

# CruX fidelis

*Hymn for the Solemn Adoration of the Holy Cross on Good Friday*

Venantius Fortunatus (530–609)

Harmony by Mark E. Donnelly

FAITHFUL CROSS, above all others,  
One and only noble Tree!  
None in foliage, none in blossom,  
None in fruit Thy peer may be:  
Sweet the wood and sweet the nails,  
Sweetest weight was hung on Thee.

1. Sing, my tongue, the glorious battle,  
Sing the last, the dread affray :  
O'er the Cross, the Victor's Trophy,  
Sound the high triumphal lay,  
How, the pains of death enduring,  
Earth's Redeemer won the day.

2. He, our Maker, deeply grieving  
That the first-made Adam fell  
When he ate the fruit forbidden  
Whose reward was death and hell,  
Marked e'en then this Tree, the ruin  
Of the first tree to dispel.

3. Such the order God appointed  
When He would for sin atone;  
To the serpent thus opposing  
Schemes yet deeper than his own:  
Thence the remedy procuring,  
Whence the fatal wound had come.

4. Therefore, when th' appointed fulness  
Of the holy time drew nigh,  
Then the Son, the world's Creator,  
Left His Father's throne on high;  
From a Virgin's womb appearing,  
Clothed in our mortality.

5. All within a lowly manger,  
Lo, a tender babe He lies!  
See His gentle Virgin Mother  
Lull to sleep His infant cries,  
While the limbs of God incarnate  
Round with swathing bands she ties.

6. Thus did Christ to perfect manhood  
In our mortal flesh attain:  
Then of His free choice He goeth  
To His death of bitter pain;  
On the Cross the Lamb is lifted,  
Crucified for us, and slain.

7. Lo, with gall His thirst He quenches!  
See the thorns upon His head!  
From that Holy Body piercèd  
Blood and water forth proceed!  
Earth and stars and skies and ocean  
By that flood from sin are freed!

8. Bend thy boughs, O Tree of Glory,  
To embrace thy sacred load;  
O, relax the native tension  
Of that all-too-rigid wood:  
Gently, gently bear the members  
Of thy dying King and God.

9. Thou alone wast counted worthy  
This world's Ransom to sustain;  
Harbour from the raging tempest,  
Ark that saved the world again;  
Tree with sacred Blood anointed  
From the Lamb for sinners slain.

10. Honour, blessing everlasting  
To the Father and the Son,  
With the co-eternal Spirit,  
Ever Three and ever One:  
Glory through the earth and heaven  
While unending ages run. Amen.

# Crux fidelis

Venantius Fortunatus (530–609)  
Solemn Adoration of the Cross on Good Friday

CRUX FIDELIS (mode I)  
Harmony by Mark E. Donnelly

The entire refrain is sung (I & II) in SATB parts by all, as below; then v. 1, *Pange lingua*, is sung in unison.

## I

After each odd-numbered verse, Part I: *Crux fidelis* is sung:



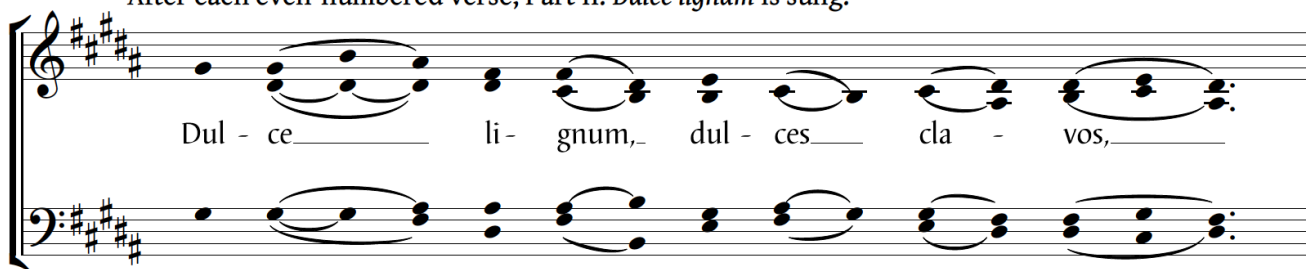
Crux fi - dé - lis in - ter om - nes Ar - bor u - na nó - bi - lis!



