

*Sancte venite, Corpus Christi sumite*

# **Draw Nigh and Take the Body of the Lord**

**John M. Neale**

1. Draw nigh and take the body of the Lord,  
and drink the holy blood for you outpoured;  
saved by that body, hallowed by that blood,  
whereby refreshed, we render thanks to God.
2. Salvation's giver, Christ the only Son,  
by that his Cross and Blood the vict'ry won;  
off'red was he for greatest and for least,  
himself the victim and himself the priest.
3. Victims were offered by the Law of old  
that, in a type, celestial myst'ries told;  
he, ransom from death and light from shade,  
giveth his holy grace, his saints to aid.
4. Approach ye then with faithful hearts sincere,  
and take the safeguard of salvation here.  
He that in this world rules his saints, and shields,  
to all believers life eternal yields;
5. with heav'nly bread makes them that hunger whole,  
gives living waters to the thirsty soul.  
Alpha and Omega, to whom shall bow  
all nations at the doom, he is with us now.

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.