

# Nocturns of Pascha

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

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, Who art everywhere present and fillest all things, Treasury of good things, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One!

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(x3)*

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

O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, blot out our sins; O Master, pardon our iniquities; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(x3)*

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(x12)*

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

O come let us worship God our King.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ our King and God.

O come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and God.

## *Psalm 50*

**Reader:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me.

Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness.

O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise. For if Thou hadst desired sacrifice, I had given it; with whole-burnt offerings Thou shalt not be pleased. A sacrifice unto God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Thy pleasure unto Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be builded. Then shalt Thou be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer bullocks upon Thine altar.

## *The Canon*

### *Ode 1*

#### *Irmos (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the seas. Now the children of those who were saved bury Thee beneath the earth. But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, o Lord my God, who by Thy burial hast opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death hast put death and hell to death.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** Beholding Thee upon the throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Thy death; for in a manner past understanding wast Thou, the very source of life seen dead.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Rdr#2:** Thou didst descend to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from thee, and when Thou was buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

***Katavasia (Tone 6)***

**Choir:** Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the seas. Now the children of those who were saved bury Thee beneath the earth. But like the maidens, let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

***Ode 3***

***Irmos (Tone 6)***

**Choir:** Thou didst suspend the earth immovably upon the waters. Now creation beholds Thee suspended on Calvary. It quakes with great amazement and cries: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** By a multitude of visions Thou didst indicate the signs of Thy burial, O Master. But now, as God and man, Thou dost make clear Thy hidden things even unto those in hell, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** Thou hast stretched out Thy hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Thyself in a winding sheet Thou hast saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

**Rdr#1:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Rdr#2:** By Thy will a sealed tomb contained Thee, who cannot be contained; for by Thy divine accomplishments Thou hast made known Thy power unto those who sing: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord who lovest mankind.”

*Katavasia (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Thou didst suspend the earth immovably upon the waters. Now creation beholds Thee suspended on Calvary. It quakes with great amazement and cries: “None is holy but Thee, O Lord.”

***Kathisma Hymn***

*(Tone 1)*

**Choir:** The soldiers guarding Thy tomb, O Savior, became as dead men at the lightning flash of the angel who appeared announcing Thy resurrection to the women. We glorify Thee, who cleanse from corruption. We fall down before Thee, who didst rise from the tomb, our only God.

***Ode 4***

*Irmos (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: “Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** Thou hast sanctified this, the seventh day, which of old Thou didst bless by rest from work; for Thou dost bring all things into being and renew them, O my Savior, while resting and reviving on the sabbath.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** By the overwhelming strength of Thy divine nature Thou didst win the victory, O Word; for Thy soul was parted from the flesh, sundering by Thy might the bonds of hell and death.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Rdr#2:** When hell encountered Thee, O Word, it was embittered. Seeing Thee as a mortal man deified, marked with wounds yet having almighty power, it cried out at Thy awesome appearance.

*Katavasia (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: “Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.”

**Ode 5**

*Irmos (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Isaiah saw the never-setting light of Thy compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ. Rising early from the night he cried out: “The dead shall arise. Those in the tombs shall awake. All those on earth shall greatly rejoice.”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** When Thou didst become earthly, O Creator, Thou didst renew those born on earth, and the winding sheet and the grave revealed the mystery concerning Thee, O word; for Joseph the noble counsellor, fulfills the counsel of Him who begot Thee and who wondrously renews me in Thee.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** Through death thou dost transform what is mortal, and through burial Thou dost transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting Gdd Thou dost make incorrupt and immortal the nature which Thou hast assumed, since Thy flesh did not see corruption and in a wondrous manner Thy soul was not abandoned in hell.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Rdr#2:** Thou didst come forth from a painless birth, O my Maker, and Thy side was pierced. By this has Thou, the new Adam, accomplished the restoration of Eve. Thou didst fall into a sleep surpassing nature and renewing nature, and as the all-powerful On, Thou didst raise up life from sleep and corruption.

*Katavasia (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Isaiah saw the never-setting light of Thy compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ. Rising early from the night he cried out: “The dead shall arise. Those in the tombs shall awake. All those on earth shall greatly rejoice.”

