2. To wash us from the stain of sin he was pierced by the sharp point of the lance and shed water and blood.

3. What David in his true hymn told to the nations is now fulfilled: God reigns from the tree.

4. Fair and radiant tree, with royal purple adorned, chosen to touch so sacred limbs with thy boughs.

5. Blessed cross, on whose arms the redemption of the world is borne; thou, from whom his body hangs, dost snatch from hell its prey.

6. O cross hail, our only hope! At this passion-tide increase grace to the good and take sin from the wicked.

7. Thee, holy Trinity fount of salvation, let every spirit praise. To whom thou givest the victory of the cross, to them give also its prize.

REFRAIN: The banners of the King go forth, the mystery of the cross shines, by which our Life bore death and by death gave us life.

The elegant English translations are by Fr. Adrian Fortescue (d. 1923)