

Rex Sempiterne Coelitum

Under Urban VIII, the correctors of the hymns omitted the fourth stanza and, in their zeal to turn the rhythm into Classical iambic dimeter, **altered every line except one.** Hymnologists, Catholic and non-Catholic alike, are usually severe in their judgment of the work of the correctors; but in this instance, Pimont, who thinks the hymn needed no alteration at their hands, nevertheless hastens to add that “never, perhaps, were they better inspired.” And it is only just to say that, as found now in the Roman Breviary, the hymn is no less vigorous than elegant.

Musical score for the first two stanzas of the hymn, showing piano accompaniment in G minor. The first system covers the first two stanzas, and the second system covers the next two stanzas.

1.) Eternal king of the blessed, creator of all things and the Father's co-equal Son from all eternity,

CCWATERSHED.ORG/SEMPITERNE

D M D S M R D T D R M S L S F S R M

1. Rex sem - pi - tér - ne caé - li - tum, Ré - rum Cre - á - tor ó - mni - um,
 1. To Thee, O Heav'n's e - ter - nal King, And Mak - er of the worlds, we sing,

M S F R M L S S F R D R M F L S S S

1. Rex sem - pi - tér - ne caé - li - tum, Ré - rum Cre - á - tor ó - mni - um,
 1. To Thee, O Heav'n's e - ter - nal King, And Mak - er of the worlds, we sing,

S L T D T L S L F S M R D M S F M M F R D

Ae - quá - lis án - te saé - cu - la Sém - per Pa - rén - ti Fí - li - us:
 Who, with the Fa - ther ev - er one, Wert ev - er His co - e - qual Son.

M F M R L S F M F R M F M D D D L F M

Ae - quá - lis án - te saé - cu - la Sém - per Pa - rén - ti Fí - li - us:
 Who, with the Fa - ther ev - er one, Wert ev - er His co - e - qual Son.

2.) ...when the world was at its beginning You created Adam and gave him the image of Your own likeness, joining a soul of noble destiny with slime of the earth.

D M D S M R D T D R M S L S F S R M

2. Na - scén - te qui mún - do fá - ber I - má - gi - nem vúl - tus tú - i
 2. Cre - a - tor who, when earth be - gan, To Thine own im - age mad - est man,

M S F R M L S S F R D R M F L S S S

2. Na - scén - te qui mún - do fá - ber I - má - gi - nem vúl - tus tú - i
 2. Cre - a - tor who, when earth be - gan, To Thine own im - age mad - est man,

S L T D T L S L F S M R D M S F M M F R D

Trá - dens A - dá - mo, nó - bi - lem Lí - mo ju - gá - sti spí - ri - tum.
 Thou didst, in Ad - am, wed to clay A spir - it no - ble eve - ry way.

M F M R L S F M F R M F M D D D L F M

Trá - dens A - dá - mo, nó - bi - lem Lí - mo ju - gá - sti spí - ri - tum.
 Thou didst, in Ad - am, wed to clay A spir - it no - ble eve - ry way.

3.) But when an envious, deceitful enemy had covered mankind with the filth of sin, You clothed Yourself in man's flesh and, a creator once again, gave man back the beauty he had lost.

D M D S M R D T D R M S L S F S R M

3. Cum lí - vor et fraus daé - mo - nis Foe - dás - set hu - má - num gé - nus,
 3. And when, with en - vy man - y - wiled, The dev - il had our race de - filed,

M S F R M L S S F R D R M F L S S S

3. Cum lí - vor et fraus daé - mo - nis Foe - dás - set hu - má - num gé - nus,
 3. And when, with en - vy man - y - wiled, The dev - il had our race de - filed,

S L T D T L S L F S M R D M S F M M F R D

Tu, cár - ne a - mí - ctus, pér - di - tam Fór - mam re - fór - mas ár - ti - fex.
 Made Man, man's like - ness un - to Thee. Thou didst re - store with mas - ter - y.

M F M R L S F M F R M F M D D D L F M

Tu, cár - ne a - mí - ctus, pér - di - tam Fór - mam re - fór - mas ár - ti - fex.
 Made Man, man's like - ness un - to Thee. Thou didst re - store with mas - ter - y.

4.) Once You were born of a virgin. Now born from the tomb, You command us, buried in sin, to rise with You from the dead.

