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READER'S PASCHAL HOURS

(Read during Bright Week and of Leave-taking of Pascha, in place of the usual Hours)

The Paschal Office

NOTE: On the Sunday of Pascha, this service ought to be read prior to Agape Vespers. (An option, is to read it immediately at the conclusion of the Vigil; in the context of the Divine Liturgy, this is always done, in place of the Post-Communion Prayers.)

THE OPENING

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

Reader: Amen.

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

“IN THAT WE HAVE BEHELD”

(Plain Reading)

In that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow down before 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*)

HYPAKOE OF PASCHA IN TONE FOUR

(or Plain Reading)

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.

KONTAKION OF PASCHA IN TONE EIGHT

(or Plain Reading)

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.

TROPARIA OF THE PASCHAL OFFICE

(Plain Reading)

In the grave with the body but in Hades with the soul as God; in paradise with the thief, and on the throne with the Father and the Holy Spirit wast Thou, O Christ, filling all things, Thyself uncircumscribed.

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

As life-bearing, as more splendid than paradise and more radiant than any royal chamber, O Christ, is shown forth from Thy tomb the fountain of our Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O thou hallowed, divine abode of the Most High, for through thee, O Theotokos, was joy given unto those who cry aloud to thee: Blessed art thou among women, O all-undefiled Lady.

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.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

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

Reader: Amen.

PASCHAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE FIVE

(or Plain Reading)

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

*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.

THE DISMISSAL

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 Myrrh-Bearer and Holy Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; (of N., the saint of the day, whom we commemorate today)¹, 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!

¹ Omit on Sunday of Pascha.