

VEXILLA REGIS • *Fourth Verse* (Palestrina)

O tree most beautiful, made lovely
with the regal purple blood, chosen
from a worthy stock to embrace
limbs so holy, limbs so divine.

*Arbor decóra et fúlgida,
Ornáta Regis púrpura,
Elécta digno stípíte
Tam sancta membra tángere.*

O fair and resplendent Tree!
beautified by the scarlet of the King,
and chosen as the noble trunk that
was to touch such sacred limbs.

“**CHOSEN FROM A WORTHY STOCK**” • An ancient legend says the Cross of Christ sprang from the bough of a tree in Paradise. Some versions say Adam brought it from Paradise. It will be remembered that certain trees can live for thousands of years.

“**REGAL PURPLE BLOOD**” • References not only the Precious Blood, but often signified power, wealth, and/or royalty. For example, the rich man in the story of Lazarus (Luke 16: 19) • *There was a certain rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen...*

Throughout the Old Testament, purple was required for Temple services, for example, Exodus 26:1 • *And thou shalt make the Tabernacle in this manner: Thou shalt make ten curtains of fine twisted linen, and violet and purple, and scarlet twice dyed, diversified with embroidery.*

See also, Mark 15:17 • *They arrayed Him in a purple cloak, and put round his head a crown woven out of thorns...*

♩ = 120

CCWATERSHED.ORG/ARBOR

Ar - bor_ de - có - ra et fúl - gi - da,

Or - ná - ta Re - gis

Or - ná - ta Re-gis púr-pu -

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Or - ná - ta Re - gis púr - pu - ra,

Or - ná - ta Re-gis púr-pu - ra, E - lé - cta

púr-pu - ra, Re - gis púr - pu - ra, E - lé - cta di -

ra, E - lé - cta di - gno

12

E - lé - cta di - gno stí - - - - - pi -
 di - gno stí - - pi - te, E - lé - cta di - gno stí - pi -
 - gno stí - pi - te, E - lé - cta di - gno stí - - - - - pi -
 stí - pi - te, E - - - lé - cta di - gno stí - pi -

18

te Tam san - cta mem - bra tán - ge - re,
 te Tam san - cta mem - bra tán -
 te Tam san - cta mem - - - - bra

24

san - cta mem - bra tán - ge - re.
 Tam san - cta mem - bra tán - ge - re.
 - ge - re, Tam san - cta mem - bra tán - ge - re.
 tán - ge - re, Tam san - cta mem - bra tán - ge - re.