

# “Quem Terra, Pontus, Aethera”

by Venantius Fortunatus, Bishop of Poitiers (d. 609AD),  
who also wrote “Vexilla Regis.”

Translation by Fr. John Fitzpatrick, OMI (d. 1929)

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| 1. The Lord, whom earth, and sea, and sky<br>Revere, adore and magnify,<br>Who o’er this triune system reigns,<br>To dwell in Mary’s cloister deigns!            | 1. Quem terra, pontus, aethera,<br>Colunt, adórant, praedicant,<br>Trinam regéntem máchinam<br>Clastrum Maríae bájulát. |
| 2. Whom sun, and moon, and all things serve,<br>Nor ever from this duty swerve,<br>He makes that womb, which heav’nly grace<br>Imbues, his virgin lodging-place. | 2. Cui luna, sol, et ómnia<br>Desérviunt per témpora,<br>Perfúsa caeli grátia,<br>Gestant Puéllae víscera.              |
| 3. A mother blessèd, who can claim<br>Within the coffer of her frame<br>To keep her Maker, who has spanned<br>The whole world with His infant hand!              | 3. Beáta Mater múnere,<br>Cujus, supérnus Ártífex,<br>Mundum pugíllo cóntinens,<br>Ventrís sub arca clausus est.        |
| 4. Blessèd by God’s own message made,<br>And fruitful ’neath His spirit’s shade<br>She was, of whom conceived came He,<br>Whom all the nations longed to see.    | 4. Beáta caeli núntio,<br>Fecúnda Sancto Spírítu,<br>Desiderátus Géntibus,<br>Cujus per alvum fusus est.                |
| 5. Jesus the Virgin’s only Son,<br>With Father and with spirit One,<br>Be praise and glory giv’n to Thee<br>In time and in eternity.                             | 5. Glória tibi, Dómine,<br>Qui natus es de Vírgine,<br>Cum Patre et Sancto Spírítu,<br>In sempitérna saécula.           |