

Ego sum Alpha et O





Edited by Jason Smart

Anon. (English, before 1558)

Precentor *Chorus*

E - go sum Al - pha et O, pri - mus et no - vis - si -
- mus, i - ni - ti - um et fi - nis, qui an - te mun - di prin - ci -
- pi - um et in sae - cu - lum sae - cu - li vi - vo in
ae - ter - num: ma - nus me - ae, quae vos fe - ce - runt, cla -
- vis con - fi - xae sunt; pro - pter vos fla - gel - lis cae - sus
sum, spi - nis co - ro - na - tus sum; a - quam pe -
- ti - i pen - dens, et a - ce - tum por - rex - e - runt in e - scam
me - am fel - de - de - runt; et in la - tus lan - ce - am,
mor - tu - us et se - pul - tus, re - sur - re - xi, vo - bis - cum sum.
A Vi - de - te, qui - a e - go ip - se sum, et
END
non est De - us pra - e - ter me. Al - le - lu - ia.



[2 soloists]

Tenor  
 Bass  

E - gosum ve - stra re-dem-pti - - - o;
 E - gosum ve - stra re-dem - pti - - - -

4 


e - go sum rex ve - - - - -
 - - o; e - go sum rex ve - - - - -

7 


- - - - - ster; e - go vos re - su - sci - ta - - -
 - - - - - ster; e - go vos re - su - sci - ta -

10 


- - bo in di - e no - vis - si - - - -
 - 3 - 3 - 3 - 3 bo in di 3- e no - vis - si - 3- - 3 - -

13 


- - - - - mo.
 - - - - - mo.

REPEAT FROM **A** TO **END**

Translation

I am alpha and omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end, who from before the beginning of the world and unto the end of ages lives eternally. My hands which made you have been pierced with nails. For you I have been scourged with whips and crowned with thorns. Hanging I asked for water; they offered me vinegar and gave me gall for my food. I was speared in the side, I died and was buried; but I arose and am with you. See, for I am he and there is no other God but me. Alleluia.

∿. I am your redemption. I am your king. I will raise you up at the last day.

See, for I am he and there is no other God but me. Alleluia.

Liturgical Function

In the pre-reformation Use of Salisbury, *Ego sum Alpha et O* was an antiphon during the procession before high mass on Sundays from the second Sunday after Easter to the second Sunday before the feast of the Ascension (inclusive). It was sung as the procession left the quire and proceeded to the station, which was made before the rood screen. There, according to the Salisbury customs, two clerks of the second form, standing in surplices before the entrance to the quire, facing the people, sang the verse. For a polyphonic verse such as this the two soloists would have been lay clerks from the choir. At the end of the verse the choir repeated the antiphon from *Videte* and then entered the quire singing the antiphon *Christus resurgens* without its verse.

Editorial Conventions

The original clef, staff signature, mensuration symbol and first note of each part are shown on the prefatory staves at the start of the polyphony.

The superscript accidental in bar 14 is editorial and remains operative throughout the bar.

Ligatures are denoted by the sign \ulcorner , colouration by the sign \lrcorner .

Sources

Polyphony: Oxford, Christ Church, MS Mus. 45 (last quarter of 16th century), f.39^v.

Plainsong: *Processionale ad usum Sarum* (Antwerp, 1528), f.90.

The Christ Church manuscript presents the two voices separately on the left- and right-hand pages of one opening. At bar 13 in the tenor part the proportion sign Φ is entered on the stave before the rest.