


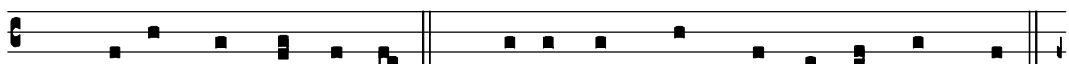
Exsultet

[AT THE EASTER VIGIL]


R E- JOICE hea- ven- ly pow'rs, Singchoirs of An- gels! Ex- ult, all
cre- a- tion a- round Gods throne! Je- sus Christ, our King is ris- en! Sound the
trum- pet of sal- va- tion! Re- joice, O earth, in shin- ing splen- dor, Ra- diant
in the bright- ness of your King! Christ has con- quered! Glo- ry fills you!
Dark- ness van- i- shes for ev- er! Re- joice, O Mo- ther Church! Ex- ult in
glo- ry! The ris'nSa- viour shines up- on you! Let this place re- sound with joy,
ech- o- ing the migh- ty song of all God's peo- ple! My dear- est friends,
stand- ing with me in this ho- ly light, join me in ask- ing God for mer- cy,
that he may give his un- worth- y min- i- ster grace to sing his Pas- chal prais- es.



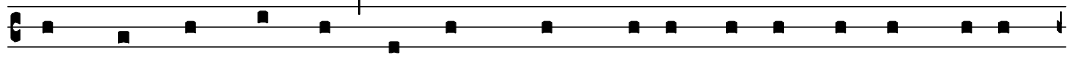
V. The Lord be with you. R. And al- so with you. V. Lift up your hearts.



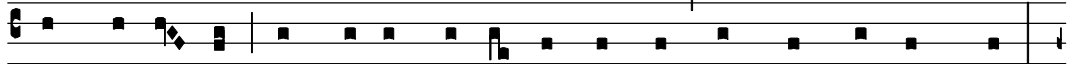
R. We lift them to the Lord. V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



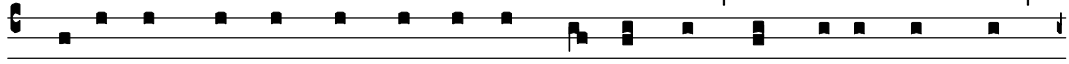
R. It is meet and right so to do. It is meet and right that with full hearts




and minds and voic- es, we should praise the in- vis- i- ble God, the Al-



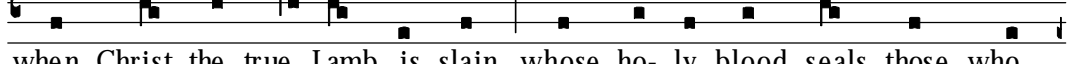
might- y Fa- ther, and his on- ly be- got- ten Son, our Lord Je- sus Christ.



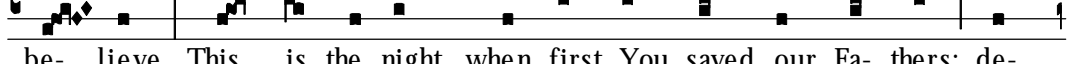
Who on our be- half, to Thee, E- ter- nal Fa- ther, Solv- edA- dam's fall:



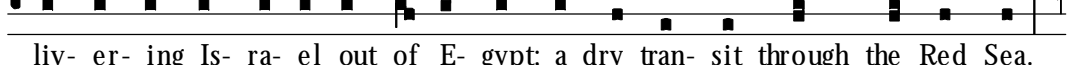
the an- cient sin, cleansedwith His pre- cious Blood. This is our Pas- chal feast,



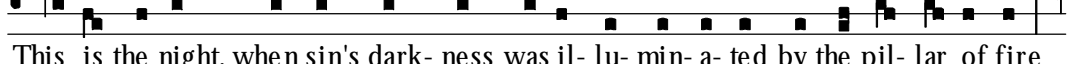
when Christ the true Lamb, is slain, whose ho- ly blood seals those who



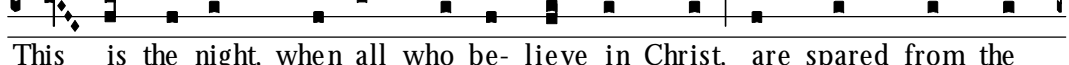
be- lieve. This is the night, when first You saved our Fa- thers; de-



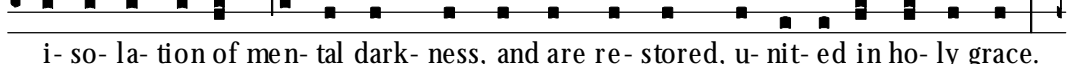
liv- er- ing Is- ra- el out of E- gypt; a dry tran- sit through the Red Sea.



