

Roman Missal, 3rd Edition

Easter Vigil

The Easter Proclamation

(Exsultet) *longer form*

{18} . . . arriving at the altar, the Priest goes to his chair, gives his candle to a minister, puts incense into the thurible and blesses the incense as at the Gospel at Mass. The deacon goes to the Priest and saying: **your blessing, father,** asks for and receives a blessing from the Priest, who says in a low voice: **The Lord be in your heart and on your lips that you may proclaim his paschal praise worthily and well, in the name of the father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit** The deacon replies : **Amen.**

This blessing is omitted if the Proclamation is made by someone who is not a deacon.

{19}. The deacon, after incensing the book and the candle, proclaims the easter Proclamation (exsultet) at the ambo or at a lectern, with all standing and holding lighted candles in their hands.

The easter Proclamation may be made, in the absence of a deacon, by the Priest himself or by another concelebrating Priest. if, however, because of necessity, a lay cantor sings the Proclamation, the words Therefore, dearest friends up to the end of the invitation are omitted, along with the greeting The Lord be with you.

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s₁ : l₁ : d : d : t₁ : d : r : d : d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ / s₁ : l₁ : d : d : - : -
Ex - ult, let them ex - ult, the hosts of hea - ven, ex - ult, let Angel
- : - : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ : l₁ / r : d : t₁ : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : m₁ : s₁ : l₁ : l₁ / n₁ : l₁
minis - ters of God ex - ult, let the trum - pet of sal - va - tion sound
l₁ : d : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : s₁ : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : m₁ : m₁ / s₁ : l₁ : d : d : t₁ : d : r : d
a - loud our migh - ty King's tri - umph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as
t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ / s₁ : l₁ : d : d : - : - : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ : l₁ /
glo - ry floods her, a - blaze with light from her e - ter - nal King,
r : d : t₁ : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : m₁ : s₁ : l₁ : l₁ : l₁ / n₁ : l₁ : l₁ : l₁ : d : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : s₁ : l₁
let all cor - ners of the earth be glad, kno - wing an end to gloom and
s₁ : f₁ : m₁ : m₁ / s₁ : l₁ : d : d : - : - : - : d : t₁ : d : r / d : - : -
dark - ness . Re - joice, let Mother Church al - so re - joice, arrayed with
- : - : - : - : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ / r : d : t₁ : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : m₁ : s₁ : l₁ : l₁ : l₁ /
the lighting of his glo - ry, let this ho - ly buil - ding shake with joy,
n₁ : l₁ : l₁ : - : d : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : s₁ : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : m₁ : m₁ / s₁ : l₁ : d
filled with the migh - ty voi - ces of the peo - ples. (There - fore,
d : - : - : d : - : - : t₁ : d : r : d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ : l₁ /
dearest friends, standing in the awe - some glo - ry of this ho - ly light,
s₁ : l₁ : d : d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ / l₁ : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : s₁ : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : m₁ : m₁ /
in - voke with me, I ask you, the mer - cy of God al - migh - ty,
s₁ : l₁ : d : - : - : - : - : - : - : t₁ : d : r : d
that he, who has been pleased to number me, though un - wor - thy,
d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ / s₁ : l₁ : d : d : - : - : d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : d : l₁ /
a - mong the Le - vites, may pour into me his light un - sha - dowed,
l₁ : - : - : - : - : s₁ : f₁ : s₁ : l₁ : s₁ : f₁ : m₁ : m₁
that I may sing this can - dle's per - fect prai - ses.)

EXULTET. (Easter Proclamation) Page 2.

s₁ : s₁:l₁ : t₁ : l₁ : l₁ / s₁ : s₁:l₁ : t₁ : l₁ : l₁
(V). The Lord be with you. (R). And with your spi - rit.
d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : l₁ : s₁ / d : d:t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : l₁ : l₁ : s₁ //
(V). Lift up your hearts. (R). We lift them up to the Lord.
d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : t₁ : t₁ : s₁:l₁ : t₁ : l₁ / d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : l₁ : l₁ : s₁ //
(V). Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. (R). It is right and just.)