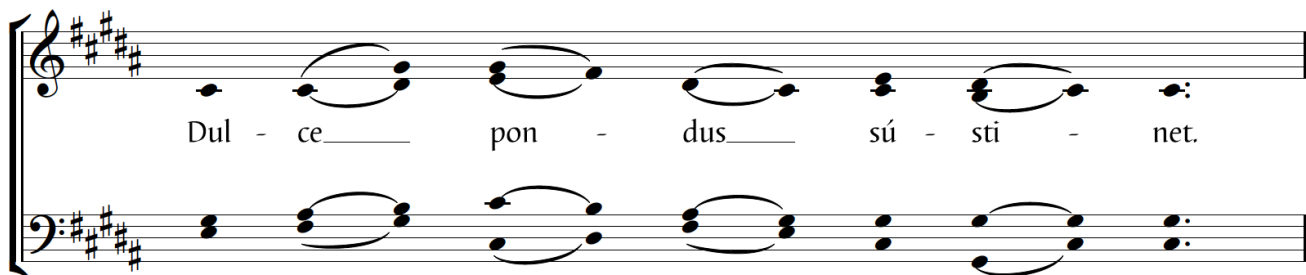
Nul - la sil - va ta - lem pro - fert, Fron - de, flo - re, gér - mi - ne.

## II

After each even-numbered verse, Part II: *Dulce lignum* is sung:



Dul - ce li - gnum, dul - ces cla - vos,



Dul - ce pon - dus sú - sti - net.

## Hymn

1

**P**

Ange, língua, glo-ri- ó-si Láure-am certámi-nis,

Et su-per Crú-cis trophaé-o Dic tri-úm-phum nó-bi-lem :

Quá-li-ter Redémptor orbis Immo-lá-tus ví-ce-rit.

*Crux fidélis. is repeated as far as \* Dúlce lígnum.*

V. 2. De paréntis protoplásti Fraúde Fáctor cóndo-lens, Quan-

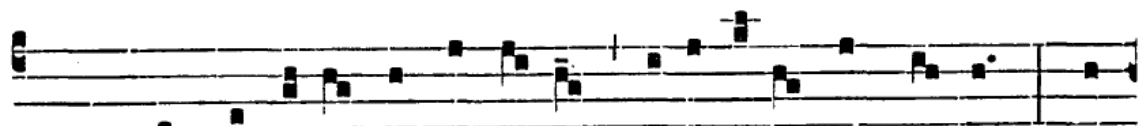
do pómi noxi-á-lis In nécem mórsu rú-it : Ipse

lígnum tunc no-távit, Dámna lígní ut sólve-ret. \* Dúlce.

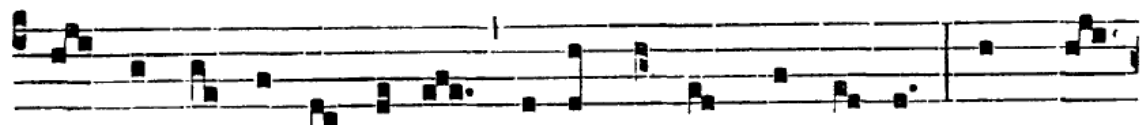
V. 3. Hoc ópus nóstrae sa-lú-tis Ordo depopósce-rat: Mul-

ti-fórmis prodi-tó-ris Ars ut ártem fálle-ret : Et me-

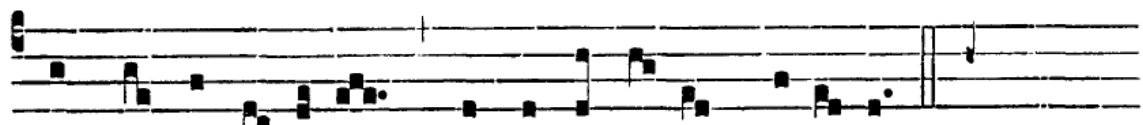
dé-lam férret inde, Hóstis unde laése-rat. Crux fidélis



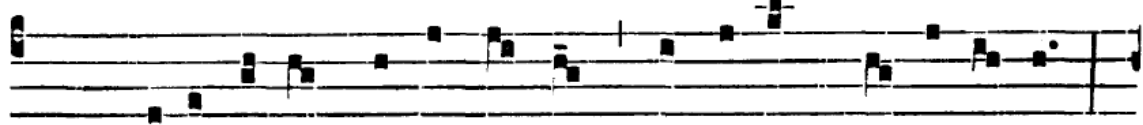
¶. 4. Quando vénit ergo sácri Pleni-túdo témpo-ris, Mís-



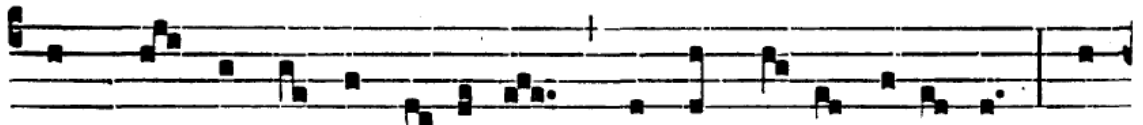
sus est ab árce Pátris Ná-tus, órbis Cón-di-tor, Atque



