

Sancte venite, Corpus Christi sumite

Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord

John M. Neale

1. Draw near and take the body of the Lord,
and drink his holy blood for you outpoured;
saved by his body and his precious blood,
our souls refreshed, we offer thanks to God.
2. Our true redeemer, Christ the only Son,
by cross and blood a mighty vict'ry won,
off'ring himself for greatest and for least,
himself the victim and himself the priest.
3. The victims offered by the law of old,
as signs from God, eternal myst'ries told,
now Christ our light, the ransom of our race,
gives to his own this endless source of grace.
4. Let us approach with loving hearts sincere,
and take the pledge of our salvation here;
Christ, who his faithful servants rules and shields,
to all believers life eternal yields.
5. With bread of life he makes the hungry whole,
gives living waters to each thirsty soul.
Christ Jesus, first and last, is with us now,
to him at end of time we all shall bow.

Inspiration: "Sancte venite, Corpus Christi sumite" from the "Antiphony of Bennchar", 7th cent.
Lyrics: 10.10.10.10; John Mason Neale, 1818-1866, in his "Mediaeval Hymns and Sequences", 1851.