

## Simple Metrical Translation • “Victimæ Paschali” • Page 1 of 4

English Translation by an FSSP priest. Musical Setting (“ALL SAINTS”) is used in the *Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal* for numbers: 228, 282, 388, 672, 789, and 820.



### One way to sing this:

- Verse 1 = Ladies with organ
- Verse 2 = Men (on melody) with organ
- Verse 3 = SATB without organ
- Verse 4 = Ladies with Organ
- Verse 5 = SATB with organ

Saint Robert Southwell wrote a hymn called “**In Paschal feast, the end of ancient rite**” (#336 in *The Saint Jean de Brébeuf Hymnal*). What is this “end” of an ancient rite? Saint Thomas Aquinas tells us, in his SEQUENCE for the Holy Eucharist called *Lauda Sion Salvatorem*. Specifically, Saint Thomas Aquinas says about the Eucharist: “It was prefigured in type when Isaac was brought as an offering, when a lamb was appointed for the Pasch, and when manna was given to the Jews of old.” Notice how the first verse of the rendering (below) say: “Praise the Paschal Victim true.” Jesus Christ is the true Paschal Victim, which was prefigured in type. The Old Testament contains many “types” of Jesus; e.g. when the king tried to murder Moses by killing all the male infants, which prefigured Herod’s attempt to kill Jesus by killing all the male infants. Or Isaac, who carried the wood on his own back (Genesis 22:6) up the mountain.

1. Chris - tians, come, up - lift your voic - es, Praise the Pas - chal Vic - tim true!

See: a Lamb, the sheep re - deem - ing, Guilt of sin who nev - er knew,

To His Fa - ther rec - on - ciles Those whom guilt of sin de - files!

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2. Death and life have fought to-gether, Pass - ing\_ won-der - ful their strife:

Through the gates of death de-part - ed He who\_ wields com-mand of life;

Liv - ing now, for - e'er to\_ reign, Nev - er shall His king-dom wane!

3. Tell us, pray, O faith - ful Mar - y, What thou saw - est on the way?

Christ, his mon - u - ment for-sak - ing, Has re - turned to life this day:

From that dark and\_ lone - ly\_ den He in glo - ry rose a - gain.

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4. An - gels saw I there in wit-ness; Lay the garb of his re - pose,

Cloth that bound His head, be-fore me: Christ, my hope, in truth a - rose!

Goes he now to Gal - i - lee, Where you shall your Mas-ter see.

5. Christ our Lord, we know, is ris - en, Ris - en from the grave in - deed:

Thou, O King and might - y Vic - tor, Pit - y those who pit - y need!

Al - le - lu - ia, from the dead Christ is ris - en, as he said!

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**This chart allows one to compare how closely this FSSP metrical translation matches the original Latin:**



ÍCTIMÆ Paschali *laudes*  
ímmolent **Christiáni**.  
Agnus redémit *oves*:  
Christus ínnocens **Patri**  
reconciliávit peccatóres.

Christians, come, uplift your voices,  
Praise the Paschal Victim true!  
See: a Lamb, the sheep redeeming,  
Guilt of sin who never knew,  
To His Father reconciles  
Those whom guilt of sin defiles!

Mors et vita **duéllo**  
conflixére **mirándo**:

Death and life have fought together,  
Passing wonderful their strife:  
Through the gates of death departed  
He who wields command of life;  
Living now, fore'er to reign,  
Never shall His kingdom wane!

dux vitæ **mórtuus**,  
regnat **vivus**.

Tell us, pray, O faithful Mary,  
What thou sawest on the way?  
Christ's sepulcher saw I empty:  
Christ returns to life this day,  
From his lonely prison drear  
Risen, glorious to appear.

Dic nobis **María**,  
quid vidísti in **via**?

Sepúlcrum Christi **vivéntis**:  
et glóriam vidi **resurgéntis**.

Angels saw I there in witness;  
Lay the garb of his repose,  
Cloth that bound His head, before me:  
Christ, my hope, in truth arose!  
Goes he now to Galilee,  
Where you shall your Master see.

Surréxit Christus spes **mea**:  
præcédet suos in **Galilæa**[m].

Scimus Christum surrexísse a mórtuis **vere**:  
tu nobis victor Rex **miserére**.

Christ our Lord, we know, is risen,  
Risen from the grave indeed:  
Thou, O King and mighty Victor,  
Pity those who pity need!  
Alleluia, from the dead  
Christ has risen, as he said!

[Amen. Allelúja.]

[Amen. Alleluia.]