

*risus paschalis:*  
the Easter laugh

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*the devil . . . the prowde spirite . . .  
cannot endure to be mocked.*

—Thomas More

in the beginning

there was laughter  
loud and long  
such were the mornings and evenings  
then on the seventh day  
in His delight of that all is good  
God said *amen*

for eons  
God has wept among our violences  
because a God who laughs also cries  
yet like the rich young man  
whose face betrayed his shock  
to our utter bewilderment  
amid the grief the anguish and the violences  
God's Easter laughter explodes