

Paschal Matins

At the stroke of midnight, people, begin to chant the following, at first quietly and then more loudly with each of the two repetitions:

Choir: Thy Resurrection, O Christ Savior, /
the angels in the heavens sing; /
enable us on earth //
to glorify Thee in purity of heart. **Thrice.**

As this is chanted the third time, they go out of the church in procession, however, where this is impractical, this is sung Thrice only.

Choir: Thy Resurrection, O Christ Savior, /
the angels in the heavens sing; /
enable us on earth //
to glorify Thee in purity of heart. **(Repeatedly, in a procession)**

After going around the church, they stop at the closed doors.

Senior Reader: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Choir: Amen.

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life! **Thrice.**

Senior Reader: Stichos 1: Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that 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.

Senior Reader: Stichos 2: As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, 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.

Senior Reader: Stichos 3: So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Senior Reader: Stichos 4: This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Senior Reader: 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.

Senior Reader: Both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Senior Reader: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death.

Choir: And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

And all enter the church.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Twelve Times.*

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

Choir: Amen.

ODE I

Irmos, Tone 1: It is the Day of Resurrection, /
let us be radiant, O ye people; /
Pascha, the Lord's Pascha: /
for from death to life, /
and from earth to heaven, /
Christ God hath brought us, //
as we sing the song of victory.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Let us purify our senses, /
and we shall behold Christ, /
radiant with the unapproachable light of the Resurrection, /
and we shall clearly hear Him say, Rejoice! //
as we sing the hymn of victory.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Let the heavens be glad as is meet, /
and let the earth rejoice, /
and let the whole world, both visible and invisible, /
keep festival: /
for Christ is risen, //
O gladness eternal.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and
upon those in the tombs bestowing life. ***Thrice.***

Choir: Lord, have mercy. ***Thrice.***

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

Choir: Amen.

ODE III

Irmos, Tone 1: Come, let us drink a new drink, /
not one miraculously brought forth from a barren rock /
but the Fountain of Incorruption, /
springing forth from the tomb of Christ, //
in Whom we are strengthened.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Now all things are filled with light; /
heaven and earth, /
and the nethermost parts of the earth; /
let all creation, therefore, celebrate the arising of Christ //
whereby it is strengthened.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Yesterday I was buried with Thee, O Christ; /
today I rise with Thine arising. /
Yesterday I was crucified with Thee; /
do Thou Thyself glorify me with Thee, O Savior, //
in Thy kingdom.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and
upon those in the tombs bestowing life. ***Thrice.***

Choir: Lord, have mercy. ***Thrice.***

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

Choir: Amen.

Hypakoe, Eighth Tone

Forestalling the dawn, the women came with Mary, /
and found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre, and heard from the
angel: /
Why seek ye among the dead, as though He were mortal, Him Who liveth in
everlasting light? /
Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the
Lord is risen and hath slain death. //
For He is the Son of God Who saveth mankind.

ODE IV

Irmos, Tone 1:

On divine watch let the God-inspired Habakkuk stand with us, /
and show forth the light-bearing angel clearly saying: /
Today salvation is come to the world, /
for Christ is risen //
as Almighty.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

As a man-child did Christ appear /
when He came forth from the Virgin's womb, /
and as a mortal was He called the Lamb. /
Without blemish also, is our Pascha /
for He tasted no defilement; //
and as true God, perfect was He proclaimed.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Like unto a yearling lamb, /
Christ, our blessed Crown, /
of His own will was sacrificed for all, /
a Pascha of purification; /
and from the tomb the beautiful Sun of Righteousness //
shone forth again upon us.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

David, the ancestor of God, /
danced with leaping before the symbolical Ark; /
let us also, the holy people of God, /
beholding the fulfillment of the symbols, /
be divinely glad; //
for Christ is risen as Almighty.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and
upon those in the tombs bestowing life. **Thrice.**

Choir: Lord, have mercy. **Thrice.**

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

Choir: Amen.

