

## O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

*O salutaris hostia* comes from the hymn *Verbum supernum prodiens*, composed by St. Thomas Aquinas for the office of Lauds (morning prayer) for Corpus Christi.

*O salutaris hostia, quae caeli pandis ostium, bella premunt hostilia, da robur, fer auxilium. Uni trinoque Domino sit sempiterna gloria: Qui vitam sine termino nobis donet in patria.*

### O salutaris hostia I

"O salutaris hostia, quae coeli pandis ostium"

salus, salutis (F) = health, well-being, safety

salutaris, salutare = healthful, beneficial, salutary

hostia, hostiae (F) = literally, an animal slain in sacrifice, more generally, a sin offering

quae = the relative pronoun, agreeing in gender and number with "hostia" declined thus:

	M	F	N
(singular)			
Nom	qui	quae	quod
Gen	cuius	cuius	cuius
Dat	cui	cui	cui
Acc	quem	quam	quod
Abl	quo	qua	quo

(plural)

Nom	qui	quae	quae
Gen	quorum	quarum	quorum
Dat	quibus	quibus	quibus
Acc	quos	quas	quae
Abl	quibus	quibus	quibus

coelum, coeli (N) you know this word "coeli" ~ what number and case ?

pando, pandere, pandi, pansum (3) = stretch out, expand; by transference, throw open  
conjugation of present indicative active is:

pando	pandimus	
pandis	panditis	so "pandis" means ???
pandit	pandunt	

ostium, ostii (N) = entrance, door "ostium" ~ what number and case ?

In English, we would have ordered the words thus: "quae pandis ostium coeli"

In the ancient Church, the "ostiarius" was a ministerial officer. His function was to make sure only baptized Catholics were present for the canon/consecration/eucharist. Catechumens left after the liturgy of the word and the "ostium" was closed.

## O salutaris hostia II

"Bella premunt hostilia, da robur, fer auxilium"

bellum, belli (N) = war

hostilis, hostile = English cognate so, "bella hostilia" ~ what number and case ?

premo, premere, pressi, pressum (3) = press

Present Indicative Active is conjugated:

premo premimus

premis premitis

premit premunt "premunt", what person and number ?

do, dare, dedi, datum (1) = give "da" is imperative singular

robur, roboris (N) = strength "robur" ~ what case ?

fero, ferre, tuli, latum (3) = bring, bear, carry "fer" is imperative singular

auxilium, auxilii (N) = aid, help "auxilium" ~ what case?

Let's use "do" (give) to review first conjugation verbs. Here are all six indicative active tenses:

Present		Imperfect		Future	
do	damus	dabam	dabamus	dabo	dabimus
das	datis	dabas	dabatis	dabis	dabitis
dat	dant	dabat	dabant	dabit	dabunt

  

Perfect		Pluperfect		Future Perfect	
dedi	dedimus	dederam	dederamus	dedero	dederimus
dedis	dedistis	dederas	dederatis	dederis	dederitis
dedit	dederunt	dederat	dederant	dederit	dederint

From these paradigms you can derive the rules of construction for first conjugation verbs for each tense:

Present Present stem + personal endings

Imperfect Present stem + "ba" + personal endings

Future	Present stem + "bi" + personal endings
Perfect	Perfect stem + personal endings
Pluperfect	Perfect stem + imperfect of the verb "esse" (to be)
Future perfect	Perfect stem + future of the verb "esse" (except 3d pers. sing. ~ "-erint", not "-erunt" so, "dederunt" is perfect, "dederint" is future perfect)

### O salutaris hostia III

"Uni trinoque Domino sit sempiterna gloria:  
Qui vitam sine termino nobis donet in patria."

Dominus, Domini (M) = Lord "Domino" is the dative case

uni trino = one three also dative, agreeing with "Domino"  
-que appended to "trino", signifies "and" the -que is called an "enclitic"

sit = subjunctive, present, third person singular of "esse" = is

here are the conjugations for present, imperfect and perfect subjunctive of "esse":

present		imperfect		perfect	
sim	simus	essem	essemus	fuerim	fuerimus
sis	sitis	esses	essetis	fueris	fueritis
sit	sint	esset	essent	fuerit	fuerint

sempiternus, -a, -um = everlasting, perpetual

gloria, gloriae (F) English cognate "sempiterna gloria" ~ what case ?

qui = the relative pronoun

vita, vitae (F) = life "vitam" ~ what case ?

sine = without you've heard the expression "sine qua non" ? literally = "without which not", thus signifying something of the essence

terminus, termini (M) = boundary, limit the preposition "sine" takes the ablative case

nobis = the person pronoun, declined in the plural thus:

Nom	nos	
Gen	nostri or nostrum	
Dat	nobis	"nobis" here is dative
Acc	nos	
Abl	nobis	

dono, donare, donavi, donatum (1) = give

first conjugation verb ~ "a" is the characteristic vowel; changing "a" to "e" signifies subjunctive

conjugation of present subjunctive active is:

donem	donemus	thus, "donet" = "may he give"
dones	donetis	
donet	donent	

patria, patriae (F) = fatherland

(despite the feminine gender; we too have a way of calling a country we love "she")

So, can you put it all together ?

Try rendering the four lines of *O salutaris hostia* in English ~ good luck !