l₁ : d : - : - : - : - / l₁ : d : - : - : d:t₁ : l₁ : t₁ / l₁
It is truly right and just, with ardent love of mind and heart and
d : - : - : - : - : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ / l₁ : d : - : - : t₁ : d:r:d:d
with devoted service of our voice, to acclaim our God in-vi-si-ble,
d : - : d:t₁ : l₁ : l₁:t₁ : t₁ / t₁ : - : - : - : - : l₁ : t₁ : d : : t₁
the al - migh - ty Fa - ther, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his
l₁:s₁:s₁:l₁ t₁ : l₁:t₁ : t₁ / l₁ : d : - : - : - : - : - : - : - : - : -
On - ly Be - got - ten . Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the e -
d:t₁:l₁ : l₁:t₁ : t₁ / l₁ : d : - : - : d:t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : : t₁ : l₁
- ter - nal Fa - ther, and , pouring out his own dear Blood, wiped clean
t₁ : d : t₁ : l₁ : s₁:s₁:l₁ : t₁ : l₁:t₁ : l₁ : l₁ / d:t₁ : l₁ : s₁ : l₁:d : d : d:t₁
the re - cord of our an - cient sin - ful - ness. These then are the feasts
l₁ : l₁:t₁ : t₁ : t₁ / l₁ : d : - : t₁ : d : r / d : d:t₁ : l₁ : t₁ /
of Pass - o - ver , in which is slain the Lamb , the one true Lamb,
t₁ : - : - : - : - : - : - : l₁ : s₁ : s₁:l₁ : t₁ : l₁:t₁ : l₁ / l₁:d:r:d:t₁:d:t₁ : l₁
whose Blood anoints the door - post of be - lie - vers. This is the
t₁ : : l₁ : d : - : t₁ : d : r : d / d : t₁ : l₁ : l₁:t₁ : t₁ /
night, when once you led our fore - bears, Is - ra - el's child - ren,
t₁ : - : l₁ : t₁:d : t₁ / t₁ : - : - : - : - : l₁ : s₁ : s₁ : l₁
from slaver - y in E - gypt and made them pass dry - shod through
t₁ : l₁ : t₁ : l₁ / d:t₁:l₁:s₁:l₁:d:l₁ : t₁ / l₁ : d : - : d : t₁ : l₁ : t₁ /
the Red Sea. This is the night that with a pil - lar of fire

EXULTET. (Easter Proclamation) Page 3.

banished the dark-ness of sin. This is the night that even now,
throughout the world, sets Christian believers apart from world-ly
rivalries 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 wanderer of your humble care
for us! 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

