

Matins of Pascha



For Use at Holy Ascension Orthodox Mission in Melbourne, Victoria.
Please Return this Book after the Service

HOLY ASCENSION ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN MISSION

www.ascensionorthodox.org

17/05/2021

This project is still in draft and continues as a work-in-progress.

Instructions for Clergy & Altar Servers in Blue.

Instructions for Choir & Faithful in Red.

MATINS OF PASCHA

With the Paschal Trikirion, the priest comes out through the Holy Doors and sings:

Priest: Come receive the light from the Light /
that is never overtaken by night, /
and glorify Christ /
who is risen from the dead. (Once)

The faithful approach the priest to light their candles.

People: Come receive the light from the Light /
that is never overtaken by night, /
and glorify Christ /
who is risen from the dead. (As many times as
needed until all have lit their candles from the priest)

The Priest takes in the left hand the Cross and the Priest's Paschal Trikirion and in the right hand the Censer. The Deacon holds the Deacon's Candle. The Priest censes the Sanctuary with the candle-bearing Deacon both singing:

Sticheron **Tone 6**

Clergy: Angels in Heaven sing praises /
of Your resurrection O Christ our Saviour. /
Make us worthy on Earth /
to glorify You in purity of heart. (x 3)

The Curtain is opened and those in the Sanctuary chant the above hymn once more and louder. Then the Holy Doors are opened, and they chant a third time, loudly and solemnly. The Priest censes and gives up the Censer.

Immediately the Choir chants:

Sticheron Tone 6

People:

Angels in Heaven sing praises /
of Your resurrection O Christ our Saviour. /
Make us worthy on Earth /
to glorify You in purity of heart.

Procession

Then the Bell-Ringer rings the "Trezvon" (all Bells, loudly and joyously) and the procession begins:

In front is the Lantern; then the Cross; then the Banners and Icons; and Altar Servers with Candles including Bishop's Dikerion and Trikerion; large palm fronds (if any); then the Elders or whoever the Priest assigns to carry the Gospel Book and the Icon of the Resurrection (if no other Priests are available); then the Deacon with the Censer (if there is no Deacon, the Censer is handed to one of the candle-bearers); then the Priest with the Cross and Three-Candle-Holder (Priest's Paschal Trikirion).

Then the choir and remaining faithful, all carrying lighted Candles.

Please keep corridors and entrances free of obstructions (prams, bags...etc).

We make a procession outside the Church, going around once, chanting as many times as required until finally stopping in front of the Main Entrance:

Sticheron Tone 6

All:

Angels in Heaven sing praises /
of Your resurrection O Christ our Saviour. /
Make us worthy on Earth /
to glorify You in purity of heart. (As many times as needed until all have processed outside the church)

Only the Lamplighter remains in the Church; he lights all the Candles and all the Lamps. The Clergy and Servers in the procession stand facing the faithful.

The chanting and bell-ringing stop.

The Priest censes the Icons, Choir and others.

After censing, in the Narthex before the Royal Doors, which are shut, (or outside the Main Entrance if the procession was made outside) a Stand has been prepared on which the Priest places the sacred Gospel (and reads the 2nd Matinal Resurrection Gospel, Mark 16: 1 - 8).

2nd Matinal Gospel of the Resurrection

Deacon: And that He will make us worthy of hearing the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x 3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Arise! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to all.

People: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St Mark.

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: **Mark 16: 1 - 8**

People: Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You.

After this the Priest takes the Censer and makes the sign of the Cross over the Royal Doors of the Narthex (or Main Entrance) and exclaims:

Superior: Glory to the holy, and consubstantial, and life-creating, and indivisible Trinity always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Troparion

Tone 5 (Byzantine)

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

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. *(Byzantine Melody)*

First Verse

Superior: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. *(Fast)*

Second Verse

Priest: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. *(Fast)*

Third Verse

Priest: So let the sinners perish from the face of God, and let the righteous be glad.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. *(Fast)*

Fourth Verse

Priest: This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice, and be glad in it.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. *(Fast)*

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

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (*Fast*)

Priest: Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (*Fast*)

The Priest with Censer makes the sign of the Cross over the Royal Doors of the Narthex (or Main Entrance) and chants in a louder voice:

Clergy: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death. (*Znamenny*)

The Doors open during the response of the choir. The Priest gives the Censer away and takes the Cross and Priest's Paschal Trikirion in his left hand and the Gospel Book with his right hand.

