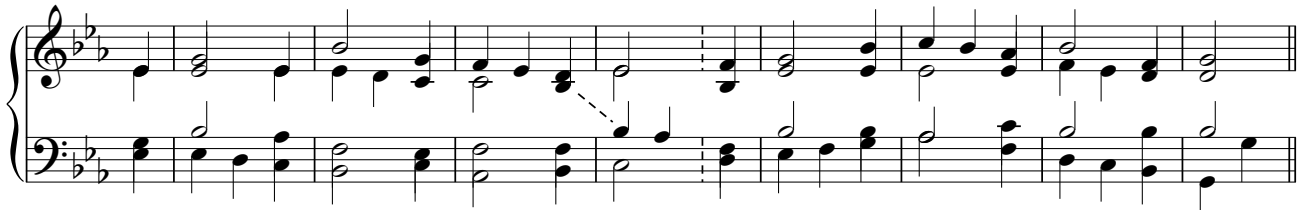


Rex Sempiterne Coelitum

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.



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. 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. 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

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

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. 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. 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

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

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. 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. 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

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

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. 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

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

4. Now born a - gain_ from out_ the tomb, As once, from Ma - ry's vir - gin womb,

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

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. 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

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

5. E - ter - nal Shep - herd! Thou dost lave Thy flock in Thy_ bap - tis - mal wave:

That is the la - ver whencea - rise_ Pure thoughts, 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

That is the la - ver whencea - rise_ Pure thoughts, 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. 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

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

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

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. 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

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

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

Keep us, who now_ new life__ be - gin,__ Free from the woe - ful death of sin.