Pentecostarion

Pascha - Easter Sunday

The Paschal Hours

From this Sunday of holy Pascha through Bright Saturday, the Hours, Compline and Midnight Office are recited as follows:

PRIEST

Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

(Amen.)

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

READER

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Having seen the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. Your Cross do we worship, O Christ, and Your holy Resurrection do we hymn and glorify. For You are our God, we know no other but You, we call upon Your name. Come all the faithful, let us worship the holy Resurrection of Christ; for behold through the Cross, joy has come in all the world. Ever blessing the Lord, we extol His Resurrection. For enduring the Cross for us, He destroyed death by death.

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When the women with Mary had come before dawn, and they found that the stone had been rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel, "Why do you seek among the dead, as a mortal man, the One who exists in everlasting light? See the grave clothes in the sepulcher. Run and proclaim to the world that the Lord has risen and put death to death; for He is the Son of God who saves the human race."

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

In body were You inside the sepulcher, and with Your soul in hell, as God in Paradise were You as well with the Robber, and on the throne with Father and Spirit, O Christ, filling all things, being uncircumscribed.

Glory.

How full of life and even more beautiful than paradise, and by far more splendid than any king's royal chamber has Your sepulcher, O Christ, been shown to be, and the source of our own resurrection.

Both now.

Divine and hallowed habitation of the Most High God, rejoice. For through you, O Theotokos, has the joy been bestowed on us who cry aloud to you, O Lady, blessed are you among women, all-blameless one.

Lord, have mercy. (40) Glory. Both now.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

In the name of the Lord, Father, bless!

PRIEST

Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us [and save us].

READER

Amen.

This service is recited three times for Midnight Office, the Hours, [once only for the Ninth Hour before Vespers] and Compline. At the end of Compline, we say the following Prayer by St. Basil the Great.

PRIEST

Blessed are You, Master, Almighty Lord, for You light the day with the light of the sun and brighten the night with the rays of fire. You enabled us to pass the span of the day and so come to the beginnings of the night. Hear our prayer and that of all Your people, and forgive us all our deliberate and unwitting sins; receive our evening petitions and send upon Your inheritance the abundance of Your mercy and compassion. Encompass us with Your holy Angels; arm us with the weapons of Your righteousness; fortify us within Your truth; make Your strength our garrison, spare us all adverse circumstances and all assaults of the adversary. Finally, vouchsafe to us this evening, and the impending night, perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, free of disturbing visions, and all the days of our lives, through the prayers of the Holy Theotokos and of all the Saints who have pleased You through the ages.

READER

Amen.

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Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Father, bless!

PRIEST

May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-immaculate holy Mother, the power of the precious and life-giving Cross, the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist, of the holy, glorious, and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy, glorious, and triumphant martyrs, of our righteous and God-bearing fathers, (local patron saint); 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.

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READER

Truly the Lord is risen!