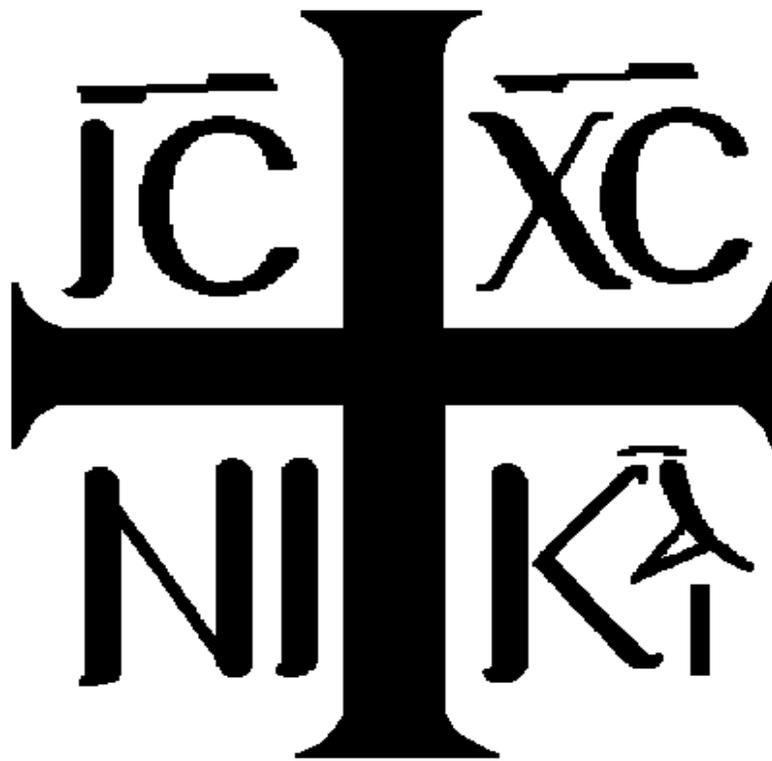


Reader's Vespers of Pascha



Revised April 2020

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.

Lord, I Call – Tone 2

Psalm 140 (141):1-2

People: Lord, I call upon You, hear me.
Hear me, O Lord.
Lord, I call upon You, hear me.
Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon You.
Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise,
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice.
Hear me, O Lord.

Psalm 140 (141):3-10

Reader: Set a guard, O Lord, over my mouth,
and a door of enclosure and protection around my lips.

Do not incline my heart to evil words,
to make excuses for sins.
With men who practice lawlessness,

not even with their chosen ones will I be joined.

A just man will correct and rebuke me with mercy,
but may the oil of a sinner never anoint my head,
because again and again my prayer is against their pleasures.

Their judges and kings drown holding rocks:
they will hear my words, for they are sweet.

As a clod of earth is crushed on the ground,
our bones have been scattered beside the grave.

For my eyes look to You, O Lord;
O Lord, in You I trust, do not take away my life.

Keep me from the trap they have set for me
and from the snare of the evildoers.

Sinners will fall into their own net;
I am alone until I pass on.

Psalm 141 (142)

I cry to the Lord with my voice,
I pray with my voice to the Lord.

I will pour out before Him my prayer,
I will tell my trouble before Him.

When my spirit departs from me,
You know my paths.
In this way that I was going,
they hid a trap for me.

I look to the right hand and watch,
but there is no one who knows me.
Escape is cut off from me,
but there is no one seeking my life.

I cried to You, O Lord, and said,
“You are my hope,
You are my portion in the land of the living.”

Attend to my prayer,
for I have been brought very low.
Deliver me from those who are persecuting me,
because they are stronger than I am.

10. Bring my soul out of prison
that I may confess Your name,
9. The righteous are waiting for me
until You reward me.

Psalm 129 (130)

8. Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord;
O Lord, hear my voice.
7. Let Your ears be attentive
to the cry of my prayer.
6. If You, O Lord, should take note of our sins,
O Lord, who would survive?
But with You there is forgiveness.

People: Come, let us worship the Word of God,
begotten of the Father before all ages,
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary.
Having endured the Cross,
He was buried as He Himself desired.
And, having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

5. For Your name's sake, O Lord, I wait for You,
my soul waits for Your word,
my soul hopes for the Lord,

People: Christ our Savior
nailed to the Cross the bond against us.
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

4. from the morning watch until night.
From the morning watch
let Israel hope for the Lord.

People: With the archangels
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ.
He is our Savior, our Redeemer,
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power
to judge the world which He made.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy
and with Him there is great redemption.
And He will redeem Israel
from all his sins.

People: The angel proclaimed You
the crucified and buried Master.
He told the women: "Come, see the place where He lay.
He is risen as He said,
for He is almighty.
We worship You, only immortal One.
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of Life.

Psalm 116 (117)

2. Praise the Lord, all you nations,
praise Him, all you peoples!

People: By Your Cross, You destroyed the curse of the tree.
By Your burial You slew the dominion of death.
By Your rising, You enlightened the race of man.
O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to You.

1. For great is His mercy to us,
and the truth of the Lord continues forever.

People: The gates of death opened to You from fear, O Lord,
when the guards of Hades saw You they were afraid,
for You demolished the gates of brass and smashed the iron
chains. You had led us from the darkness and the shadows of
death and had broken our bonds.

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

People: Let us come and worship in the house of the Lord,
singing the hymn of salvation.
Cleanse our sins, O You that were crucified and raised from the
dead,
and are in the bosom of the Father.

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

People: The shadow of the Law passed when Grace came.
As the bush burned, yet was not consumed,
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a virgin.
The righteous sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame;
instead of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls.

Gladsome Light

People: O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father,
heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ!
Now that we have come to the setting of the sun,
And behold the light of evening,
We praise God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
For it is meet, at all times,
To worship You with voices of praise,
O Son of God and Giver of life.
Therefore all the world glorifies You.

The Great Prokeimenon Psalm 76 (77)

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

Sr. Rdr.: The Great Prokeimenon in the seventh tone:

Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God Who does wonders.

People: Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God Who does wonders.

Sr. Rdr.: You have made known Your power among the peoples.

People: Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God Who does wonders.

Sr. Rdr.: And I said: now have I begun to understand: this is the change accomplished by the right hand of the Most High.

People: Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God Who does wonders.

Sr. Rdr.: I will remember the works of the Lord: from the beginning will I remember Your wonders.

People: Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God Who does wonders.

Sr. Rdr.: And I will meditate on all Your works and reflect on Your mighty acts.

People: Who is so great a God as our God?
You are the God Who does wonders.

Sr. Rdr.: Who is so great a God as our God?

People: ...You are the God Who does wonders.

The Gospel

In the reading the Gospel lesson, the usual practice is to face the Altar while reading.

Sr. Rdr: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to Saint John.
(20:19-25)

The appointed Gospel lesson is read in a normal voice by the Sr. Reader.

On the evening of that day, the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, 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. So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also 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 them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.” Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

People: Lord have mercy (3x).

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

Vouchesafe, O Lord

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin.

Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen.

Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You.

Blessed are You, O Lord: teach me Your statutes.

Blessed are You, O Master: make me to understand Your commandments.

Blessed are You, O Holy One: enlighten me with Your precepts.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Do not despise the works of Your hands.

To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory; to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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 Aposticha

Tone 2

People: Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, has enlightened the whole universe, recalling Your creation.
Glory to You, O Almighty Lord.

Then the Paschal Stichera, with their 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)

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!