

# GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA

**Saturday Night and Sunday Morning**



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On Easter Sunday (Saturday midnight) the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is celebrated. Before midnight, the Matins of the Resurrection begins in complete darkness. The Odes of Lamentation of the previous day are repeated and the church is plunged into darkness to symbolize the despair and defeat experienced before the dawn of Christ's victory over the enemy of our salvation.

Precisely at midnight, a single light emerges from the altar representing the victory of Christ over death, the defeat of the Prince of darkness by Jesus, the Light of the World. The priest takes the light and gives it to the faithful, who are holding candles. The priest sings: "Come receive the light from the light! That is never overtaken by night and glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead!" and all the people join him in singing this hymn again and again. As the light is passed from person to person, it pushes back the darkness of the church and defeats it completely.

In many churches the priest leads the people outside the church, where he reads the Gospel which refers to the Angel's statement: "He is Risen; He is not here!" (Mark 16:1-8)

Then comes the breathless moment as the people wait for the priest to start the hymn of Resurrection, which they join him in singing, repeatedly: "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs, bestowing life ". From this moment the entire service takes on a joyous Paschal atmosphere. The hymns of the Odes and Praises of Resurrection which follow have a deep meaning and wonderful expression. The people confess, "It is the Day of Resurrection, let us be glorious, let us embrace one another and speak to those that hate us; let us forgive all things and so let us cry, Christ is risen from the dead". By this hymn they admit that love of one's fellowman is the solid foundation of the faith in the Resurrection of Christ.

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is then officiated. At the end of the liturgy, a part of the marvelous festival sermon of St. Chrysostom is read, which calls upon the people to "Take part in this fair and radiant festival. Let no one be fearful of death, for the death of the Savior has set us free . . . O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory? Christ is Risen and you are overthrown. To Him be glory and power from all ages to all ages."

The Resurrection is proclaimed in song and triumphant procession, and after the Liturgy, its light is carried into our homes so that they too might be filled with its light and warmth and triumph.

Love, forgiveness, reconciliation, triumph and joy; these are the gifts which we receive because Christ lived and died and triumphed for our sake.

# PASCHAL MIDNIGHT OFFICE

## Opening Doxology and Prayers

Before midnight, the Priest, fully vested in bright colours begins the service with:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Glory be to You, O God, Glory be to You!

O Heavenly King, Comforter, and Spirit of Truth, You that are in all places and fill all things; the treasury of Blessings and the giver of Life; come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

People: **Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. [3 times]**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.**

**Lord have mercy [3 times].**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen. Lord have mercy [12 times]. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**O Come let us worship and fall down before God our King!**

**O Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God!**

**O Come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our**

## King and our God!

### Psalm 51

Reader: Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness; According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done this evil in Your sight – That You may be found just when You speak, And blameless when You judge.

Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me. Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And uphold me by Your generous Spirit. Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to You.

Deliver me from the guilt of bloodshed, O God, The God of my salvation, And my tongue shall sing aloud of Your righteousness. O Lord, open my lips, And my mouth shall show forth Your praise. For You do not desire sacrifice, or else I would give it; You do not delight in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, A broken and a contrite heart – These, O God, You will not despise. Do good in Your good pleasure to Zion; Build the walls of Jerusalem. Then You shall be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, With burnt offering and whole burnt offering; Then they shall offer bulls on Your altar.

### The Canon

#### Ode 1 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] The children of those, who were saved, hid under ground the God, Who made the persecuting giant of old disappear in the waves of the sea. As for us however, let us praise the Lord, as did the maidens; for gloriously He has been glorified.

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: Lord, my God, I will sing a song for Your departure, a funeral hymn for You Who by Your burial opened up for me the entrances to life, and by Your death put Death and Hades to death.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: All things above and below the earth quaked with fear at Your death, as they saw You on the throne above and below in a tomb; for beyond understanding You appeared as one dead, You the source of life.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: That You might fill all things with Your glory, You went down into the lowest parts of the earth; for my substance, which is in Adam was not hidden from You, and by being buried You make me, who had been corrupted, new, O Lover of mankind.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] The children of those, who were saved ...

### Ode 3 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Truly, creation, having beheld You suspended on Golgotha, Who suspended the whole earth freely on the waters, was seized with great wonder: "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: Multiplying visions, You revealed symbols of Your burial, while now, as God and man, You have also made clear Your secrets, Master, to those in Hades, who cry: "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: You opened out Your palms and united things that before were separated, while by being closed in a shroud and a grave, O Saviour, You loosed those who shout: "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: By Your will, O uncontainable, You were held fast by grave and seals; and by Your energies You made known Your power as God to those who sing, "There is none Holy, save You, O Lord."

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Truly, creation, having beheld ...

### Ode 4 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Foreseeing Your Divine self-emptying on the Cross, Habakkuk cried out in amazement: "You cut off the power of the

mighty, O Good One, speaking to those in Hades, as the Almighty."

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: You sanctified the seventh day, which of old You blessed by resting from Your works; for You bring all things into being and make them new, as You keep the Sabbath rest, O Saviour, and restore Your strength.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: By Your greater strength You gained the victory; Your soul was parted from Your body, shattering the bonds of both Death and Hades, O Word, by Your might.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: Hades, when it met You, O Word, was embittered, seeing a mortal made divine, marked by wounds and all powerful, and it shrank back in terror at the sight.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Foreseeing Your Divine self-emptying ...

#### Ode 5 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] The loving manifestation made through Your compassion for us, was seen by Isaiah as an unwaning light; and rising early from the night watch, he cried aloud: "The dead shall rise, and they who are in the tombs shall awake, and all those on the earth shall rejoice."

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: Becoming a creature formed of dust, our Fashioner, You make new those born of earth, and the shroud and the tomb point to the mystery within You, O Word; for the noble Joseph fulfils the counsel of Your Father, Who in You gloriously makes me new.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Through death You transform mortality, through burial corruption; for in a manner fitting God You make incorruptible the nature You took on and make it immortal. For Your flesh did not know corruption, Master, nor was Your soul, like a stranger, abandoned in Hades.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: You came forth from a birth without travail and, pierced in Your side, my Fashioner, You wrought the refashioning of Eve by becoming Adam, sleeping supernaturally a life-producing sleep and raising life from sleep and corruption, as the all-powerful.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] The loving manifestation made ...

### Ode 6 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Truly, Jonah the Prophet was caught, but not held in the belly of the whale. For being an impression of You, Who suffered and was given over to burial, he sprang forth from the whale as from a chamber, and said to the watchman: "Falsely and in vain do you guard, O watchmen; for you have neglected mercy."

