

Matins of Pascha

(Reader's service - for use when there is no priest)

People: (*Tone 6*) Thy resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing. Enable us on earth to glorify Thee in purity of heart. (*x3*)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*x3*)

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

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

Reader: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire.

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

Reader: So let the sinners will perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

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

Reader: This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

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

Reader: Now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

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

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

People: and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*x12*)

The Canon

Ode 1

People: (*Irmos, Tone 1*) This is the Day of Resurrection. Let us be illumined, O people. Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord. For from death to life and from earth to heaven has Christ our God led us, as we sing the song of victory.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Let us purify our senses and we shall see Christ shining in the unapproachable light of His resurrection. We shall clearly hear Him say: Rejoice, as we sing the song of victory.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. Let the whole world, visible and invisible, keep the feast. For Christ is risen, our eternal joy.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*x3*)

(*Katavasia*) This is the Day of Resurrection. Let us be illumined, O people. Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord. For from death to life and from earth to heaven has Christ our God led us, as we sing the song of victory.

Ode 3

People: (*Irmos, Tone 1*) Come let us drink, not miraculous water drawn forth from a barren stone, but a new vintage from the fount of incorruption, springing from the tomb of Christ. In Him we are established.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Now all is filled with light: heaven and earth and the lower regions. Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ. In Him we are established.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Yesterday I was buried with Thee, O Christ. Today I arise with Thee in Thy resurrection. Yesterday I was crucified with Thee. Glorify me with Thee, O Savior, in Thy kingdom.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*x3*)

(Katavasia) Come let us drink, not miraculous water drawn forth from a barren stone, but a new vintage from the fount of incorruption, springing from the tomb of Christ. In Him we are established.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(x3)*

Hypakoe

People: **(Tone 4)** Before the dawn, Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice: “Why do you seek among the dead as a man the One who is everlasting Light? Behold the clothes in the grave. Go and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen. He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the race of men.”

Ode 4

People: **(Irmos, Tone 1)** The inspired prophet Habakkuk now stands with us in holy vigil. He is like a shining angel who cries with a piercing voice: Today salvation has come to the world, for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ our Pascha has appeared as a male child, the son that opens a virgin womb. He is called the Lamb as one destined to be our food, unblemished for He has not tasted of defilement, and perfect for he is our true God.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ, the crown with which we are blessed, has appeared as a yearling lamb. Feely He has given Himself as our cleansing paschal sacrifice, From the tomb He has shown forth once again, our radiant sun of righteousness.

Christ is risen from the dead!

David, the ancestor of God, leaped and danced before the ark which prefigured Thee. Now let us, the holy people of God, seeing the fulfillment of all figures, rejoice in piety, for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! *(x3)*

(Katavasia) The inspired prophet Habakkuk now stands with us in holy vigil. He is like a shining angel who cries with a piercing voice: Today salvation has come to the world, for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

Ode 5

People: (*Irmos, Tone 1*) Let us arise at the rising of the sun and bring to the Master a hymn instead of myrrh, and we shall see Christ, the sun of righteousness, who causes life to dawn for all.

Christ is risen from the dead!

The souls bound in the chains of hell, O Christ, seeing Thy compassion without measure, pressed onward to the light with joyful steps, praising the eternal pascha.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Let us go with laps in hand to meet Christ, who comes from the tomb like a bridegroom. And with the festive ranks of angels, let us celebrate the saving pascha of God.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*x3*)

(*Katavasia*) Let us arise at the rising of the sun and bring to the Master a hymn instead of myrrh, and we shall see Christ, the sun of righteousness, who causes life to dawn for all.

Ode 6

People: (*Irmos, Tone 1*) Thou didst descend, O Christ to the depths of the earth. Thou didst break the everlasting bars which had held death's captives, and like Jonah from the whale on the third day, Thou didst arise from the grave.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Thou didst arise, O Christ, and yet the tomb remained sealed, as at Thy birth the Virgin's womb remained unharmed; and Thou hast opened for us the gates of paradise.

Christ is risen from the dead!

O my Savior, as God Thou didst bring Thyself freely to the Father, a victim living and unsacrificed, resurrecting Adam, the father of us all, when Thou didst arise from the grave.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*x3*)

(*Katavasia*) Thou didst descend, O Christ to the depths of the earth. Thou didst break the everlasting bars which had held death's captives, and like Jonah from the whale on the third day, Thou didst arise from the grave.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. (*x3*)

Kontakion

People: (*Tone 8*) Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal; Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming 'Rejoice' to the myrrhbearing women, granting peace to Thy apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Ikos

Reader: (*Tone 8*) Before the dawn, the myrrhbearing women sought, as those who seek the day, their sun, who was before the sun yet had descended to the grave, and they cried to each other: O friends, come let us anoint with spices His life bearing yet buried body, the flesh which raised fallen Adam and now lies in the tomb. Let us assemble and, like the magi, let us hasten and let us worship. Let us bring myrrh as a gift to Him who is wrapped now, not in swaddling clothes, but in a winding-sheet. Let us lament and cry: Arise, O Master, and bestow resurrection on the fallen.

Hymn of the Resurrection

People: (*Tone 6*) Having beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy holy resurrection. For Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee. We call on Thy name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For behold through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His resurrection. For by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death.

Jesus has risen from the tomb, as he foretold, granting us eternal life, and great mercy.

