

## **Reader's Service for the Matins of Pascha**

*Following the Midnight Office, candles can be lit though there is no procession.*

*People:* Your resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing. Enable us on earth to glorify You in purity of heart. (3x)

*Sr. Rdr.:* Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

*Reader:* Amen.

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

### **Paschal Verses**

*The Senior Reader chants the following verses in a plain / straight form of chant.*

*Sr. Rdr.:* Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; 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!

*Sr. Rdr.:* 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!

*Sr. Rdr.:* So the sinners shall perish before the face of God; but 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!

*Sr. Rdr.:* This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us 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!

*Sr. Rdr.:* 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!

*Priest:* ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

*Sr. Rdr.:* Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

*People:* Amen.

## **THE CANON**

*By John of Damascus*

### **Ode I**

#### *Tone 1*

*Irmos:* 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!

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!

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.

### **Troparion of Pascha**

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

*2nd Rdr.:* Lord have mercy (3x)

### **Ode III**

*Irmos:* 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!

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!

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.

*Each ode concludes with the singing of the Paschal Troparion thrice.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Rdr.:* Lord have mercy (3x)

### **Sessional Hymn** (Hypakoe)

#### *Tone 4*

Before the dawn, Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice: "Why do you seek among the dead as a man the one Who is everlasting light? Behold the clothes in the grave. Go and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen. He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the race of men."

#### **Ode IV**

*Irmos:* 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!

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!

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 sun of righteousness.

*Refrain:* Christ is risen from the dead!

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.

*Paschal Troparion thrice.*

*2nd Rdr.:* Lord have mercy (3x)

### **Ode V**

*Irmos:* 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!

The souls bound in chains of Hades, 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!

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.

*Paschal Troparion thrice.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Rdr.:* Lord have mercy (3x)

### **Ode VI**

*Irmos:* 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 fish on the third day,  
You arose from the grave.

*Refrain:* Christ is risen from the dead!

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!

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.

*Paschal Troparion thrice.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Rdr.:* Lord have mercy (3x)

## **Kontakion**

### *Tone 8*

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,  
You destroyed the power of death.  
In victory You arose, O Christ God,  
proclaiming "Rejoice" to the myrrh-bearing women,  
granting peace to Your apostles,  
and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

## **Ikos**

*Reader:* Before the dawn, the myrrh-bearing women sought, as those who seek the day, their sun, Who was before the sun yet had descended to the grave, and they cried to each other: O friends, come let us anoint with spices His life-bearing yet buried body, the flesh which raised fallen Adam and now lies in the tomb. Let us assemble and, like the magi, let us hasten and let us worship. Let us bring myrrh as a gift to Him Who is wrapped now, not in swaddling clothes, but in a winding-sheet. Let us lament and cry: "Arise, O Master, and bestow resurrection on the fallen."

## **Hymn of the Resurrection**

### *Tone 6*

*People:* Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One. We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your holy Resurrection; for You are our God, and we know no other than You; we call upon Your name. Come all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's holy Resurrection! For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection, for by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death. (3x)

Jesus has risen from the tomb, as He foretold, granting us eternal life, and great mercy. (3x)

### **Ode VII**

*Irmos:* 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!

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

*Refrain:* Christ is risen from the dead!

We celebrate the death of death and the overthrow of Hades,  
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!

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.

*Paschal Troparion thrice.*

*2nd Rdr.:* Lord have mercy (3x)

### **Ode VIII**

*Irmos:* 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 forevermore.

*Refrain:* Christ is risen from the dead!

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 forevermore.

*Refrain:* Christ is risen from the dead!

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 forevermore.

*Refrain:* Most holy Trinity, our God, glory to You.

Father almighty, Word and Spirit, one nature in three persons,  
surpassing essence and divinity.  
In You have we been baptized,  
and You we bless forevermore.

*Paschal Troparion thrice.*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Rdr.:* Lord have mercy (3x)

### **Ode IX**

*Refrain 1:* My soul magnifies Him Who rose from the tomb on the third day: Christ, the Giver of life.

*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 your Son.

*Refrain 2:* Christ, the new Pascha, the living sacrifice,  
the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.

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 3:* Mary Magdalene hastened to the tomb,  
and seeing Christ, she questioned Him as though He  
were the gardener.

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 4:* 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.”

*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 your Son.

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

*2nd Rdr.:* Lord have mercy (3x)

### **Hymn of Light**

*People:* In the flesh You fell 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! (3x)

## The Praises

### *Tone 1*

*People:* Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens,  
Praise Him in the heights,  
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 acts,  
praise Him for His infinite greatness.

We praise Your saving suffering, O Christ,  
and glorify Your resurrection.

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

You endured the Cross and destroyed death by rising  
from the dead.  
Give peace to our life, O Lord, as the only almighty  
One.

*Verse:* Praise Him with drum and dancing,  
praise Him with strings and bells.

You captured Hades, O Christ, and resurrect man by  
Your resurrection. Enable us to praise and glorify You  
in purity of heart.

