



Are there here devout lovers of God?  
Enjoy this beautiful bright festival!

Are there any here who are wise servants?  
Rejoice and enter into the joy of your Lord!

Are any of you weary with fasting?  
Come now, and receive your wages!

If any have labored from early morning,  
now receive your just reward;

If any have come after 9 o'clock,  
with gratitude join in the Feast!

And you that arrived after noon,  
do not doubt; for you shall sustain no loss.

And if any of you delayed until 3pm,  
do not hesitate; come quickly!

And anyone who arrived at 5pm right before quitting time,  
let him not be afraid by reason of your delay....for the Lord is  
gracious and receives the last even as the first.

He gives rest to the one that comes at quitting time,  
just as to the one who has labored from early morning.

He has mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; to one he  
gives and to the other he is gracious.

He both receives the fruits of labor and accepts the intention.  
Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of the Lord... you who  
are first and you who are last will receive the bounty together!

You rich and you poor, enter together!

You who have been diligent, and you who have been negligent, remember the Day!

You who have kept the fast, and you who have not kept the fast, rejoice today... for the Table is richly laden!

Feast royally all of you! The fatted calf suffices for all, let no one go away hungry.

Let all partake of the Feast of Faith! Let us all enjoy the riches of his goodness!

Let no one be sad about his poverty, for the universal Kingdom has been revealed to all.

Let no one grieve because he has sinned again and again; for forgiveness has risen from the tomb.

Let no one fear Death, for the death of our Savior has set us free:

He who was taken by death has annihilated it!  
He descended into Hell and took Hell captive!  
He embittered it when it tasted of His Flesh.

Isaiah foretold this when he said, "You, O Hell, have been embittered by encountering Him below."

Hell was embittered for it was abolished!  
It was embittered for it was mocked!  
It was embittered for it was purged!  
It was embittered for it was despoiled!  
It was embittered for it was bound in chains!

It took a body, and face to face met God!  
It took earth, and encountered Heaven.  
It took what it saw,  
but crumbled before what it had not seen.

O Death, where is your sting?  
O Hell, where is your victory?

Christ is Risen, and you, O death, are annihilated!  
Christ is Risen, and the demons are cast down!  
Christ is Risen, and the angels rejoice!  
Christ is Risen, and Life reigns!

Christ is Risen, and the tombs are emptied of their dead!

For Christ having risen from the dead,  
is become the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

To Him be Glory and Power for all ages of ages. Amen!

*The Easter sermon of John Chrysostom (407 AD)*

*Note: This sermon builds with excitement, read it until you are practically shouting "Christ is risen..." toward the end.*