ODE V

Irmos, Tone 1: Let us awake in the deep dawn, /
and instead of myrrh, offer a hymn to the Master, /
and we shall see Christ, /
the Sun of Righteousness, //
Who causeth life to dawn for all.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Seeing Thy boundless compassion /
they who were held in the bonds of hades /
hastened to the light, O Christ, /
with gladsome feet, //
praising the Pascha eternal.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Bearing lights, let us approach Christ, /
Who cometh forth from the tomb like a bridegroom, /
and with the feast-loving ranks of angels /
let us celebrate //
the saving Pascha of God.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. ***Thrice.***

Choir: Lord, have mercy. ***Thrice.***

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

Choir: Amen.

ODE VI

Irmos, Tone 1: Thou didst descend into the nethermost parts of the earth, /
and didst shatter the eternal bars that held the fettered, O Christ, /
and on the third day, /
like Jonah from the whale, //
Thou didst arise from the tomb.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Having kept the seals intact, O Christ, /
Thou didst rise from the tomb, /
O Thou Who didst not break the seal of the Virgin by Thy birth, /
and Thou hast opened for us //
the doors of Paradise.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

O my Savior, the living and unslain Sacrifice, /
when, as God, Thou, of Thine Own will, /
hadst offered up Thyself unto the Father, /
Thou didst raise up with Thyself the whole race of Adam, //
when Thou didst rise from the tomb.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. ***Thrice.***

Choir: Lord, have mercy. ***Thrice.***

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

Choir: Amen.

Kontakion:

Tone 8:

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, /
Thou didst destroy the power of hell. /
In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, /
proclaiming “Rejoice!” to the myrrh-bearing women; /
granting peace to Thine apostles, //
and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

Ikos: The myrrh-bearing women forestalled the dawn, seeking, as it were day, the Sun that was before the sun and Who had once set in the tomb, and they cried out one to another: O friends! come, let us anoint with spices the life-bringing and buried Body, the Flesh that raised up fallen Adam, that now lieth in the tomb. Let us go, let us hasten, like the Magi, and let us worship and offer myrrh as a gift to Him Who is wrapped now not in swaddling clothes but in a shroud. And let us weep and cry aloud: O Master, arise, Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

Hymn of the Resurrection

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, * let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, * the only sinless One. * We worship Thy Cross, O Christ, * and Thy holy Resurrection we hymn 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 worship Christ’s holy Resurrection, * for, behold, through the Cross joy hath come to all the world. * Ever blessing the Lord, * we hymn His Resurrection; * for, having endured crucifixion, * He hath destroyed death by death. ***Thrice.***

ODE VII

Irmos, Tone 1: He Who delivered the Children from the furnace, /
became man, suffereth as a mortal, /
and through His Passion /
doth clothe mortality with the beauty of incorruption, /
He is the only blessed and most glorious //
God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

The godly-wise women with myrrh /
followed after Thee in haste; /
but Him Whom they sought with tears as dead, /
they worshipped joyfully as the living God, /
and they brought unto Thy disciples, O Christ, //
the good tidings of the mystical Pascha.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

We celebrate the death of death, /
the destruction of hades, /
the beginning of another life eternal, /
and leaping for joy, /
we hymn the Cause, //
the only blessed and most glorious God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

For truly sacred and all-festive is this saving night, /
and this shining, light-bearing day, /
the harbinger of the Resurrection, /
whereon the Timeless Light bodily //
from the tomb upon all hath shined.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and
upon those in the tombs bestowing life. ***Thrice.***

Choir: Lord, have mercy. ***Thrice.***

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

Choir: Amen.

ODE VIII

Irmos, Tone 1: This chosen and holy day /
is the first of the sabbaths, /
the queen and lady, /
the feast of feasts, /
and the festival of festivals, //
wherein we bless Christ unto the ages.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Come, on this auspicious day of the Resurrection, /
let us partake of the fruit of the new vine /
of divine gladness of the kingdom of Christ, /
praising Him as God //
unto the ages.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Lift up thine eyes about thee, O Zion, /
and see, for behold, there cometh unto thee /
like God-illumined beacons, /
from the west, and from the north, /
and from the sea, and from the east, //
thy children, in thee blessing Christ unto the ages.

Refrain: O Most Holy Trinity, our God, glory be to Thee.

O Father Almighty, and Word, and Spirit, /
one Nature united in three Persons, /
transcendent and most divine! /
Into Thee have we been baptized, //
and Thee will we bless unto all ages.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

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

Choir: Amen.

