

# “The Royal Banners Forward Go”

by Venantius Fortunatus, c. 530-609

From:

*The Lutheran Hymnal*

(St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1941)

1. The royal banners forward go;  
The cross shines forth in mystic glow  
Where He in flesh, our flesh who made,  
our sentence bore, our ransom paid;
2. Where deep for us the spear was dyed,  
Life's torrent rushing from His side.  
To wash us in that precious flood  
Where mingled water flowed and blood.
3. Fulfilled is all that David told  
In true prophetic song of old;  
Amidst the nations, God, saith he,  
Hath reigned and triumphed from the tree.
4. O Tree of beauty, Tree of light,  
O Tree with royal purple dight;  
Elect, on whose triumphal breast  
Those holy limbs should find their rest;
5. On whose dear arms, so widely flung,  
The weight of this world's ransom hung  
The price of humankind to pay  
And spoil the spoiler of his prey.
6. O Cross, our one reliance, hail!  
So may thy power with us avail  
To give new virtue to the saint  
And pardon to the penitent.
7. To Thee, eternal Three in One,  
Let homage meet by all be done  
Whom by the cross Thou dost restore,  
Preserve, and govern evermore.

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## Notes:

Hymn #168 from *The Handbook to the Lutheran Hymnal*

Text: Ps. 96:10

Author: Venantius Fortunatus, 569, cento

Translated by: John M. Neale, 1851, alt.

Titled: "VV: ed: "Vexilla Regis prodeunt"

Composer: John Hampton, 1875, ad.  
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