

**BRIGHT WEDNESDAY EVENING  
AT VESPERS**

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Clergy:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

The Priest reads the Verse, and the choir sings the Troparion after each Verse:

**Verse 1:** Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Verse 2:** As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Verse 3:** So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Verse 4:** This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Priest:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Priest:** Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Priest:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death.

**Choir:** And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Ektinia of Peace.**

At "Lord I have cried ...," 6 Stichera: from the Oktoechos, in Tone V:

**Verse:** If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? \* For with Thee there is forgiveness.

**B**y Thy precious Cross, O Christ, \* Thou hast shamed the devil, \* and by Thy Resurrection Thou hast blunted the sting of sin, \* and saved us from the gates of death: \*\* we glorify Thee, the Only-begotten One.

**Verse:** For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, \* my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

**H**e who hath granted Resurrection to mankind, \* was led as a sheep to the slaughter; \* the princes of Hades trembled before Him \* and the gates of lamentations were lifted up; \* for Christ the King of glory entered therein, \* saying to those in bondage: 'Come forth!' \*\* and to those in darkness: 'Reveal yourselves!'

**Verse:** From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch \* let Israel hope in the Lord.

**O** great wonder! \* Having suffered in the flesh through his love for mankind, \* the Creator of all things visible and invisible, \* hath arisen as immortal. \* Come O ye descendents of the nations, \* let us worship Him; \* for delivered from deception by his compassion, \*\* we have learned to hymn one God in three Hypostases.

**Verse:** For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; \* and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.

**W**e offer unto Thee our evening worship, \* O never-setting Light, \* who in the flesh at the end of the ages, \* as in a mirror, shone through upon the world, \* and descended even into Hades, \* dispersing the darkness therein \* and showing unto the nations the light of the Resurrection. \*\* O Lord, Giver of light, glory be to Thee!

**Verse:** O praise the Lord, all ye nations; \* praise Him, all ye peoples.

**L**et us glorify Christ the author of our salvation; \* for by his arising from the dead, \* the world hath been saved from error; \* the choir of Angels rejoiceth, \* the deception of demons fleeth, \* fallen Adam hath arisen, \*\* and the devil hath been overthrown.

**Verse:** For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, \* and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

**T**he watchmen were instructed by the lawless Ones \* to conceal Christ's Resurrection \* and taking money to say that 'while we slept \* the corpse was stolen from the grave.' \* Who ever saw, or who ever heard of a corpse being stolen? \* Especially one anointed yet naked, \* and with its grave-clothes left in the tomb? \* Be not deceived, O ye Jews, \* learn from the sayings of the Prophets, \* and know that He is truly the Redeemer of the world \*\* and All-powerful.

**Glory ..., in Tone V:**

**O** Lord, our Savior, \* Thou hast despoiled Hades and trampled upon death; \* enlightening the world by the precious Cross, \*\* have mercy upon us.

**Now & Ever ..., Theotokion Dogmatic, in Tone V:**

**I**n the Red Sea of old an image of the Bride who knew not wedlock was depicted. \* There Moses was the one who parted the sea, \* here Gabriel is the minister of the miracle. \* At that time Israel marched dry shod through the deep, \* now the Virgin doth seedlessly give birth to Christ. \* The sea after Israel's passage remained impassable; \* the Immaculate one after bearing Emmanuel remaineth incorrupt. \* O God, who doth exist and is pre-eternal, \* and hath appeared as man, \*\* have mercy upon us.

**After the Entrance and O Joyous Light,**

**The Great Prokeimenon, in Tone VII: Give ear, O God, unto my prayer, and disdain not my supplication.**

**Verse: Attend unto me, and hear me.**

**Verse: Because they have turned iniquity upon me, and with wrath were they angry against me.**

**Verse: As for me, unto God have I cried, and the Lord hearkened unto me.**

**Ektinia Let us all say with our whole soul ...,**

**Choir, in Tone VIII: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.**

**L**et Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

**O** Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Ektenia:** Let us complete our evening prayer ...,

And after the exclamation, we chant the Resurrection Aposticha of the Oktoechos, in Tone V:

**W**ith voices of song we magnify Thee, O Christ, \* the Savior incarnate, \* yet not separated from heaven, \* for as the Lord who lovest mankind \* Thou hast suffered the cross and death for the sake of our race, \* overthrowing the gates of Hades, \* and rising on the third day, \* thus saving our souls.