d : - : t̄i : l̄i : t̄i / r̄:d:t̄i:l̄i:s̄i : l̄i:t̄i : t̄i : t̄i / d : - : d̄:t̄i : l̄i : t̄i
power of this night dis - pels wick - ed - ness, washes fault a - way,
l̄i : d : - : - : t̄i : l̄i : l̄i:t̄i : t̄i / l̄i:s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i : l̄i : t̄i : l̄i / r̄:d:t̄i
re - stores innocence to the fa - llen, and joy to mourn - ers, drives
l̄i:s̄i : l̄i : t̄i : t̄i / d̄:t̄i : l̄i : l̄i : t̄i : t̄i / t̄i : l̄i : s̄i : s̄i : l̄i : t̄i : l̄i : t̄i
out ha - tred, fos - ters con - cord, and brings down the mi - ghty.
l̄i : d : - : - : - : - : t̄i : d : r : d / d : - : - : -
On this, your night of grace, O ho - ly Fa - ther, accept this candle, a
d̄:l̄i:l̄i : l̄i:t̄i : t̄i : t̄i / l̄i : d : - : - : - : d̄:t̄i:l̄i : t̄i /
sol - emn of - fer - ing, the work of bees and of your ser - vant's hands,
t̄i : - : - : l̄i : t̄i : d / t̄i : - : - : - : l̄i:s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i
an evening sacri - fice of praise, this gift from your most ho - ly
l̄i / l̄i : d : - : - : - : t̄i : l̄i : l̄i:t̄i : l̄i / t̄i : -
Church. But now we know the praises of this pil - lar, which glow -
- : - : l̄i : s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i : l̄i : t̄i : l̄i / l̄i : d : - : - : d̄:t̄i
- ing fire ig - nites for God's hon - our, a fire into many flames
l̄i:l̄i:t̄i : t̄i / t̄i : l̄i : t̄i : d : t̄i : - : l̄i:s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i : l̄i / l̄i : d : -
d̄i - ví - ded, yet ne - ver dimmed by shar - ing of its light, for it is
d : - : d̄:t̄i : l̄i : t̄i / t̄i : - : - : l̄i : t̄i : d / t̄i : - : l̄i:s̄i : s̄i:l̄i
fed by mel - ting wax, drawn out by mo - ther bees to build a torch
t̄i : l̄i : t̄i : l̄i / l̄i:d̄:t̄i : d : - : d̄:t̄i : l̄i : t̄i / l̄i : d : - : -
so pre - cious. O truly ble - ssed night, when things of heaven
d : - : t̄i : l̄i : t̄i / t̄i : - : l̄i:s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i : l̄i : t̄i : l̄i //
are wed to those of earth, and dí - vine to the hu - mans.
l̄i : d : - : d̄:t̄i : l̄i : l̄i:t̄i : t̄i / l̄i : d : - / d : - : -
There - fore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, hallowed to the
d : - : t̄i : l̄i : t̄i / l̄i : d : - d̄:t̄i : l̄i : t̄i / t̄i : - : -
honour of your name, may perse - vere un - dimmed, to overcome
t̄i : - : l̄i:s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i : l̄i / l̄i : d : - : - : d̄:t̄i : l̄i : l̄i:t̄i : t̄i /
the dark - ness of this night. Re - ceive it as a pleas - ing fra - grance,

t̄i : l̄i : t̄i : d̄ : t̄i : l̄i s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i : l̄i:t̄i : l̄i / r̄:d̄:t̄i : l̄i : s̄i : l̄i : t̄i
 and let it min - gle with the lights of hea - ven. May this flame
 t̄i : - : - : - : l̄i:s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i : l̄i:t̄i : l̄i : l̄i / l̄i : d̄ : - : -
 be found still burn - ing by the Morn - ing Star: the one Morning
 d̄ : - : d̄:t̄i : l̄i : t̄i / l̄i : d̄ : - :: d̄ : - : - : -
 Star who ne - ver sets, Christ your Son, who, coming back from
 t̄ : d̄ : r̄ :: d̄ : - : - : - : d̄ : t̄i : l̄i : l̄i:t̄i : t̄i : t̄i / t̄i
 death's do - main, has shed his peaceful light on hu - ma - ní - ty, and
 l̄i : t̄i : d̄ : : t̄i : l̄i:s̄i : s̄i:l̄i : t̄i : l̄i:t̄i : l̄i // s̄i : s̄i:l̄i //
 lives and reigns for e - ver and e - ver. (R). A - men.

Through this most cruel and agonising of deaths, Jesus entered our suffering – and allowed himself to experience all the terror and evil of such a slow and painful death. Through this great act of self-sacrifice Jesus demonstrated his supreme love for all humankind, and in the deepest personal way for you, and me, and indeed every human being.

But the darkness of evil and death did not overcome the light of Jesus. As St John says in the prologue to his Gospel, “The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not overcome it.”

One of the most beautiful and moving services of Easter Day is the Dawn service, with the rising of the Sun dispelling the darkness of night, and the lighting of the Easter fire, and then the Easter Candle, to symbolise the light of Christ.

One of the most ancient and beautiful prayers of the Church, the Benedictus, captures the profound joy of this coming of the Light:

In the tender compassion of our God: the dawn from on high shall break up upon us, To shine on those who dwell in darkness And the shadow of death: And to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Jesus said ‘I am the light of the world, and whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’

Easter is an invitation from the living, risen Christ to open our hearts to the light of his love, so as to dispel the darkness of whatever is holding us back from living by this light, and living as we are truly meant to be.

May the light of Christ warm your life and guide you into the way of peace this Easter, and may you always have the joy of knowing the Risen Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer.