

PASCHAL MATINS – READER’S SERVICE

*If possible, the Service should be said in front of the household icons – e.g. in the family icon corner. If practical, and if they are available, a Cross and a Book of the Gospels (or a copy of New Testament, or a Bible) should be placed on a table in front of the icons. An **unlit** lamp or candle, and (if available) **unlit** charcoal in a hand censer or bowl, should be placed near the icons.*

Ideally, the room where the service takes place should be in darkness before the service begins. Where it is practical to do so, each person holds an unlit candle. As close as possible to the stroke of midnight, the most senior person present – e.g. a parent or grandparent, according to the situation – strikes a flame and lights the lamp or candle; the other candles are lit from it. If you are using incense, the charcoal may now be lit and a few grains of incense placed on it. As the candles are being lit, all sing:

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour, / the angels in the heavens sing; / enable us on earth // to glorify Thee in purity of heart. (x 3)

If it is practical to do so, you may wish to go to an outside door of your home, repeating the hymn. At the door:

Reader: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. (16:1-8)

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, be to Thee.

Reader: When the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Jesus. And very early on the first day of the week they went to the tomb when the sun had risen. And they were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the door of the tomb?" And looking up, they saw that the stone was rolled back – it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, dressed in a white robe; and they were amazed. And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you." And they went out and fled from the tomb; for

trembling and astonishment had come upon them; and they said nothing to any one, for they were afraid.

Choir: Glory be to Thee, O Lord, be to Thee.

Reader: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

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

If you have gone to an outside door of your home for the reading of the Gospel, now return to the room where the service will take place. When you reach it, switch on the lights so that the room is brightly lit. You may wish to continue singing "Christ is risen from the dead ..." until everyone has returned to their place in front of the icons.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x 12)

ODE I

Irmos, Tone 1: 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.

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

ODE III

Irmos, Tone 1: 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.

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

Hypakoe, Tone 8

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.
He is the Son of God, saving the race of men!'"

ODE IV

Irmos, Tone 1:

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.

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

ODE V

Irmos, Tone 1: 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.

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

ODE VI

Irmos, Tone 1: 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.

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

Kontakion

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 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

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, * let us worship the holy Lord
Jesus, * the only sinless One. * Thy Cross do we adore, O Christ, * and Thy
holy Resurrection we praise 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 adore Christ's holy Resurrection, * for, lo, through the
Cross joy hath come into all the world. * Ever blessing the Lord, * let us
sing His Resurrection; * for in that He endured the Cross for us, * He hath
destroyed death by death. (x 3)

ODE VII

Irmos, Tone 1: 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.

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

ODE VIII

Irmos, Tone 1: 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.

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

ODE IX

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

Tone 1: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, /
for the glory of the Lord is risen 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 is risen 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.

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

EXAPOSTILARION

Tone 3

Having 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! (x 3)

THE LAUDS (PRAISES)

Tone 1

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. * Praise the Lord from the heavens, * praise Him in the highest. * To Thee, O God, is due a song. Praise Him, all ye angels of His; * praise Him, all His hosts. * To Thee, O God, is due a song.

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

Tone 1

We hymn, O Christ, Thy saving Passion, //
and glorify Thy Resurrection.

Stichos: Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, * praise Him with the psaltery and harp.

O Thou Who didst endure the Cross, /
and didst abolish death, /
and didst rise again from the dead: /
Make our life peaceful, O Lord, //
for Thou alone art almighty.

Stichos: Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O Thou Who didst lead Hades captive, /
and didst raise up man by Thy Resurrection, / deem us worthy, with
pure hearts, // to hymn and glorify Thee.

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

Glorifying Thy Godly-majestic condescension, /
we hymn Thee, O Christ; /
for Thou wast born of a Virgin, /
yet Thou didst remain inseparable from the Father; /
Thou didst suffer as a man, and willingly didst endure the Cross; /
Thou didst rise from the tomb, /
coming forth as from a bridal chamber, /

that Thou mightest save the world: //
O Lord, glory be to Thee.

THE PASCHAL STICHERA

Tone 5

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.
A sacred Pascha hath been revealed to us today:
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 that doth sanctify all the faithful.

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

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 honour has dawned for us.

O 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 illuminated 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!”

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

PASCHAL SERMON OF SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

We do not sit during this reading, but we all listen while standing.

Reader: If any man be devout and loveth 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 laboured 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 no wise be

deprived therefor. 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 honour, will accept the last even as the first; He giveth rest unto him who cometh at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who hath wrought from the first hour.

And He showeth mercy upon the last, and careth for the first; and to the one He giveth, and upon the other He bestoweth gifts. And He both accepteth the deeds, and welcometh the intention, and honoureth the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter ye 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, honour 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 shone forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Saviour’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 thy sting? O Hell, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and thou art 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 to Saint John Chrysostom, Tone 8:

Choir: Grace shining forth from thy mouth like a beacon hath illumined the universe, / and hath disclosed to the world treasures of uncovetousness, / and shown us the heights of humility; / but while instructed by Thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, // intercede with the Word, Christ God, to save our souls.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (x 40).

THE DISMISSAL

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

More honourable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without defilement gavest birth to God the Word, true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Bless, O Lord.

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

Reader: Lord Jesus Christ our True God, Who rose again from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, through the intercessions of Thy most pure Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us.

Choir: Amen.

Reader: Christ is risen!)

) *Repeated three times*

All: He is risen indeed!)

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