The Deacon singing the Exsultet from an unfolding scroll before the assembly
Drawing by Br. Martin Ermsparger, OSB

The Easter Proclamation: the Exsultet
THE PASCHAL PROCLAMATION

Exult, let them exult, the host 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
build- ing shake with joy, filled with the mighty voices
of the peoples. (Therefore, dearest friends,
standing in the awesome glory of this holy light,
in- voke with me, I ask you, the mercy of God al- might- y,
that he, who has been pleased to number me, though
un- worth- y, a- mong the Le- vites, may pour in- to me
his light un- shad- owed, that I may sing this candle’s
per- fect prais- es.)
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, 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
Pass-over, in which is slain the Lamb, the one true Lamb,
whose Blood anoints the door-posts of believers.

This is the night, when once you led our forebears,
Israél’s children, from salvery 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, through-out the
world, sets Christian believers apart from worldly vic-
es 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 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 power of this night dispels wickedness,
washes faults away, restores innocence to the fallen,
and joy to mourners, drives out hatred, fosters
concord, and brings down the mighty.

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

when things of heav-en are wed to those of earth,

and di-vine to the hu-man.

There-fore, O Lord, we pray you that this can-dle,

hallowed to the honor of your name, may perse-vere

un-dimmed, to overcome the dark-ness of this night.

Re-ceive it as a pleas-ing fra-grance, and let it min-gle

with the lights of heav-en. May this flame be found still

burn-ing by the Morn-ing Star: the one Morn-ing 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

℟. A- men

Text: ICEL
Music: Columba Kelly, © Saint Meinrad Archabbey, 2012
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED