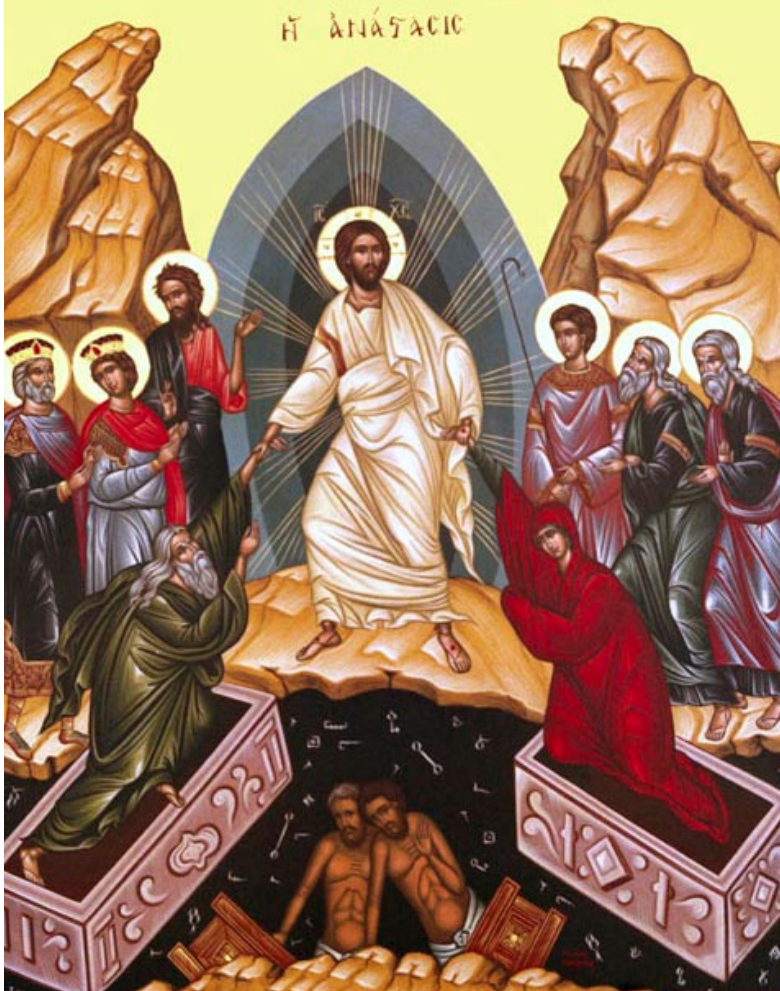


**PASCHA—EASTER SUNDAY  
THE HOLY RESURRECTION  
SERVICE**



**Christ is Risen!  
Truly He is Risen!**



Tonight, we are the most happy of all people because we know that Christ is risen! This not only hundreds and thousands, but millions know from a direct, personal experience. Many could say: God exists because I have met Him. Christ is risen because I have met the risen Christ. The Resurrection is a revelation of the mercy of God, of the power of God, of the love of God... but also of the greatness of Man. Death has no fear for us; it has become a gate into eternity, and we know that the day will come when the voice of Him who has brought into being all things, the voice of Him who is our Savior will resound, and we will all stand before God, clothed with eternity, but in a flesh that has become part of that eternity. Let us respond to the word of God and to the event of the Resurrection with faith and gratitude!

*- Metropolitan Anthony Bloom (1914-2003)*

*Christ is Risen!  
Truly, He is Risen!*

**PASCHA—EASTER SUNDAY  
THE HOLY RESURRECTION SERVICE**

*The congregation, holding unlit candles, stands in silence and darkness while the priest prays the Prayer for the Paschal Light and then lights the Paschal candle from the vigil light on the altar.*

### **The PRAYER for LIGHT at the celebration of PASCHA**

**Priest:** O Master, Lord Jesus Christ our God, You are the source of life and immortality. You are the true Light that shines forth from the Father who dwells in unapproachable light. You are the Light of the Father's glory. You are the Word, Wisdom and Power of God the Father, who commanded light to shine forth from darkness at the creation of the universe and who said "Let there be light!" and there was light.

O Master, our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ: grant that the uncreated light of Your glory may fill our minds and hearts with the Light of Your holy Resurrection. As You enlightened the holy women who came to Your tomb early in the morning to anoint Your precious and life-giving Body with spices, so enlighten us with Your joy and Your peace. You have raised us up and delivered us from the darkness of sin and death. In Your loving kindness, make us worthy to receive the bright flame of Your glory, the symbol of Your radiant and glorious Resurrection.

O Master, Christ Jesus our Lord: bestow the fullness of the light of Your Resurrection from the dead upon Your holy, catholic and apostolic Church. May the light of Your face forevermore shine in our hearts. Grant that we sinners, Your unworthy servants, may be filled with Your grace. Enkindle our souls with the light of Your commandments. Clothe us with the armor of light. May the light of our good works shine before others that they might give glory to our Father in heaven. And on that fearful Day of Your coming in glory to judge the living and the dead, may we stand before You like wise bridesmaids, with our lamps trimmed and lit, ready to enter into the bridal chamber of Your glory.

For You, O Christ our God, are the Light of the world, the King of glory and the Savior of our souls and to You do we offer all praise, honor and worship, together with

Your eternal Father and Your all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

*The priest then turns and facing the congregation with the newly lit Paschal candle, sings:*

**Priest:** Come, receive the light from the unwaning Light, and glorify Christ, who is risen from the dead.

*The choir repeats this hymn twice while the clergy light the candles of the young girls who symbolize the myrrh-bearing women who came to the empty tomb on that first Easter morning. The entire congregation receives the light of the Paschal candle from the clergy and the myrrh-bearers while the choir sings the following hymn numerous times:*

*(6th Tone)*

**Choir:** For Your resurrection, our savior Christ, angels in the heavens Your praises sing. And as faithful upon the earth make us worthy to glorify You, ever with hearts pure.



