Fr. George W. Rutler attributes this Latin hymn to “an unknown medieval hand.” The hymn was traditionally sung on the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus recognized also as The Naming of Jesus. However, there is much sound theology in this hymn that makes it appropriate to sing today. The readings today speak of all nations raising their voices in praise to God, and Jesus, in the Gospel, tells us that some will not be strong enough to enter through the narrow gate and will remain outside knocking. This hymn reminds us that the name of Jesus on our tongues can unite us, may strengthen us, and will dispel Satan from our presence.

The hymn asserts that being given a name, because of the power that one holds, is a particular good. The idea that mortal kings try to exercise their power by enslaving others is nicely contrasted with Jesus who exercises his power by setting the enslaved people free, and earning his title for that act.
This is then developed in the idea that in fact there is only one name that carries any power so the supposedly powerful names given to earthly kings are in fact not powerful names at all. There is no other name that possesses power. But we invoke the power of Jesus's name and it does indeed have an effect. This is so powerful that it can effect the resurrection of the dead.

And it is in this that fear of death may be relieved. You'll see that, in verse 4, we say "By this, death shall not bitter be, but precious, when endured for Thee!” It seems clear that this is not a death wish, but rather a denial that death is death, an affirmation that it is a way to life.

Sadly, in our society, we witness all manner of desecration of the Holy Name of Jesus. Let us remember the many martyrs who loved and protected to their deaths this precious name, and may we always be strengthened by His Name to love and protect our faith in Him.