## ***Ode 6***

### ***Irmos (Tone 6)***

**Choir:** Jonah was caught but not held fast in the belly of the whale. He was a sign of Thee who hast suffered and accepted burial. Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber, he called out to the guard: “By observing vanities and lies you have forsaken your own mercy.”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** Thou wast killed, O Word but not separated from the flesh which Thou dost share with us; for even though the temple of Thy body was destroyed at the time of the passion, the person of Thy divinity and of Thy flesh was one, for in both dost Thou remain one Son, Word of God, God and man.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Thy flesh suffered, Thy divinity remained passionless. In Thyself Thou hast transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Thy resurrection Thou hast revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Rdr#2:** He rules the race of mortal men, but not eternally; for when Thou wast placed in the grave, O powerful One, Thou didst tear asunder the bars of death by Thy life-creating hand and didst proclaim true deliverance to those sleeping there from the ages, since Thou, O Savior, hast become the first-born of the dead.

### ***Katavasia (Tone 6)***

**Choir:** Jonah was caught but not held fast in the belly of the whale. He was a sign of Thee who hast suffered and accepted burial. Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber, he called out to the guard: “By observing vanities and lies you have forsaken your own mercy.”

## ***Kontakion***

*(Tone 6)*

**Choir:** He who shut in the depths is beheld dead, wrapped in fine linen and spices. The Immortal One is laid in a tomb as a mortal man. The women have come to annoint Him with myrrh, weeping bitterly and crying: “This is the most blessed sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day.”

### ***Ikos***

*(Tone 6)*

**Reader:** He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below, and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

**Choir:** “This is the most blessed sabbath on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day.”

### ***Ode 7***

*Irmos (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Inexpressible wonder! In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame. Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our redeemer!”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** Hell was wounded in heart when it received Him whose side was pierced by a spear, and it groans, consumed by divine fire, unto the salvation for us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** Happy is the tomb! For having received the Creator as one asleep, it became a divine treasury of life, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all accepts burial in the tomb, and the tomb becomes the source of resurrection, unto the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Rdr#2:** In hell, in the tomb and in Eden, the divinity of Christ was one and undivided, with the Father and the Spirit, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!”

*Katavasia (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Inexpressible wonder! In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame. Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed art Thou, O God, our redeemer!”

**Ode 8**

*Irmos (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Be amazed, O heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He that dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt him above all forever.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the second Adam, who dwells in the highest, has descended to the first Adam, even unto the lowest chambers of hell. Bless Him, O youths! Praise him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** The courage of all the disciples failed, but Joseph of Arimathea showed valor; for seeing the God of all dead and naked, he sought Him and dressed Him for burial, crying: Bless Him, O youths! Praise him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

**Rdr#1:** We bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Rdr#2:** What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slandered as a deceiver. Bless Him, O youths! Praise him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!



**Rdr#1:** We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

*Katavasia (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Be amazed, O heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He that dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt him above all forever.

**Ode 9**

*Irmos (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Do not lament me, O Mother, seeing Me in the tomb. The Son conceived in the womb without seed, for I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** “I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Thy strange birth, O Son who art without beginning. But now, beholding Thee, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee!

**Rdr#2:** “By my own will, the earth covers me, O mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble at seeing me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished my enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

**Rdr#1:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Rdr#2:** “Let creation rejoice! Let all born on earth be glad! For hateful hell has been despoiled. Let the women with myrrh come to meet me; for I am redeeming Adam and Eve and all their descendants, and on the third day shall I arise!”

*Katavasia (Tone 6)*

**Choir:** Do not lament me, O Mother, seeing Me in the tomb. The Son conceived in the womb without seed, for I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

## *Trisagion*

**Reader:** Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. *(x3)*

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

O Most-Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; O Lord, blot out our sins; O Master, pardon our iniquities; O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(x3)*

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

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us. Amen.

## *Resurrectional Troparion*

*(Tone 2)*

**Choir:** When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal, Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead. And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead, all the powers of heaven cried out: "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

**Reader:** Lord, have mercy. *(x40)*

## *Lesser Dismissal*

**Choir:** 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)*

O Christ, bless!

**Reader:** O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

**Choir:** Amen.