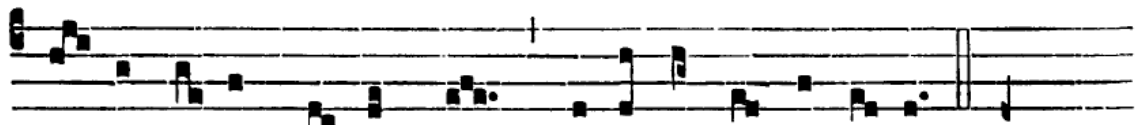
véntre virgi-ná-li Cárne amíctus pró-di-it. \* Dúlce.



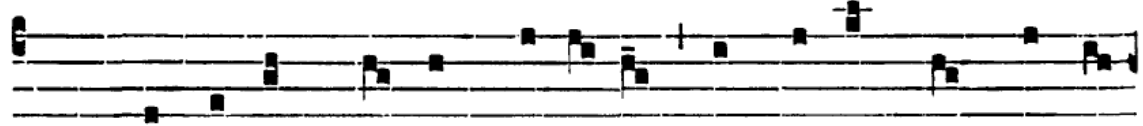
¶. 5. Vágit ínfans inter árcta Cón-di-tus praesé-pi-a :



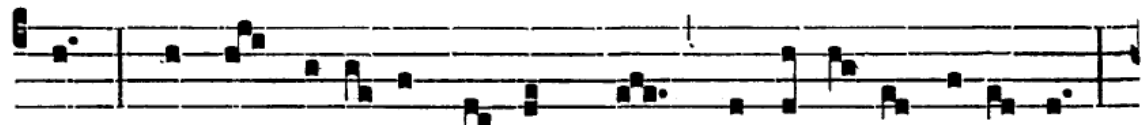
Mém-bra pánnis invo-lú-ta Vírgo Má-ter álli-gat : Et



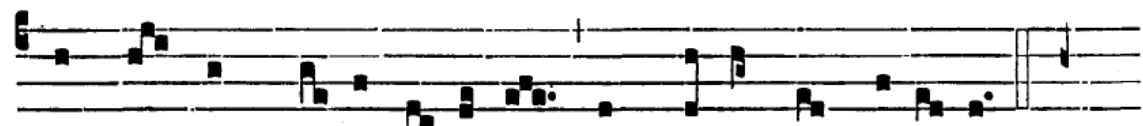
Dé-i má-nus pe-dés-que Strícta cín-git fá-sci-a. Cru-x.



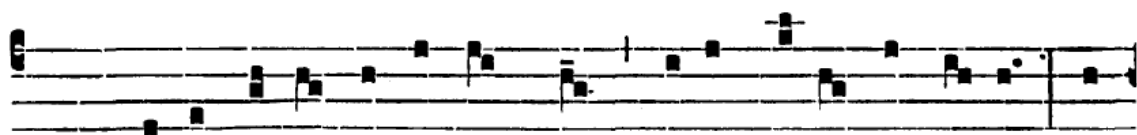
¶. 6. Lú-stra sex qui jam per-é-git, Témpus ím-plens córpo-



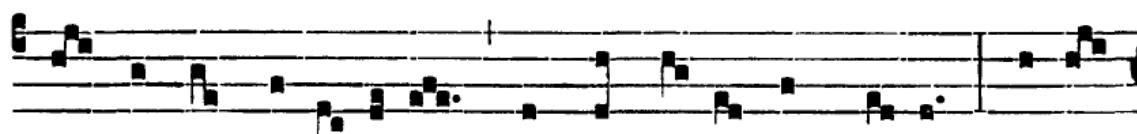
ris, Sponte lí-be-ra Red-ém-p-tor Passi-ó-ni dé-di-tus,



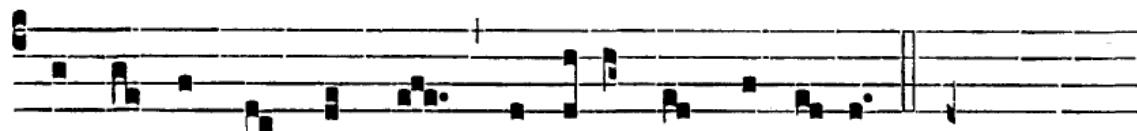
Agnus in Crú-cis le-vá-tur Im-mo-lán-dus stí-pi-te. \* Dúlce.