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: You were torn, but not torn away, O Word, from the flesh You had taken. For though Your temple was destroyed at the moment of the passion, You were still one person in Your Godhead and Your flesh; for in both You are one Son, Word of God, God and man.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: Adam's fall slew mortals but not God, for though Your substance of dust suffered, yet Your Godhead remained impassable. That which was corruptible in You, You have transformed to incorruption, and You have revealed a source of incorruptible life from Your resurrection.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: Hades reigns, but not forever, over the race of mortals; for You, O Mighty One, when placed in a tomb, shattered with Your palm, the origin of life, the bars of death, and proclaimed to those who slept there from every age no false redemption, O Saviour, Who has become the first-born of the dead.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Truly, Jonah the Prophet was caught ...

### Kontakion (Tone 6)

Chanter: He Who closed the abyss lies dead before our eyes; and wrapped in myrrh and fine linen the Immortal is laid as a mortal in a grave. While women came to anoint Him, weeping bitterly and crying out: "This is the most blessed Sabbath, on which Christ sleeps, but He will rise again on the third day."

### Oikos (Tone 6)

Chanter: He Who holds all things together was lifted up on the Cross, and all creation lamented seeing Him hanging naked on the tree; the Sun hid its rays, and the stars threw away their light; the earth quaked with great fear, the sea fled and the rocks were rent; many graves were opened, and bodies of holy men were raised. Hades below is groaning and the Jews are considering how to discredit Christ's

resurrection; the women are crying out: "This is the most blessed Sabbath, on which Christ sleeps, but He will rise again on the third day."

### Ode 7 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Ineffable wonder! He Who saved the righteous youths from the fire of the furnace, is placed in the grave a breathless corpse, for the salvation of us, who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our Deliverer."

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: Hades has been wounded, having received in its heart the One Whose side was pierced by a lance, and consumed by divine fire groans aloud at the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our Deliverer."

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: O happy tomb! For having received in itself the Creator as one asleep, it has been revealed as a treasure house of life for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our Deliverer."

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: The life of all things accepts being laid in the tomb, according to the law of those who die, and He shows it to be a source of rising for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our Deliverer."

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: In Hades and in the tomb and in Eden Christ's godhead was one and inseparable with the Father and the Spirit for the salvation of us who sing: "Blessed are You, O God, our Deliverer."

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Ineffable wonder! He Who saved ...

### Ode 8 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] Be astonished, O Heaven, and let the foundations of Earth quake; for lo, the One, Who dwells in the Highest, is accounted among the dead, and lodges as a stranger in a humble tomb. O you youths, bless Him; you priests, praise Him, and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: The immaculate temple has been destroyed, but raises up the fallen tabernacle; for the second Adam, Who dwells in the highest, has come down to the first Adam as far as the storehouses of Hades; O



you youths, bless Him; you priests, praise Him, and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: The daring of the disciples has failed, but Joseph of Arimathea has proved valiant; for seeing the God over all dead and naked he asked for Him and gave Him burial, crying: "O you youths, bless Him; you priests, praise Him, and you people, exalt Him to all the ages".

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: O for the new wonders! O what goodness! O what ineffable forbearance! For He that dwells in the highest is sealed under the earth of His own will, and is slandered as a deceiver. O you youths, bless Him; you priests, praise Him, and you people, exalt Him to all the ages.

Reader: We praise, we bless and we worship the Lord.

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] Be astonished, O Heaven, and let ...

The Deacon goes through the Royal Doors and stands before the Icon of the Theotokos, raises his Orarion and says:

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honour and magnify in song.

The Deacon censens the whole church as the Choir sings Ode 9.

### Ode 9 (Tone 6)

Chanter: [*Irmos*] "Lament not for Me, Mother, as You behold Me in the grave, Whom as a Son you conceived in your womb without seed. For I shall rise and be glorified, and as God, I shall ceaselessly exalt in glory those, who in faith and yearning, magnify you."

Reader: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Chanter: "At Your strange birth, my Son without beginning, beyond nature I escaped the pangs and was made blessed; but now, my God, as I see You dead, I am pierced terribly by the sword of sorrow; but arise, that I may be magnified."

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Chanter: "Earth covers Me by My own will, but the gatekeepers of Hades shudder as they see Me clothed in the blood-stained robe of vengeance, Mother; for having trampled on My enemies by the Cross, I shall arise again and magnify you."

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Chanter: "Let creation rejoice, let all born of Earth be glad; for Hades, the

enemy, has been despoiled; let women come to meet Me with sweet spices; for I am rescuing Adam and Eve with all their race, and on the third day I shall rise again."

Chanter: [*Repeat Irmos*] "Lament not for Me, Mother ...

All lights in the church are extinguished except the vigil light on the altar table for the priest.

### The Trisagion

People: **Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. [3 times]**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**All Holy Trinity, have mercy on us; Lord, cleanse us from our sins; Master, pardon our transgressions; Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.**

**Lord have mercy [3 times].**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Resurrection Troparion (Tone 2)

People: **When Thou, O immortal Life, did humble Thyself unto death, then did Thou destroy death by the brightness of Thy Godhead. And when Thou did raise the bowels of the earth, then all the Heavenly Powers exclaimed: O Christ our God, the Giver of Life! Glory to Thee!**

### The Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Again we pray that He will keep this holy church and this city and

every city and countryside from wrath, famine, plague, earthquake, flood, fire, the sword, foreign invasion, civil war and sudden death; that our God, Who loves mankind, will be gracious, favourable and conciliatory and turn away and dispel all the wrath stirred up against us and all sickness, and may deliver us from His righteous chastisement which impends against us, and have mercy on us.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Hear us, O God our Saviour, the Hope of all the ends of the earth and of those who are far off upon the sea; and be gracious, be gracious, O Master, upon our sins, and have mercy on us. For You are a merciful God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory be to You!

People: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Father, bless!**

Priest: May Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure, blameless and holy Mother; of [*patron saint(s) of the community*] the patron(s) of this community; and of all the Saints; have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

People: **Amen.**

## **RESURRECTION SERVICE**

The senior priest, standing before the altar table, makes 3 metanias. He lights the Paschal candle from the vigil light on the altar table, carries the candle through the royal doors and stands on the solea, while he slowly chants:

### **Come Receive The Light (Tone 5)**

Priest: Come ye take, light from the Light! That is never overtaken by night and glorify Christ, is risen from the dead!

