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### DIE DOMINICO HYMNUS

D. GREGORII,

*"Primo dierum omnium, quo mundus exstat conditus."*

Gregory the Great, the author of the above hymn, was Bishop of Rome from the year 590 to 614. He is reckoned with Ambrose, Jerome and Augustine, as one of the four great fathers of the Latin Church. Although he magnified his office as a successor of Peter, and clung tenaciously to many of the traditions of Rome, he was a man of sincere piety, much humility and apostolic zeal. He lived in the most frugal manner, and, far from disputing with the Patriarch of Constantinople for what he termed the blasphemous title of *universal Bishop*, he called himself the *servant of the servants of God*. It was Gregory who first sent a mission to Anglo-Saxon Britain, although the Welsh and Gaelic inhabitants had been christianized long before. The venerable Bede, who flourished about the year 700, in his *Ecclesiastical History* thus states the origin of this mission:—"While yet a private clergyman, Gregory, passing through a slave market in his native city, found his eyes forcibly arrested by some light-haired, fair-complexioned youths, who stood exposed for sale. 'Whence came these lads?' he asked. 'From Britain,' was the answer. 'Are the people Christians there?' he then enquired. No, pagans,' he was told. 'Alas!' he said