Sing, my tongue, the Saviour’s glory
Pange Lingua by St Thomas Aquinas
translated by Fr Edward Caswall

Sing my tongue the Saviour’s glory, Of His Flesh the mystery sing, Of the Blood all price exceeding Shed by our immortal King Destined for the world’s redemption of a noble womb to spring.

2. Of a pure and spotless Virgin, Born for us on earth be-low, He as man with man conversing,

stayed the seeds of truth to sow. Then He closed
3. On the night of that last supper Seated with
His chosen band He, the Paschal victim eating,
First fulfills the law’s command; Then as food to
His apostles Gives Himself with His own hand.

4. Word made Flesh, the bread of nature; By
His word to flesh He turns; Wine into His
blood He changes What tho sense no change
di-scerns? Only be the heart in earnest, Faith her
lesson quickly learns. 5. Down in a-do-ration fal-ling,
Lo, the sacred Host we hail Lo, o’er ancient
forms departing Newer rites of grace pre-vail
Faith for all de-fects supply-ing Where the feeble
senses fail 6. To the e-ver-last-ing Father And the
Son who reigns on high With the Holy Ghost

proceeding Forth from each eternally Be salvation,

honour, blessing, Might and endless majesty. Amen.

Written by St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) for the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, this hymn is considered the most beautiful of Aquinas’ hymns and one of the great seven hymns of the Church.

The rhythm of the Pange Lingua is said to have come down from a marching song of Caesar’s Legions: Ecce, Caesar nunc triumphat qui subegit Gallias.

Besides the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, this hymn is also used on Holy Thursday.

The last two stanzas make up the Tantum Ergo (Down in Adoration Falling) that is used at Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

There is another Latin hymn starting Pange lingua gloriosi written much earlier by Fortunatus. That is used at Good Friday and commemorates the Passion of Our Lord.