**THE PASCHAL STICHERA, in Tone V:**

**Verse:** Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.

**A** Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; \* Pascha new and holy, \* a Pascha mystical, \* a Pascha all-venerable! \* A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; \* a Pascha immaculate, \* a great Pascha; \* a Pascha of the faithful; \* a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; \*\* a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

**Verse:** As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish.

**C**ome from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, \* and say ye unto Zion: \* Receive from us the good tidings \* of the Resurrection of Christ; \* adorn thyself, exult, \* and rejoice, O Jerusalem, \* for thou hast seen Christ the King, \*\* like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

**Verse:** So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

**T**he myrrh-bearing women \* in the deep dawn \* stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; \* they found an angel sitting upon the stone, \* and he, speaking to them, said thus: \* Why seek ye the Living among the dead? \* Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? \*\* Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

**Verse:** This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein.

**P**ascha the beautiful, \* Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, \* the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. \* Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. \* O Pascha! \* Ransom from sorrow, \* for from the tomb today, \* as from a bridal chamber, \* hath Christ shone forth, \* and hath filled the women with joy, saying: \*\* Proclaim unto the apostles.

**G**lory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

It is the Day of Resurrection, \* let us be radiant for the feast, \* and let us embrace one another. \* Let us say, Brethren, even to them that hate us, \* let us forgive all things on the Resurrection, \* and thus let us cry out:

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

**Priest:** Wisdom!

**Choir:** Father (Master), bless.

**Priest:** He that is, is blessed, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto the ages of ages.

**Clergy:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death:

**Choir:** And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

#### THE DISMISSAL:

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, Who rose from the dead, trampling death by death and bestowing life upon those in the tombs, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

**Priest:** CHRIST IS RISEN! (Thrice)

**People:** INDEED HE IS RISEN! (After each)

**After which:** **Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

And unto us hath He granted life eternal; we worship His Resurrection on the third day.

**BRIGHT THURSDAY MORNING**  
**AT MATINS**

**Senior Clergyman:** **G**lory to the holy, and consubstantial, and life-creating, and indivisible Trinity, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** **A**men.

**Clergy:** **C**hrist is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (**Thrice**)

**Choir:** **C**hrist is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (**Thrice**)

The Priest reads the Verse, and the choir sings the Troparion after each Verse:

**Verse 1:** **L**et God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

**Choir:** **C**hrist is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Verse 2:** **A**s smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

**Choir:** **R**epeat Troparion

**Verse 3:** **S**o let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

**Choir:** **R**epeat Troparion

**Verse 4:** **T**his is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

**Choir:** **R**epeat Troparion

**Priest:** **G**lory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Choir:** **R**epeat Troparion

**Priest:** **B**oth now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir:** **R**epeat Troparion

**Priest:** **C**hrist is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death.

**Choir:** **A**nd upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Litany of Peace.**

**ODE I**

**Irmos, in Tone I:** It is the Day of Resurrection, \* let us be radiant, O ye people; \* Pascha, the Lord's Pascha: \* for from death to life, \* and from earth to heaven, \* Christ God hath brought us, \* as we sing the song of victory.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

Let us purify our senses, \* and we shall behold Christ, \* radiant with the unapproachable light of the Resurrection, \* and we shall clearly hear Him say, Rejoice! \*\* as we sing the hymn of victory.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

Let the heavens be glad as is meet, \* and let the earth rejoice, \* and let the whole world, both visible and invisible, \* keep festival: \* for Christ is risen, \*\* O gladness eternal.

**Glory ...,** Thou hast broken through the barrier of death, \* by giving birth to Christ, the eternal Life, \* Who today hath shone forth from the tomb, \* O all-immaculate Virgin, \*\* and Who hath enlightened the world.

**Now and ever ...,** Having beheld thy resurrected Son and God, \* rejoice thou with the apostles, \* O Pure One who art full of the grace of God, \* and be the first to rejoice, \* as thou hast received the Cause of joy for all, \*\* O all-immaculate Mother of God.

