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READER'S SERVICE ADAPTATION OF THE  
VIGIL APPOINTED FOR MIDNIGHT OF SUNDAY, MAY 2, 2021  
*Great and Holy Pascha*

*NOTES.* The outline shown here omits the Midnight and the Rush services, which are included in the Vigil service, normally served when a Priest is present. (In that instance, the Vigil starts a little earlier.) The present setting incorporates only the festal Orthros and Typika, so when doing this service at home, the faithful would start it around midnight.

THE OPENING

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*Reader:* Amen.

THE PASCHAL TROPARION

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

THE PASCHAL VERSES

*Priest/Leader:* Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered: and let them who 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 (*quick melody*)

*Priest/Leader:* As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish away: as wax melteth before the fire.

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

*Priest/Leader:* So do sinners perish from before the face of God; and the righteous be glad.

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

*Priest/Leader:* This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us be glad and rejoice therein.

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

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

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

*Priest/Leader:* Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. *Choir:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody*)

*Then in a louder voice, the Priest/Leader chants:*

*Priest/Leader:* Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs ... & *the choir concludes the troparion:*

*Choir:* ... bestowing life.

## THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## THE PASCHAL CANON, IN TONE 1

### *Ode 1*

*Irmos:* Today is the day of Resurrection O nations, let us shine forth; for the Pascha is the Pascha of the Lord, in that Christ did make us pass from death to life, and from earth to heaven, who now sing the song of victory and triumph.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

Let us cleanse our senses that we may behold Christ shining like lightning with the unapproachable light of Resurrection, that we may hear him say openly, Rejoice! While we sing to Him the hymn of victory and triumph.

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad, as is meet; and let the whole world, visible and invisible, feast; for Christ hath risen to everlasting joy.

*(Katavasia)*

Today is the day of Resurrection O nations, let us shine forth; for the Pascha is the Pascha of the Lord, in that Christ did make us pass from death to life, and from earth to heaven, who now sing the song of victory and triumph.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody; 3 times*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy.

## LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

## *Continuation of the Paschal Canon, in tone 1*

### *Ode 3*

*Irmos:* Come, let us drink a new drink, not wondrously produced from a barren rock, but from the fount of incorruption, that hath come to us with the overflowing of Christ from the tomb, in whom we are strengthened.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

Verily, all creatures have been filled with light, the heaven and the earth, and all that is below the earth. Let all creation, therefore, celebrate the Resurrection of Christ, in which it is strengthened.

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Christ Savior, we were but yesterday buried with thee, and we shall rise with thee in thy Resurrection. We were but yesterday crucified with thee: glorify us with thee in thy Kingdom.

*Katavasia)*

Come, let us drink a new drink, not wondrously produced from a barren rock, but from the fount of incorruption, that hath come to us with the overflowing of Christ from the tomb, in whom we are strengthened.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody; 3 times*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy.

LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

THE HYPAKOE

*In Tone 4 (or can be read)*

They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them, Why seek ye him as man with the dead, who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for he is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

*Continuation of the Paschal Canon, in tone 1*

*Ode 4*

*Irmos:* Upon the divine watchtower let the God-spoken Habakkuk stand and show us the angel attired in light, saying openly, Today is come salvation to the world; for Christ is risen, Almighty as he is.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

Verily, Christ hath been revealed as our Pascha; for that he was a male opening a virginal womb; and for that he was Nourishment he was called a Lamb; and for that he is immaculate he was called blameless; and for that he is very God, he is called perfect.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

Christ who is the crown of the year, blessed by us, hath been sacrificed for us of his free will, like a yearling lamb, a cleansing Pascha. Then on us the Sun of righteousness from the tomb did shine, brilliant, resplendent.

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Before the symbolical ark, David, God's forefather, did leap and dance. Let, therefore, the holy people, seeing the fulfillment of those symbols, rejoice with divine rejoicing; for Christ the Almighty is risen.

*(Katavasia)*

Upon the divine watchtower let the God-spoken Habakkuk stand and show us the angel attired in light, saying openly, Today is come salvation to the world; for Christ is risen, Almighty as he is.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody; 3 times*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy.

## LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Continuation of the Paschal Canon, in tone 1*

*Ode 5*

*Irmos:* Let us rise early at morn, at the break of dawn, and let us instead of fragrant ointment bring pure praise to the Master, Let us behold Christ who is the Son of righteousness bringing life unto all.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

O Christ, they who in hades' bonds are chained, seeing thy boundless loving-kindness, hastened with blithe feet, celebrating an eternal Pascha.

