

Ave verum corpus

William Byrd (c.1540-1623)

Superius [Alto]
Medius [Tenor]
Tenor [Tenor]
Bassus [Bass]

A - ve ve - rum cor - - pus, na - tum

10

de Ma - ri - - a Vir - gi - ne, ve - re pas - sum, im -

- mo - la - tum in cru - ce pro ho - mi - ne: Cu -

20

- jus la - tus per - fo - ra - tum, un - da flu - xit san - gui -

- ne, san - gui - ne. E - sto no - bis præ - gu - sta - tum in
 - ne, san - gui - ne. E - sto no - bis præ - gu - sta - tum in
 flu - xit san - gui - ne. E - sto no - bis præ - gu - sta - tum in
 - xit san - gui - ne. E - sto no - bis præ - gu - sta - tum

30
 mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne: O Dul - cis! O pi -
 mor - tis, in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne: O Dul - cis, O
 mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne: O Dul - cis, O
 in mor - tis ex - a - mi - ne: O Dul - cis, O

- e! O Je - su fi - li Ma - ri - æ,
 pi - e, O Je - su fi - li Ma - ri - æ,
 pi - e, O Je - su fi - li Ma - ri - æ,
 pi - e, O Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri - æ,

40
 mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re
 mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re, mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se -
 mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re me - i, me -
 mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re me - i, mi -

me - i, me - - - i. O Dul - cis! O pi -
 -re - re me - - - i. O Dul - cis, O
 - i, mi - se - re - re me - i. O Dul - cis, O
 - se - re - re me - - - i. O Dul - cis, O

- e! O Je - su 50 fi - - li Ma - ri - - æ,
 pi - e, O Je - su fi - li Ma - ri - - æ,
 pi - e, O Je - su fi - li Ma - ri - - æ,
 pi - e, O Je - su Fi - li Ma - ri - - æ,

mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re
 mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re, mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se -
 mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re me - - i, me -
 mi - se - re - re me - i, mi - se - re - re me - i, mi -

me - i, me - - i. A - - men.
 - re - re_ me - - - i. A - - - - - men.
 - i, mi - se - re - re_ me - i. A - - - - - men.
 - se - re - re me - - - - i. A - - - - - men.

Hail, true Body, born of the Virgin Mary
 The same that suffered and was sacrificed on the cross for humankind,
 Whose pierced side flowed with water and blood.
 Let us taste of Thee in the trial of death.
 O sweet, O gentle, O Jesus, Mary's Son,
 Have mercy on me. Amen.

Source: William Byrd: *Gradualia, ac cantiones sacræ... Liber primus* (2nd edition, 1610), vol.2 no.5.

Liturgical function: Processional hymn, Corpus Christi.

19-20, all parts: *unda* corrected by hand from *unde*

44-57: Exact repeat of 29-42 except underlay at III.57 (reflected, editorially, at II.56)

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