People: And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

People: Christ is risen (*Byzantine version as many times as required*)

All enter into the Church, preceded by 2 candle-bearers. The Priest comes in with the people while chanting "Christ is risen," to a slow melody. The Bells ring the "Trezvon."

The Priest enters the Sanctuary via the Holy Doors, the remaining Priests following. If there is a Deacon, he comes out through the North Door, makes 3 deep bows, and stands in the usual place on the Ambo to say the Litany of Peace.

The Great Litany

Deacon (1): In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy temple, and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our great lord and father, His Holiness, Patriarch **N.**; for our lord the Most Reverend Metropolitan **N.**, First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop **or** Bishop **N.**); for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the God-protected Russian land and for this land, its authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in

us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country, and the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, land and air; for the sick, the suffering, the imprisoned, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us

commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For to You is due all glory, honor and worship; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Canon of Pascha

A composition by St John of Damascus

During each Ode, there is a full censening by the Priest. As he censes, the Priest exclaims: Christ is Risen! And the people reply: Truly He is Risen! At the 9th Ode, the censening is performed by the Deacon(s) alone as usual.

Ode 1 ***Irmos Tone 1***

People:
This is the day of Resurrection, /
let us be illumined, O people! /
Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord! /
For from death to life, /
and from Earth to Heaven, /
has Christ our God led us, //
as we sing the song of victory.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

Let us purify our senses /
and we shall see Christ /
shining in the unapproachable light of His resurrection, /
we shall clearly hear Him say: 'Rejoice!', //
as we sing the song of victory.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

Let the Heavens be glad, /
and let the Earth rejoice. /
Let the whole world, /
visible and invisible keep the Feast. //
For Christ is risen our eternal joy.

Katavasia

People:

This is the day of Resurrection, /
let us be illumined, O people! /
Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord! /
For from death to life, /
and from Earth to Heaven, /
has Christ our God led us, //
as we sing the song of victory.

People:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by
death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (x3)

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

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For Yours is the dominion, and Yours is Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Ode 3
Irmos Tone 1

People:

Come let us drink /
not miraculous water /
drawn forth from a barren stone, /
but a new vintage from the fount of incorruption, /
springing from the tomb of Christ, //
in Him we are established.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

Now all is filled with light, /
Heaven and Earth /
and the lower regions; /
let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ. //
In Him we are established.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

Yesterday I was buried with You O Christ, /
today I arise with You, /
in Your resurrection. /
Yesterday I was crucified with You; //
glorify me with You, O Savior, //
in Your Kingdom.

Katavasia

People:

Come let us drink /
not miraculous water /
drawn forth from a barren stone, /
but a new vintage from the fount of incorruption, /
springing from the tomb of Christ, //
in Him we are established.

People:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (x3)

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

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For You are our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

**Hypakoe
Tone 4**

People:

When those who were with Mary came, /

anticipating the dawn, /

and found the stone rolled away from the tomb, /

they heard from the Angel, /

‘Why do you seek among the dead, /

as though He were a mortal man, /

the One who exists in eternal light. /

See the grave clothes. /

Run and proclaim to the world that the Lord has been raised, /

and has put Death to death; //

for He is the Son of God, who saves the human race.

Ode 4
Irmos Tone 1

People:

The inspired Prophet Habakkuk, /
now stands with us in holy vigil, /
he is like a shining angel, /
who cries with a piercing voice, /
'Today salvation has come to the world, //
for Christ is risen as all-powerful.'