**Katavasia: It is the Day of Resurrection ...,**

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

### ODE III

**Irmos:** Come, let us drink a new drink, \* not one miraculously brought forth from a barren rock \* but the Fountain of Incorruption, \* springing forth from the tomb of Christ, \* in Whom we are strengthened.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

Now all things are filled with light; \* heaven and earth, \* and the nethermost parts of the earth; \* let all creation, therefore, celebrate the arising of Christ \*\* whereby it is strengthened.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

Yesterday I was buried with Thee, O Christ; \* today I rise with Thine arising. \* Yesterday I was crucified with Thee; \* do Thou Thyself glorify me with Thee, O Savior, \*\* in Thy kingdom.

**Glory ...,** Into incorruptible life have I entered today, \* through the goodness of Him Who was born of thee, \* O Pure One, \*\* and Who makest all the ends of the earth radiant with joy.

**Now and ever ...,** Having beheld God, \* Whom thou didst bear in the flesh, \* risen from the dead, as He said, O pure one; \* dance, and magnify Him as God, \*\* O most pure one.

**Katavasia: Come, let us drink a new drink ...,**

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

**Small Litany and Exclamation:** For Thou art our God, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Hypakoe, in Tone IV:**

**F**orestalling the dawn, the women came with Mary, \* and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, \* and heard from the angel: Why seek ye among the dead, \* as though He were mortal, \* Him Who liveth in everlasting light? \* Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world \* that the Lord is risen \* and hath slain death. \* For He is the Son of God Who saveth mankind.

**ODE IV**

**Irmos: On divine watch let the God-inspired Habakkuk stand with us, \* and show forth the light-bearing angel clearly saying: \* Today salvation is come to the world, \* for Christ is risen \* as Almighty.**

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

**A**s a man-child did Christ appear \* when He came forth from the Virgin's womb, \* and as a mortal was He called the Lamb. \* Without blemish also, is our Pascha \* for He tasted no defilement; \*\* and as true God, perfect was He proclaimed.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

**L**ike unto a yearling lamb, \* Christ, our blessed Crown, \* of His own will was sacrificed for all, \* a Pascha of purification; \* and from the tomb the beautiful Sun of Righteousness \*\* shone forth again upon us.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

**D**avid, the ancestor of God, \* danced with leaping before the symbolical Ark; \* let us also, the holy people of God, \* beholding the fulfillment of the symbols, \* be divinely glad; \*\* for Christ is risen as Almighty.

**G**lory ..., **H**e Who created Adam thy forefather, O Pure One, \* took form from thee, and the habitation of the dead \* hath He demolished today through His death, \* and shone upon all things \*\* with the divine radiance of the Resurrection.

**N**ow and ever ..., **B**eholding Christ, Whom thou hast borne, \* shining forth splendidly from the dead, O Pure One, \* who art good and spotless among women, and comely today, \* rejoicing with the apostles in the salvation of all, \*\* Him do thou glorify.



**Katavasia: On divine watch let the God-inspired Habakkuk ...,**

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

### ODE V

**Irmos:** Let us awake in the deep dawn, \* and instead of myrrh, offer a hymn to the Master, \* and we shall see Christ, \* the Sun of Righteousness, \* Who causeth life to dawn for all.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

Seeing Thy boundless compassion \* they who were held in the bonds of hades \* hastened to the light, O Christ, \* with gladsome feet, \*\* praising the Pascha eternal.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

Bearing lights, let us approach Christ, \* Who cometh forth from the tomb like a bridegroom, \* and with the feast-loving ranks of angels \* let us celebrate \*\* the saving Pascha of God.

**Glory ...,** Enlightened by the divine rays \* and the life-bearing Resurrection of thy Son, \* O most pure Mother of God, \*\* the gathering of the pious is filled with joy.

**Now and ever ...,** Thou didst not open the gates of virginity \* in the Incarnation, \* nor the seal upon the tomb didst Thou destroy, \* O King of creation; \* from whence seeing Thee risen, \*\* Thy Mother rejoiceth.

**Katavasia; Let us awake in the deep dawn ...,**

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

### ODE VI

**Irmos:** Thou didst descend into the nethermost parts of the earth, \* and didst shatter the eternal bars that held the fettered, O Christ, \* and on the third day, \* like Jonah from the whale, \* Thou didst arise from the tomb.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

Having kept the seals intact, O Christ, \* Thou didst rise from the tomb, \* O Thou Who didst not break the seal of the Virgin by Thy birth, \* and Thou hast opened for us \*\* the doors of Paradise.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

**O** my Savior, the living and un-slain Sacrifice, \* when, as God, Thou, of Thine Own will, \* hadst offered up Thyself unto the Father, \* Thou didst raise up with Thyself the whole race of Adam, \*\* when Thou didst rise from the tomb.