The senior priest extends the light to the approaching faithful for them to light their candles, while all present sing "Come receive the light..." until all have taken light from the Paschal candle.

People: **Come ye take, light from the Light! That is never overtaken by night and glorify Christ, is risen from the dead!**

The priest re-enters the sanctuary through the royal doors and takes the Gospel book in his left arm while the people chant the following, repeatedly:

### Resurrection Verse (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.**

The clergy and faithful in procession make their way down the centre aisle to a prepared area outside the church. When everyone is outside, except for one person who stays inside, the doors of the church are closed, and the priest, standing before the Analogion on which is the Gospel, says:

### The Gospel

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God.

People: **Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint Mark.  
(Chapter 16:1-8)

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

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Now when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, that they might come and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the Sun had risen. And they said among themselves, "Who will roll away the stone from the door of the tomb for us?" But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away - for it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man clothed in a long white robe sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, Who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. But go, tell His disciples and Peter that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you." So they went out quickly and fled from the tomb, for they trembled and were amazed. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

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

## PASCHAL MATINS

Standing in front of the Gospel on the lectern before him, the senior priest makes the sign of the cross with the censer and the Paschal candle and says:

Priest: Glory to the Holy, Consubstantial, Life-giving and Undivided Trinity, at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

The senior priest censes the Gospel before him while all the clergy sing the paschal troparion 3 times.

### Paschal Troparia (Tone 5)

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life! [*3 times*]

While censuring around the table, the clergy, and the people, the senior priest says the following verses:

Priest: Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

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

Priest: As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; As wax melts before the fire.

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

Priest: So let the wicked perish at the presence of God; But let the righteous be glad.

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

Priest: This is the Day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

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

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 to those in the tombs bestowing life!**

Priest: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen

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

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

People: **and to those in the tombs bestowing life!**

## The Great Litany

Priest: In peace, let us pray to the Lord!

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For the peace of the whole world, the well-being of the holy churches of God and for the unity of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For this holy house and for those who enter it in faith, reverence and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For our Father and Metropolitan [*Name*], for the revered priesthood, for the deacons in Christ and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For the Prime Minister of our country, for all national and regional government and for the civil administration, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For our armed forces, that the Lord God will grant them wisdom and strength to preserve our nation in harmony and stability, and to maintain peace in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For this city, for every city, town and village and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For travellers by land, sea and air, for the sick and those who suffer, for prisoners, and for the salvation of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity,

let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour, and adoration to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Dialogue With Door Keeper

The senior priest takes up the cross in his right hand and turns towards the closed doors of the Church and knocks three times on the doors of the Church and with power says:

Priest: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

Keeper: Who is this King of glory?

Priest: The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

The senior priest knocks three times on the doors of the Church and with power says:

Priest: Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

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Keeper: Who is this King of glory?

Priest: The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

The doorkeeper then opens the door, all the lights of the Church are turned on and the bells are rung as all re-enter the Church.

## The Canon

### Ode 1 (Tone 1)

Chanter: This is the Day of Resurrection let us be radiant O people, Pascha the Lord's Pascha. For Christ our God has passed us from death to life and from Earth to Heaven we who sing the song of victory.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Let us cleanse our senses that we may behold Christ, Who gleams like lightning in the unapproachable light of the Resurrection. And we shall clearly hear Him say: "Rejoice" as we sing the hymn of victory.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: It is worthy for the heavens to rejoice and the earth to be glad. The whole world visible and invisible celebrates, for Christ our everlasting joy is risen from the dead.

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

Chanter: Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy!

### The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Calling to mind our all-holy, pure, most blessed and most glorious Lady, Theotokos, Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, together with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and each other, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

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

People: **Amen.**



### Ode 3 (Tone 1)

Chanter: Come let us drink a new drink, not one wondrously brought forth from a barren rock, but from the fount of incorruption which springs forth from the tomb of Christ in Whom we are established.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Now all things are filled with light Heaven and Earth and the deepest parts of the earth. Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ, in which it is established.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Yesterday I was buried with You O Christ and today I arise in Your Resurrection. Yesterday I was crucified with You, O Saviour glorify me with Yourself in Your kingdom.

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

Chanter: Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy!

### Hypakoe (Tone 4)

Chanter: When they who were with Mary came, anticipating the dawn, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre, they heard from the angel: "Why seek the living among the dead, as though He were mortal man, Him Who abides in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen, and has put death to death. For He is the Son of God, Who saved the race of man."

### Ode 4 (Tone 1)

Chanter: The inspired prophet Habakuk 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."

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Christ revealed Himself as a man when He was born from the Virgin's womb and as a mortal He was called the Lamb. As One not tasting corruption our Pascha is blameless, and as true God He is proclaimed perfect.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Christ our blessed crown as a yearling lamb was sacrificed for us according to His free will. The Pascha of purification and once again from the grave, the beautiful Son of righteousness, has shown

on us.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: David the ancestor of God danced and leaped before the symbolic ark. Let us as the holy people of God having beheld the fulfilment of the symbols rejoice with divine inspiration for Christ is risen the all powerful One.

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

Chanter: Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy!

### Ode 5 (Tone 1)

Chanter: Let us rise early at the break of dawn and offer a hymn instead of myrrh to the Master. And let us behold Christ the Son of righteousness Who causes life to rise for all.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: When those held by the chains of Hades saw Your boundless compassion O Christ, they came quickly to the light with a joyful step, proclaiming and praising the eternal Pascha.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Let us who carry bright lights go forth and meet Christ Who comes as the Bridegroom from the tomb. And let us celebrate the saving Pascha of God with all those who love this feast.

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

Chanter: Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy!

### Ode 6 (Tone 1)

Chanter: You descended into the depths of the earth and shattered the everlasting bars which kept the dead captive. And like Jonah from the whale You arose O Christ from the tomb on the third day.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: You preserved the seals intact O Christ, when You arose from the grave as You did not break the seal of the Virgin in Your birth. And You opened for us the gates of paradise.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: O my Saviour the living and unsacrificed offering. As God of Your

own free will You offered Yourself to the Father. And by being resurrected from the grave You resurrected the entire race of Adam.

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

Chanter: Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy!

### The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Calling to mind our all-holy, pure, most blessed and most glorious Lady, Theotokos, Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, together with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and each other, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

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

People: **Amen.**

### Kontakion (Tone 8)

Chanter: Even though You descended into the grave, O Immortal One, You overthrew the power of Hades, Christ our God and rose victorious. You greeted the Myrrhbearers, gave peace to Your apostles, and granted resurrection to the fallen!