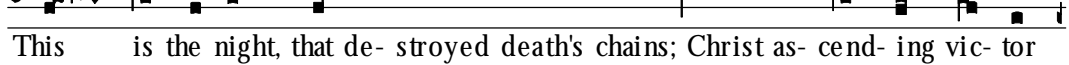
This is the night, when sin's dark- ness was il- lu- min- a- ted by the pil- lar of fire



This is the night, when all who be- lieve in Christ, are spared from the



i- so- la- tion of men- tal dark- ness, and are re- stored, u- nit- ed in ho- ly grace.



This is the night, that de- stroyed death's chains; Christ as- cend- ing vic- tor

o- ver hell. In- deed, of what use is life if not for our Re- deem- er?

O mar- vel at the per- sis- tence of your bound- less works! O de- light in

your in- est- 'ma- ble love: our bond- age ran- somed, re- deemed by Thy Son.

O that bliss- full crime, A- dam's in- i- qui- ty; which Christ's death has re- deemed!

O most blessed of nights, that ve- ry mo- ment and hour of Christ's re- sur- rec- tion!

Here is the night, of which script- uresays: 'Be- hold, the night is as clear as day,-

it- shall il- lu- min- ate and de- light me.' Treat then as ho- ly this night from

which ev- il flees, clean- ses guilt, re- stores fal- len in- no- cence- and com- forts

the be- reaved. Take flight e- vil doubts; Con- form your hearts; re- sist the

spi- rit of this world!

¶ The Deacon fixes the five grains of blessed incense into the Candle in the form of a Cross, thusly:

1
4 2 5
3

T HERE- FORE, this night of grace, ho- ly Fa- ther, in- cense us to
 sac- ri- fice this eve- 'ning; this sol- emn Wax o- bla- tion, the per- sis- tent work
 of bees, re- sanc- ti- fy your Church. As we cel- e- brate this new pil- lar,
 so we hon- our God in flames as- cend- ing.

¶ Here the Deacon lights the Paschal Candle from one of the tapers

F OR al- though brilliance dis- tri- butes and di- vides, it is not de- tered;
 For light ga- thers and con- forms where there is know- ledge. Cher- ish
 in- deed, then, this wax*, for it is as your soul; on this pre- cious sub- stance is
 im- pressed the fire that nur- tures and ed- u- cates.

¶ Here the distributed candles are all lighted.

O night ve- ry blessed, which pil- laged E- gypt, and en- riched the
 He- brews, may it join earth and hea- ven. Con- se- crate this Can- dle

in hon- our of Christ, the Day- Star, May this Light per- ser- verethrough- out
all cre- a- tion. Through Thy Son, Je- sus Christ, who liv- eth and reign- eth
in the un- i- ty of the Ho- ly Ghost, ev- er one God, world with- out end. A- men. ¹

¹ The word used here is 'ceris', which has several connotations. While it is usually translated 'Paschal Candle', it actually means 'bee's wax', primarily as that which would have covered a wax writing tablet. Bearing in mind that the words 'pillar' and 'tablet' also had similar connotations, both being used for writing inscriptions, the term 'wax', here, is not referring to merely the candle, but the 'mind' as a sort of candle; it is from this where we get the word 'cerebellum', or 'tablet beautiful'. As the word for 'flame' (lumina) is the same as used for 'eye', it can be seen that the eyes are analogous, being the 'flames' of the mind. This has to do with the ancient concept of the physical properties of light. It was believed that the eyes shot out beams or flames of light to perceive reality. The impressions of this reality was melted on the wax of the mind. The point here is that Christ is the true Light, and that while we all have our individual conceptions of reality, there is only one Truth. It is through the grace of God's light that we are able to behold Him.