**Glory ...**, **He** that of old was held by death and corruption \* is raised up by Him Who was incarnate \* of thy most pure womb, O Theotokos Virgin, \*\* unto incorruption and everlasting life.

**Now and ever ...**, **He** Who went down into the nethermost parts of the earth, \* and came into thy womb, O Pure One, \* and dwelt and past understanding was incarnate, \* hath also raised up Adam with Himself \*\* when He rose from the tomb.

**Katavasia: Thou didst descend into the nethermost ...**

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

**Small Litany and Exclamation:** For Thou art the King of peace, and the Savior of our souls, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Kontakion: in Tone VIII:**

**Thou** didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, \* Thou didst destroy the power of Hades. \* In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, \* proclaiming “Rejoice!” to the myrrh-bearing women; \* granting peace to Thine apostles, \*\* and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

**Ikos:** The myrrh-bearing women forestalled the dawn, seeking, as it were day, the Sun that was before the sun and Who had once set in the tomb, and they cried out one to another: O friends! come, let us anoint with spices the life-bringing and buried Body, the Flesh that raised up fallen Adam, that now lieth in the tomb. Let us go, let us hasten, like the Magi, and let us worship and offer myrrh as a gift to Him Who is wrapped now not in swaddling clothes but in a shroud. And let us weep and cry aloud: O Master, arise, Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

**Hymn of the Resurrection, in Tone VI:**

**Having** beheld the Resurrection of Christ, \* let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, \* the only sinless One. \* We worship Thy Cross, O Christ, \* and Thy holy Resurrection we hymn and glorify. \* For Thou art our God, \* and we know none other beside Thee; \* we call upon Thy name. \* O come, all ye faithful, \* let us

worship Christ's holy Resurrection, \* for, behold, through the Cross joy hath come to all the world. \* Ever blessing the Lord, \* we hymn His Resurrection; \* for, having endured crucifixion, \* He hath destroyed death by death. (Thrice)

Jesus having risen from the tomb, \* as He foretold, \* hath granted us life eternal, \*\* and great mercy. (Thrice)

## ODE VII

**Irmos:** He Who delivered the Children from the furnace, \* became man, suffereth as a mortal, \* and through His Passion \* doth clothe mortality with the beauty of incorruption, \* He is the only blessed and most glorious \* God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

The godly-wise women with myrrh \* followed after Thee in haste; \* but Him Whom they sought with tears as dead, \* they worshipped joyfully as the living God, \* and they brought unto Thy disciples, O Christ, \*\* the good tidings of the mystical Pascha.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

We celebrate the death of death, \* the destruction of hades, \* the beginning of another life eternal, \* and leaping for joy, \* we hymn the Cause, \*\* the only blessed and supremely glorious God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

For truly sacred and all-festive is this saving night, \* and this shining, light-bearing day, \* the harbinger of the Resurrection, \* whereon the Timeless Light bodily \*\* from the tomb upon all hath shined.

Glory ..., Thy Son, having put death to death, \* O all-immaculate one, \* today hath granted unto all mortals \* the life that abideth unto the ages of ages, \*\* the only blessed and supremely glorious God of our fathers.

Now and ever ..., He Who reigneth over all creation, \* became man, \* dwelling in thy God-graced womb, \* and having endured crucifixion and death, \* is risen in a God-befitting manner, \* raising us up with Himself, \*\* for He is Almighty.

**Katavsia:** He Who delivered the Children ...,

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

## ODE VIII

**Irmos:** This chosen and holy day \* is the first of the sabbaths, \* the queen and lady, \* the feast of feasts, \* and the festival of festivals, \* wherein we bless Christ unto the ages.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

**C**ome, on this auspicious day of the Resurrection, \* let us partake of the fruit of the new vine \* of divine gladness of the kingdom of Christ, \* praising Him as God \*\* unto the ages.