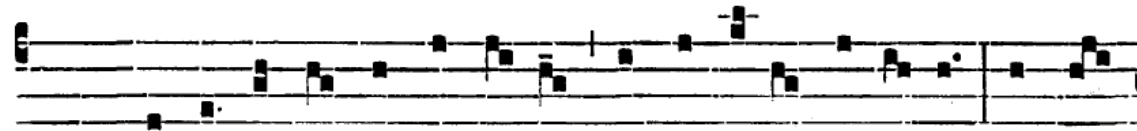
∇. 7. Félle pó-tus ecce lánguet : Spína, clávi, lance- a, Mí-



te córpus perfo-rárunt, Unda má-nat et crú- or : Térra,



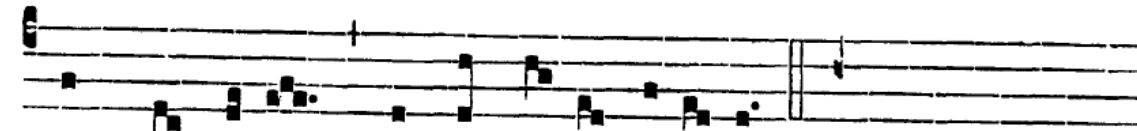
póntus, ástra, múndus, Quo lavántur flúmi-ne! Crux fidélis.



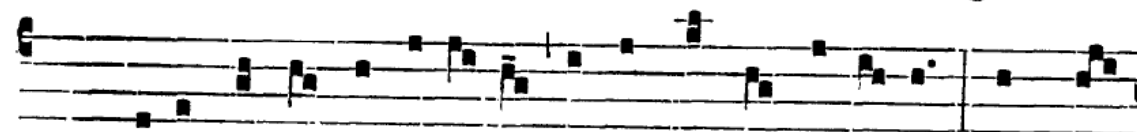
∇. 8. Flécte rámos, árbor álta, Ténsa láxa víscera, Et rí-



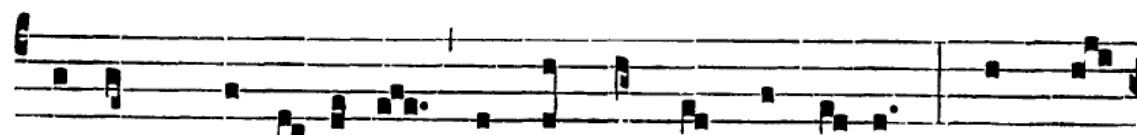
gor lentéscat ílle, Quem dédit na-tí-vi-tas : Et su-pérni



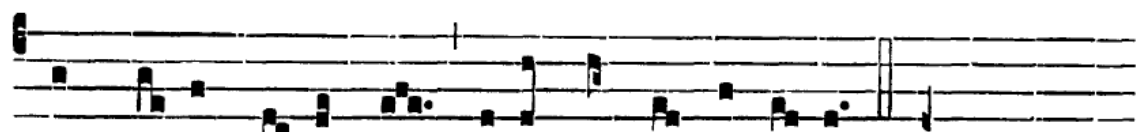
mémbrá Régis Ténde mí-ti stípi-te. \* Dúlce lígnum.



∇. 9. Só-la dígna tu fu- í-sti Férre múndi víctimam : Atque

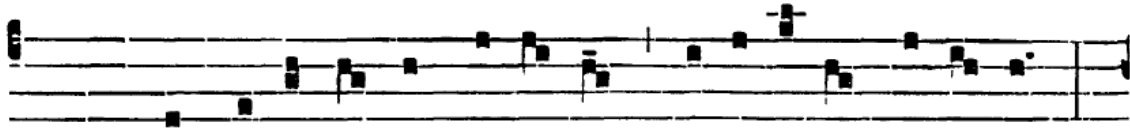


pórtum praepa-rá-re Arca múndo náufrago : Quam sá-



cer crú- or per-únxit, Fúsus Agni córpo-re. Crux fidélis.

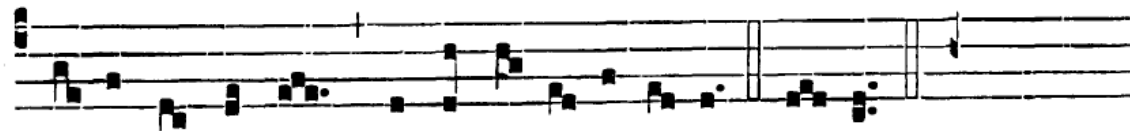
*The conclusion is never omitted.*



Ps. 10. Sempiterna sit beatae Trinitatis gloria :



Aequa Patri Filioque; Per decus Patris : Unus



Trinitatis nomen Laudet universitas. Amen. \* Dulce.