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let us, lamps in hand, come forth to meet Christ risen from the tomb, as we would a bridegroom. Let us celebrate in the feast-loving ranks the saving Pascha of our God.

*(Katavasia)*

Let us rise early at morn, at the break of dawn, and let us instead of fragrant ointment bring pure praise to the Master, Let us behold Christ who is the Son of righteousness bringing life unto all.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody; 3 times*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy.

## LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Continuation of the Paschal Canon, in tone 1*

*Ode 6*

*Irmos:* O Christ, into the deepest abyss of earth thou didst descend, and didst break the unyielding everlasting bars which held men prisoner; and on the third day thou didst rise from the tomb as Jonah from the whale.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

O Christ, thou who didst not break the locks of virginity in thy birth, didst rise from the tomb, keeping its seals intact, and didst open to us the gates of paradise.

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O my Savior, O thou living and unsacrificed offering, as thou art God, thou didst of thy free will offer thyself an offering to the Father. And when thou didst rise from the tomb, thou didst raise Adam and all his race with thee.

(*Katavasia*)

O Christ, into the deepest abyss of earth thou didst descend, and didst break the unyielding everlasting bars which held men prisoner; and on the third day thou didst rise from the tomb as Jonah from the whale.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody; 3 times*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy.

#### LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

#### THE KONTAKION OF PASCHA, IN TONE 8

(*Plain reading*)

*Reader:* Though thou, O deathless One, didst descend into the grave, thou didst destroy the power of hell and, as Victor, thou didst rise again, O Christ our God. Thou didst greet the ointment-bearing women, saying, Rejoice! Thou didst bestow peace upon thy disciples, and resurrection upon those that are fallen.

#### OIKOS

*Reader:* To the Sun before the sun, as it set for a time in the grave, the ointment-bearing maidens came at dawn, seeking him as they would the day. And they shouted one to another, Come, let us, O friends, anoint with spices the life-bearing body, now buried; the body that raiseth fallen Adam, lying in the sepulchre. Come, let us hasten, as did the Magi, and fall down in worship; let us offer of our spices like unto their offerings, to him who is no longer wrapped in swaddling clothes, but in finest linen. Let us lament; let us weep; and let us cry, Master, arise, O thou who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

#### THE SYNAXARION

*Reader:* On the Holy and Great Sunday of the Passover we celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ; for Christ alone did descend with condescension to fight hades; and he ascended, bringing the abundant spoils of victory which he had snatched.

Mary the Magdalene and the rest of the women who were present at the Savior's burial on Friday evening, returned that very day from Golgotha to the city and prepared ointment and spices, that they might come later and anoint the body of Jesus. They rested the next day, Saturday, in fulfillment of the commandment. And on the following day, which was Sunday and which the Evangelists call the first day of the week, which fell on the twenty-fifth of March, or thirty-six hours after the Death of life-giving Jesus, the women came to the sepulcher with their prepared ointments. And as they were pondering the difficulty of rolling the stone from the gate of the sepulcher, a great earthquake took place, an angel of the Lord came down, whose appearance was like lightning and his clothes like snow, and rolled away the stone and sat thereon. The guards trembled with fear, became like dead, and fled. But the women entered the sepulcher and found not Jesus. But they found two other angels in the form of men dressed in white raiment who proclaimed to them the Resurrection of the Savior, commanding them to hasten and give the good news to the Disciples. In the meantime Peter and John, who had received the report from Mary

the Magdalene, hastened and entered the tomb and found there only the linen clothes. They returned with great joy to the city, and began to preach the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, having seen him alive in truth five times that very day.

For this joyful Resurrection, we therefore celebrate today, kissing one another in Christ with the brotherly kiss, illustrating thereby the dissolution of the enmity that was between us and God, and our reconciliation through Christ. This Feast was called Passover from the Jewish name; for Christ by his Passion and Resurrection translated us from the curse of Adam and the bondage of Satan to the ancient liberty and bliss. As for the day of the week, which is called in Hebrew, the first day, being dedicated to our Lord for his glorification and magnification, is called in Greek Kyriake, or the Lord's Day. The Disciples transferred to it the dignity of the Sabbath after the law of the Old Testament, and prescribed that it be a holiday and a day of rest.

