

*From a Paschal Homily of Hippolytus, a 3rd-century Bishop of Rome. The Leader and People read responsively, with the People reading the bold type.*

Are you God's friend and lover? Rejoice in this glorious feast of feasts!

**Are you God's servant, knowing his wishes? Rejoice with your Master, share his rejoicing!**

Are you worn down with the labor of fasting?

**Now is your payday!**

Have you been working since early morning?

**You will be paid fair and square.**

Have you been here since the third hour?

**You can be thankful, you will be pleased.**

If you came at the sixth hour, come up without fear,

**you will lose nothing.**

Did you linger till the ninth hour?

**Come forward without hesitation.**

Even if you came at the eleventh hour, have no fear.

**It is not too late.**

God is a generous employer, treating the last to come as he treats the first arrival.

**God gives to the one and gives to the other, honors the deed and praises the intention.**

Join then, all of you, join in our Master's rejoicing!

**You who were the first to come, you who came after, come now and collect your wages.**

Rich and poor, sing and dance together.

**You that are hard on yourselves, you that are easy, celebrate this day.**

You that have fasted and you that have not, make merry today.

**The meal is ready, come and enjoy it.**

The calf is a fat one, you will not go away empty.

**There's hospitality for all, and to spare.**

No more apologizing for your poverty,

**the Kingdom belongs to us all.**

No more bewailing your failings,

**forgiveness has come from the grave.**

No more fears of your dying,

**the death of our Savior has freed us from fear.**

Death played the master,

**but Christ has mastered death.**

Isaiah knew this would happen, and he cried, "Death was angered when it met you in the pit."

**Death was angered, for it was defeated.**

Death was angered, for it was mocked.

**Death was angered, for it was abolished.**

Death was angered, for it was overthrown.

**Death was angered, for it was bound in chains.**

Death swallowed a body and met God face to face.

**Death took earth and encountered heaven.**

Death took what was seen and fell upon the unseen.

**O Death, where is your sting?**

O Grave, where is your victory?

**Christ is risen and you are overthrown.**

Christ is risen and Evil has fallen.

**Christ is risen and the angels rejoice.**

Christ is risen and life reigns.

**Christ is risen and not one dead remains in the tomb.**

Christ is risen indeed from the dead, the first of all who had fallen asleep.

**Glory and power to him for ever and ever!**

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

*This translation is from the website of Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church in San Francisco. The text has been adapted and arranged for responsive reading by Pamela Grenfell Smith.*