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

Christ our Pascha has appeared as a male child, /
the Son that opens a Virgin womb. /
He is called the 'Lamb;' /
as One destined to be our food, /
unblemished, /
for He has not tasted of defilement, /
and perfect, //
for He is our true God.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

Christ the crown with which we are blessed /
has appeared as a yearling lamb. /
Freely He has given Himself, /
as our cleansing Paschal sacrifice, /
from the tomb He has shown forth once again, //
our radiant Son of Righteousness.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

David the ancestor of God, /
leaped and danced before the Ark, which prefigured You. /
Now let us, the holy people of God, /
seeing the fulfillment of all figures, /
rejoice in piety, //
for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

Katavasia

People:

The inspired Prophet Habakkuk, /
now stands with us in holy vigil, /
he is like a shining angel, /
who cries with a piercing voice, /
'Today salvation has come to the world, //
for Christ is risen as all-powerful.'

People:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by
death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (x3)

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

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the
Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and
protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For You are good, O God, and the Lover of mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Ode 5
Irmos Tone 1

People:
Let us arise at the rising of the sun, /
and bring to the Master a hymn instead of myrrh; /
and we shall see Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, //
who causes life to dawn for all.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:
The souls bound in the chains of Hell, O Christ, /
seeing Your compassion without measure, /
pressed onward to the light with joyful steps, //
praising the eternal Pascha.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

Let us go with lamps in hand to meet Christ, /
who comes from the tomb like a bridegroom. /
And with the festive ranks of angels, //
let us celebrate the saving Pascha of God.

Katavasia

People:

Let us arise at the rising of the sun, /
and bring to the Master a hymn instead of myrrh; /
and we shall see Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, //
who causes life to dawn for all.

People:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by
death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (x3)

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Lord.

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protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure,
most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and
Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us
commit ourselves and one another and all
our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For sanctified and glorified is Your all-honorable and majestic name, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Ode 6
Irmos Tone 1

People:
You descended, O Christ /
to the depths of the Earth, /
You broke the everlasting bars /
which had held Death's captives. /
And like Jonah from the whale, on the third day, /
You arose from the grave.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:
You arose, O Christ, /
and yet the tomb remained sealed, /
as at Your birth the Virgin's womb remained unharmed; /
and You have opened for us //
the gates of Paradise.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

O my Savior, /
as God You brought Yourself freely to the Father, /
a victim living and unsacrificed, /
resurrecting Adam, the father of us all, //
when You arose from the grave.

Katavasia

People:

You descended, O Christ /
to the depths of the Earth, /
You broke the everlasting bars /
which had held Death's captives. /
And like Jonah from the whale, on the third day, /
You arose from the grave.

People:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by
death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (x3)

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

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the
Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and
protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For You are the King of peace and the Saviour of our souls, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Kontakion
Tone 8

People:
Even though You descended into the tomb, O Immortal One, /
You overthrew the power of Hades. /
You arose as a victor O Christ our God, /
proclaiming: "Rejoice!" to the myrrh-bearing women, /
giving peace to Your apostles. /
and You also grant resurrection to the fallen.

Ikos

People:

To the Sun who was before the sun and yet had set in the tomb, /
the Myrrh-bearing maidens hastened towards the dawn,
as they were seeking the day, /
and they cried to one another: /
'O friends, come, let us anoint with spices the life-bearing
and buried Body, /
the Flesh which raises fallen Adam and is now laying in
the tomb. /
Come, let us hurry like the Magi, let us worship and offer
myrrh as gifts, /
to the One who is now wrapped, not in swaddling clothes,
but in a shroud. /
Let us weep and exclaim, "O Master, arise!" /
and You also grant resurrection to the fallen!