To him be glory and power forever and ever. Amen.

*Reader:* In that we have 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 is joy 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. (*thrice*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy. (*thrice*)

*Continuation of the Paschal Canon, in tone 1*

*Ode 7*

*Irmos:* He who did save the children from the furnace, when he became Man, suffered like unto a mortal, and with his sufferings invested the mortal with the beauty of incorruption, who is the God of our fathers. To him alone be blessing and glory.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

O Christ, the Godly-wise women with their minds did hasten with the ointment after thee. And he whom they sought, mourning him as dead, they now worshipped with joy, the living God. And to the Disciples they told the glad news of thy mystical Pascha.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

We celebrate the death of death, the destruction of hades, the first fruit of another and endless life. And as we leap with joy, we praise the Cause of these good gifts, and God of our fathers. Blessed and glorified be he alone.

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

In truth, how noble is this radiant and all-festal night of salvation; for it precedeth the proclamation of the light-bearing day of Resurrection, in which the timeless Light did shine forth bodily from the grave.

*(Katavasia)*

He who did save the children from the furnace, when he became

Man, suffered like unto a mortal, and with his sufferings invested the mortal with the beauty of incorruption, who is the God of our fathers. To him alone be blessing and glory.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody; 3 times*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy.

### LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Continuation of the Paschal Canon, in tone 1*

#### *Ode 8*

*Irmos:* Verily, this day, which is called holy, is the first day among Sabbaths, their king and lord. It is the Feast of feasts, the Season of seasons, in which we bless Christ for evermore.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

Come, let us on this famous day of Resurrection participate in the kingdom of Christ, and in the new fruit of the Vine which is for divine rejoicing. Praise him; for he is God for evermore.

*Refrain:* Glory to thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord!

O Zion, lift up thine eyes round about and see. For lo! These thy children have followed thee as God-lighted stars, from the west and from the north, from the sea and from the east, blessing the Christ in thee for evermore.

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

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Father Almighty, the Word, and the Spirit, one nature in three persons, God transcendent in Godhead and essence, in thee have we been baptized, and thee do we bless for evermore.

*(Katavasia)*

*Verse:* We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord!

Verily, this day, which is called holy, is the first day among Sabbaths, their king and lord. It is the Feast of feasts, the Season of seasons, in which we bless Christ for evermore.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody; 3 times*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy.

### LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (3 times)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Continuation of the Paschal Canon, in tone 1*

#### *Ode 9*

*Refrain 1:* Magnify, O my soul, him who died of his own free will, and was buried, and did rise from the tomb on the third day.

*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 Thy Son.

*Refrain 2:* Magnify, O my soul, the life-giving Christ, who is risen from the tomb on the third day.

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 Thy Son.

*Refrain 3:* Verily, Christ is a new Pascha, a living Sacrifice, the Lamb of God who beareth the sin of the world.

O how noble! O how dear! O how sweet is thy voice, O Christ; for thou hast verily made us a true promise, that thou shalt be with us to the end of time; a promise to which we believers hold, an anchor for our hopes, as we sing rejoicing with joy.

*Refrain 4:* Today doth all creation rejoice and is glad; for Christ is risen, and hades he hath despoiled.

O how noble! O how dear! O how sweet is thy voice, O Christ; for thou hast verily made us a true promise, that thou shalt be with us to the end of time; a promise to which we believers hold, an anchor for our hopes, as we sing rejoicing with joy.

*Refrain 5:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Magnify, O my soul, the might of the indivisible and three-personed Godhead.

O Christ, the perfect, most exalted Pascha; O Wisdom of God, his Word and his Power: Grant us that we may partake of thee more perfectly in thy kingdom's day, which setteth not.

*Refrain 6:* Both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Rejoice, O Virgin, rejoice; rejoice, O blessed one; rejoice, O glorified one; for thy Son is risen from the tomb on the third day. O Christ,

O Christ, the perfect, most exalted Pascha; O Wisdom of God, his Word and his Power: Grant us that we may partake of thee more perfectly in thy kingdom's day, which setteth not.

*(Katavasia)*

*Refrain:* The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, rejoice, O pure Virgin. Again I say: Rejoice. Thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice. All ye people.

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody; 3 times*)

Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, hath given us eternal life and the great mercy.

