EXSULTET

Christopher Walker

With vigor, singing in speech rhythm

Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult,

Ah…

let the trumpet of salvation sound aloud our mighty King’s triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her,

Ah…

Ablaze with light from her eternal King, let all corners of the earth be glad, knowing an end to gloom and darkness.

Ah…

Rejoice, let Mother Church also rejoice, arrayed with the lightning of his glory, let this holy building shake with joy,

Ah…

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filled with the mighty voices of the peoples. Therefore dearest friends, standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,

Ah…

invoke with me I ask you, the mercy of God almighty, that he, who has been pleased to number me, Ah…

though unworthy, among the Levites, may pour into me his light unshadowed, that I may sing this candle's perfect praises.

Ah…

The Lord be with you. And with your spirit. Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. 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,

Ah...

Deacon/Priest/Cantor

of our voice,

Ah...

to acclaim our God invisible, the almighty Father, and Jesus Christ, our Lord, his Son, his Only Be-gotten.

Ah...

Who for our sake paid Adam's debt to the eternal Father, and, pouring out his own dear Blood,

Ah...

wiped clean the record of our ancient sin-ful-ness. These then are the feasts of Passover,
the Lamb, the one true Lamb, of believers.

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

This is the night that even now, throughout the world, 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. Our birth would have been no gain.

had we not been redeemed. O wonder of your humble care for us!
O love, O 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!
The night shall be as bright as day, full of gladness. The sanctifying power of this night dazzles me, and is full of gladness. The sanctifying power of this night disperses wickedness, washes away faults, restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to mourners. Drives out hatred, fosters concord, and brings down the mighty. Ah…

(Short version OMIT 27-30, go to 31)
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.

But now we know the praises of this pillar, which glowing fire ignites for God’s honor,
a fire into many flames divided, yet never dimmed by sharing of its light,
EXSULTET (9)

for it is fed by melting wax, drawn out by mother bees to build a torch so precious.

Ah…

O trul y bles sed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,

and divine to the human. On this, your night of grace, 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, **hal lowed to the hon or of your name,**

Ah...

May this flame be found still burning **by the Morn ing Star:** the one Morning Star who **nev er sets,**

Ah...

Christ your Son, who, coming back from **death’s do main,** has shed his peaceful light on **hu manity,**

Ah...
EXSULTET (11)

EXSULTET

Much of the Exsultet chant is based on the following three tones:

**General:** The long and short versions are included. The Exsultet may be sung by a solo singer alone or two singers, alternating verses. The accompaniment may be (a) sung by a choir throughout, or (b) sung by a choir where text is printed for them, or (c) played on a keyboard with a sustaining tone.

**Priest/Deacon/Cantor:** This part should be sung in speech rhythm emphasizing important words in a phrase and not lengthening the last syllable of each bar. Allow good pauses between the sections to let the text to be assimilated by the assembly. Note the section which may only be sung by the priest or deacon.

**The Choir:** The choir parts should be sung without dominating except for "This is the night" and the places where they sing the text. The keyboard may play the "Ah" chants instead of the choir. The choir then sings just the parts where they have been given the text.

**Optional Keyboard:** Give gentle support on a keyboard if needed to help the choir voices sustain their part and to cover their breathing places. If there is no choir present, the keyboard may play the choir parts.