**Refrain:** Christ is risen from the dead.

**L**ift up thine eyes about thee, O Zion, \* and see, for behold, there cometh unto thee \* like God-illuminated beacons, \* from the west, and from the north, \* and from the sea, and from the east, \*\* thy children, in thee blessing Christ unto the ages.

**Refrain:** O Most Holy Trinity, our God, glory be to Thee.

**O** Father Almighty, and Word, and Spirit, \* one Nature united in three Hypostases, \* transcendent and most divine! \* Into Thee have we been baptized, \*\* and Thee will we bless unto all ages.

**Refrain:** We bless the Father, son and Holy Spirit, the Lord:

**T**hrough thee the Lord came into the world, \* O Virgin Theotokos, \* and the womb of hades did He tear open, \* granting unto us mortals resurrection; \*\* Wherefore, we bless Him unto the ages.

**N**ow and ever ..., **L**aying low all the dominion of death \* by His Resurrection, \* thy Son, O Virgin, as the mighty God, \* hath raised us up with Himself \* and deified us; \*\* wherefore we sing His praise unto the ages.

**Katavasia:** This chosen and holy day ...,

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

## ODE IX

**Refrain:** Magnify, O my soul, Him Who willingly suffered, and was buried, and rose from the grave on the third day.

**Irmos:** Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, \* for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; \* dance now and be glad, O Zion, \* and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, \* in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

**Refrain:** Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of life, Who arose from the grave on the third day.

**Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, \* for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; \* dance now and be glad, O Zion, \* and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, \* in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.**

**Refrain: Christ is the new Pascha, the living-sacrifice, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.**

**O** how divine, how loving, \* how sweet is Thy voice! \* For Thou hast truly promised \* to be with us unto the end of the age, O Christ; \* having this foundation of hope, \*\* we the faithful rejoice.

**Refrain: Today all creation is glad and rejoiceth, for Christ is risen, and hades is led in captivity.**

**O** how divine, how loving, \* how sweet is Thy voice! \* For Thou hast truly promised \* to be with us unto the end of the age, O Christ; \* having this foundation of hope, \*\* we the faithful rejoice.

**Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, the dominion of the Tri-hypostatic and Indivisible Godhead.**

**O** Christ, Thou great and most sacred Pascha! \* O Wisdom, Word and power of God! \* Grant us to partake of Thee more fully \* in the unwaning day \*\* of Thy kingdom.

**Refrain: Rejoice, O Virgin, rejoice; rejoice O blessed one; rejoice, O most glorified one: for thy Son is risen on the third day from the grave.**

**O** Christ, Thou great and most sacred Pascha! \* O Wisdom, Word and power of God! \* Grant us to partake of Thee more fully \* in the unwaning day \*\* of Thy kingdom.

**Glory ..., With one voice, O Virgin, \* the faithful do bless thee. \* Rejoice, O Portal of the Lord; \* rejoice, O living City; \* rejoice, through whom for our sake the Light hath shone, \* Who, born of thee, \*\* is the Resurrection of the dead.**

**Now and ever ..., Be glad and rejoice, \* O Portal of the Divine Light: \* for Jesus set into the grave, \* hath dawned forth shining more brightly than the sun, \* and hath illumined all the faithful, \*\* O Sovereign Lady who rejoiceth in God.**

**Refrain: The angel cried unto her that is full of grace: \* Rejoice, O pure Virgin! And again I say, rejoice! \* For thy Son hath arisen from the grave on the third day, \* and hath raised the dead, O ye people, be joyful!**

**And the Irmos: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, \* for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; \* dance now and be glad, O Zion, \* and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, \* in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.**

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

**Small Litany and Exclamation:** For all the hosts of heaven praise Thee, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Exapostilarion, in Tone III:**

**H**aving fallen asleep in the flesh, \* as a mortal, \* O King and Lord, \* on the third day Thou didst rise again, \* raising up Adam from corruption, \* and abolishing death: \* O Pascha of incorruption, \*\* Salvation of the world! (Thrice)

**The Praises, in Tone V:**

**Choir:** Let every breath praise the Lord. \* Praise the Lord from the heavens, \* praise Him in the highest. \* To Thee is due praise, O God.