Tone 6

People:

Having seen the Resurrection of Christ, /
let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, /
the Only Sinless One. /

We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, /
and we sing and glorify Your holy Resurrection; /
For You are our God, /
we know no other than You; /
and we call upon Your name. /

Come, all you faithful, let us venerate the holy
Resurrection of Christ, /
for, behold, through the Cross joy has come to the whole
world. /

Ever blessing the Lord, /
we praise His Resurrection, /
for having endured the Cross for us, //
He has destroyed Death by death. (x3)

People:

Jesus, having risen from the tomb as He foretold, has
given us eternal life and great mercy. (x3)

Ode 7

Irmos Tone 1

People:

He who saved the three young men in the furnace,
became incarnate, /

and suffered as a mortal man. /

Through His sufferings, /

He clothed what is mortal in the robe of immortality. /

He alone is blessed and most glorious: //

the God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

The godly women, /
Hastened to You with myrrh, O Christ. /
In tears they sought You as a dead man, /
but in tears they worshipped You as the living God /
and proclaimed the mystical Pascha //
to Your disciples.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

We celebrate the death of Death, /
and the overthrow of Hell, /
the beginning of another life which is eternal, /
and in exultation we sing the praises of its source. /
He alone is blessed and most glorious: //
the God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

This is the bright and saving night, /
sacred and supremely festal. /
It heralds the radiant day of the resurrection, /
on which the timeless Light //
shown forth bodily from the tomb for all.

Katavasia

People:

He who saved the three young men in the furnace,
 became incarnate, /
 and suffered as a mortal man. /
 Through His sufferings, /
 He clothed what is mortal in the robe of immortality. /
 He alone is blessed and most glorious: //
 the God of our fathers.

People:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by
 death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (x3)

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

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the
 Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and
 protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure,
 most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and
 Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us
 commit ourselves and one another and all
 our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: Blessed and glorified is the dominion of Your Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Ode 8
Irmos Tone 1

People:
This is the chosen and holy day, /
first of Sabbaths, King and Lord of days, /
the Feast of feasts /
Holy Day of holy days. /
On this day we bless Christ forever more.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:
Come on this chosen day of the Resurrection, /
let us partake of the new fruit of the vine. /
Let us share in the divine rejoicing of the Kingdom of Christ, //
praising Him as God forever more.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:
Lift up your eyes, O Zion, round about and see. /
Your children like divinely shining stars assemble, /
from the North, the South, the East and the West, //
to bless Christ in you forever more.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

People:

Father Almighty, Word and Spirit, /
one Nature in three Persons, /
surpassing essence and divinity. /
In You have we been baptized, //
and we bless You forever more.

Katavasia

People:

This is the chosen and holy day, /
first of Sabbaths, King and Lord of days, /
the Feast of feasts /
Holy Day of holy days. /
On this day we bless Christ forever more.

People:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by
death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (x3)

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

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the
Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and
protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure,
most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and

Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For blessed is Your name and glorified is Your Kingdom, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

At the 9th Ode, the censuring is performed by the deacon (alone), as usual.

Ode 9

Refrain (Megalynarion):

My soul magnifies, /
Him who rose from the dead on the third day: //
Christ the Giver of life.

Irmos Tone 1

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 Your Son.

Refrain (Megalynarion):

Christ, the new Pascha! /
The living sacrifice! /
the Lamb of God, //
who takes away the sins of the world.

Troparion:

How divine! How beloved! /
How sweet is Your voice, O Christ! /
For You have faithfully promised to be with us, /
to the end of the world. /
Having this as our anchor of hope, //
we the faithful rejoice.

Refrain (Megalynarion):

Mary Magdalene, /
hastened to the tomb, /
and seeing Christ she questioned Him, //
as though He were a gardener.

Troparion:

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha! /
O Wisdom, Word and Power of God! /
Grant that we may more perfectly partake of You, /
in the never-ending day //
of Your Kingdom.

Refrain (Megalynarion):

The Angel cried to the Lady full of grace; /
Rejoice, O Pure Virgin! /
Again I say: Rejoice! /
Your Son is risen /
from His three days in the tomb.
With Himself He has raised all the dead //
Rejoice, all you people!

Katavasia

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 Your Son.

