

# The Paschal Homily of Saint John Chrysostum

- L: If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let them enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival.
- ALL: If anyone is a grateful servant, let them, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord.
- L: If anyone has wearied themselves in fasting, let them now receive recompense.
- ALL: If anyone has labored from the first hour, let them today receive the just reward.
- L: If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let them feast.
- ALL: If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let them have no misgivings; for they shall suffer no loss.
- L: If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let them draw near without hesitation.
- ALL: If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let them not fear on account of tardiness.
- L: For the Master is gracious and receives the last even as the first; He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first.
- ALL: He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one He gives, and to the other He is gracious.
- L: He both honors the work and praises the intention.
- ALL: Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward.
- L: O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy!
- ALL: O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day!
- L: You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today!
- ALL: The table is rich-laden: feast royally, all of you!
- L: The calf is fatted: let no one go forth hungry!
- ALL: Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness.
- L: Let no one lament their poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.
- ALL: Let no one mourn their transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave.
- L: Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free.
- ALL: He that was taken by death has annihilated it!
- L: He descended into Hades and took Hades captive!
- ALL: He embittered it when it tasted His flesh! And anticipating this, Isaiah exclaimed: "*Hades was embittered when it encountered Thee in the lower regions*".

L: It was embittered, for it was abolished!

ALL: It was embittered, for it was mocked!

L: It was embittered, for it was purged!

ALL: It was embittered, for it was despoiled!

L: It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

ALL: It took a body and came upon God!

L: It took earth and encountered Heaven!

ALL: It took what it saw, but crumbled before what it had not seen!

L: O death, where is thy sting?

ALL: O Hades, where is thy victory?

L: Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

ALL: Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

L: Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

ALL: Christ is risen, and life reigns!

L: Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

ALL: For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the first-fruits of them that have slept.

L: To Him be glory and might unto the ages of ages.

All: Amen!

