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READER'S VESPERS APPOINTED FOR SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2024

(Afternoon on the Sunday of Pascha)

Agape Vespers &

Commemoration of the Great-Martyr George the Trophy-bearer

*NOTE: Prior to Agape Vespers, we ought to read the **Hours of Pascha**, provided in a separate file.*

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.

Psalm 103 is not read today!

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.

“O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE TWO

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.
- The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.
- Bring my soul out of prison, that I may confess thy name.
- The righteous shall wait for me, until Thou recompense me

For the Resurrection in Tone Two

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

Come ye, let us worship Him Who was born of the Father before all time, the Word of God, incarnate of the Virgin Mary; for He did submit to crucifixion by His own choice, was delivered to burial as He Himself willed, rose from the dead, and saved me, who was lost.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

Verily, Christ our Savior nailed to His Cross the handwriting of the decree, and did expunge it. And He abolished the might of Death. Let us therefore adore His third-day Resurrection.

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

Come, let us with the archangels praise the Resurrection of Christ; for He is the Redeemer and Savior of our souls, and He it is Who will come with fearful magnificence and glorious might to judge the world which He hath created.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

O Thou Who wast crucified and wast buried, the angel did proclaim Thee, that Thou art the Master, saying to the women, Come ye and behold where the Lord was laid; for He is risen as He said; for He is the Almighty One, and therefore, do we worship Thee, O Thou Who alone art deathless; O Christ, Giver of life, have mercy upon us.

For St. George in Tone Four (***The original melody***)

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

As one valiant in martyrdom, * trophy-bearer, Great Martyr George, * on this day we gather to chant thee hymns of praise; * for thou hast finished the course and hast invincibly kept the Faith, * and from God thou hast received * thy great victory's crown of light; * hence entreat the Lord * to deliver from perils and corruption them that faithfully do honor * thine ever-ven'erable memory.

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

With unflinching and steadfast mind, * thou didst go of thine own accord, * fearless as a lion, to strive in martyrdom. * While disregarding thy body as a thing soon corruptible, * thou didst wisely turn thy care * to thy precious immortal soul; * and by many kinds * of sore torments wast thou assayed like pure gold sevenfold as in a furnace, * O great and glorious Martyr George.

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

As the Savior's co-sufferer, * thou didst willingly imitate * His death by thine own death; and now in majesty * with Him thou reignest, endued with the most radiant purple robe * wrought of thine own sacred blood, * and adorned with the scepter of * thy martyric deeds; * and the crown of thy triumphs doth enhance thee unto ages everlasting, * O thou all-lauded Great Martyr George.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

With the breastplate of ardent faith, * with the shield of resplendent grace, * with the mighty spear of the Cross girt all about, * thou didst prove unto thine enemies to be all-invincible; * as a Godlike prince in war, * thou didst vanquish the demons' troops, * and dost dance for joy * with the Angels; and caring for the faithful, thou dost hallow and preserve them, * when they invoke thee, O Martyr George.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. GEORGE IN TONE SIX

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

Thou hast walked according to thy name, O George the soldier; for, in carrying the cross of Christ on thy shoulder, thou didst plough the earth, made barren by the errors of Satan; and having uprooted the thorns of heathen worship thou didst plant the vine of Orthodox faith. Wherefore, thou dost bud healing to believers in all the inhabited world, and having become a faithful husbandman of the Trinity, we beseech thee to intercede for the safety of the world and the salvation of our souls.

THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE TWO

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

O Virgin, verily, the shadow of the law hath been annulled by the coming of thy grace; for as the bush was burning but not consumed, so didst thou give birth while yet a Virgin. And instead of the pillar of fire, the Sun of justice shone forth; and instead of Moses, Christ the Savior of our souls.

THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

Choir: Gladsome light of the Holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in Heaven, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ! Lo now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we sing the praise of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song. Son of God, Thou Giver of Life, wherefore the world glorifieth thee.

THE GREAT PROKEIMENON IN TONE SEVEN

Leader: The Evening Prokeimenon!

Choir: Who is so great a god as our God? Thou art the God Who worketh wonders. (*TWICE*)

Verse 1. Thou hast made Thy power known among the peoples; with Thine arm hast Thou redeemed Thy people.

Choir: Who is so great a god as our God? Thou art the God Who worketh wonders.

Verse 2. And I said: Now have I made a beginning; this change hath been wrought by the right hand of the Most High.

Choir: Who is so great a god as our God? Thou art the God Who worketh wonders.

Verse 3. I remembered the works of the Lord; for I will remember Thy wonders from the beginning.

Choir: Who is so great a god as our God? Thou art the God Who worketh wonders.

THE PASCHAL AGAPE GOSPEL

The Gospel is read by the clergy and faithful from the solea in as many languages as possible.

(Check BibleGateway.com for free translations.)

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

Reader: The Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John §65 (20:19-25).

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

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the Disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the Disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent Me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other Disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

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

AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (*40 times*)

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

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen. Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes. Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

Reader: Lord have mercy (*12 times*)

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

APOSTICHON FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE TWO

Thy Resurrection, O Christ Savior, hath illumined the whole universe. Thou hast renewed Thy creation. O Lord Almighty, glory to Thee.

THE PASCHAL STICHERA IN TONE FIVE

Verse 1. *Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that 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 2. *As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish; as wax melteth 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 3. *So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and 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 4. *This is the day which the Lord hath 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 in which we embrace one another with joy! O what a Pascha, delivering from sorrow! For today

from the tomb, as from a chamber Christ shone, and hath filled the women with joy, saying: Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles.

THE DOXASTICON FOR ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

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

Let us, O brethren, extol spiritually that noetic intelligence of diamond firmness, the ever-memorable Martyr George who, having enthusiastically declared for Christ, hardened and exercised by dangers and sufferings his perishable body, corrupted by nature, which was melted away by various torments. Albeit, love conquered nature and persuaded the lover to reach, through death, to the Beloved, Christ God the Savior of our souls.

DOXASTICON FOR PASCHA IN TONE FIVE

Both 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!”

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

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

APOLYTIKION OF ST. GEORGE IN TONE FOUR

Since thou art a liberator and deliverer of captives, a help and support of the poor and needy, a healing physician of the sick, a contender and fighter for kings, O great among Martyrs, the victory-clad George; intercede with Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

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

THE DISMISSAL

OPTIONAL: This part is omitted from the Antiochian rubric.

Choir: Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Shine! Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord has shone on thee. Exult now, exult and be glad, O Sion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection, the Resurrection of thy Son.

The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:

Leader: Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

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. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

Leader: O Thou Who is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, 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, of the holy, glorious*

and right-victorious Great-martyr George the trophy-bearer, whose memory we celebrate today,
and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest 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!