

Reforming the Library.

Singing, Reading and Writing in the Convent of Medingen after 1478



H11* = Hildesheim, Cathedral Library, Ms J 29, f. 52r (1478)

Meditations for Easter Morning

[Rubric for Easter-Morning on the preceding page, fol. 51v]

In splendidissimo et rutilantissimo ortu preclarissime Paschalis diei quando sol eternus christus ihesus vita uiuens apparens. celum et terram nouo gaudio illustrauit

[Description of the universal singing to greet Christ]

Iam nunc in occursum hujus aurei Paschalis diei procedit celi regia et tota (fol. 52r) mundi machina cum omni redempta anima concinens noui concentus epythalamia sonantes ad invicem ac dicentes cum iubilo

[Excerpt from the sequence 'Laudes salvatori' with music]

Illuxit dies quam fecit dominus mortem deuastans et victor.

[Rhymed description of Christ as Easter sun]

Ecce dies oritur in cuius ortu aureo sol christus oritur qui ultra non moritur

[Universal character of the praise on Easter morning]

Salue o rutilantissima et excellentissima dies Paschalis in qua "lux et sol ortus est. et humiles populi exaltati sunt" [Esther 11:11] glorificatum hodie opus manus domini o[mne]s habitatores galylee et iherusalem (fol. 52v) vniuersi scilicet omnes christiani iusti et peccatores. renouate mentem spiritalis deuocionis ampliori libertate circumdantes vestitum decoris in textum varietate gaudiorum corde dilatato inpretermisse gloriantes. quia ecce lux et sol ortus est.

Angels: *Exultemus et letemur hodie dies iste dies est leticie* [from the Easter liturgy]

Nuns: *Illuxit dies quam fecit dominus* [Excerpt from the sequence 'Laudes salvatori', quoted above with music]

Lay people: *Also heylich is desse dach dat den nemen* [vernacular Leise]

Pope Gregory the Great (marginal figure on f. 51v, pointing towards the scene on his right with the following scroll): *Hanc recte nobilitatem sollempnitatis dicam quia sollempnitates* [from the explanation of the significance of the Easter morning in Homilia XXII on Jo 20,1-9, §6]

* All manuscript sigla and all literature references for the Medingen Manuscripts available under <http://research.ncl.ac.uk/medingen> (to access further images, use login: *test*, password: *Medingen*)

Middle Low German Easter poem from Medingen based on this compilation published by Holmberg, John: Ein mittelniederdeutsches ostergedicht, in: *Studia Neophilologica* 15 (1942/43), p. 157–172.