

O *Cru*x  
O Cross

VEXILLA REGIS, *stanza* 5

Ō crux ave spēs ūnica,  
Hoc passiōnis tempore:  
Augē piūs jūstitiam,  
Reisque dōnā veniam.

O cross, our one reliance, hail!  
Still may thy power with us avail  
to save us sinners from our sin,  
God's righteousness for all to win.

*Latin text:* From “Vexilla regis,” *The Sarum Rite*, Tome B, Fasciculus 27 (Dominica in passione, Ebdomada in passione), edited by William Renwick, Hamilton Ontario: The Gregorian Institute of Canada, 2010, pages 1065-1066; macrons added by AFM, *justiciam* standardized to *jūstitiam*.

*English text:* From “The royal banners forward go,” *Poems of Grace: Texts of The Hymnal 1982*, Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, 1998, page 126.

The Latin can be more literally translated:

O cross, our only hope, hail  
In this time of the Passion:  
Increase righteousness to the pious,  
And give forgiveness to the guilty.

*Vexilla regis* was written by Venantius Honorius Fortunatus (540?–600?), but this stanza was a medieval addition. Both the Latin and the English can be sung to the *Vexilla regis* plainsong, mode 1 (12<sup>th</sup> century).