### Oikos (Tone 8)

Chanter: Early in the morning before sunrise, as if it were already day, myrrh bearing maidens sought the Son, Who previously descended into the grave. And they cried to one another: "Come friends, let us anoint with fragrant spices the life-giving and buried body of Christ Who has resurrected fallen Adam. Let us hasten, as did the Magi, and adore Christ and bring our myrrh as a gift to Him Who is wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in a shroud. Let us weep and exclaim: "Arise, Master!" and granting resurrection to the fallen!"

### Synaxarion (To be read, not chanted)

Reader: On the Holy and Great Sunday of the Passover we celebrate the Life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ; for Christ alone did descend with condescension to fight Hades; and He ascended, bringing the abundant spoils of victory which He had snatched.

Mary Magdalene and the rest of the women (see Sunday of the Ointment-bearing Women) who were present at the Saviour's Burial on Friday evening, returned that very day from Golgotha to the city and prepared ointment and spices, that they might come later and anoint the body of Jesus. They rested the next day, Saturday, in fulfilment of the commandment of the Sabbath, the law of the Old Testament. And on the following day, which was Sunday and which the Evangelists call the first day of the week, which fell on the twenty-fifth of March, and thirty-six hours after the death of the giver of Life, Christ Jesus, the women came to the sepulchre with their prepared ointments. And as they were pondering the difficulty of rolling the stone from the gate of the sepulchre, a great earthquake took place, an angel of the Lord came down, whose appearance was like lightning and his clothes like snow, and rolled away the stone and sat thereon.

The guards trembled with fear, became like dead, and fled. The women then entered the sepulchre but did not find Jesus. They found two other angels in the form of men dressed in white raiment who proclaimed to them the Resurrection of the Saviour, commanding them to go quickly and give the good news to the Disciples. Once Peter and John had received the report from Mary Magdalene (see July twenty-second), they hastened to the tomb and entered to find only the linen clothes. They returned with great joy to the city, and began to preach the supernatural Resurrection of Christ, having seen Him alive in truth five times that very day.

For this joyful Resurrection we therefore celebrate today, kissing one another in Christ with the brotherly kiss, illustrating thereby the dissolution of the enmity that was between us and God, and our reconciliation through Christ. This Feast is called Passover, or Pascha in Greek, from the Jewish feast of the same name; for Christ by His Life, Passion and Resurrection translated us from the curse of Adam and the bondage of Satan to the ancient liberty and bliss. He is the true spotless lamb foreshadowed by God in the Old Testament to free His people in Egypt when He instructed His Servant Moses for the preparation of the Passover.

As for the day of the week, which is called in Hebrew the first day, being dedicated to our Lord for glorification and magnification, it is called in Greek *Kuriake* or the Lord's Day. The Disciples transferred to it the dignity of the Sabbath, and prescribed that it be a holiday and a day of rest.

To Him be glory and power and honour forever and ever. Amen.

### In That We Have Beheld

Reader: In that we have beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow down before the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. Your Cross do we adore, O Christ, and Your Holy Resurrection we praise and glorify: for You are our God, and we know none other beside You: we call upon Your Name. O come, all you faithful, let us adore Christ's Holy Resurrection. For lo, through the Cross is joy come into all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, let us sing His Resurrection: for in that He endured the Cross He has destroyed death by death.

Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy!

### Ode 7 (Tone 1)

Chanter: He Who saved the three children in the furnace becomes man and suffers as a mortal. That through suffering He may clothe mortality with incorruption. He alone is blessed and most glorious, the God of our fathers.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: The women followed after You with myrrh in haste and with tears searched for Him Who was dead. Yet worshiped with joy the living God, proclaiming to Your disciples O Christ the good news of the mystical Pascha.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: We celebrate the death of death the destruction of Hades and the beginning of the new eternal life. And as we leap for joy we hymn the cause with praise. The only blessed and most glorified, the God of our fathers.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: How truly sacred and most festive is this bright night of salvation which now proclaims the radiant Day of Resurrection. On this night the timeless light arose bodily from the tomb and has shone forth on all.

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

Chanter: Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy!

### Ode 8 (Tone 1)

Reader: We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.

Chanter: This is the chosen and holy day, the first of Sabbaths, for it is for the King and Lord. It is the Feast of all feasts and Festival of festivals in which we bless Christ to all the ages.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Come to the new fruit of the vine of divine gladness in the glorious Day of Resurrection. Let us partake in the kingdom of Christ and praise Him as God to the ages.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Lift up your eyes O Zion and see around you, behold your children come to you from the North, from the West, from the South and from the East all divinely illuminated stars. In you they bless Christ to all the ages.

Reader: Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord.

Chanter: Father Almighty, Word and Spirit one nature in three hypostasis. In You we have been baptised, O transcending essence, supremely divine, we bless you unto all the ages.

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

Chanter: Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy!

The Deacon goes through the Royal Doors and stands before the icon of the Theotokos, raises his Orarion and says:

Deacon: The Theotokos and Mother of the Light let us honour and magnify in song.

The Deacon censes the whole church as the choir sings Ode 9.

### Ode 9 (Tone 1)

Reader: Magnify O my soul Him Who suffered willingly and was buried and arose from the grave on the third day.

Chanter: Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord has risen upon You. Dance now and be glad, O Zion; and do you exalt, O

pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him, Whom you did bear.

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

Chanter: Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord has risen upon You. Dance now and be glad, O Zion; and do you exalt, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him, Whom you did bear.

Reader: Christ is the new Pascha, the living sacrificial victim, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.

Chanter: Your divine and beloved and most sweet voice; You have truly promised that You would be with us to the end of the world O Christ; and we faithful rejoice, having this as an anchor of hope.

Reader: Today all creation rejoices and is glad, for Christ is risen and He has despoiled Hades.

Chanter: Your divine and beloved and most sweet voice; You have truly promised that You would be with us to the end of the world O Christ; and we faithful rejoice, having this as an anchor of hope.

Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Magnify, O my soul, the might of the indivisible and three-personed Godhead.

Chanter: O great and most sacred Pascha Christ; O Wisdom and Word and Power of God! Grant that we partake of You fully in the unwaning day of Your kingdom.

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Rejoice, O Virgin, rejoice, O blessed one, rejoice, O glorified one, for Your Son is risen from the tomb on the third day.

Chanter: O great and most sacred Pascha Christ; O Wisdom and Word and Power of God! Grant that we partake of You fully in the unwaning day of Your kingdom.