Ode 7

People: (*Irmos, Tone 1*) He who saved the three young men in the furnace became incarnate and suffered as a mortal man. Through His sufferings He clothed what is mortal in the robe of immortality. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our fathers.

Christ is risen from the dead!

The godly women hastened to Thee with myrrh, O Christ. In tears they had sought Thee as a dead man, but in joy they worshipped THEE as the living GOD and proclaimed the mystical pascha to They disciples.

Christ is risen from the dead!

We celebrate the death of death and the overthrow of hell, the beginning of another life which is eternal, and in exultation we sing the praises of its source. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our father.

Christ is risen from the dead!

This is the bright and saving night, sacred and supremely festal. It heralds the radiant day of the resurrection on which the tieless light shown forth from the tomb for all.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*x3*)

(*Katavasia*) He who saved the three young men in the furnace became incarnate and suffered as a mortal man. Through His sufferings He clothed what is mortal in the robe of immortality. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our fathers.

Ode 8

People: (***Irmos, Tone 1***) This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Come on this chosen day of the resurrection, let us partake of the new fruit of the vine. Let us share in the divine rejoicing of the kingdom of Christ, praising Him as God forevermore.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Lift up your eyes, O Zion, round about and see. Your children like divinely shining stars assemble from the North, the south, the East and the west to bless Christ in you forever.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Father almighty, Word, and Spirit, one nature in three persons, surpassing essence and divinity. In Thee have we been baptized, and Thee we bless forevermore.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*x3*)

(*Katavasia*) This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore.

Ode 9

Solo: (***Refrain, Tone 1***) My soul magnifies Him who rose from the tomb on the third day: Christ, the giver of life.

People: (***Irmos***) Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.

Solo: Christ, the new Pascha, the living sacrifice, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.

People: How divine! How beloved! How sweet is Thy voice, O Christ! For Thou hast faithfully promised to be with us to the end of the world. Having this as our anchor of hope, we the faithful rejoice.

Solo: Mary Magdalene hastened to the tomb, and seeing Christ, she questioned Him as though He were the gardener.

People: O Christ, great and most holy Pascha. O Wisdom, Word, and Power of God, grant that we may more perfectly partake of Thee in the never-ending day of Thy kingdom.

Solo: Rejoice, O Virgin, rejoice; rejoice, O blessed one; rejoice O most glorified one; for Thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (*x3*)

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, O pure Virgin. Again I say: Rejoice. Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb.

(Katavasia) Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(x3)*

Exapostilarion

People: *(Tone 3)* In the flesh Thou didst fall asleep as a mortal man, O King and Lord. Thou didst rise on the third day, raising Adam from corruption and destroying death: O Pascha of incorruption, the salvation of the world!

The Praises

People: *(Tone 1)* Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord in heaven. Praise him in the highest. To Thee, O God, is due a song. Praise Him all you angels of His. Praise Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due a song. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.

We praise Thy saving suffering, O Christ, and we glorify Thy resurrection.

Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp.

Thou didst endure the Cross and destroy death by raising from the dead. Give peace to our life, O Lord, as the only almighty one.

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe.

Thou didst capture hell, O Christ, and resurrect man by Thy resurrection. Enable us to praise and glorify Thee in purity of heart.

Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

We glorify Thy divine condescension, and we praise Thee, O Christ. Thou wast born of a virgin yet not separated from the Father. Thou hast suffered as a man and voluntarily endured the Cross. Thou hast risen from the tomb, coming as from a bridal chamber to save the world. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Let God Arise

People: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered!

Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us: a new and holy Pascha, a mystical Pascha, a Pascha worthy of veneration, a Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer, a blameless Pascha, a great Pascha, a Pascha of the faithful, a Pascha which has opened to us the gates of Paradise, a Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

As smoke vanishes so let them vanish!

Come from that scene, O women bearers of glad tidings, and say to Zion: "Receive from us the glad tidings of joy, of Christ's Resurrection! Exult and be glad, and rejoice, O Jerusalem, seeing Christ the King, Who comes forth from the tomb like a bridegroom in procession!"

So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad!

The myrrh-bearing women, at the break of dawn, drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver. There they found an Angel sitting upon the stone. He greeted them with these words: "Why do you seek the Living among the dead? Why do you mourn the Incorrupt amid corruption? Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples!"

This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Pascha of beauty, the Pascha of the Lord, A Pascha worthy of honor has dawned for us. Pascha! Let us embrace each other joyously! Pascha, ransom from affliction! For today, as from a bridal chamber, Christ has shone forth from the tomb, and filled the women with joy saying: "Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

This is the day of resurrection! Let us be illumined by the feast! Let us embrace each other! Let us call Brothers even those that hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let us cry:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (**3x**)

The Sermon of St. John Chrysostom

Reader: If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; He gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts. And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, was embittered, when it encountered Thee in the lower regions. It was embittered, for it was abolished. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your victory? Christ is risen, and you are overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life reigns. Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion of St. John Chrysostom

People: Grace shining forth from thy lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

Reader: Lord, have mercy. *(x12)*

Dismissal

People: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(x3)*

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, through the prayers of Thy most pure mother; by the power of the honorable and life-giving Cross; and by the holy bodiless powers of heaven; of our Holy, Venerable and Godbearing Fathers; and of all Thy saints, have mercy on us.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! *(x3)*

And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His resurrection on the third day.