People:

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (x3)

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

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise You, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and

of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Exaposteilarion
Tone 3

People:

In the flesh You have fallen asleep /
as a mortal man, O King and Lord. /
You arose on the third day, /
raising Adam from corruption /
and destroying Death. /
O Pascha of incorruption,
the salvation of the world. (x 3)

Praises
Tone 1

We insert 8 verses, and sing 4 of the Resurrection from the Octoechos in Tone 1, and 4 of Pascha.

Let every breath praise the Lord. /
Praise the Lord from the heavens! /
Praise Him in the highest! //
To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all you angels of His! /
Praise Him, all His hosts! //
To You, O God, is due a song.

Verse:

Praise Him for His mighty deeds /
Praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.

Sticheron:

We praise Your saving Passion, O Christ, /
and we glorify Your Resurrection.

Verse:

Praise Him with trumpet sound /
Praise Him with harp and lyre.

Sticheron:

O Lord who endured the Cross /
and abolished death, and has risen from the dead, /
bring peace to our life, //
as the Almighty One.

Verse:

Praise Him with timbrel and dance /
Praise Him with strings and flute.

Sticheron:

O Christ, having overthrown Hades /
and raised mankind by Your Resurrection, //
make us worthy to sing and glorify You in purity of heart.

Verse:

Praise Him with resounding cymbals; Praise Him with
triumphant cymbals /
Let every breath praise the Lord.

Sticheron:

As we glorify Your divine condescension, /
we sing Your praise, O Christ: /
For You were born of a Virgin, yet were not separated
from the Father. /
As man You suffered and willingly endured the Cross. /
You have risen from the tomb, /
as though coming from a bridal chamber, to save the
world. //
O Lord, glory to You!

Paschal Stichera
Tone 5

Verse:

Let God arise, /
and let His enemies be scattered.

Sticheron:

Today a sacred Pascha is revealed to us, /
a new and holy Pascha, /
a mystic Pascha, /
a most venerable Pascha, /
a Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer, /
a spotless Pascha, /
a great Pascha, /
a Pascha of the faithful, /
a Pascha that has opened for us the gates of Paradise, /
a Pascha that sanctifies all the faithful.

Verse:

As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish.

Sticheron:

Come from that scene, O women, bearers of Good News, /
and say to Sion, /
'Receive from us the Good News of joy, /
of Christ's Resurrection. /
Exult, dance /
and be glad, O Jerusalem, //
for you have seen Christ the King coming out of the tomb
like a bridegroom.

Verse:

So let the sinners perish before the face of God, /
and let the righteous be glad.

Sticheron:

The myrrh-bearing women /
at deep dawn /
came to the tomb of the Life-Giver. /
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.

Verse:

This is the day which the Lord has made; /
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Sticheron:

A beautiful Pascha, /
 Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, /
 a most ven'erable Pascha has dawned for us. /
 Pascha! /
 Let us embrace one another with joy. /
 O Pascha, redeemed from sorrow! /
 For today /
 Christ shone forth from a tomb /
 as from a bridal chamber, /
 and filled the women with joy, saying, //
 'Proclaim it to the Apostles.'

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

The "Christ is risen..." ending of the following hymn should be sung joyfully and ought to end on a high note.

Sticheron:

This is the day of Resurrection! /
 Let us be illumined by the feast! /
 And let us embrace one another! /
 Let us say even to those who hate us, /
 "Let us forgive everything 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.'