Chanter: The Angel cried to her who is full of grace: "O pure Virgin rejoice, and again, I say: Rejoice! For your Son has risen from the grave on the third day."

Chanter: Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord has risen upon You. Dance now and be glad, Zion; and do you exalt, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him, Whom you did bear.

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

Chanter: Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold has bestowed on us

eternal life and great mercy!

### The Little Litany

The Deacon from the Solea, facing the Royal Doors, says:

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Calling to mind our all-holy, pure, most blessed and most glorious Lady, Theotokos, Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, together with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and each other, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For all the Powers of Heaven praise You, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### Exaposteilarion (Tone 2)

Chanter: In the flesh You fell asleep O King and Lord as a mortal man. On the third day You arose raising Adam from corruption and abolished death, Pascha of incorruption, Salvation of the world. [3 *times*]

### The Praises (Tone 1)

Chanter: Let everything that has breath, praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise Him in the heights. To You, O God, is due our song. Praise Him, all His angels; praise Him, all His hosts. To You, O God, is due our song.

Reader: This honour have all His saints.

Chanter: We praise in song Your saving passion O Christ and we glorify Your Resurrection.

Reader: Praise God in His Sanctuary. Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Chanter: O Lord You endured the cross and abolished death and were resurrected from the dead. Grant peace to our lives for You are the only all powerful One.

Reader: Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!



Chanter: O Christ You have destroyed Hades and in Your Resurrection You have resurrected humanity. Make us worthy in purity of heart to praise You, glorifying You with song.

Reader: Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp.

Chanter: As we glorify Your God befitting condescension we praise You in song O Christ. You were born from the Virgin without separation from the Father. You suffered as a man and of Your own free will You endured the cross. Glory to You O Lord Who has risen from the tomb as one who comes forth from a bridal chamber that You may save the world.

### Tone 5

Reader: Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

Chanter: Today the sacred Pascha is revealed to us. The new and holy Pascha the mystical Pascha. The all venerable Pascha. The Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer. The spotless Pascha. The great Pascha. The Pascha of the faithful. The Pascha which has opened to us the gates of Paradise. The Pascha which sanctifies all faithful.

Reader: As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; As wax melts before the fire.

Chanter: Hasten from that vision O women bearers of good news and say to Zion receive from us the tidings of joy of the Resurrection of Christ. Dance and celebrate and rejoice now O Jerusalem. For you beheld Christ your King as a bridegroom coming forth from the tomb.

Reader: So let the wicked perish at the presence of God; But let the righteous be glad.

Chanter: When the Myrrh-bearing women very early in the morning came and stood before the tomb of the Life Giver, they found an angel sitting upon the stone. And He cried out these words to them saying: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why do you mourn the Incorruptible among those subject to decay? But go and proclaim the good news to His disciples!"

Reader: This is the Day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Chanter: The Pascha of delight, Pascha the Lord's Pascha. The all venerable Pascha has dawned for us today. Let us embrace each other with joy for it is Pascha. O Pascha delivered from sorrow. For Christ has

shone forth today from the tomb as from a bridal chamber and filled the women with joy saying: "Proclaim this to My Apostles."

The priest stands in front of the royal doors, holding the holy Gospel, while the congregation comes forward and kisses the gospel. This practice may be left to the end of the service.

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

Chanter: This is the Day of Resurrection let us be radiant in the festival and let us embrace one another. Let us call brothers even those who hate us and forgive all things in the resurrection. And therefore let us proclaim:

People: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. [3 times]**

Troparion of St John Chrysostom (Tone 8)

Chanter: Grace shining forth from your 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.

## DIVINE LITURGY ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

### Opening Prayers

Priest: O Heavenly King, Comforter, and Spirit of Truth, You that are in all places and fill all things, the treasury of Blessings and the giver of Life: come to dwell in us, cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O gracious One.

Priest: Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth peace, goodwill towards all people. [2 times]

Priest: O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

The Priest lifts the holy Gospel with both hands and makes the sign of the cross with holy Gospel over the Antimins and says:

Priest: Blessed is the kingdom of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

The Priest kisses the holy Gospel and places it on the Antimins.

People: **Amen.**

While censuring the front of the altar the senior priest says:

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

People: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. [2 times]**

Priest: Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

People: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. [2 times]**

While censuring the right side of the altar the senior priest says:

Priest: As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; As wax melts before the fire.

People: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. [2 times]**

While censuring the back of the altar the senior priest says:

Priest: So let the wicked perish at the presence of God; But let the righteous be glad.

People: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. [2 times]**

While censuring the left side of the altar the senior priest says:

Priest: This is the Day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

People: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. [2 times]**

Returning to the front of the altar and while censuring the senior priest says:

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 to those in the tombs bestowing life. [2 times]**

While censuring the icons and people the senior priest says:

Priest: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

People: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life. [2 times]**

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

People: **and to those in the tombs bestowing life.**

### The Great Litany

Deacon: 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 the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For all devout and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For our Father and Metropolitan [*Name*], the revered priesthood, the diaconate in Christ and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For this country, its Prime Minister, all national and regional government and its civil authorities, 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, an abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For those who are travelling by land, sea and air, the sick, the suffering, captives and the salvation of them all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, 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 all-holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honour, and worship to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Refrains of the First Antiphon

Reader: Make a joyful shout to God, all the Earth! Sing out the honour of His Name; Make His praise glorious.

People: **Through the intercessions of the Theotokos: O Saviour, save us.**

Reader: Say to God, "How awesome are Your works! All the Earth shall worship You, And sing praises to You."

People: **Through the intercessions of the Theotokos: O Saviour, save us.**

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

People: **Through the intercessions of the Theotokos: O Saviour, save us.**

### The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Calling to mind our all-holy, pure, most blessed and most glorious Lady, Theotokos, Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, together with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and each other, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For Yours is the majesty, and Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Refrains of the Second Antiphon

Reader: God be merciful to us and bless us, And cause His face to shine upon us, That Your way may be known on Earth, Your salvation among all nations.

People: **Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, as we sing unto You: Alleluia.**

Reader: Let the peoples praise You, O God; Let all the peoples praise You. God shall bless us, And all the ends of the Earth shall fear Him.

People: **Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead, as we sing unto You: Alleluia.**

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

People: **O only-begotten Son and Word of God, who are immortal, yet deign for our salvation to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos, and ever-Virgin Mary; and without change was made man, and was crucified also, O Christ our God; and by Thy death did death subdue, Thou are one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!**

### The Little Litany

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: Calling to mind our all-holy, pure, most blessed and most glorious Lady, Theotokos, Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary, together with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and each other, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: For You are a good God and loving toward mankind, and to You we ascribe glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Refrains of the Third Antiphon

During the Third Antiphon, the priest carrying the gospel and proceeded by the altar boys carrying candles makes the small entrance.
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Reader: Let God arise, Let His enemies be scattered; Let those also who hate Him flee before Him.

