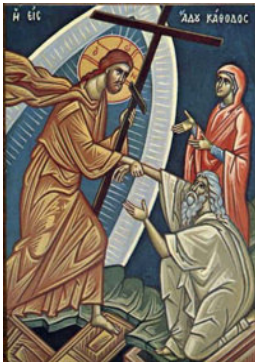




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## ***THE EASTER PROCLAMATION (THE EXULTET)***

*The Easter Proclamation, known as the "Exultet" from its opening word in the Latin version, is an ancient hymn sung by the deacon over the Easter candle which is lit at the start of the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday evening. It appears to have been in use in the Roman liturgy from between the 5th and 7th centuries.*



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 forever!

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!

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!

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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!  
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 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  
to dispel the darkness of this night!

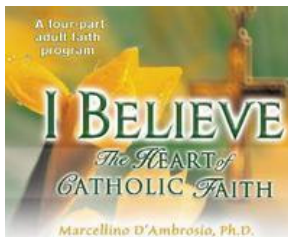
May the Morning Star which never sets  
find this flame still burning:  
Christ, that Morning Star,  
who came back from the dead,  
and shed his peaceful light on all mankind,  
your Son who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.



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