ODE IX

Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, Him Who willingly suffered, and was buried, and rose from the grave on the third day.

Tone 1: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, /
for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee; /
dance now and be glad, O Zion, /
and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, //
in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, Christ the Giver of life, Who arose from the grave on the third day.

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, /
for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee; /
dance now and be glad, O Zion, /
and do thou exult, O pure Theotokos, //
in the arising of Him Whom thou didst bear.

Refrain: Christ is the new Pascha, the living-sacrifice, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.

O how divine, how loving, /
how sweet is Thy voice! /
For Thou hast truly promised /
to be with us unto the end of the age, O Christ; /
having this foundation of hope, //
we the faithful rejoice.

Refrain: Today all creation is glad and rejoiceth, for Christ is risen, and hades is led in captivity.

O how divine, how loving, /
how sweet is Thy voice! /
For Thou hast truly promised /
to be with us unto the end of the age, O Christ; /
having this foundation of hope, //
we the faithful rejoice.

Refrain: Magnify, O my soul, the dominion of the Tri-hypostatic and Indivisible Godhead.

O Christ, Thou great and most sacred Pascha! /
O Wisdom, Word and power of God! /
Grant us to partake of Thee more fully /
in the unwaning day //
of Thy kingdom.

Refrain: Rejoice, O Virgin, rejoice; rejoice O blessed one; rejoice, O most glorified one: for thy Son is risen on the third day from the grave.

O Christ, Thou great and most sacred Pascha! /
O Wisdom, Word and power of God! /
Grant us to partake of Thee more fully /
in the unwaning day //
of Thy kingdom.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. **Thrice.**

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

Choir: Amen.

Exapostilarion

Tone 3: Having fallen asleep in the flesh, * as a mortal, * O King and Lord,
* on the third day Thou didst rise again, * raising up Adam from corruption,
* and abolishing death: * O Pascha of incorruption, * Salvation of the world!
Thrice.

The Lauds (the Praises) in 1st tone:

Choir: Let every breath praise the Lord. * Praise the Lord from the heavens,
* praise Him in the highest. * To Thee is due praise, O God.
Praise Him, all ye His angels; * praise Him, all ye His hosts. * To
Thee is due praise, O God.

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the
heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; for He spake, and they came
to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them for ever, yea, for ever and ever; He hath set an
ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all ye abysses.

Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word.

The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars.

The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds.

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all the judges of the
earth.

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the
name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn
of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the
people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the
saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Zion rejoice
in their King.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the
psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples.

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron.

To do among them the judgment that is written. This glory shall be to all His saints.

Praise ye God in His saints, praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Praise Him for His mighty acts, * praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

Tone 1: We hymn, O Christ, Thy saving Passion, // and glorify Thy Resurrection.

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

O Thou Who didst endure the Cross, /
and didst abolish death, /
and didst rise again from the dead: /
Make our life peaceful, O Lord, //
for Thou alone art almighty.

Praise Him with timbrel and dance, * praise him with strings and flute.

O Thou Who didst lead hades captive, /
and didst raise up man by Thy Resurrection, /
deem us worthy, with pure hearts, //
to hymn and glorify Thee.

Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. * Let every breath praise the Lord.

Glorifying Thy Godly-majestic condescension, /
we hymn Thee, O Christ; /
for Thou wast born of a Virgin, /
yet Thou didst remain inseparable from the Father; /
Thou didst suffer as a man, and willingly didst endure the Cross; /
Thou didst rise from the tomb, /
coming forth as from a bridal chamber, /
that Thou mightest save the world: //
O Lord, glory be to Thee.

THE PASCHAL STICHERA

Fifth Tone:

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered.

A Pascha sacred today hath been shown unto us; * Pascha new and holy, * a Pascha mystical, * a Pascha all-venerable! * A Pascha that is Christ the Redeemer; * a Pascha immaculate, * a great Pascha; * a Pascha of the faithful; * a Pascha that hath opened the gates of Paradise to us; * a Pascha that doth sanctify all the faithful.

As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish.

