

Salve Festa Dies

Easter Processional Hymn



Hail, festal day, fully venerated through endless ages,
On which God hath conquered hell and taken hold of the heavens.

The following verses are sung by solo cantors. After each is repeated the above refrain: Salve Festa Dies

1. Ecce renascéntis testátur grátia mundi
Ómnia cum Dómino dona redísse suo.

1. Behold, the grace of the world reborn attests that
all the gifts of the Lord have returned with Him.

2. Namque triumphánti post trístia tártara Christo
Úndique fronde nemus, grámina flore favent.

2. For, to celebrate the triumph over the darkness of
death, the forests everywhere are covered with foliage,
and the plants display their flowers.

3. Légibus inférni opprésis super astra meántem
laudant rite deum lux polus arva fretum.

3. Light, firmament, fields and sea, give praise justly
to the God that defeats the laws of death, and rises
above the stars.

4. Qui crucifíxus erat Deus, ecce per ómnia regnat
Dantque Creatóri cuncta creáta precem.

4. The crucified God now reigns over all things; and
every creature to its Creator tells a prayer.

5. Christe salus rerum, bone Córditor atque
Redémptor, única progénies ex Deitáte Patris.

5. O Christ, Saviour of the world, good Creator and
Redeemer, Onlybegotten Son of God the Father.

6. Qui genus humánum cernens mersísse profúndo,
Ut hóminem eríperes, es quoque factus homo.

6. Thou it was, Who, seeing the sad wreck of the
human race, didst deign to become man.

7. Nec voluísti étenim tantum te córpore nasci,
sed caro quæ nasci, pértulit atque mori.

7. Nor wouldst Thou be content to be born; but
being born in the flesh, in the same wouldst also die.

8. Fúneris exéquias pateris vitæ auctor et orbis,
intras mortis iter dando salútis opem.

8. Thou, the author of life and of all creation, was
buried in the tomb, treading the path of death, to
give us salvation.

9. Trístia cessérunt inférnae víncula legis,
Expavítque chaos lúminis ore premi.

9. The dismal chains of the infernal regions are
broken, and chaos quivers penetrated with light.

10. Depérent ténebræ Christi fulgóre fugátæ
æternæ noctis pállia crassa cadunt.

10. The brightness of Christ put darkness to flight,
and made fall the thick veils of everlasting night.

11. Pollícitam sed redde fidem, precor alma potéstas:
Tértia lux rédiit, surge sepúlte meus.

11. But fulfil Thy promise, loving Power: a third light
hath risen at the dawn, arise from the tomb.

12. Non decet. ut húmili túmulo tua membra
tegántur, neu prétium mundi vília saxa premant.

12. It is not fitting that Thy Body lie in the lowly
tomb, or that the stone of the sepulcher should keep
imprisoned the Ransom of the world.

13. Líntea, precor, sudária linque sepúlchro:
tu satis es nobis et sine te nihil est.

13. Throw off Thy shrouds, I pray Thee! Leave Thy
winding sheet in the tomb: Thou art our all; and all
else, without Thee, is nothing.

14. Solve catenátas inférni cárceris umbras,
Et révoca sursum quidquid ad íma rúit.

14. Unfetter the spirits enchained in the prisons
of hell, and bring on high all that sank into the abyss.

15. Redde tuam fáciem, vídeant ut saécula lumen;
Redde diem qui nos, te moriénte, fugit.

15. Show us Thy countenance again, that the ages
may again behold the light: give us back the day, that,
at the moment of Thy death was eclipsed.

16. Sed plane inplésti rémeans, pie victor, ad orbem:
Tártara pressa jacent nec sua jura tenent.

16. But Thou hast done all this O loving Conqueror,
by returning to our world: death lies defeated, and its
rights are gone.

17. Ínferus insaturábíliter cava gúttura pandens,
qui rápuit semper, fit tua præda, deus.

17. The greedy monster, whose huge throat had
swallowed all mankind, is now Thy prey, O God.

18. Évomit absórptam trépide fera bélua plebem
et de fauce lupi súbtrahit agnus oves.

18. The savage beast, now trembling, vomits forth the
victims he had made, and the Lamb tears the sheep
from the jaw of the wolf.

19. Rex sacer, ecce tui rádiat pars magna triúmphi,
cum puras ánimas sancta lavácra beant.

19. O Sacred King, behold the bright ray of Thy
triumph- the souls made pure by the holy font.

20. Cándidus egréditur nítidis exércitus undis,
atque vetus vítium purgat in amne novo.

20. The whiterobed troop comes from the limpid
waters; and the old iniquity is cleansed in the new
stream.

21. Fulgéntes ánimas vestis quoque cándida signat
et grege de níveo gáudia pastor habet.

21. The white garments symbolize unspotted souls,
and the Shepherd rejoices in His snowlike flock.