### LITTLE LITANY REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*3 times*)

*Senior Reader:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and unto ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

### EXAPOSTEILARION

*In Tone 2*

When thou didst fall asleep in the body as mortal, O thou who art Lord and King, thou didst abolish death. And on the third day thou didst surely rise, verily raising Adam from corruption, O thou incorruptible Pascha, O Salvation of the world. (*three times*)

## THE PRAISES

*(Tone 1)*

Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights. To thee, O God, is due our song. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts. To thee, O God, is due our song.

*Verse:* Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.  
We praise, O Christ, thy saving passion and glorify thy Resurrection.

*Verse:* Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.  
O thou who didst endure the Cross, and abolish Death, and didst rise again from the dead; give peace to our life, O Lord, for thou only art almighty.

*Verse:* Praise him with the sound of the trumpet; praise him with the psaltry and harp.  
O thou who didst despoil hell, and raise man again from the dead by thy Resurrection, O Christ; make us worthy, with pure hearts, to praise and glorify thee.

*Verse:* Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.  
Glorifying thy divine condescension, we praise thee, O Christ! For thou wast born of a Virgin, yet was not separated from the Father. Thou didst suffer as a man, and of thine own free will endured the Cross; and thou didst rise again from the tomb going forth as from a bridal chamber, that thou mightest save the world. O Lord, glory to thee.

## THE PASCHAL VERSES

*(In Tone 5)*

*Verse:* Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered and let them who hate him flee from before his face.

Today Christ, our saving Pascha, hath been revealed unto us a noble Pascha; the Pascha new and holy; the mystical Pascha; the Pascha all august; the blameless Pascha; the great Pascha; the Pascha of the faithful; the Pascha which openeth unto us the gates of paradise; the Pascha which sanctifieth all the faithful.

*Verse:* As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.  
O come from the vision, ye women, heralds of good tidings, and say ye unto Zion: Receive from us the glad tidings of the joy of the Resurrection of Christ. Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and leap for joy, in that thou beholdest Christ the King like a bridegroom come forth from the grave.

*Verse:* So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad.  
When the ointment-bearing women stood, very early in the morning, before the tomb of the Life-giver, they found an angel sitting upon the stone. And he cried out unto them, saying, Why seek ye the Living among the dead? Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amidst corruption? Go, proclaim the glad tidings to his Disciples.

*Verse:* This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad therein.  
The joyful Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord, the Pascha all majestic hath shone upon us! The Pascha on which we embrace one another with joy! Oh what a Pascha, delivering from sorrow! For today from the tomb, as from a bridal chamber Christ shone, and hath filled the women with joy, saying, Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles.

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

Today is the Day of Resurrection! Let us shine with the Feast! Let us embrace one another. Let us say, brethren! And because of the Resurrection, let us forgive all things to those who hate us, and in this wise, exclaim:

Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (*thrice*)<sup>1</sup>

#### THE PASCHAL HOMILY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

*Leader:* If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival. If anyone is a wise servant, let him, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord. If anyone has wearied himself in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If anyone has labored from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let him keep the feast. If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; for he shall suffer no loss. If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near without hesitation. If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let him not fear on account of his delay. For the Master is gracious and receives the last, even as the first; he gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first. He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one he gives, and to the other he is gracious. He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward. O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy! O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day! You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today! The table is rich-laden; feast royally, all of you! The calf is fatted; let no one go forth hungry!

Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness. Let no one lament his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one mourn his transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free.

He that was taken by death has annihilated it! He descended into hades and took hades captive! He embittered it when it tasted his flesh! And anticipating this Isaiah exclaimed, "Hades 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 purged! It was embittered, for it was despoiled! It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

It took a body and, face to face, met God! It took earth and encountered heaven! It took what it saw but crumbled before what it had not seen! "O death, where is thy sting? O hades, where is thy 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 a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that slept.

To him be glory and might unto ages of ages. Amen

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<sup>1</sup> In a Church setting according to some traditions, while the Doxasticon "Today is the Day of Resurrection" is chanted, the senior priest, standing before the holy table and holding the Paschal candle and the gospel book, offers the gospel book for veneration by the clergy within the sanctuary and exchanges with them the Paschal kiss and greeting. Then he stands in the open holy doors, facing the congregation, while all the people come forward to reverence the gospel book, kiss the senior celebrant and then each other, exchanging the Paschal greeting.

