

PANGE LINGUA GLORIOSI

The Church employs the venerable hymn *Pange lingua gloriosi* as a Vesper hymn for Corpus Christi and a processional hymn for Maundy Thursday.

Pange lingua I

*Pange lingua gloriosi Corporis mysterium,
Sanguinisque pretiosi, Quem in mundi pretium
Fructus, ventris generosi Rex effudit gentium.*

pango, pangere, panxi, panctum (3) = compose or write, as in verses, usually translated "sing"
(that the poet "sings" we know from the first line of Vergil's *Aeneid*: "Arma virumque cano")

"Pange" is the imperative

lingua, linguae (F) = tongue

mysterium, mysterii (N) = English cognate "mysterium" ~ what case ?

gloriosus, -a, -um = English cognate agrees with "Corporis" "gloriosi" ~ what case ?

corpus, corporis (N) = body "Corporis" ~ what case ?

sanguis, sanguinis (M) = blood the "-que" of "Sanguisque" means "and"

pretiosus, -a, -um = precious agrees with "Sanguinis" "pretiosi" ~ what case ?

quem = the relative pronoun (masculine, singular, accusative) to which noun does it refer ?

mundus, mundi (M) = world

pretium, pretii (N) = worth, value, price

"in mundi pretium" means roughly "for the world's ransom"

fructus, fructus (M) = fruit

venter, ventris (M) = belly, but "Fructus ventris" = fruit of the womb

generosus, -a, -um = English cognate

rex, regis (M) = king "Fructus" and "Rex" are in apposition and refer to the same Person

gens, gentis (F) = people, tribe, nation "gentium" ~ what number and case ?

effundo, effundere, effudi, effusum (3) = pour out, shed

"effudit" is third person singular, past perfect

Pange lingua II

*Nobis datus, nobis natus ex intacta Virgine,
et in mundo conversatus, sparso verbi semine,
sui moras incolatus miro clausit ordine.*

nobis = personal pronoun

declined:	Nom	nos	
	Gen	nostrum (or nostri)	
	Dat	nobis	dative = to us / for us
	Acc	nos	
	Abl	nobis	

datus = past participle of verb do, dare, dedi, datum (1) = give

natus = past participle of deponent verb nascor, nasci, natus sum = to be born

past participles are passive in meaning

“datus” and “natus” function as adjectives referring back to “Rex”

ex = preposition meaning “from, out of” it takes the ablative case

intactus, -a, -um = in + tango = untouched “intacta” = pure, chaste, modifying Virgine

mundus, mundi (M) = the world

converto, convertere, converti, conversum (3) = to turn round

conversatus, -a, -um intensifies the meaning, hence = turn round frequently

hence, directing one's mind or inclination towards

spargo, spargere, sparsi, sparsum (3) = scatter, sow, as in seeds

semen, seminis (N) = seed verbum, verbi (N) = word

“sparso verbi semine” is a classic Latin grammatical construction (ablative absolute),
meaning ~ having scattered/sown the seed of the word

sui reflexive pronoun = himself, herself, itself, themselves

It is declined the same way in singular and plural, and has no nominative form:

Gen	sui	Acc	se
Dat	sibi	Abl	se

mora, morae (F) = delay, by transference, a space of time

incolo, incolere, incolui, incultum (3) = inhabit, dwell in

incolatus is a modified form, rhyming with "conversatus"

so, "sui moras incolatus" means something like "his time dwelling [on earth]"

claudio, claudere, clausi, clausum (3) = close, shut, figuratively "bring to an end"

mirus, -a, -um = wonderful

ordo, ordinis (M) = order, series, line "miro ordine" ~ what case ?

Pange lingua III ~ a relatively easy verse !

*In supremae nocte coenae recumbens cum fratribus,
observata lege plene cibus in legalibus,
cibum turbae duodenae se dat suis manibus.*

nox, noctis (F) = night nocte - what case ?

supremus, -a, -um super = above superior = higher supremus = highest, last

coena, coenae (F) = dinner, supper hence, "cenacle", a place for eating
supremae coenae ~ what case ?

recumbo, recumbere, recumbui (3) = recline recumbens is the present participle

frater, fratris (M) = brother fratribus ~ what number and case ?

observo, observare, observavi, observatum (1) = observe with lege = obeying the law

lex, legis (F) = law plene (adverb) = fully

observata is the past participle

"observata lege plene" is an ablative absolute construction

= the law having been fully observed

cibus, cibi (M) = food "cibus in legalibus" = with food prescribed by law

cibus ~ what case ? cibus = what case ?

se = third person reflexive pronoun, ie, himself "cibum...se" = himself as food

do, dare, dedi, datum (1) = give

turba, turbae (F) = disturbance, uproar, by extension, mob, crowd

usually pejorative, but here "turbae duodenae" = to the company of the twelve

manus, manus (F) = hand "suis manibus" = with his own hands so, what case?

Pange lingua IV

Verbum caro, panem verum verbo carnem efficit:

Fitque sanguis Christi merum, et si sensus deficit,

Ad firmandum cor sincerum sola fides sufficit.

verbum, verbi (N) = word in this case, the "Word", i.e., Jesus

caro, carnis (F) = flesh so "Verbum caro" is the Word [made] flesh

"verbo", in the next phrase, is ablative case, hence "by/with his word"

efficio, efficere, effeci, effectum (3) = produce, effect, make

"efficit" is third person singular

panis, panis (M) = bread

verum (adverb) = truly

"carnem" (from "caro") and "panem" are in apposition, two accusatives

So: "By His word He truly makes the bread his flesh"

merum, meri (N) = wine unmixed with water

sanguis, sanguinis (M) = blood "sanguis Christi" = blood of Christ

fio, fieri, factus sum = be made, be done, become "fit" is first person singular

the "-que" added to "fit" is an enclitic, meaning "and"

NB "fio" is like "esse" in that, instead of a direct object (accusative), it takes a predicate nominative

si = if

sensus, sensus (M) = perception, observation

deficio, deficere, defecti, defectum (3) = fail, fall short, be wanting

"deficit" is third person singular

firmitas, firmare, firmavi, firmatum (1) = make firm, strengthen

"ad firmandum" = to strengthen or to confirm

cor, cordis (N) = heart

sincerus, -a, -um = English cognate

solus, -a, -um = alone

fides, fidei (F) = faith, trust

sufficio, sufficere, suffeci, suffectum (3) = English cognate

The last two verses of *Pange lingua* = benediction hymn *Tantum ergo sacramentum*