Sermon of our Father among the Saints John the Golden-Mouth

Superior: Those who are pious lovers of God - enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival! Those who are grateful servants - enter joyously into the joy of your Lord! Those who have labored with fasting - receive now your payment! Those who have labored since the first hour - receive today your just reward! Those who came after the third hour - celebrate with thankfulness! Those who arrived after the sixth hour - do not be in any doubt; there is no loss! Those who delayed until the ninth hour - approach without hesitation! Those who arrive only for the eleventh hour - have no fear because of your lateness! For the Master is gracious and receives the last one just as the first. He gives rest to those who arrive at the eleventh hour, as well as to those who have labored from the first. He is merciful to the last one, and He restores the first. He gives to the one, and He is gracious to the other. He accepts the works, He embraces the intention. He honors the acts, He praises the offering. Therefore all of you enter into the joy of our Lord; both first and second, receive your reward. Rich and poor, dance together. Watchful and careless, honor the day. Those who fasted and those who did not fast - rejoice today! The table is full - indulge all of you! The calf is well-fed - let none go away hungry! All of you enjoy the feast of faith! All of you enjoy the richness of His goodness! Let no one lament their poverty; for the Kingdom has been revealed for all. Let no one weep over their transgressions; for forgiveness has shone from the tomb. Let no one fear death; for the Savior's death has freed us. By enduring it Christ extinguished it. He overthrew Hades when He descended into Hades. Christ afflicted Hades when Hades tasted His flesh. Isaiah foretold this when he cried out, 'Hades, was embittered when he encountered You in the depths below.'

Embittered, for he was deposed. Embittered, for he was mocked. Embittered, for he was slain. Embittered for he was overthrown. Embittered, for he was chained. He received a body, and met God face to face. He received earth, but encountered Heaven. He received what he saw, but was defeated by what he did not see. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is risen and you are overthrown! Christ is risen, and the demons have fallen! Christ is risen, and Angels rejoice! Christ is risen, and life reigns! Christ is risen, and there is not one dead in the grave! For Christ, having risen from the dead, has become the first of those who have fallen asleep. To him be the glory and the dominion to the ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion of St John the Golden-Mouth
Tone 8

People:

Grace like a flame shining forth from your mouth has enlightened the universe, /
it has shown to the world the riches of poverty, /
and has shown to us the heights of humility; /
but while teaching us by your words, O Father John the Golden-mouth, /
pray to the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

The Augmented Litany

Deacon 1: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for our great lord and father, His Holiness, Patriarch N.; for our lord the

Most Reverend Metropolitan **N.**, First Hierarchy of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop **or** Bishop **N.**, **whose diocese it is**) and all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. **(x3)**

Deacon: Again we pray for the God-protected Russian land and for its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation.

People: Lord, have mercy. **(x3)**

Deacon: Again we pray for this land, its authorities and armed forces.

People: Lord, have mercy. **(x3)**

Deacon: Again we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

People: Lord, have mercy. **(x3)**

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox patriarchs; for pious kings and right-believing queens; and for the founders of this holy temple (**or:** this holy Monastery); and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God, the brethren of this holy temple (or: this holy monastery).

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who chant, and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (x3)

Priest: For You are a merciful God and the Lover of mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Litany of Supplication

Deacon 2: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and offences, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defence before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

People: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us

commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

People: To You, O Lord.

Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads

Priest (quietly): O Holy Lord, who dwells on high and looks down on things that are lowly, and with Your all-seeing eye looks down on all creation: to You we have bowed the neck of our heart and body, entreating You: Stretch out Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling place and bless us all. Pardon us if we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily, for You are a good God and the Lover of mankind, granting us Your earthly and spiritual good things.

Priest: For You are a God of mercy, compassion and love for mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Paschal Dismissal

Deacon 1: Wisdom!

Deacons return to Sanctuary.

People: Father, Bless!

Priest: Blessed is He Who is, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

People: Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith of Orthodox Christians, to the ages of ages.

Clergy: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death... (*Znamenny*)

People: ...and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (*Znamenny*)

Priest: May Christ our true God, who rose from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, through the intercessions of His all pure Mother; of the holy and glorious apostles; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Priest: Christ is risen!

All: Truly He is risen!

Priest: Christ is risen!

All: Truly He is risen!

Priest: Christ is risen!

All: Truly He is risen!

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

All: And to us He has granted eternal life; / we venerate His Resurrection on the third day.

We proceed immediately to the next Divine Service of the Paschal Vigil: The Hours of Pascha.