



Easter Time

(Taken from the Old Rite)

Alleluia, or “Praise the Lord,” is a most suitable expression of our joy at Easter Time, and the Church makes constant use of it in her liturgy.

In Latin, Easter is called “Pascha,” a name taken from a Hebrew word meaning “passing over.” We read in the book of Exodus (Ex. 12, 11ff) that the destroyer passed through the land of Egypt but that, seeing the blood of the lamb sprinkled on the side posts and upper door posts of the houses, he passed over. In that same night the Jews were delivered from bondage and later recached the land of promise. Since Christians have been redeemed and have “passed over” to the freedom of the children of God, they call the day of Christ’s triumphant Resurrection, “Pascha” or “Passover.”

Easter Season commemorates the victory of our Divine Savior. As Christ arose from the dead so must we rise from coldness and indifference to a life of fervor and zeal. Christ offered Himself in complete holocaust on the Cross; we must offer ourselves wholeheartedly and entirely to God through our risen Savior. Risen with Christ we must “seek the things that are above.”

Christ fulfilled His promise that He would rise on the third day and thus proved His Divinity giving a sure foundation to our faith. He could have ended His stay on earth with His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. He preferred to remain among His beloved for forty days:

- 1. To strengthen their faith in the mystery of the Resurrection. “To them also He showed Himself alive after His Passion by many proofs, during forty days appearing to them and speaking of the kingdom of God.” (Acts 1, 3)**
- 2. To stimulate the hope of universal resurrection as the consequence and fruit of His glorious Resurrection.**

3. To console the faithful for their sorrow during His Passion and Death.

Easter is a day of gladness for all Christians, and their triumphant joy is given dramatic expression in the Sequence which follows the Gradual, the frequent alleluias, and the position of the Paschal Candle within the sanctuary throughout the Easter Season.

Easter Time begins on Easter Sunday and ends on the Saturday after Pentecost.

In the Mass for Easter Sunday we find the inspiring Sequence which forms the transition from Epistle and Gradual to the Gospel. In this Christian classic the church gives dramatic expression of her joy questioning one of the first witnesses of Christ's Resurrection.

Within the sanctuary until the Feast of the Ascension we shall see the Paschal Candle standing as a luminous witness to risen Christ, the Light of the world.