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

Reader: As smoke is driven away, So drive them away; As wax melts before the fire.

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

Reader: So let the wicked perish at the presence of God; But let the righteous be glad.

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

Reader: This is the Day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

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

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

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

### Entrance Hymn

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise!

Priest: Bless God in the congregations, The Lord, from the fountain of Israel.

People: **Save us, O Son of God, who are risen from the dead, as we sing unto You: alleluia.**

### Paschal Troparion (Tone 5)

People: **Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and to those in the tombs bestowing life! [3 times]**

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

### Hypakoe of Pascha (Tone 4)

People: **They, who were with Mary came before dawn, and finding the stone rolled away from the Tomb heard from the angel: "Why do you seek as man among the dead, Him Who dwells in Light Eternal? Behold the shroud of the grave; make haste and proclaim to the world, that the Lord is risen, putting death to death; for He is the Son of God, the Saviour of mankind."**

Reader: Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen

### Kontakion of Pascha (Tone 8)

People: **Even though You descended into the grave, O Immortal One, You overthrew the power of Hades, Christ our God and rose victorious. You greeted the Myrrhbearers, gave peace to Your Apostles, and granted resurrection to the fallen!**

### The Trisagion Hymn

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Amen.**

The clergy to read the Gospel performs a small censuring during the next hymn.
--

People: **Ye, who have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia [3 times].**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now, and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.**



**Have put on Christ. Alleluia.**

Deacon: With strength.

People: **Ye, who have been baptised into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.**

### The Epistle Reading

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: This is the Day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Deacon: This is wisdom!

Reader: A reading from the Acts of the holy Apostles. (Chapter 1:1-8)

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the Apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the Earth."

Priest: Peace be to you reader.

People: **Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### The Gospel Lesson

Deacon: This is wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John. (Chapter 1:1-17)

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

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the Only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of Whom I said, 'He Who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.' " And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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

### The Sermon

The people may be seated for the sermon.

The practice in some parishes is to insert, after the Gospel, the litany of fervent supplication and the litany for the Catechumens/Illuminations where there are Catechumens/Illuminations present in the service. These litanies can be found in the Appendix on page 412.

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

Priest: That always guarded by Your might, we may ascribe to You glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Cherubic Hymn

The priest reads the prayer of the cherubic hymn and prepares to make the Great Entrance.

People: **Let us who mystically represent the cherubim, and who sing the**

**thrice holy hymn to the Life-giving Trinity, now lay aside all earthly cares, that we may receive the King of all.**

Repeat the Cherubic Hymn until the priest is ready for the Great Entrance.

### The Great Entrance

The priest takes up the diskarion in his left hand and the holy chalice in his right hand and make the Great Entrance preceded by the altar boys carrying the cross, censer and the exapteriga (angel fans).

Deacon: May the Lord God remember us all in His kingdom, at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Our Father and Metropolitan [*Name*], may the Lord God remember in His kingdom at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: The entire episcopate of the church, all priests, deacons, monastics, and all other clergy, may the Lord God remember in His kingdom at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: This country, its Prime Minister, its people, all national and regional government, for the civil administration, and our armed forces everywhere, may the Lord God remember in His kingdom at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: The servants of God, [*Names*], that they may have mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of their sins, may the Lord God remember in His kingdom at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: The servants of God departed this life, [*Names*], may the Lord God remember in His kingdom at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen. Who comes invisibly borne aloft by the angelic hosts. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The priest enters the sanctuary and places the holy gifts on the altar. He takes off the cover and places the Aer over the holy gifts and censes them three times.

## The Offertory Litany and Prayer

Deacon: Let us complete our prayer to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For the precious gifts presented, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For this holy house, and those who enter it in faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger 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: That our 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: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and offences, let us ask of the Lord.

People: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Deacon: For that which is good and profitable to our souls, and for the peace of the world, let us ask of the Lord.

People: **Grant this, O Lord.**

Deacon: That we may complete the remainder 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 and peaceful; and for a good defence before the dread judgement-seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

People: **Grant this, O Lord.**

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

Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life, to Christ our God!

People: **To You, O Lord.**

Priest: Through the compassion of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy Good and Life-Giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Peace

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Deacon: Let us love another, that with one mind we may confess:

Say: **Christ is in our midst.**

Reply: **He is and ever shall be.**

All may now exchange the Kiss of Peace as a handshake with their immediate neighbours:

People: **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: the Trinity, one in essence and undivided.**

The priest turns towards the altar, makes three low bows and kisses the veil overing the holy gifts.

Priest: The doors! Let the doors be guarded! In wisdom let us attend.

### The Creed

While the people recite the Creed, the priest waves the Aer above the Holy Gifts and at the words "On the third day he rose" he folds the Aer and waves it in a circular motion until the end of the creed where the priest makes the sign of the cross with the Aer over the Holy Gifts.

All: **I believe in one God, Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages; Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one essence with the Father; through Him all things were made.**

**Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man;**

**And was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried;**

**And rose on the third day according to the Scriptures;  
And ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the  
Father;**

**And will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and His kingdom will have no end.**

**And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of life, Who proceeds  
from the Father, Who together with the Father and the Son is  
worshipped and glorified, Who spoke through the Prophets.**

**And in one holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one  
baptism for the forgiveness of sins. I look for the resurrection of  
the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Deacon: Let us stand aright. Let us stand with fear. Let us be attentive, that  
we may offer the holy Eucharist in peace.

People: **A mercy of peace, a sacrifice of praise.**

Priest: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and  
the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And with your spirit.**

The priest turns towards the people, blesses them and lifts up his hands and says:

Priest: Let us lift up our hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

The priest turns towards the altar and says:

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

People: **It is meet and right to worship Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: the  
Trinity, one in essence and undivided.**

Priest: It is right and just to hymn You, to bless You, to praise You, to  
worship You, and to give You thanks, in every place of Your  
dominion; for You are God, unutterable, inconceivable, invisible,  
incomprehensible, ever-living and forever the same; You and Your  
Only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit. It was You that brought  
us from non-being into being and when we had fallen away You  
raised us again, and did not cease to do all things till You had led us  
up to Heaven, and had endowed us with Your kingdom which is to  
come. For all this we give You thanks, You and Your Only-  
begotten Son, and Your Holy Spirit: for all those things of which  
we know or do not know, and for the benefits bestowed on us, seen

or unseen. And we thank You for this liturgy which You are pleased to accept at our hands, though there stand before You thousands of Archangels and myriads of Angels, the Cherubim and the Seraphim, six-winged, many-eyed, who soar aloft upon their wings:

Singing the triumphal hymn, shouting, proclaiming, and crying aloud:

The priest touches the edge of the Diskos with each point of the Asterisk making a sign of the cross with it over the Diskos, kisses it and lays it aside.

