving not the Father’s side,

accomplishing his work on earth

had reached at length life’s eventide.

By false disciple to be given

to foemen for his life athirst,

himself, the very bread of heaven,

he gave to his disciples first.

He gave himself in either kind,

his precious flesh, his precious blood;

in love’s own fulness thus designed

of the whole man to be the food.

By birth their fellow-man was he,

their meat, when sitting at the board;

he died, their ransomer to be;

he ever reigns, their great reward.

Part 2

O saving Victim, opening wide

the gate of heaven to man below,

our foes press on from every side:

thine aid supply, thy strength bestow.

All praise and thanks to thee ascend

for evermore, blest One in Three;

O grant us life that shall not end

in our true native land with thee. Amen.

Words: St. Thomas Aquinas (1227-1274), translated by John Mason Neale (1818-1866), Edward Caswall (1814-1878) and others

Music: Mode viii