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.
Sweet the nails, and sweet the wood, laden
with so sweet a load.

Thus did Christ to perfect manhood In our mortal
flesh attain: Then of his free choice he goeth
To a death of bitter pain;

As a lamb, upon the altar of the
Cross, for us is slain.
* Sweet the nails, and sweet the wood, laden

with so sweet a load.

Lo, with gall his thirst he quenches! See the thorns up-
on his brow! Nails his tender flesh are rending!

See, his side is opened now!

Whence, to cleanse the whole creation, streams of
blood and water flow.
Faithful Cross, O tree all beauteous: Tree all peerless and divine. Not a grove on earth can show us such a flower and leaf as thine.
Lofty Tree, bend down thy branches, to embrace thy sacred load; oh, relax the native tension.

Of that all too rigid wood;

Gently, gently bear the members of thy dying King and God.

Sweet the nails, and sweet the wood, laden

with so sweet a load.
N.9 Tree of all alone found worthy, Our great Victim

to sustain, Harbor from the raging tempest!

Ark that saved the world again!

Tree, with sacred Blood anointed of the

Lamb for sinners slain.
Faithful Cross, O tree all beauteous: Tree all peerless and divine. Not a grove on earth can show us such a flower and leaf as thine.
V.10 Glory be to God, and hon- or In the high- est,

as is meet. To the Son and to the Fa- ther,

and the E- ter nal Par a- clete,

Whose is bound- less praise and pow- er Thru the

a- ges in- fi- nite. A men.

* Sweet the nails, and sweet the wood, lad- en

with so sweet a load.
ANTIPHONS BEFORE COMMUNION

1. We adore you, O Christ, * and we bless you because,

by your holy Cross, you have redeemed the world.

8. By a tree * we were made slaves, and by the holy

Cross we are set free: the fruit of the tree

se-duced us, the Son of God has re-deemed us.
7. Savior of the world, save us:* you who by your
Cross and Blood have re-deemed us, help us,
we implore you, our God.