

Pure Bread of Christ: Ode to St. Ignatius

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Ga - ther round, lis - ten well, as I sing of the tale of a ho - ly one out of the past. Ig - na - tius of An - ti - och

shep - herd - ed his own flock faith - ful - ly un - to the last. The Em - per or Tra - jan com - man - ded Ig - na - tius to re - nounce his faith in the

Lord. But he rath - er would die than to e - ver de - ny the One True God of heav'n and earth. So they

bound him in chains and they dragged him in pain to a ship that would jour - ney to Rome. And through - out the long voy - ge he wrote

words to en - cour - age God's peo - ple in letters sent home. He said "We are the Ca - tho - lic Church! We are the church un - i - ver - sal!

called to be God's pres - ence on the earth to be - come the Pure Bread of Christ!" At the

gates of the ci - ty the faith - ful felt pi - ty but this on - ly fueled his re - solve. A bi - zarre pa - gan fest - i - val made him a spec - ta - cle

yet he was wit - nes - to all. He was faith - ful un - to death, as the li - ons de - voured his flesh. He said "I am the wheat of God,

called to be-come bread of life! May I be ground by the teeth of wild beasts to be - come the Pure Bread of Christ!"

So they car - ried him home and they bur - ied his bones and the sto-ry told up to this day. Still his

vis ion con-tin-ues in our mod-ern ven-ues as one with Ig-na-tius we say: We are the wheat of God, called to be-come

bread of life! May we be ground as we of-fer our-selves to become the Pure Bread of Christ! We are the wheat of God,

called to be-come bread of life! As we strug-ple for jus tice and peace we be - come the Pure Bread of

Christ! We be - come the Pure Bread of Christ! May we be - come the Pure Bread of Christ!