

Easter Proclamation (Exsultet)

Celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord by listening to the Easter Proclamation (the Exsultet) and meditating on icons reflecting the baptismal images that recall Jesus' death and Resurrection and his glorious reign in heaven.

Current Text

Rejoice, heavenly powers! Sing, choirs of angels! Exult, all creation around God's throne! Jesus Christ, our King, is risen! Sound the trumpet of salvation!

Rejoice, O earth, in shining splendor, radiant in the brightness of your King! Christ has conquered! Glory fills you! Darkness vanishes for ever!

Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The risen Savior shines upon you! Let this place resound with joy, echoing the mighty song of all God's people!

[My dearest friends, standing with me in this holy light, join me in asking God for mercy, that he may give his unworthy minister grace to sing his Easter praises.]

[V. The Lord be with you.
R. And also with you.]

V. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Older Text

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King's triumph!

Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.

(Therefore, dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy light, invoke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God almighty, that he, who has been pleased to number me, though unworthy, among the Levites, may pour into me his light unshadowed, that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.)

(V. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.)

V. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly right
that with full hearts and minds and voices
we should praise the unseen God, the all-
powerful Father,
and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

For Christ has ransomed us with his blood,
and paid for us the price of Adam's sin
to our eternal Father!

This is our Passover feast,
when Christ, the true Lamb, is slain,
whose blood consecrates the homes of all
believers.

This is the night when first you saved our
fathers: you freed the people of Israel from
their slavery and led them dry-shod through
the sea. This is the night when the pillar of fire
destroyed the darkness of sin!

This is the night when Christians everywhere,
washed clean of sin
and freed from all defilement,
are restored to grace and grow together in
holiness.

This is the night when Jesus Christ
broke the chains of death
and rose triumphant from the grave.
What good would life have been to us,
had Christ not come as our Redeemer?

Father, how wonderful your care for us!
How boundless your merciful love!

R. It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, with ardent love of
mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty
Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only
Begotten.

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the
eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient
sinfulness.

These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of
believers.

This is the night, when once you led our
forebears, Israel's children, from slavery in
Egypt and made them pass dry-shod through
the Red Sea. This is the night that with a pillar
of fire banished the darkness of sin.

This is the night that even now, throughout the
world, sets Christian believers apart from
worldly vices and from the gloom of sin,
leading them to grace and joining them to his
holy ones.

This is the night, when Christ broke the prison-
bars of death and rose victorious from the
underworld. Our birth would have been no
gain, had we not been redeemed.

O wonder of your humble care for us!

To ransom a slave
you gave away your Son.

O happy fault, O necessary sin of Adam,
which gained for us so great a Redeemer!
Most blessed of all nights, chosen by God
to see Christ rising from the dead!

Of this night scripture says:
"The night will be as clear as day:
it will become my light, my joy."

The power of this holy night
dispels all evil, washes guilt away,
restores lost innocence, brings mourners joy;
it casts out hatred, brings us peace, and
humbles earthly pride.

Night truly blessed when heaven is wedded to
earth and man is reconciled with God!
Therefore, heavenly Father, in the joy of this
night, receive our evening sacrifice of praise,
your Church's solemn offering.

Accept this Easter candle,
a flame divided but undimmed,
a pillar of fire that glows to the honor of God.

Let it mingle with the lights of heaven
and continue bravely burning

O love, O charity beyond all telling,
to ransom a slave you gave away your Son!

O truly necessary sin of Adam, destroyed
completely by the Death of Christ! O happy
fault that earned so great, so glorious a
Redeemer!

O truly blessed night,
worthy alone to know the time and hour
when Christ rose from the underworld! This is
the night of which it is written: The night shall
be as bright as day, dazzling is the night for
me, and full of gladness.

The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to
mourners, drives out hatred, fosters concord,
and brings down the mighty. On this, your night
of grace, O holy Father,

O truly blessed night, when things of heaven
are wed to those of earth, and divine to the
human.

Therefore, O Lord, we pray you that this
candle, hallowed to the honor of your name,
may persevere undimmed, to overcome the
darkness of this night. accept this candle, a
solemn offering, the work of bees and of your
servants' hands, an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church. But now
we know the praises of this pillar, which
glowing fire ignites for God's honor,

a fire into many flames divided, yet never
dimmed by sharing of its light, for it is fed by

to dispel the darkness of this night!

May the morning Star which never sets find this flame still burning: Christ, that Morning Star, who came back from the dead, and shed his peaceful light on all mankind, your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

[Source: The 1975 Sacramentary. This is said or sung during the Easter Vigil, after the Easter candle is lit. The deacon usually sings this proclamation, or the priest. If there is no deacon or priest to sing, then another person may sing, but omit the bracketed words of "My dearest friends, etc."]

melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

May this flame be found still burning by the Morning Star: the one Morning Star who never sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from death's domain, has shed his peaceful light on humanity, and lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.