*Then the choir sings the following:*

APOLYTIKION OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, IN TONE 8

Grace shining forth from thy mouth like fire hath enlightened the universe and hath disclosed to the world treasures of uncovetousness and hath shown us the heights of humility. But as thou dost instruct us by thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, intercede with the Word, Christ God, to save our souls.

**THE TYPIKA**

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*Reader:* Amen.

THE PASCHAL TROPARION

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

THE PASCHAL VERSES

*Priest/Leader:* Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered: and let them who 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 (*quick melody*)

*Priest/Leader:* As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish away: as wax melteth before the fire.

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

*Priest/Leader:* So do sinners perish from before the face of God; and the righteous be glad.

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

*Priest/Leader:* This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us be glad and rejoice therein.

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

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

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

*Priest/Leader:* Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. *Choir:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death; and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life (*quick melody*)

*Then in a louder voice, the Priest/Leader chants:*

*Priest/Leader:* Christ is risen from the dead trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs ... & *the choir concludes the troparion:*

*Choir:* ... bestowing life.

THE FIRST FESTAL ANTIPHON, IN TONE 2

*Verse:* Shout with jubilation unto the Lord all the earth (*Ps.65:1a*)

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

*Verse:* Chant ye unto His name, give glory in praise of Him.. (*Ps.65:1b*)

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

*Verse:* Say unto God: How awesome are Thy works! In the multitude of Thy power shall Thine enemies be proved false unto Thee. (*Ps.65:2*)

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

*Verse:* Let all the earth worship Thee and chant unto Thee; let them chant unto Thy name, O Most High. (*Ps.65:3*)

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

*Verse:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

#### THE SECOND FESTAL ANTIPHON, IN TONE 2

*Verse:* God be gracious unto us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us and have mercy on us. (*Ps.66:1*)

*Refrain:* Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

*Verse:* That we may know upon the earth Thy way, among all the nations Thy salvation. (*Ps.66:2*)

*Refrain:* Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

*Verse:* Let the peoples give Thee praise, O God, let all the peoples praise Thee. (*Ps.66:3*)

*Refrain:* Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

*Verse:* Let God bless us, and let all the ends of the earth fear Him.. (*Ps.66:6b*)

*Refrain:* Save us, O Son of God, who art risen from the dead, who sing to thee: Alleluia.

*Verse:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*Choir:* Only-begotten Son and Word of God, who art immortal, who for our salvation willed to be incarnate of the Holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, and without change became man; and wast crucified, O Christ our God, and trampled down death by death; who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified together with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us.

#### THE THIRD FESTAL ANTIPHON, IN TONE 5

*Verse:* Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face. (*Ps.67:1*)

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

*Verse:* As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth before the fire. (*Ps.67:2a*)

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

*Verse:* So let sinners perish at the presence of God. And let the righteous be glad. (*Ps.67:2b,3a*)

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

*Verse:* This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein. (*Ps.117:24*)

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

#### THE FESTAL EISODIKON

*Verse:* In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the well-springs of Israel.

*Choir:* O Son of God, Who art risen from the dead, save us who sing to Thee: Alleluia.

#### THE PASCHAL TROPARION IN TONE 5

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

#### THE PASCHAL HYPAKOE IN TONE 4

They who were with Mary came before the dawn, found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher, and heard the angels say unto them, Why seek ye him as man with the dead, who dwells in light eternal? Behold the grave wrappings; make haste and declare to the world that the Lord is risen, and hath caused death to die; for he is the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

*Do not sing the Apolytikion of the Patron Saint!*

#### THE ANTI-TRISAGION HYMN

*Choir:* As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ: Alleluia. (*thrice*)  
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Have put on Christ: Alleluia.

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

#### THE APOSTOLOS & THE GOSPEL

*Deacon:* Let us attend.

*Reader:* Prokeimenon in the 8<sup>th</sup> Tone.

This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein. (*Ps. 117:24*) {*twice*}

*Verse:* O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever. (*Ps. 117:1*)

This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein. (*Ps. 117:24*)

#### APOSTOLOS FOR THE FEAST

*Reader:* The reading from the Acts of the Apostles §1 (1:1-8)

In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when He was taken up, after He had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the Apostles whom He had chosen. To them He presented Himself alive after His passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, He said, "You heard from Me; for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked Him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

#### ALLELUIA, IN TONE 4

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Verse 1:* Thou, O Lord, shalt rise up and have pity upon Zion, for it is time to have compassion on her; yea, the time is come. (*Ps. 101:13*)

