Exsultet

[AT THE EASTER VIGIL]

Exult, all heavenly powers, Sing choirs of angels! Exult, all creatures 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 forever! Rejoice, O Mother Church! Exult in glory! The rising 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 Paschal praises.
V. The Lord be with you. R. And also 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 voices, we should praise the invisible God, the Almighty Father, and his only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
Who on our behalf, to Thee, Eternal Father, Solve Adam's fall: the ancient sin, cleansed with His precious Blood. This is our Paschal feast, when Christ the true Lamb, is slain, whose holy blood seals those who believe. This is the night, when first You saved our Fathers; delivering Israel out of Egypt; a dry transit through the Red Sea.
This is the night, when sin's darkness was illuminated by the pillar of fire. This is the night, when all who believe in Christ, are spared from the isolation of mental darkness, and are restored, united in holy grace.
This is the night, that destroyed death's chains; Christ ascending victor
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 ful crime, A dam’s in qui ty, which Christ’s death has re deemed!

O most blessed of nights, that ver ry mo ment and hour of Christ’s re sur rec tion!

Here is the night, of which script ures says: ‘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, cleanses guilt, re stores fal len in no cence and com forts
the be reaved. Take ﬂight ev il doubts; Con form your hearts, re sist the

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

   1

   4 2 5

   3
HEREFORE, this night of grace, holy Father, incense us to sacrifice this evening; this solemn Wax oblation, the persistent work of bees, sanctify your Church. As we celebrate this new pillar, so we honor our God in flames ascending.

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

OR although brilliance distributes and divides, it is not deterred; for light gathers and conforms where there is knowledge. Cherish indeed, then, this wax*, for it is as your soul; on this precious substance is impressed the fire that nurtures and educates.

¶ Here the distributed candles are all lighted.

night very blessed, which pillaged Egypt, and enriched the Hebrews, may it join earth and heaven. Consecrate this Candle
in honour of Christ, the Day-Star, May this Light persever through-out all creation. Through Thy Son, Jesus Christ, who liv-eth and reign-eth in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ev-er one God, world with-out end. A-men.

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.