Exult, let them exult, the hosts of heaven, exult, let Angel ministers of God exult, let the trumpet of salvation sound a-loud our mighty King’s triumph! Be glad, let earth be glad, as glory floods her, a-blaze 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.

(V. The Lord be with you. R. And with your spirit.)

V. Lift up your hearts. R. We lift them up to the Lord.

V. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. R. 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 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
join- ing them to his holy ones. This is the night, when
Christ broke the prison- bars of death and rose victorious
from the under-world. 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 Ad- am,
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 wick- ed- ness, washes faults a- way,
re-stores innocence to the fall-en, and joy to mourn-ers. O truly

bless-ed night, when things of heaven are wed to those of earth,

and di-vine to the hu-man.

On this, your night of grace, O ho-ly Fa-ther, accept this candle, a

sol-ern of-fer-ing, the work of bees and of your serv-ants’ hands,

an evening sacri-fice of praise, this gift from your most ho-ly

Church.

There-fore, O Lord, we pray you that this candle, 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 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.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

After the last reading from the Old Testament with its Responsorial Psalm and its prayer, the altar candles are lit, and the Priest intones the hymn Gloria in excelsis Deo, which is taken up by all, while the bells are rung, according to local custom.

Glória in excélsis Deo.

After the Epistle has been read, all rise, and the Priest three times, raising his voice by a step each time, solemnly intones Alleluia, which all repeat. If necessary, the psalmist intones the Alleluia.

Al-le-lú-ia.

The English translation and chants of The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.