

Optatus votis omnium

sung from Ascension to Pentecost

anonymous, 10th century, “Ambrosian”

Liber Hymnarius (1983, p. 94)

Expository (John Rose 2022)

Daniel Joseph Donahue, c. 1900

Optátus votis ómnium
sacrátus illúxit dies,
quo Christus, mundi spes, Deus,
conscéndit cælos árduos.

Desired devoutly *above* all,
The sacred day→ begins to dawn,
When Christ, the world’s hope, *and its* God,
Ascends the heavens high and steep.

The morn has dawned upon the sky,
The sacred day of joy and light,
When Christ, our hope arose on high
Above the stars in glory bright.

2. Magni triúmphum prælii,
mundi perémpto príncipe,
Patris præséntans vúltilibus
victrícis carnis glóriam,

In triumph ←great of battle *won*
From this world’s ruined fallen prince,
He holds up to the ←Father’s gaze,
The glory→ of his conqu’ring flesh.

Our glorious prince, in battle tried
With sin and death and deep disgrace,
In human form all glorified,
Now stands before the Father’s face.

3. In nube fertur lúcida
et spem facit credéntibus,
iam paradísium réserans
quem protoplásti cláuserant.

He in the shining→ cloud is borne,
Appointing→ hope to faithful ones,
Disclosing→ now the Paradise
That, when first-formed, was *fast* enclosed.

He rose in glory through the skies,
And gave to all a hope sublime,
He opened the gates of Paradise,
That long were closed by Adam’s crime.

4. O grande cunctis gáudium,
quod partus nostræ Vírginis,
post sputa, flagra, post crucem
patérnæ sedi iúngitur.

Together→ *we* enlarge *our* joy
That born from virgin→ of our *race*,
Past spitting, flogging, past the cross,
His *old* paternal seat he takes.

O wondrous joy! the Virgin-born,
Our hope, our love, our Holy One,
After the blows of spite and scorn
Is seated on the Father’s throne.

5. Agámus ergo grátias
nostræ salútis vándici,
nostrum quod corpus véxerit
sublíme ad cæli régiam.

To him, thus→, we would render thanks,
To our salvation’s guardian,
For he ←our body will transport
To ←highest heaven’s royal court.

Let thanks arise on every side
To Christ our help, our God of might,
Who hath our body glorified
And raised it to the throne of light.

6. Sit nobis cum cæléstibus
commúne manens gáudium:
illis, quod semet óbtulit,
nobis, quod se non ábstulit.

May *there* with us, and heaven’s *host*,
←Be common *and* abiding joy:
To them, in their self-offering,
To us, on his *arm anchoring*. [lit., “from him not stolen”]

Abounding joy shall e’er remain,
And earth and heaven with glory fill:
In heaven, that Christ returns again,
On earth, that Christ is with us still.

7. Nunc, Christe, scandens æthera
ad te cor nostrum súbleva,
tuum Patrísque Spíritum
emíttens nobis cælitus. Amen.

O Christ, who climbs the upper sky,
Let→ *now* our heart ←to you be raised,
Who sends↓ the Father’s Spirit forth,
And yours↑, to us *from* heaven *high*.

To Christ the Lord sing praises meet,
Who rose in might the stars above,
Unto the Father and Paraclete,
Give equal meed of praise and love.

<https://gregobase.selapa.net/chant.php?id=15200>

[Or perhaps, “And to your Father’s Spirit, who
Rushes to us from heaven high.”]