

HYMN : VEXILLA REGIS

Processional Hymn for Passiontide and Feasts of the Holy Cross

N.B. This is the 'original' version of this hymn not the modern version used for Vespers during Passiontide, for feasts of the Holy Cross, and as a processional Hymn on Good Friday.

HYMN
1.



Exíl- la Re- gis pród- e-unt: Fulget Crucis mysté-ri-
um, Quo carne carnis condí-tor Suspén- sus est pa-tíbu-
lo. 2. Confí-xa cla-vis vis-céra, Tendens manus, vestígi- a,
Redempti-ó- nis grá- ti- a Hic im-moláta est hósti- a. 3. Quo
vulnerá- tus ín- super Mucróné di-ro lánce-æ, Ut nos la-
vá-ret crí-mine Maná- vit unda Sánguine. 4. Implé-ta sunt
quæ cón-cinit David fidé- li cármine, Dicéndo na- ti- ó-ni-



bus: Regná- vit a ligno De-us. 5. Arbor decó- ra et fúl-gi-
da Ornáta Re-gis púrpura, E-lécta digno stí-pi-te Tam
san-cta membra tánge-re. 6. Be-á- ta, cu-jus brá-chi- is
Préti-um pepéndit sáecu-li: Statéra facta córporis, Prædam
tulítque tártari. 7. Fundis aró- ma cór-tice, Vincis sápo-
re nectá-re, Jucúnda fructu fér-ti- li Plaudis tri-úmp- ho
nó-bi- li. 8. Salve a- ra, sal-ve ví-ctima De passi-ó- nis glóri-
a Qua vi- ta mortem pértulit, Et mor- te vi- tam reddídit.



9. O Crux ave, spes ú-nica, Hoc Pas-si-ó-nis témpore,
In Paschal Time. Paschá- le quæ fers gáudi-um:
Out of Paschal Time. In hac tri-úmphi gló-ri-a:



Auge pi-is justí-tiam Re-is-que dona véni-am. 10. Te sum-



ma, De-us, Trí-nitas, Collaudet omnis spí-ri-tus: Quos



per Crucis mysté-ri-um Salvas, rege per sáecu-la. Amen.

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Words; Hymns of the Roman Liturgy, J. Connelly.

The Vexilla Regis was originally intended as a Processional Hymn, and it was used so on Good Friday, when the Blessed Sacrament is carried from the Repository to the High Altar. (...) It was composed by Fortunatus on the occasion of the reception of the relic of the True Cross, which was sent by the Emperor Justin II to St. Radegunde. (*Hymns of the Breviary and Missal, Rev. Matthew Britt O.S.B.*)

AUTHOR: Venantius Fortunatus (530-609)

USE: (Verses 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9 & 10 in a revised form) Hymn at Vespers during Passiontide and for the feast of the Holy Cross on 3 May and 14 September. (...) as a processional hymn on Good Friday.

(...) verse 9 & 10 are an addition, though an old one, to the hymn. The Breviary text is a revision. (*Hymns of the Roman Liturgy, J. Connelly.*)

The standards of the King appear, the mystery of the Cross shines out in glory - the mystery wherein the creator of man's flesh in His own flesh hung on the gibbet.

Here the victim, His body pierced with nails, stretched out His hands and feet and was sacrificed for our redemption.

And while He was still on the Cross, His side was wounded by the spear's cruel point, and poured out water and blood to wash away our sins.

The words of David's true prophetic song were fulfilled, in which he announced to the nations: 'God has reigned from a tree.'

Tree of dazzling beauty, adorned with the purple of the King's blood, and chosen from a stock worthy to bear the limbs so sacred!

How favoured the tree on whose branches hung the ransom of the world; it was made a balance on which His body was weighed, and bore away the prey that hell had claimed.

From your bark issues fragrant spice, its taste more delicious than nectar. You rejoice in your fruit so full of promise, and clap your hands in glorious triumph.

Hail, altar of the Cross, and hail, Victim on the Cross, because of the glory of the Passion in which Life suffered death and by that death gave life back to us.

Hail, Cross, our only hope. In this season of Passiontide give an increase of holiness to the good and pardon to sinners.

Let every spirit praise You, God, mighty Trinity. Through all the ages be King of those that You saved through the mystery of the Cross. Amen.

Translation: Hymns of the Roman Liturgy, J. Connelly.