

AN EASTER CAROL

Spring bursts to-day,
For Christ is risen and all the earth's at play.
Flash forth, thou Sun,
The rain is over and gone, its work is done.
Winter is past,
Sweet Spring is come at last, is come at last.
Bud, Fig and Vine,
Bud, Olive, fat with fruit and oil and wine.
Break forth this morn
In roses, thou but yesterday a Thorn.
Uplift thy head,
O pure white Lily through the Winter dead.
Beside your dams
Leap and rejoice, you merry-making Lambs.
All Herds and Flocks
Rejoice, all Beasts of thickets and of rocks.
Sing, Creatures, sing,
Angels and Men and Birds and everything.
All notes of Doves
Fill all our world: this is the time of loves.

~ *Christina Rossetti*

Prayer

Lord, when our hearts are heavy and our thoughts troubled, draw us away from the anxiety of this day to the contemplation of your creation. Let us see in the open face of the daisy, praise to your glory, let us hear in the Robin's song the psalm of the birds, may we feel the breeze as your caress and the sun's warmth as your joy in us. For in your love we are beloved, beautiful and blessed. Amen