

Æterne Rex altissime

(Eternal Monarch, King Most High)

Here is an old Latin Hymn that was sung by the Early Church to celebrate the feast of The Ascension of Our Lord Jesus. The melody is "Winchester New," as found in *Lutheran Service Book* #441. The original author or source is unknown.

1. Eternal Monarch, King most High,
Whose blood hath brought redemption nigh,
By whom the death of Death was wrought,
And conqu'ring grace's battle fought:

2. Ascending to the throne of might,
And seated at the Father's right,
All pow'r in heav'n is Jesus' own,
That here His manhood had not known.

3. That so, in nature's triple frame,
Each heav'nly and each earthly name,
And things in hell's abyss abhorred,
May bend the knee and own Him Lord.

4. Yea, angels tremble when they see
How changed is our humanity;
That flesh hath purged what flesh had stained,
And God, the Flesh of God, hath reigned.

5. Be Thou our joy and strong defense,
Who art our future recompense;
So shall the light that springs from Thee,
Be ours through all eternity

△ 6. O risen Christ, ascended Lord,
All praise to Thee let earth accord,
Who art, while endless ages run,
With Father and with Spirit One.

Trans. John Mason Neale
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