

Victimae paschali laudes (also known as the “Easter Sequence”) is an ancient expression of the Church’s worship during the Easter Octave (i.e., eight-day feast). It has remained an official element of the Easter liturgies since its composition in the eleventh century. Today, it is one of five similar “sequences,” the others being employed at the celebrations of Pentecost, Corpus Christi, Our Lady of Sorrows, and the Requiem Mass. *Victimae paschali laudes* is an obligatory element of the Easter Sunday Mass, but it can also be chanted every day during the Easter Octave to highlight the supreme importance of this solemnity.

The text of *Victimae paschali laudes* is included below. The left-most column contains the authoritative (and perennially-valid) Latin text, the middle column contains a literal translation into English, and the right-most column contains the English version approved for current liturgical use. The traditional chant (with its Gregorian notation) is included on the following page.

Original Latin

Literal English Translation

Approved for Liturgical Use

Victimae paschali laudes
immolent Christiani.

Let Christians offer sacrificial
praises to the passover victim.

Christians, to the Paschal Victim
offer sacrifice and praise.

Agnus redemit oves:
Christus innocens Patri
reconciliavit peccatores.

The lamb has redeemed the sheep:
The Innocent Christ has reconciled
the sinners to the Father.

The sheep are ransomed by the Lamb;
and Christ, the undefiled,
hath sinners to his Father reconciled.

Mors et vita duello
confluxere mirando:
dux vitae mortuus,
regnat vivus.

Death and life contended
in a spectacular battle:
the Prince of life, who died,
reigns alive.

Death with life contended: combat
strangely ended!
Life's own Champion, slain,
yet lives to reign.

Dic nobis Maria,
quid vidisti in via?

Tell us, Mary,
what did you see on the way?

Tell us, Mary: say
what thou didst see upon the way.

Sepulcrum Christi viventis,
et gloriam vidi resurgentis

"I saw the tomb of the living Christ
and the glory of his rising,

The tomb the Living did enclose;
I saw Christ's glory as He rose!

Angelicos testes,
sudarium, et vestes.

The angelic witnesses,
The clothes and the shroud."

The angels there attesting;
shroud with grave-clothes resting.

Surrexit Christus spes mea:
praecedet vos in Galilaeam.

"Christ my hope is arisen;
into Galilee, he will go before his own."

Christ, my hope, has risen:
He goes before you into Galilee.

Scimus Christum surrexisse
a mortuis vere:
tu nobis, victor Rex, miserere.

We know Christ is truly risen
from the dead!
To us, victorious King, have mercy!

That Christ is truly risen
from the dead we know.
Victorious King, Thy mercy show!

Amen. Alleluia.

Amen. Alleluia.

Amen. Alleluia.

Ség.
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V

Ictimae paschá-li láudes * immolent Christi-áni.

Agnus redémit óves : Chrístus innocens Pátri reconci-

li-ávit peccatóres. Mors et ví-ta du-éllo confluxére mirán-

do : dux vítae mórtu-us, régnat vívus. Dic nóbis Marí-a,

quid vidísti in ví-a? Sepúlcrum Chrísti vivéntis, et gló-

ri-am vídi resurgéntis : Ángé-licos téstes, sudá-ri-um, et

véstes. Surréxit Chrístus spes mé-a : praecédet sú-os in Ga-

lilaé-am. Scímus Chrístum surrexísse a mórtu- is vere :

tu nóbis, víctor Rex, mi-se-ré-re. Amen. (Alle-lú-ia.)