

confined to Italy. The best examples date from the tenth and eleventh centuries.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Roman Catholic English and Latin Text

The full authorised English text is given below, together with the Latin original (from the *Missale Romanum* of 1970) upon which it is based.

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.

*Deacon:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with your spirit.

*Deacon:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them up to the Lord.

*Deacon:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People:* It is right and just.

It is truly right  
that with full hearts and minds and voices

**E**xsultet jam Angélica turba caelórum : exsúltent divína : et pro tanti Regis victória, tuba ínsonet salutáris.

The beginning of the Exsultet in the *Liber Usualis*.

Exsúltet iam angélica turba cælórum:  
exsúltent divína mystéria:  
et pro tanti Regis victória tuba ínsonet salutáris.

Gáudeat et tellus, tantis irradiáta fulgóribus:  
et ætérfi Regis splendóre illustráta,  
tótius orbis se séntiat amisíssse calíginem.

Lætétur et mater Ecclésia,  
tanti lúminis adornáta fulgóribus:  
et magnis populórum vócibus hæc aula resúltet.

[Quaprópter astántes vos, fratres caríssimi,  
ad tam miram huius sancti lúminis claritátem,  
una mecum, quæso,  
Dei omnipoténtis misericórdiam invocáte.  
Ut, qui me non meis méritis  
intra Levitárum númerum dignátus est aggregáre,  
lúminis sui claritátem infúndens,  
cérei huius laudem implére perficiat.]

[V/ Dóminus vobíscum.

R/ Et cum spíritu tuo.]

V/ Sursum corda.

R/ Habémus ad Dóminum.

V/ Grátias agámus Dómino Deo nostro.

R/ Dignum et iustum est.

Vere dignum et iustum est,  
invisíbilem Deum Patrem omnipoténtem

we should praise the unseen God, the all-powerful Father,  
and his only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Filiúmque eius unigénitum,  
Dóminum nostrum Iesum Christum,  
toto cordis ac mentis afféctu et vocis ministério pē

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

Qui pro nobis ætérho Patri Adæ débitum solvit,  
et véteris piáculi cautíónem pio cruóre detérsit.

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

Hæc sunt enim festa paschália,  
in quibus verus ille Agnus occíditur,  
cuius sanguine postes fidélium consecrántur.

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.

Hæc nox est,  
in qua primum patres nostros, fílios Israel  
edúctos de Ægypto,  
Mare Rubrum sicco vestígio transíre fecísti.

This is the night  
when the pillar of fire destroyed the darkness of sin!

Hæc igitur nox est,  
quæ peccatórum ténebras colúmnæ illuminatióne

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.

Hæc nox est,  
quæ hódie per univérsum mundum in Christo creáta  
a vitiis sæculi et calígine peccatórum segregátos,  
reddit grátiæ, sóciat sanctitáti.

This is the night  
when Jesus Christ broke the chains of death  
and rose triumphant from the grave.

Hæc nox est,  
in qua, destrúctis vínculis mortis,  
Christus ab íferis victor ascéndit.

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!  
To ransom a slave you gave away your Son.

Nihil enim nobis nasci prófuit,  
nisi rédimi profuísset.  
O mira circa nos tuæ pietátis dignátio!  
O inæstimábilis diléctio caritátis:  
ut servum redímeres, Fílium tradidísti!

O happy fault,  
O necessary sin of Adam,  
which gained for us so great a Redeemer!

O certe necessárium Adæ peccátum,  
quod Christi morte deléatum est!  
O felix culpa,  
quæ talem ac tantum mérit habére Redemptórem

Most blessed of all nights,

O vere beáta nox,

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.

(For it is fed by the melting wax,  
which the mother bee brought forth  
to make this precious candle.)

Let it mingle with the lights of heaven  
and continue bravely burning  
to dispel the darkness of this night!

May the Morning Star which never sets  
find this flame still burning:

quæ sola mérit scire tempus et horam,  
in qua Christus ab ínferis resurréxit!

Hæc nox est, de qua scriptum est:  
Et nox sicut dies illuminábitur:  
et nox illuminátió mea in delíciis meis.

Huius ígitur sanctificátio noctis fugat scélera, culp  
et reddit innocéntiam lapsis  
et mæstis lætitiam.  
Fugat ódia, concórdiam parat  
et curvat impéria.

O vere beáta nox,  
in qua terrénis cælestia, humánis divína iungúntur

In huius ígitur noctis grátia, súscipe, sancte Pater,  
laudis huius sacrificíum vespertínum,  
quod tibi in hac cérei oblatióne solémni,  
per ministrórum manus  
de opéribus apum, sacrosáncta reddit Ecclésia.

Sed iam colúmnæ huius præcónia nówimus,  
quam in honórem Dei rútilans ignis accéndit.  
Qui, lícet sit divísus in partes,  
mutuáti tamen lúminis detimenta non novit.

Alitur enim liquántibus ceris,  
quas in substántiam pretiósæ huius lámpadis  
apis mater edúxit.<sup>2</sup>

Orámus ergo te, Dómine,  
ut céreus iste in honórem tui nóminalis consecrátus  
ad noctis huius calíginem destruéndam,  
indefíciens persevéret.  
Et in odórem suavitatis accéptus,  
supérnis lumináribus misceáatur.

Flammas eius lúcifer matutínus invéniat:  
ille, inquam, lúcifer, qui nescit occásum.

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.  
Amen.

Christus Filius tuus,  
qui, regressus ab inferis, humano generi serenus  
et vivit et regnat in saecula saeculorum.

R/ Amen.

<sup>1</sup> This sentence follows *apis mater eduxit* in the Latin. It is shown here to correspond with its placing in the English

<sup>2</sup> This sentence has no equivalent in the current Roman Catholic English version, although it is retained in the curia from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America: "For it is fed by the melting wax which the bees, your servants, for the substance of this candle." The English translation of the 3rd edition of the Roman Missal will include it. Its text follows:

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 lighting 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 and just.

It is truly right and just,  
with ardent love of mind and heart,  
and with devoted service of our voice,