

REGINA COELI

Ant.
6.
R Egna caeli * laeta- re, alle-lú-ia :

Regína coéli laetáre,
Queen of heaven rejoice,

Queen of heaven, rejoice,

alleluia:

Alleluia!

Quia quem meruísti portáre,
For whom you did merit to bear,

For He whom you were worthy to bear,

alleluia,

Alleluia,

**Resurréxit,
He has risen,**

Has risen,

sicut dixit,
as he said,

as He said,

alleluia.

Alleluia!

Ora pro nóbis Déum,
Pray to for us God,

Pray for us to God,

alleluia.

Alleluia!

Regina coeli is the Marian Antiphon for Paschaltide, from Compline of Holy Saturday [*laetare!*] until None of the Saturday after Pentecost. Note the joyous Easter *Alleluias* that are so generously interspersed with the praises of the Blessed Virgin, the good news of the Resurrection, and the penitent plea for intercession. Since the decree of Pope Benedict XIV in 1742 it has also been used to conclude the *Angelus* in this same season.

It author and composer are unknown, but its earliest appearance is as the Magnificat antiphon for the octave of Easter in a manuscript of the local Roman chant tradition dating from c.1200. Legend has it that Pope Gregory the Great (d.604) heard the first three lines recited by angels on an Easter morning while he walked barefoot in a great religious procession and that he then added the fourth line: *Ora pro nobis Deum. Alleluia.* [see *Alleluia]

Liturgical context: **Regina coeli** is one of the four Marian Antiphons [the others being *Alma Redemptoris Mater*, *Ave Regina coelorum*, and *Salve Regina*]. It is sung at the conclusion of the hour of Compline during Paschaltide and also at the conclusion of the *Angelus* during this same season.