



THE PASCHAL HOMILY

of our Holy Father St. John Chrysostom

1. If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast.
2. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord.
3. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense.
4. Those who have toiled since the first hour, let them now receive their just reward.
5. If let any have come after the third hour, let them be grateful to join the feast.
6. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him not be afraid of being too late; for he shall suffer no loss.
7. If any have delayed until the ninth, let him not hesitate but draw near.
8. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, not fear on account of his lateness;
9. for the Lord, who is gracious, receives the last even as the first.
10. And he shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first;
11. and to the one he gives, and upon the other he bestows gifts.
12. And he both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering.
13. Come you all: enter into the joy of your Lord.
14. You the first and you the last, receive alike your reward;
15. you rich and you poor, dance together; you sober and you negligent, celebrate the day.
16. You who have kept the fast and you who have not, rejoice together today.
17. The table is richly loaded: enjoy its royal banquet.
18. The calf is a fatted one: let no one go away hungry.
19. All of you enjoy the banquet of faith; all of you receive the riches of his goodness.
20. Let no one lament over his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed;
21. let no one weep over his sins, for pardon has dawned from the grave;
22. let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free:

23. He has destroyed it by enduring it, He has despoiled Hades by going down into its kingdom,
24. He vexed it by allowing it to taste of his flesh.
25. When Isaiah foresaw all this, he cried out:
26. Hades has been angered, when you met him face to face down below!
27. Hades is angered! for it was brought to nothing;
28. Hades is angered! for it was mocked;
29. Hades is angered! for it has been overthrown;
30. Hades is angered! for it has been put in chains.
31. Hades seized a body, and lo! it discovered God;
32. Hades seized earth, and, behold! it encountered heaven.
33. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the invisible.
34. O Death, where is your sting?
35. O Hades, where is your victory?
36. Christ is risen! And you, O Death, are annihilated!
37. Christ is risen! and the demons are cast down!
38. Christ is risen! And the angels rejoice!
39. Christ is risen! And life reigns!
40. Christ is risen! And the tomb is emptied of its dead:
41. For Christ, being risen from the dead, has become the first fruit-fruit,
42. the Leader and Reviver of those who had fallen asleep.
43. To Him be glory and power, now and forever, and from all ages to all ages.
44. Amen.