D M D S M R D T D R M S L S F S R M

4. Qui, ná - tus ó - lim e Vír - gi - ne, Nunc e se - púl - cro ná - sce - ris,
 4. Now born a - gain_ from out_ the tomb, As once, from Ma - ry's vir - gin womb,

M S F R M L S S F R D R M F L S S S

4. Qui, ná - tus ó - lim e Vír - gi - ne, Nunc e se - púl - cro ná - sce - ris,
 4. Now born a - gain_ from out_ the tomb, As once, from Ma - ry's vir - gin womb,

S L T D T L S L F S M R D M S F M M F R D

Te - cúm - que nos_ a mór - tu - is_ Jú - bes se - púl - tos súr - ge - re.
 Thou bidd - est us_ our - selves be - stir_ And quit with Thee_ the sep - ul - chre.

M F M R L S F M F R M F M D D D L F M

Te - cúm - que nos_ a mór - tu - is_ Jú - bes se - púl - tos súr - ge - re.
 Thou bidd - est us_ our - selves be - stir_ And quit with Thee_ the sep - ul - chre.

5.) As our eternal shepherd You wash Your flock in the waters of baptism, where souls are cleansed and sins are buried.

D M D S M R D T D R M S L S F S R M

5. Qui, pá - stor ae - tér - nus, gré - gem Á - qua lá - vas_ ba - ptis - ma - tis;
 5. E - ter - nal Shep - herd! Thou_ dost lave Thy flock in Thy_ bap - tis - mal wave:

M S F R M L S S F R D R M F L S S S

5. Qui, pá - stor ae - tér - nus, gré - gem Á - qua lá - vas_ ba - ptis - ma - tis;
 5. E - ter - nal Shep - herd! Thou_ dost lave Thy flock in Thy_ bap - tis - mal wave:

S L T D T L S L F S M R D M S F M M F R D

Haec est la - vá - crum mén - ti - um;_ Haec est se - púl - crum crí - mi - num.
 That is the la - ver whence a - rise_ Purãthoughts, and where sin bur - ied lies.

M F M R L S F M F R M F M D D D L F M

Haec est la - vá - crum mén - ti - um;_ Haec est se - púl - crum crí - mi - num.
 That is the la - ver whence a - rise_ Purãthoughts, and where sin bur - ied lies.

6.) And as our redeemer, fastened to the cross that we ought to have suffered,
 You gave Your blood to the last drop as the price of our salvation.

D M D S M R D T D R M S L S F S R M

6. N^o - bis dí - u qui dé - bi - tae Red - ém - ptor af - fí - xus crú - ci,
 6. Re deem - er, on the Cross up - raised, Long ow - ing to our - selves, be praised

M S F R M L S S F R D R M F L S S S

6. N^o - bis dí - u qui dé - bi - tae Red - ém - ptor af - fí - xus crú - ci,
 6. Re deem - er, on the Cross up - raised, Long ow - ing to our - selves, be praised

S L T D T L S L F S M R D M S F M M F R D

N^o - strae de - dí - sti pró - di - gus. Pré - ti - um sa - lú - tis sán - gui - nem.
 That there Thy Blood sal - va - tion's price. Paid lav - ish - ly in sac - ri - fice.

M F M R L S F M F R M F M D D D L F M

N^o - strae de - dí - sti pró - di - gus. Pré - ti - um sa - lú - tis sán - gui - nem.
 That there Thy Blood sal - va - tion's price. Paid lav - ish - ly in sac - ri - fice.

7.) ...that You, O Jesus, may be an everlasting Paschal joy to our hearts, deliver us reborn to life,
 from a dire death of sin. (Literal translation, except for verse 7, by Rev. Joseph Connelly, M.A.)

D M D S M R D T D R M S L S F S R M

7. Ut sis pe - rén - ne mén - ti - bus Pas - chá - le, Jé - su, gáu - di - um,
 7. O Je - sus, that Thou may - est thus Be end - less Pas - chal joy to us,

M S F R M L S S F R D R M F L S S S

7. Ut sis pe - rén - ne mén - ti - bus Pas - chá - le, Jé - su, gáu - di - um,
 7. O Je - sus, that Thou may - est thus Be end - less Pas - chal joy to us,

S L T D T L S L F S M R D M S F M M F R D

A mór - te dí - ra crí - mi - num. Ví - tae re - ná - tos lí - be - ra.
 Keep us, who now new life be - gin, Free from the woe - ful death of sin.

M F M R L S F M F R M F M D D D L F M

A mór - te dí - ra crí - mi - num. Ví - tae re - ná - tos lí - be - ra.
 Keep us, who now new life be - gin, Free from the woe - ful death of sin.