



HE IS RISEN!



LITURGY BYTES *by Michele Hall*



This is the day that the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice! HAPPY EASTER!

The good news that Jesus rose from the dead is the core of the Christian message. As we enter the church today, we are faced with beautiful, colorful flowers and banners of gold and white. The baptismal font is full of water circulating about. A new Christ candle, a/k/a the Paschal candle, adorns the sanctuary for the great 50 days. The Alleluia verse is once again heard as is the beautiful prayer of the Gloria. The celebration of the Mass is exactly as it has been with one added part entitled the Sequence.

The Sequence is used only on a few days in the Roman Rite. It is most important to use it on Easter Sunday and Pentecost. It is poetic in nature and seems like an extension of a gospel acclamation. It can be sung by the choir and/or with the assembly. The Sequence for Easter is entitled "Victimae Paschali Laudes" and is a beautiful ancient hymn praising the Paschal Lamb for our salvation, Jesus Christ.

Something else we usually do not experience at Mass is the renewal of our Baptismal promises and the sprinkling of the congregation with holy water. This can be done throughout the Easter season in place of the Creed. However, it is mostly experienced on Easter Sunday. It is a wonderful opportunity to remember our own Baptisms, renew those promises and profess our faith together as the Body of Christ.

Have a joyful, prayerful, and blessed week ahead!