

Decora lux aeternitatis auream

The Beauteous Light of God's Eternal Majesty

Canon L. Hall

1. The beauteous light of God's eternal Majesty
streams down in golden rays to grace this holy day
which crowned the princes of th'apostles' glorious choir,
and unto guilty mortals showed the heav'nward way.
2. The teacher of the world and guard of heaven's gate,
Rome's founders twain and rulers too of ev'ry land,
triumphant over death by sword and shameful cross,
with laurel crowned are gathered to th'eternal band.
3. O happy Rome! who in thy martyr princes' blood,
a twofold stream, art washed and doubly sanctified.
All earthly beauty thou alone outshinest far,
Empurpled by their outpoured life-blood's glorious tide.
4. All honour, power, and everlasting jubilee
to him who all things made and governs here below,
To God, in essence One, and yet in persons Three,
both now and ever, while unending ages flow.

Inspiration: "Decora lux aeternitatis auream"; Elpis, wife of the philosopher Boethius, ca. 493.
Lyrics: 12.12.12; Monsignor Canon L. Hall in "Westminster Hymnal", 1912.