People: **Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of hosts. Heaven and Earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

Priest: Together with these blessed Powers, O Master and Lover of mankind, we also cry aloud and say: Holy are You and All-Holy, You and Your Only-begotten Son and Your Holy Spirit, Holy are You and All-Holy, and resplendent is Your glory. You have so loved Your world that You gave Your Only-begotten Son, so that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. When He had come and fulfilled Your whole purpose for us, in the night that He was given up - or rather, in which He gave Himself up for the life of the world - He took bread in His holy, pure and blameless hands; and when He had given thanks and blessed it, and hallowed it, and broken it, He gave it to His holy disciples and apostles, saying:

Take, eat; this is My Body which is broken for you, for the forgiveness of sins.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: In the same way, after supper, He took the cup, saying:  
Drink from this, all of you. This is My Blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Remembering therefore this saving command, and all that has taken place on our account: the cross, the grave, the resurrection on the third day, the ascent into Heaven, the sitting-down at the right hand of the Father, and the second and glorious coming;

The priest then takes up the Diskos in his right hand and the Chalice in his left hand, with his right hand crossed over his left hand and elevates them over the Antimins, he makes the sign of the cross with them over the Antimins as he lowers them saying:

We offer You Your own from Your own, for all and in behalf of all.

The priest makes a low bow before the altar.

Priest: Again we offer You this reasonable and bloodless sacrifice of the Word; and we ask, and beseech, and entreat You: send down Your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts here presented;

Priest: And make this bread the precious Body of Your Christ;

The priest makes the sign of the cross over the Holy Bread.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: And this cup to be the precious Blood of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ;

The priest makes the sign of the cross over the Chalice.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Changing them by Your Holy Spirit;

The priest makes the sign of the cross over the both the Holy Bread and the Chalice.

People: **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

People: **We praise You, we bless You, we give You thanks, and we pray to You, O Lord our God.**

Priest: So that to those who share in them they may be for the cleansing of the soul, for the forgiveness of sins, for the communion of Your Holy Spirit, for the fulfilment of the kingdom of Heaven, for boldness towards You; and not for an accusation or a condemnation.

Again we offer You this reasonable sacrifice of the Word, on behalf of those who have died in the faith: on behalf of our Forefathers, Fathers, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, Preachers, Evangelists, Martyrs, Confessors, Ascetics, and every just spirit made perfect through faith;

Censing the gifts 9 times, the priest says:

Priest: And especially on behalf of our all-holy, pure, most blessed and most glorious Lady, Theotokos, Mother of God and ever-Virgin Mary;

### Hymn to the Theotokos (Tone 1)

People: **The Angel cried to her who is full of Grace: "O pure Virgin rejoice, and again, I say: Rejoice! For your Son has risen from the grave on the third day."**

**Shine, shine, O New Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord has risen upon You. Dance now and be glad, Zion; and do you exalt, O pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him, Whom you did bear.**



Priest: Remember first, O Lord, our Father and Metropolitan [*Name*], and keep him for your holy churches in peace, safety, honour, and good health, living a long life, and rightly teaching the word of Your truth.

People: **Amen.**

Deacon: And all those whom you remember in your hearts.

People: **And all mankind.**

Priest: Remember, O Lord, the city in which we live, and every city, town and village, and the faithful who dwell in them. Remember, O Lord, all travellers, by land, sea and air; the sick, the suffering, prisoners, and the salvation of them all. Remember, O Lord, those who bring offerings and do good works in Your holy churches; those who remember the poor, and bestow Your mercies on us all; and grant that with one voice and heart we may praise and glorify Your most honoured and majestic Name: the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: And the mercies of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ be with you all.

People: **And with your spirit.**

#### The Litany before the Lord's Prayer

Deacon: Having remembered all the saints, once again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For the precious gifts here presented and consecrated, that our God, the Lover of mankind, Who has received them at His holy, heavenly and mystical altar as a sweet spiritual fragrance, may send upon us His divine grace and the gift of the Holy Spirit let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and necessity, help us, save us, have mercy on us, and watch over us, O God, by Your grace.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Having asked for the unity of the faith, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us commit ourselves and each other, and our whole

life, to Christ our God.

People: **To You O Lord.**

Priest: And make us worthy, O Master and God of heaven, with boldness and without condemnation to dare to call You Father, and to say:

People: **Our Father in Heaven, hallowed be Your Name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.**

Priest: For Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Peace be to you all.

People: **And to your spirit.**

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: **To You O Lord.**

Priest: Through the grace and compassion and love towards mankind of Your Only-begotten Son, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your All-Holy, Gracious and Life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Elevation

Priest: Hear us, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, from Your holy dwelling-place, from the throne of Your glorious kingdom; and come to hallow us, You that sit on high with the Father, yet are invisibly present here with us; and make us worthy by Your mighty hand, giving to us a share in Your most pure Body and Your precious Blood, and through us to all the people.

The priest makes three low bows before the altar and says:
--

O God, be merciful to me, a sinner, and be gracious to me. [3 times]

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Holy things for a holy people.

People: **One only is Holy, One only is the Lord, Jesus Christ to the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## Clergy Communion Hymn

Sing the following Communion Hymn until the clergy have communed and are ready to bring out the chalice for the people:

People: **Receive the Body of Christ; and taste of the Fountain of Immortality. Alleluia.**

### Paschal Homily of St John Chrysostom

Reader: If anyone is devout and a lover of God, let them enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival.

If anyone is a grateful servant, let them, rejoicing, enter into the joy of his Lord.

If anyone has wearied themselves in fasting, let them now receive recompense.

If anyone has labored from the first hour, let them today receive the just reward.

If anyone has come at the third hour, with thanksgiving let them feast.

If anyone has arrived at the sixth hour, let them have no misgivings; for they shall suffer no loss.

If anyone has delayed until the ninth hour, let them draw near without hesitation.

