

Hæc nox est, quæ hódie per unívèrsum mundum in Christo credéntes, a vítiis sæculi et calígine peccatórum segregátos, reddit grátia, sóciat sanctitáti.

Hæc nox est, in qua, destrúctis vínculis mortis, Christus ab ínferis victor ascéndit.

Nihil enim nobis nasci prófuit, nisi rédimi profúisset.

O mira circa nos tuæ pietátis dignátio! O inæstimábilis diléctio caritátis: ut servum redímeres, Fílium tradidísti!

O certe necessárium Adæ peccátum, quod Christi morte delétum est!

O felix culpa, quæ talem ac tantum mérui habére Redemptórem!

O vere beáta nox, quæ sola mérui scire tempus et horam, in qua Christus ab ínferis resur-réxit!

Hæc nox est, de qua scriptum est: «Et nox sicut dies illuminábitur: et nox illuminátio mea in delíciis meis.»

Huius ígitur sanctificátio noctis fugat scélera, culpas lavat: et reddit innocéntiam lapsis et mæstis lætítiam. Fugat ódia, concórdiam parat et curvat impéria.

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 as 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!

In huius igitur noctis grátia, súscipe, sancte Pater, laudis huius sacrificium vespertinum, quod tibi in hac cérei oblatióne sollémni, per ministrórum manus de opéribus apum, sacrosáncta reddit Ecclésia.

Sed iam colúmnæ huius præcónia nóvimus, quam in honórem Dei rútilans ignis accéndit. Qui, licet sit dívísus in partes, mutuáti tamen lúminis detriménta non novit. Alitur enim liquántibus ceris, quas in substántiam pretiósæ huius lámpadis apis mater edúxit.

O vere beáta nox, in qua terrénis cæléstia, humánis divína iungúntur!

Orámus ergo te, Dómine, ut céreus iste in honórem tui nóminis consecrátus, ad noctis huius caliginem destruéndam, indeficiens perseveret. Et in odórem suavitátis accéptus, supérnis lumináribus misceátur. Flammas eius lúcifer matutínus invéniat: Ille, inquam, lúcifer, qui nescit occásus: Christus Fílius tuus, qui, regréssus ab ínferis, humáno géneri serénus illúxit, et vivit et regnat in sæcula sæculórum. R. Amen.

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 honour 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.

R. Amen.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### First reading

Gen 1: 1 - 2: 2 or 1: 26-31a: *Creation.*