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Verse 2:* The Lord from Heaven hath looked upon the earth, to hear the groaning of them that be in fetters, to loose the sons of the slain. (*Ps. 101:19b,20*)

*Choir:* Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

#### THE GOSPEL

*Reader:* The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John §1 (1:1-17)

*Choir:* Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

*Reader:* In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, yet the world knew Him not. He came to His own home, and His own people received Him not. But to all who received Him, who believed in His Name, He gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to Him, and cried, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me ranks before me, for He was before me.'") And from His fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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

*Then we sing the following, in tone 6*

*Choir:* Remember us, O Lord, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

- Remember us, O Master, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.
- Remember us, O Holy One, when Thou comest in Thy kingdom.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

*Verse:* Come unto Him, and be enlightened and your faces shall not be ashamed.

The heavenly choir praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

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

The choir of Holy angels and archangels, with all the heavenly hosts praiseth Thee and saith: Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Sabaoth; heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

## THE SYMBOL OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Only-begotten, Begotten of the Father before all worlds, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made; of one essence with the Father, by whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets;

And I believe in One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. Amen.

*Leader:* Remit, pardon, forgive, O God, our offenses, both voluntary and involuntary, in deed and word, in knowledge and ignorance, by day and by night, in mind and thought; forgive us all things, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

*All:* Amen

Our Father, who art in heaven, 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

*Leader:* O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen

#### KONTAKION OF THE FEAST IN TONE 8

O Immortal One, when Thou didst descend into the tomb, Thou didst destroy the power of Hades; and Thou didst rise victorious, O Christ God. Thou hast said to the ointment-bearing women: Rejoice! And Thou gavest peace to Thy Disciples, O Bestower of Resurrection to those Who had fallen.

*After the Kontakia, the service continues with:*

*Leader:* Lord, have mercy. (12 times)

O All-Holy Trinity, the consubstantial dominion, the indivisible Kingdom, and cause of every Good: Show Thy good will even unto me a sinner; make steadfast my heart and grant it understanding, and take away mine every defilement; enlighten my mind that I may glorify, hymn, worship, and say:

*Choir:* One is Holy, One is Lord, Jesus Christ, to the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

#### PSALM 33

I will bless the Lord at all times, His praise shall continually be in my mouth. In the Lord shall my soul be praised; let the meek hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt His name together. I sought the Lord, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my tribulations. Come unto Him, and be enlightened, and your faces shall not be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his tribulations. The angel of the Lord will encamp round about them that fear Him, and will deliver them. O taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man that hopeth in Him. O fear the Lord, all ye His saints; for there is no want to them that fear Him. Rich men have turned poor and gone hungry; but they that seek the Lord shall not be deprived of any good thing. Come ye children, hearken unto me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there that desireth life, who loveth to see good days? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Turn away from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His ears are opened unto their supplication. The face of the Lord is against them that do evil, utterly to destroy the remembrance of them from the earth. The righteous cried, and the Lord heard them, and He delivered them out of all their tribulations. The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart, and He

will save the humble of spirit. Many are the tribulations of the righteous, and the Lord shall deliver them out of them all. The Lord keepeth all their bones, not one of them shall be broken. The death of sinners is evil, and they that hate the righteous shall do wrong. The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them will do wrong that hope in Him.

THE HYMN TO THE THEOTOKOS, IN TONE ONE  
*(The main Refrain & Irmos of 9<sup>th</sup> Ode of the Matins Canon)*

The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: Rejoice, rejoice, O pure Virgin. Again I say: Rejoice. Thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb. With Himself He has raised all the dead. Rejoice. All ye people.

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

*Following the Hymn to the Theotokos we say:*

*All:* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, O Lord, bless.

THE DISMISSAL

*Leader:* O Thou Who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal-to-the-Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community, and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, forasmuch as he is good and loveth mankind.

*Leader:* Christ is risen!

*People:* Indeed, He is risen!

*(The above dialogue is done 3 times)*

*Leader:* Glory to His holy, third-day Resurrection!

*People:* We adore His holy, third-day Resurrection!

*Then, facing the icon of Christ,  
on the iconostasis, the Leader says:*

*Leader:* Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs...

*People:* ...bestowing life!

<p><i><b>OPTIONAL:</b> Either at the conclusion of this service, or prior to Agape Vespers, we ought to read the <b>Hours of Pascha</b>, provided in a separate file.</i></p>
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