

# REX SEMPITERNE COELITUM (5th century?)

## Literal translation by Fr. V. Y. (OFM) 4 August 2017

## Literal translation by Fr. D. P. (FSSP) 6 August 2017

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| 1. <b>Rex aeternae, Domine,<br/>Rerum creator omnium,<br/>Qui eras ante saecula<br/>Semper cum patre filius,</b>        | 1. Eternal King, Lord,<br>Creator of all things,<br>Who has always been the Son<br>with the father before the ages.                        | 1. Everlasting King and Lord,<br>Creator of all things,<br>thou who before the ages<br>wast the Son always with the Father:       |
| 2. <b>Qui mundi in primordio<br/>Adam plasmasti hominem,<br/>Cui tuae imaginis<br/>Vultum dedisti similem;</b>          | 2. At the beginning of the world<br>you made the man Adam<br>to whom you gave a countenance<br>similar to your image;                      | 2. Thou who at the world's commencement<br>didst mold the man Adam,<br>him whom thou gavest an aspect<br>like to thine own image: |
| 3. <b>Quem diabolus deceperat,<br/>Hostis humani generis;<br/>Cuius tu formam corporis<br/>Assumere dignatus es,</b>    | 3. Whom the devil, the enemy<br>of the human race had deceived;<br>whose form of body<br>you deigned to assume.                            | 3. He whom the devil had led astray,<br>the foe of mankind,<br>he the shape of whose body<br>thou vouchsafedst to take:           |
| 4. <b>Ut hominem redimeres,<br/>Quem ante iam plasmaveras,<br/>Et nos Deo coniungeres<br/>Per carnis contubernium.</b>  | 4. So that you might redeem<br>man whom you had formed<br>and now would join to God<br>by sharing in our flesh.                            | 4. That thou mightest ransom man,<br>whom thou hadst molded long since,<br>and wed us with God<br>by barracking with us in flesh: |
| 5. <b>Quem editum ex virgine<br/>Pavescit omnis anima,<br/>Per quem nos resurgere<br/>Devota mente credimus;</b>        | 5. Every soul was struck with awe<br>when you were born from a virgin;<br>We believe with a devout mind<br>that we shall rise through you. | 5. Thou being brought forth of a maid,<br>every soul grows fearful:<br>thou by whom we believe<br>with devoted mind that we rise: |
| 6. <b>Qui nobis per baptismum<br/>Donasti indulgentiam,<br/>Qui tenebamur vinculis<br/>Ligati conscientiae;</b>         | 6. You have granted us pardon<br>through baptism,<br>(we) who were held bound<br>by the chains of our conscience;                          | 6. Thou who by our baptism<br>hast granted pardon<br>to us who were held bound<br>in the shackles of our conscience:              |
| 7. <b>Qui crucem propter hominem<br/>Suscipere dignatus es,<br/>Dedisti tuum sanguinem<br/>Nostrae salutis pretium.</b> | 7. You deigned to undergo<br>the cross because of man<br>and you gave your blood<br>as the price of our salvation.                         | 7. Thou who for man's sake<br>vouchsafedst to take up the cross,<br>and gavest thy blood,<br>the cost of our salvation:           |
| 8. <b>Nam velum templi scissum est<br/>Et omnis terra tremuit.<br/>Tu multos dormientium<br/>Resuscitasti, Domine.</b>  | 8. For the veil of the temple<br>was split and all the earth trembled.<br>You, O Lord, reawakened<br>many of those who had fallen asleep.  | 8. For the temple's veil was torn<br>and all the land quaked:<br>thou, Lord, didst rouse again<br>many of those who slept.        |

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9. **Tu hostis antiqui vires  
Per crucem mortis contereus,  
Qua nos signati frontibus  
Vexillum fidei ferimus.**
9. You, crushing the powers of the ancient enemy through death on the cross; signed by this on our foreheads we bear the standard of the faith.
10. **Tu illum a nobis semper  
Repellere dignaveris,  
Ne unquam possit laedere  
Redemptos tuo sanguine.**
10. May you deign to drive him always from us lest he ever be able to harm those redeemed by your blood.
11. **Qui propter nos ad inferos  
Descendere dignatus es,  
Ut mortis debitoribus  
Vitae donares munera.**
11. You deigned to descend to the underworld for our sakes so that you might grant us who deserved death the gifts of life.
12. **Tibi nocturno tempore  
Hymnum deflentes canimus:  
Ignosce nobis, Domine,  
Ignosce confitentibus,**
12. Weeping we sing a hymn to thee at this time of night; pardon us, Lord, pardon those who praise thee.
13. **Quia tu testis et iudex es,  
Quem nemo potest fallere,  
Secreta conscientiae  
Nostrae videns vestigia.**
13. Because you are the witness and judge whom no one can deceive, seeing the secret recesses of our conscience.
14. **Tu nostrorum pectorum  
Solus investigator es,  
Tu vulnerum latentium  
Bonus assistis medicus.**
14. You alone are the examiner of our hearts; you assist as the good physician of hidden wounds.
15. **Tu es, qui certo tempore  
Daturus finem saeculi,  
Tu cunctorum meritis  
Iustus remunerator es.**
15. You are going to bring about the end of the world at a certain time; You are the Just Rewarder of all for their meritorious deeds.
16. **Te ergo, sancte, quaesumus,  
Ut nostra cures vulnera,  
Qui es cum patre, filius,  
Semper cum sancto spiritu.**
16. Therefore we ask (you) that you cure our wounds who are always the son with the Father and the Holy Spirit.
17. **Gloria tibi, pater,  
Gloria unigenito  
Una cum sancto spiritu  
In sempiterna saecula.**
17. Glory to you, Father, Glory to the only begotten, together with the Holy Spirit for eternal ages.

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9. Thou crushing the forces of the old foe by the death of the cross, wherewith marked on our foreheads, we bear the standard of faith.
10. Do thou vouchsafe always to drive him away from us, lest he ever avail to strike those ransomed with thy blood.
11. Thou who for our sake to hell didst vouchsafe to go down, that to those in debt to death thou mightest give life's gifts.
12. To thee at night-time we sing our hymn, lamenting: forgive us, Lord, forgive us who confess to thee.
13. For thou art the witness and judge whom none can deceive, seeing the cloistered traces of our conscience.
14. Thou art the only tracer of our hearts, thou standest by us, good physician of our hidden wounds.
15. Thou art he who at a sure time will bring an end to the world, thou art the righteous rewarder of the deserts of all.
16. Thee then, holy one, we beseech to heal our wounds, thou who art the Son with the Father and always with the Holy Spirit.
17. Glory to thee, O Father, glory to the Only-begotten, together with the Holy Spirit, for everlasting ages.