**P**raise Him, all ye His angels; \* praise Him, all ye His hosts. \* To Thee is due praise, O God.

**V**erse: Praise Him for His mighty acts, \* praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

**O** Lord, while the grave was sealed by lawless men, \* Thou didst come forth from the tomb \* in a manner similar to Thy birth from the Theotokos. \* Thy bodiless Angels could not fathom the event of Thine incarnation, \* likewise the soldiers guarding Thee could not know when Thou didst Arise. \* For the full knowledge of both events hath been sealed from those who would inquire, \* but the wonder of these events hath been revealed to those who with faith \* worship the mystery which we hymn; \*\* grant unto us joy and great mercy.

**V**erse: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, \* praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

**O** Lord, having smashed the eternal bars and burst asunder the bonds of Hades, \* Thou didst arise from the tomb, \* leaving Thy grave clothes behind in testimony of Thy three day burial. \* Whereupon Thou didst go forth into Galilee, \* while yet being guarded in a cave. \* Great is Thy mercy, O Savior, and beyond understanding; \*\* have mercy upon us.

**V**erse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, \* praise him with strings and flute.

**O** Lord, the women ran unto Thy tomb to see Thee, \* the Christ who had suffered for our sakes. \* Approaching the tomb they found an Angel seated upon the stone, which had rolled back from fear, \* and he cried unto them saying. \* 'The Lord hath arisen; go tell His disciples that He is risen, saving your souls.'

**Verse:** Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. \* Let every breath praise the Lord.

**O** Lord, in a manner similar to that \* by which Thou didst come forth from the sealed tomb, \* Thou didst enter in unto Thy disciples when the doors were shut, \* showing them Thy body's sufferings, \* O long-suffering Savior, \* which Thou didst willingly endure. \* As one who hath spring forth from the seed of David, \* Thou didst endure wounds, \* but as One who didst spring forth from God, \* even the Son of God \* Thou hast delivered the world. \* Incomprehensible and great is Thy mercy, \*\* O Savior, have mercy on us.

### THE PASCHAL STICHERA, in Tone V:

**Verse:** Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.

**A** Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; \* Pascha new and holy, \* a Pascha mystical, \* a Pascha all-venerable! \* A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; \* a Pascha immaculate, \* a great Pascha; \* a Pascha of the faithful; \* a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; \*\* a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

**Verse:** As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish.

**C**ome from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, \* and say ye unto Zion: \* Receive from us the good tidings \* of the Resurrection of Christ; \* adorn thyself, exult, \* and rejoice, O Jerusalem, \* for thou hast seen Christ the King, \*\* like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

**Verse:** So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

**T**he myrrh-bearing women \* in the deep dawn \* stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; \* they found an angel sitting upon the stone, \* and he, speaking to them, said thus: \* Why seek ye the Living among the dead? \* Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? \*\* Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

**Verse:** This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein.

**P**ascha the beautiful, \* Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, \* the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. \* Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. \* O Pascha! \* Ransom from sorrow, \* for from the tomb today, \* as from a bridal chamber, \* hath Christ shone forth, \* and hath filled the women with joy, saying: \*\* Proclaim unto the apostles.

**G**lory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

It is the Day of Resurrection, \* let us be radiant for the feast, \* and let us embrace one another. \* Let us say, Brethren, even to them that hate us, \* let us forgive all things on the Resurrection, \*\* and thus let us cry out:

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

The usual Ektenias until:

**Priest:** He that is, is blessed, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto the ages of ages.

**Clergy:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death:

**Choir:** And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

#### THE DISMISSAL:

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, Who rose from the dead, trampling death by death and bestowing life upon those in the tombs, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

**Priest:** CHRIST IS RISEN! (Thrice)

**People:** INDEED HE IS RISEN! (After each)

**After which:** **Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

And unto us hath He granted life eternal; we worship His Resurrection on the third day.

Then the Paschal Hours are chanted in place of Compline, Nocturnes, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> hours.



**BRIGHT THURSDAY  
AT LITURGY**

**Priest:** Blessed is the kingdom ...,

**Choir:** Amen.

**Clergy:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

The Priest reads the verse, and the choir sings the Troparion after each Verse:

**Verse 1:** Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Verse 2:** As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Verse 3:** So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Verse 4:** This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Priest:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Priest:** Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Priest:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death.

