

Reflection: Easter Monday 2021

Another version of the Easter Sequence - *Victimae Paschali Laudes*.

Let Christians offer sacrificial praises to the Passover victim.

The lamb has redeemed the sheep:

the Innocent Christ has reconciled sinners to the Father.

Death and life struggled in a spectacular battle:

the dead leader of life reigns alive.

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

"I saw the tomb of the living Christ and the glory of his rising,
the angelic witnesses, the shroud, and the clothes."

"Christ my hope is risen;

he will go before his own [you] into Galilee."

[More to be believed is truthful Mary by herself
than the deceitful crowd of the Jews.]

We know Christ is truly risen from the dead!

On us, oh conqueror, King, have mercy!

Amen. [Alleluia.]

St Augustine of Hippo: *There are these two periods of time – the one now which is beset with the trials and troubles of life, and the other yet to come, a life of everlasting serenity and joy – we are given two liturgical seasons, one before Easter and the other after. The season before Easter signifies the troubles we live here and now, while the time after Easter which we celebrate at present signifies the happiness that will be ours in the future. What we commemorate before Easter is what we experience in this life; what we celebrate after Easter points to something we do not yet possess. This is why we keep the first season with fasting and prayer; but now the fast is over and we devote the present season to praise. Such is the meaning of the Alleluia we sing!*