

The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night
3rd April 2021, 20:00

Exsultet

*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 lightning of his glory,
let this holy building shake with joy,
filled with the mighty voices of the peoples.*

*It is truly right and just,
with ardent love of mind and heart
and with devoted service of our voice,
to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father,
and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Begotten.*

*Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father,
and, pouring out his own dear Blood,
wiped clean the record of our ancient sinfulness.*

*These, then, are the feasts of Passover,
in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the doorposts of believers.*

*This is the night,
when once you led our forebears, Israel's children,
from slavery in Egypt
and made them pass dry-shod through the Red Sea.*

*This is the night
that with a pillar of fire
banished the darkness of sin.*

*This is the night
that even now, throughout the world,
sets Christian believers apart from worldly vices
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.*

*O wonder 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!*

*The sanctifying power of this night
dispels wickedness, washes faults away,
restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners.*

*O truly blessed night,
when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,
and divine to the human.*

*On this, your night of grace, O holy Father,
accept this candle, a solemn offering,
the work of bees and of your servants' hands,
an evening sacrifice of praise,
this gift from your most holy Church.*

*Therefore, O Lord,
we pray you that this candle,
hallowed to the honour of your name,
may persevere undimmed,
to overcome the darkness of this night.
Receive it as a pleasing fragrance,
and let it mingle with the lights of heaven.*

*May this flame be found still burning
by the Morning Star:
the one Morning Star who never sets,
Christ your Son,
who, coming back from death's domain,
has shed his peaceful light on humanity,
and lives and reigns for ever and ever.*

R: Amen.

Excerpts from the English translation & chants of The Roman Missal.
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First Reading

Genesis 1:1-2:2

Psalm

Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are,
Clothed in majesty and glory, wrapped in light as in a robe!

You founded the earth on its base, to stand firm from age to age;
You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak; the waters stood higher than the mountains.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow in between the hills;
On their banks dwell the birds of heaven; from the branches they sing their song.

From your dwelling you water the hills; earth drinks its fill of your gift;
You make the grass grow for the cattle and the plants to serve our needs.

How many are your works, O Lord! In wisdom you have made them all;
The earth is full of your riches; bless the Lord, my soul!

Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.

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Second Reading

Exodus 14:15-15:1

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Canticle

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph! Horse and rider he has thrown into the sea!
The Lord is my strength, my song, my salvation.
This is my God and I extol him, my father's God and I give him praise.

The Lord is a warrior, the Lord is his name. The chariots of Pharaoh he hurled into the sea;
The flower of his army is drowned in the sea. The deeps hide them; they sank like a stone.

Your right hand, Lord, glorious in its power, your right hand, Lord, has shattered the enemy.
In the greatness of your glory you crushed the foe.

You will lead your people and plant them
On your mountain, the place, O Lord, where you have made your home,
The sanctuary, Lord, which your hands have made, the Lord will reign for ever and ever.

I will sing to the Lord, glorious his triumph!

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Third Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

Canticle

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.
For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name! Make his mighty deeds known to the people!
Declare the greatness of his name; sing a psalm to the Lord!

For he has done glorious deeds, make them known to all the earth!
People of Zion, sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!

You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

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Gloria

Please join in the ringing of bells before we say the Gloria together.

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.
Let the sons of Israel say: "His love has no end."

The Lord's right hand has triumphed; his right hand raised me up.
I shall not die, I shall live and recount his deeds.

The stone which the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
This is the work of the Lord, a marvel in our eyes.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

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Gospel

Mark 16:1-8

Preparation of Gifts

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation:
All you who hear, now to his altar draw near, join in profound adoration.

Praise to the Lord, let us offer our gifts at his altar;
Let not our sins and transgressions now cause us to falter.
Christ, the High Priest, bids us all join in his feast, gathered with him at the altar.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in us adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now in praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from his people again: now as we worship before him.

Words: Joachim Neander (1650-1680), trans (v1, 3) C. Winkworth; v2 unknown.
Melody from *Praxis Pietatis Melica* (German, 17th century, as set in *The Chorale Book for England* (1863).

Holy Holy

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts!
Heaven and earth are full of your glory,
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!

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Memorial Acclamation

Save us, Saviour of the world!
For by your cross and resurrection you have set us free.

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Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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Prayer of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.

Holy Communion

Now the green blade riseth from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

In the grave they laid Him, Love whom men had slain,
Thinking that never He would wake again;
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Thy touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:
Love is come again like wheat that springeth green.

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Sending Forth

Toccata - C.M. Widor (1844-1937)

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