*Verse:* Praise Him with well-tuned cymbals,  
praise Him with cymbals of victory!  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

We glorify Your divine condescension, and we praise  
You, O Christ.

You were born of a virgin yet not separated from the  
Father.

You have suffered as a man and voluntarily endured  
the Cross.

You have risen from the tomb,  
coming as from a bridal chamber to save the world.

O Lord, glory to You!

### **The Paschal Verses**

*Verse:* Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those  
who hate Him flee from before His face.

*People:* Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us,  
A new and holy Pascha,  
A mystical Pascha,  
A Pascha worthy of veneration,  
A Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer,  
A blameless Pascha,  
A great Pascha,  
A Pascha of the faithful,  
A Pascha which has opened for us the gates of  
Paradise,  
A Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

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

*People:* Come from that scene, O women, bearers of glad  
tidings,  
And say to Zion:  
“Receive from us the glad tidings of joy, of Christ’s  
resurrection.

Exult and be glad,  
And rejoice, O Jerusalem,  
Seeing Christ the King,  
Who comes forth from the tomb like a bridegroom in  
procession.”

*Verse:* So the sinners shall perish before the face of God; but  
let the righteous be glad.

*People:* The myrrh-bearing women,  
At the break of dawn,  
Drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver.  
There they found an angel sitting upon the stone.  
He greeted them with these words:  
“Why do you seek the living among the dead?  
Why do you mourn the incorrupt amid corruption?  
Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples.”

*Verse:* This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice  
and be glad in it.

*People:* Pascha of beauty,  
The Pascha of the Lord,  
A Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned for us.  
Pascha!  
Let us embrace each other joyously.  
Pascha, ransom from affliction!  
For today as from a bridal chamber Christ has shown  
forth from the tomb and 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, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*People:* 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. (3x)

### **Catechetical Homily**

Of Our Father Among The Saints John Chrysostom,  
Archbishop Of Constantinople (+407)

*This appointed ancient text is read in a normal voice by the Sr. Reader. No one is to remain seated during its reading; all stand and listen.*

If there are any who are devout and love God, let them enjoy this beautiful and radiant feast of triumph!

If there are any who have been wise servants, let them enter the joy of their Lord!

If there are any who have labored long in fasting, let them now receive their wages!

If there are any who have worked from the first hour, let them receive their fair compensation today!

If there are any who came at the third hour, let them celebrate the feast with thanksgiving!

If there are any who arrived at the sixth hour, let them have no misgivings; they will not be deprived because of that!

If there are any who delayed until the ninth hour, let them approach and not be afraid!

If there are any who tarried even as late as the eleventh hour, let even them not be alarmed by their tardiness!

For the Lord, Who is jealous of His honor, will accept the last as well as the first. He gives rest to those who come at the eleventh hour just as He does to those who work from the first hour.

He is merciful to those who come last, even while He cares for the first ones. He gives gifts to each of them, bestowing His grace on all of them.

He not only accepts their deeds, He welcomes even their intentions! He not only respects their actions, but also gives high praise to what they offer!

So then, all of you, enter the joy of your Lord! Receive your reward, whether you came first or last! Rich and poor, dance for joy together!

Sober people with the heedless, honor this day! Whether you kept the fast or disregarded it, rejoice today!

The table is fully laden: feast sumptuously! The calf is fattened: let no one go hungry! All of you, enjoy the banquet of faith! All of you, enjoy this abundance of kindness!

Let no one mourn because of poverty, for the royalty of all has been revealed! Let no one weep over transgressions, for pardon

has dawned from the tomb! Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free!

The One Who was the Prisoner of Death has utterly destroyed it; the One Who descended to Hades took it captive.

He made Hades take a bitter bite when it tasted His flesh, just as Isaiah cried out when he foretold this, saying: 'Hades tasted bitterness when it encountered You below.'

It tasted bitterness, for it was undone! It tasted bitterness, for it had been deceived! It tasted bitterness, for it had been made to die! It tasted bitterness, for it had been demolished! It tasted bitterness, for it had been fettered in chains!

It took a body, but happened upon God! It took earth, but encountered Heaven! It took what was visible, but stumbled upon the invisible!

So, Death, where is your sting? So, Hades, where is your victory?

CHRIST IS RISEN, and you are overthrown!

CHRIST IS RISEN, and the demons have fallen!

CHRIST IS RISEN, and the angels rejoice!

CHRIST IS RISEN, and life takes command!

CHRIST IS RISEN, and not a single corpse remains in the grave!

For when Christ was raised from the dead, He became the very first of those who had fallen asleep.

To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages! Amen!

### **Troparion of St. John Chrysostom**

*Tone 8:*

*People:* Grace shining forth from you lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by your words, O father John Chrysostom, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

*Sr. Rdr.:* Lord, have mercy. (12x)

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

*People:* Amen.

### **The Dismissal**

*People:* More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without defilement you gave birth to God, the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

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

*Sr. Rdr.:* O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, Who is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in

the tombs bestowing life, through the prayers of Your most pure Mother, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us.

*Reader:* Amen.

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

And unto us He has given eternal life! Let us worship His resurrection on the third day!