**Choir:** And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Ektinia of Peace.**

**THE FIRST ANTIPHON**

**Verse 1:** Shout with jubilation unto the Lord all the earth; \* chant ye unto His name, give glory in praise of Him.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

**Verse 2:** Say unto God: How awesome are Thy works! \* In the multitude of Thy power shall Thine enemies be proved false unto Thee.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

**Verse 3:** Let all the earth worship Thee and chant unto Thee; \* let them chant unto Thy name, O Most High.

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

Glory ..., Now & Ever ...,

**Refrain:** Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us.

### THE SECOND ANTIPHON

**Verse 1:** God be gracious unto us and bless us, \* and cause Thy face to shine upon us and have mercy on us.

**Refrain:** O Son of God Who didst rise from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

**Verse 2:** That we may know upon the earth Thy way, \* among all the nations Thy salvation.

**Refrain:** O Son of God Who didst rise from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

**Verse 3:** Let all the peoples give Thee praise, O God, \* let all the peoples praise Thee.

**Refrain:** O Son of God Who didst rise from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

Glory ..., Now & Ever ..., in Tone II:

Only-Begotten Son and Word of God, \* Thou Who art immortal, and didst deign for our salvation \* to become incarnate of the holy Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, \* without change becoming man, \* and Who wast crucified, O Christ God, trampling down death by death: \* Thou Who art one of the Holy Trinity, \*\* glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit, save us.

### THIRD ANTIPHON

**Verse 1:** Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Verse 2:** As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

**Verse 3:** So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad, let them rejoice in the presence of God

**Choir:** Repeat Troparion

### The Small Entry

**Introit:** In the Churches bless ye God, the Lord from the wellsprings of Israel

Then we sing the Troparion, Hypakoe, and Kontakion of the Feast:

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

**Glory..., in Tone IV:** Forestalling the dawn, the women came with Mary, \* and found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, \* and heard from the angel: Why seek ye among the dead, \* as though He were mortal, \* Him Who liveth in everlasting light? \* Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world \* that the Lord is risen \* and hath slain death. \* For He is the Son of God Who saveth mankind.

**Now & ever..., in Tone VIII:** Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, \* Thou didst destroy the power of Hades. \* In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, \* proclaiming “Rejoice!” to the myrrh-bearing women; \* granting peace to Thine apostles, \*\* and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Then: Instead of the Trisagion:

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia. (Thrice).

Glory ..., Now & Ever ..., Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

**The Prokeimenon:** in Tone III: Chant unto our God, chant ye; \* chant unto our King, chant ye.

**Verse:** Clap your hands all ye nations; shout unto God with a voice of rejoicing.

## THE ACTS OF THE HOLY APOSTLES: [2:38 - 43]

In those days, Peter said unto those who came unto him: Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles in Jerusalem.

Alleluia, in Tone III:

Verse: **B**end Thy bow and proceed prosperously, and be King, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

Verse: **T**hou hast loved righteousness and hated iniquity.

## GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN. [3:1 - 15]

At that time: there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be? Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that we do know, and testify that we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell

you of heavenly things? And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Instead of “It is truly meet...” we chant the **Irmos of the 9<sup>th</sup> Ode of the Canon of the feast, first Tone:**

**Refrain:** The angel cried unto her that is full of grace: \* Rejoice, O pure Virgin! And again I say, rejoice! \* For thy Son is risen from the grave on the third day, \* and hath raised the dead, O ye people, be joyful!

**Irmos:** Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, \* for the glory of the Lord hath arisen upon thee; \* dance now and be glad, O Zion, \* and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, \* in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

**Communion Verse:** Receive ye the Body of Christ, taste ye of the Fountain of Immortality. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

When the priest says: “With the fear of God and with faith draw near,” instead of “Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord,” we sing: “Christ is risen...” once. And we also sing this instead of “We have seen the true light...” and instead of “Let our mouths be filled with thy praise...”

When the priest says: “The blessing of the Lord be upon you...” The Choir sings “Amen.” And then the clergy sing: “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death.” And the Choir sings: “And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.”

#### THE DISMISSAL:

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, Who rose from the dead, trampling death by death and bestowing life upon those in the tombs, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** CHRIST IS RISEN! (Thrice)

**People:** INDEED HE IS RISEN! (After each)

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (Thrice)

And unto us hath He granted life eternal; we worship His Resurrection on the third day.