

# HYMN : QUÆNAM LINGUA TIBI

*Dominican Vespers hymn for the feast of the Lance and Nails.*

III.

**Q**uænam lingua ti-bi, O Lánce-a, débi-tas. Grates  
pro mé-ri- to est apta repénde-re? Chri-sti vi-ví- fi-cum  
namque ápe-ris la-tus, Unde Ecclé- si- a násci-tur. 2. Hæc  
est Heva vi-ri de lá-te-re éxi- ens, Olli membra gra-vis  
dum sopor óc-cu-pat; Hanc quippe alter Adam, corde sca-  
ténti- bus Unda, et sán-guine procre-at. 3. O Clavi! æqua  
manet vos quoque grá-ti- a, Christi quando sa-cris ártu-  
bus ín-si- ti, De- lé-tum Dómi-ni sán-guine fí-gi- tis Mor-

tis chi- ró-graphum Cruci. 4. Te, Jesu, súpe- ri láudi-bus  
éfferant, Qui Clavórum ádi- tus, sígnaque lánce- æ In  
Cæ-lo ré-tines, vivus ubi ímpe-ras Cum Patre, atque  
Pa-rá- cli- to. Amen.

*Produced by the Society of St. Bede.*

*Music; re-typeset from Vesperarum, 1900, using Caeciliae typeface,*

*Translation; Early Christian hymns, Donahoe, Daniel Joseph, 1853-1930*

1. WHAT tongue can e'er return to thee,  
O spear, The gratitude we owe thy service dear,  
For thou didst ope the vivifying side  
Of Jesus, whence his church doth first appear.

2. Like Eve arising from the side of man,  
While bound in sleep, the Church's life began;  
Hers was the better Adam; pure she sprang  
Out of the side whence blood and water ran.

3. And equal thanks, O Nails, to you we owe,  
For in the death of Christ, whose mortal woe  
Ye wrought upon the cross, was blotted out  
In his sweet blood the curse on man below.

4. Kind Jesus, whom the powers proclaim on high  
The Prince of Peace and Ruler of the Sky,  
Thy wounds in hand, foot, side, all glorified,  
Reign with the Sire and Spirit eternally.