Come from the vision, O ye women, bearers of good tidings, * and say ye unto Zion: * Receive from us the good tidings * of the Resurrection of Christ; * adorn thyself, exult, * and rejoice, O Jerusalem, * for thou hast seen Christ the King, * like a bridegroom come forth from the tomb.

So let sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

The myrrh-bearing women * in the deep dawn * stood before the tomb of the Giver of life; * they found an angel sitting upon the stone, * and he, speaking to them, said thus: * Why seek ye the Living among the dead? *Why mourn ye the Incorruptible amid corruption? *Go, proclaim unto His disciples.

This is the day which the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad therein.

Pascha the beautiful, * Pascha, the Lord's Pascha, * the Pascha all-venerable hath dawned upon us. * Pascha, with joy let us embrace one another. * O Pascha! * Ransom from sorrow, * for from the tomb today, * as from a bridal chamber, * hath Christ shone forth, * and hath filled the women with joy, saying: * Proclaim unto the apostles.

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

It is the Day of Resurrection, * let us be radiant for the feast, * and let us embrace one another. * Let us say, Brethren, even to them that hate us, * let us forgive all things on the Resurrection, * and thus let us cry out: *Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

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

Catechetical Homily of St. John Chrysostom

The senior priest readeth the Catechetical Homily of St. John Chrysostom. We do not sit during this reading, but we all listen while standing

If any be pious and a lover of God, let him delight in this fair and radiant festival. If any be an honest servant, let him come in and rejoice in the joy of his Lord. If any have wearied himself with fasting, let him now enjoy the recompense. If any have worked from the first hour, let him receive today his just reward. If any have come after the third, let him feast with thankfulness. If any have arrived after the sixth, in no wise let him be in doubt; in no way shall he suffer loss. If any be later than the ninth, let him draw nigh, let him not waver. If any arrive only at the eleventh, let him not be fearful for his slowness, for the Master is gracious and receiveth the last even as the first; He giveth rest to him of the eleventh even as to him who hath wrought from the first hour. He is merciful to the last and provideth for the first; and to this one He giveth, and to that one He showeth kindness. He receiveth their labours and acknowledgeth the purpose, and He honoureth the deed and praiseth the intention. Wherefore, enter ye all into the joy of our Lord, and let the first and the second take part in the reward. Ye rich and ye poor, join hands together. Ye sober and ye heedless, do honour to this day. Ye who fast and ye who fast not, be glad today. The table is full-laden;

feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go forth hungry. Let all enjoy the banquet of Faith. Let all enjoy the wealth of righteousness. Let no one lament his poverty, for the Kingdom is made manifest to all. Let no one bewail transgressions, for forgiveness hath dawned forth from the tomb. Let no one be fearful of death, for the death of the Saviour hath set us free. He hath quenched it by being subdued by it. He Who came down into Hades, despoiled Hades; and Hades was embittered when it tasted of His Flesh. Isaiah, anticipating this, cried out and said: Hades was embittered when below it met Thee face to face. It was embittered, for it was set at nought. It was embittered, for it was mocked. It was embittered, for it was slain. It was embittered, for it was cast down. It was embittered, for it was fettered. It received a body, and encountered God. It received earth, and met Heaven face to face. It received what it saw, and fell whither it saw not. O Death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory? Christ is risen, and thou art overthrown. Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen. Christ is risen, and the Angels rejoice. Christ is risen, and life doth reign. Christ is risen, and there is none dead in the tomb. For Christ is raised from the dead, and is become the first-fruits of them that slept. To Him be glory and dominion unto the ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion to the Saint, Eighth Tone:

Choir: Grace shining forth from thy mouth like a beacon hath illumined the universe, / and disclosed to the world treasures of uncovetousness, / and shown us the heights of humility; / but while instructing by Thy words, O Father John Chrysostom, // intercede with the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. ***Forty Times.***

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

Choir: Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto the ages of ages.

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

Lord, have mercy. ***Thrice.***

O Lord, Bless.

Senior Reader (Facing the East, rather than facing the people):

Thou that didst rise from the dead, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Choir: Amen.

Senior Reader: CHRIST IS RISEN! (*Thrice*)

People: INDEED HE IS RISEN! (*After each*)

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

And unto us hath He granted life eternal; we worship His Resurrection on the third day.

Then the Paschal Hours are done.

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