If anyone has arrived even at the eleventh hour, let them not fear on account of tardiness.

For the Master is gracious and receives the last even as the first; He gives rest to him that comes at the eleventh hour, just as to him who has labored from the first.

He has mercy upon the last and cares for the first; to the one He gives, and to the other He is gracious.

He both honors the work and praises the intention.

Enter all of you, therefore, into the joy of our Lord, and, whether first or last, receive your reward.

O rich and poor, one with another, dance for joy!

O you ascetics and you negligent, celebrate the day!

You that have fasted and you that have disregarded the fast, rejoice today!

The table is rich-laden: feast royally, all of you!

The calf is fatted: let no one go forth hungry!

Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness.

Let no one lament their poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed.

Let no one mourn their transgressions, for pardon has dawned from the grave.

Let no one fear death, for the Saviour's death has set us free.

He that was taken by death has annihilated it!

He descended into Hades and took Hades captive!

He embittered it when it tasted His flesh! And anticipating this, Isaiah exclaimed: "*Hades was embittered when it encountered Thee in the lower regions*".

It was embittered, for it was abolished!

It was embittered, for it was mocked!

It was embittered, for it was purged!

It was embittered, for it was despoiled!

It was embittered, for it was bound in chains!

It took a body and came upon God!

It took earth and encountered Heaven!

It took what it saw, but crumbled before what it had not seen!

O death, where is thy sting?

O Hades, where is thy victory?

Christ is risen, and you are overthrown!

Christ is risen, and the demons are fallen!

Christ is risen, and the angels rejoice!

Christ is risen, and life reigns!

Christ is risen, and not one dead remains in a tomb!

For Christ, being raised from the dead, has become the First-fruits of them that have slept.

To Him be glory and might unto the ages of ages.

Amen.

### The Communion Prayer

All: **I believe Lord, and I confess that You are truly the Christ, the Son of the living God, who came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the first. Also, I believe that this is truly Your**

**most pure Body, and this is indeed Your precious Blood. Therefore, I beseech You, have mercy on me and forgive me my offences, through weakness, through ignorance or through my own deliberate fault, in word and in deed, in knowledge and in ignorance, and count me worth to partake, uncondemned, of Your most pure Mysteries for forgiveness of sins and for eternal life. Amen.**

**Accept me today, O Son of God, as a communicant in Your mystical supper; for I will not speak of the mystery to Your enemies, nor will I give You the kiss of Judas, but like the thief I will acknowledge You and say: Remember me, O Lord, in Your Kingdom.**

**Master, Lover of mankind, Lord Jesus Christ, my God, let not these Holy Mysteries be for my condemnation because of my unworthiness, but rather for the cleansing and sanctification of both soul and body, and as a pledge of the life and Kingdom to come.**

### The Communion of the People

Once the Holy Communion has been prepared it is placed in the Chalice which is then covered with the communion veil. The priest takes the Chalice and elevates it and says:

Deacon: In the fear of God, and in faith and love, draw near.

People: **Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the Lord; the Lord is God and has revealed Himself to us.**

All who have prepared come to receive the precious Body and Blood of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ.

People: **Receive the Body of Christ; and taste of the Fountain of Immortality. Alleluia.**

When all have communicated the priest covers the chalice returns it to the altar and blesses the people.

Priest: O God, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance.

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

The priest covers the Chalice and places the folded Aer, the cover of the Diskos, the communion veil and the Asterisk on the Diskos. He censes the Chalice and takes the Chalice in his right hand and the Diskos in his left hand. He turns towards the people and raises both slowly with the Chalice above the Diskos and says:

Priest: **Blessed is our God, at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.**

People: **Amen.**

People: **Let our mouths be filled with Your praise O Lord, that we may sing of Your glory; for You have made us worthy to partake of Your holy, divine, immortal and life-giving mysteries. Keep us in Your holiness, that all the day we may meditate on Your righteousness. Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

The priest places the Chalice and the Diskos on the Preparation Table and returns to the altar and folds the Antimins.

### The Litany of Thanksgiving

Deacon: Let us attend. Having partaken of the divine, holy, most pure, immortal, heavenly, life-giving and fearful mysteries of Christ, let us worthily give thanks to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

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

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Deacon: Praying that our whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful and without sin, let us commit ourselves and each other, and our whole life, to Christ our God.

People: **To You O Lord.**

The priest makes the sign of the cross with the holy Gospel over the folded Antimins and says:

Priest: For You are our sanctification, and to You we ascribe glory; to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

Priest: Let us depart in peace.

People: **In the Name of the Lord.**

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mery.**

People: **Father, bless.**

### The Prayer before the Ambo

The priest comes out through the Holy Doors and stands before the Icon of Christ and says:

Priest: O Lord, You bless those who bless You and make holy those who trust in You: save Your people and bless Your inheritance; protect the fullness of Your Church; sanctify those who love the beauty of Your house; glorify them in recompense by Your Divine power, and do not forsake us, who put our hope in You. Give peace to the

world, to Your churches, to Your priests, to those in authority over us, to the armed forces, and to all Your people. For every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from You, the Father of Lights; and to You we give glory, thanksgiving and worship; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

**Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life. [3 times]**

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord have mercy.**

Priest: The blessing of the Lord and His mercy be upon you through His grace and love toward mankind, at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

### The Dismissal

Priest: Glory be to You, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory be to You.

People: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.**

**Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy. Father, bless.**

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life, Christ our True God, through the prayers of His most pure, blameless and holy Mother; by the might of the precious and life-creating Cross, through the protection of the honoured yet unseen Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honoured and glorious prophet, Forerunner, and Baptiser John; of the holy, glorious and ever to be praised Apostles; of the holy, glorious and victorious Martyrs; of our devout and God-inspired Fathers and Mothers; of our Father among the saints, John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople; of [*patron saint(s) of the community*] the patron(s) of this community; 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!

People: **Truly, He is risen!**

The above exclamation and response are said 3 times in total between the priest and people.

Priest: Glory to His holy, third-day resurrection.

People: **We adore His third-day resurrection!**

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs

People: **bestowing life.**

The people come forward to receive the blessed bread, kissing the cross and the right hand of the priest, as he says:

Priest: The blessing of the Lord and His mercy be upon you.

Our tradition is to leave the royal doors and other two doors open for the whole time during Bright Week until Saturday Vespers for St. Thomas.

There will be no fasting on Wednesday and Friday, not only during Bright Week but also until the Feast of the Ascension, for the whole forty days. This was the decision of the Holy Synod of the Church of Antioch.