

Christe Redemptor omnium

O Christ, before Whose Throne of Grace

"Primer of 1706"

1. O Christ, before whose throne of grace
thy mother stands to plead our case,
exert thy love, and grant that we
may share thy Father's clemency.
2. Angels, archangels, thrones and pow'rs
and all who guard the heav'nly tow'rs
from present, past and future ill
with watchful eye preserve us still.
3. Blest prophets and apostles, plead
our guilty cause, and intercede
with our offended Judge, that we
with tears may move his clemency.
4. May martyrs robes of purple dye
with stoles of white confessors vie,
and both prevail to call us home
from exile, and reverse our doom.
5. Chaste train of virgins, blest supplies
who, nursed in deserts, fill the skies,
and all the choirs of saints, obtain
that we with you may jointly reign.
6. Preserve thy faithful kingdom free
from unbelievers' tyranny,
that all mankind united may
one pastor of our souls obey.
7. Great ever-living God, to thee,
in essence one, in persons three,
may all thy works their tribute bring
and ev'ry age thy glory sing.

Inspiration: "Christe Redemptor omnium", Latin, attributed to Rabanus Maurus, ca. 780-856; altered by Pope Urban VIII to "Placare, Christe, servulis" in 1632.
Lyrics: 88.88; "The Primer", 1706; this version from "The Westminster Hymnal", 1939.