## The GOSPEL of the RESURRECTION

**Deacon:** Let us pray to the Lord our God, that we may be found worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

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

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

**Priest:** Peace be to all.

**Choir:** And to your spirit.

**Priest:** The reading is from the holy Gospel according to St. Mark (16:1-8).

**Deacon:** Let us listen attentively.

**Choir:** Glory to you, O Lord, glory to You.

Now when the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint Him. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they went 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—and it was very large. And entering the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a long white robe sitting on the right side, and they were amazed.

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, just as He told you.*”

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for trembling and astonishment had come upon them. And they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

**Choir:** Glory to you, O Lord, glory to You.

**Priest:** Glory to the holy, one in essence, life-creating, and undivided Trinity, always, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

***Raising the Paschal candle***  
***the priest leads the congregation in singing the Paschal hymn:***

**Priest:** Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life! (3 times)

*The entire congregation joins in the singing the Paschal hymn,  
each and every time that it is sung by the Priest or the Choir.*

**Priest:** *CHRIST IS RISEN! (in numerous languages)*

**People:** *TRULY HE IS RISEN! (in numerous languages)*

**Chanter:** Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and  
let those who hate Him flee before His face.  
*Psalm 67:1*

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

**Chanter:** As smoke vanishes so let them vanish, as wax melts  
before the fire. *Psalm 67:2*

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

**Chanter:** Let sinners perish before the face of God, but let the  
righteous rejoice. *Psalm 67:3*

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

**Chanter:** This is the day which the Lord has made; let us  
rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 117:24*

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

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

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling

down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life!

**Priest:** *CHRIST IS RISEN! (in numerous languages)*

**People:** *TRULY HE IS RISEN! (in numerous languages)*

### THE GREAT LITANY

**Deacon:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

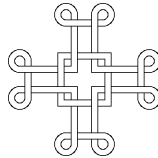
**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For the peace of God and the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.



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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For our Archbishop (*Name*), the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ, and for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For our country, the President, and for all those in public service, that they might be strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For this parish and city, for every city and country, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and temperate seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For travelers by land, sea and air, for the sick, the suffering, the captives and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

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

**Priest:** We give thanks to You, O Lord our God, for You have given us these words of praise that we might worship You and call upon Your holy Name throughout the night. Grant that we may always—with fear and with love—adore You, praise You, sing hymns to You and worship You. Dispel all darkness from our hearts and grant that we might behold the dawn of the coming day with joy.

For to You belongs all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*The congregation is seated  
while the Paschal Chant Choir sings the following hymns:*

### **The Canon of Hymns celebrating the Resurrection**

#### ***1st Ode***

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.

*Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord!*

#### ***3rd Ode***

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.

*Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord!*

#### ***4th Ode***

The inspired prophet Habakkuk now stands with us in holy vigil, he is like a shining angel, who cries with a piercing voice:

Today salvation has come to the world for Christ is risen as all powerful.

*Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord!*

### ***5th Ode***

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 Sun of Righteousness, Who causes life to rise for all.

*Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord!*

### ***6th Ode***

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.

*Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord!*

### ***The Kontakion***

Even though You descended into the grave, O Immortal One, You destroyed the power of Hades; and You arose as a victor, O Christ our God, saying to the myrrh-bearing Women, "Hail!" and to Your Apostles granting peace; *You also grant resurrection to the fallen.*

### ***The Oikos***

The Myrrh-bearing maidens anticipated the dawn, and sought as those who seek the day, their Sun, Who was before the sun, and Who now had set in the Grave. They cried to each other, "Come let us anoint with spices His Life-bearing and entombed Body, raising the fallen Adam lying in the tomb. Let us go, hastily like the Magi, let us worship and bring myrrh as a gift to Him, Who is wrapped now not in swaddling bands, but in a sheet. Let us weep and cry aloud, "O Master, arise! *You Who grants resurrection to the fallen.*"

***The list of saints commemorated on this date is read  
from the Menaion followed by the commemoration of Pascha.***

On this Holy and Great Sunday of Pascha, we celebrate the life-bearing Resurrection of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ.

***(Verse)***

*Christ, descending alone to struggle with Hades, came forth again and brought with Him many spoils of victory.*

To Him be glory and dominion, to the ages of ages. AMEN!

### ***The Resurrection Ode***

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, Who alone is without sin. We venerate your Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your Holy Resurrection. For You are our God, and we know no other, except You, and we call on Your Name. Come all you faithful, let us worship Christ's Holy Resurrection; for lo, through the Cross, joy has come to the whole world.

For, at all times, blessing the Lord, we praise His Resurrection. Having endured the Cross for us, He destroyed Death by death.

*Jesus, having risen from the grave as He foretold, has bestowed on us eternal life and His great mercy.*

### ***7th Ode***

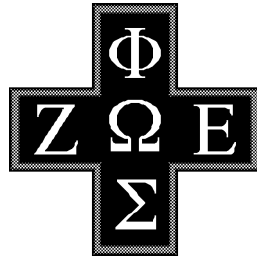
He who saved the three children in the furnace become man and suffers as a mortal. That through suffering, he may clothe mortality with incorruption. He alone is blessed and most glorious the God of our fathers.

*Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord!*

### ***8th Ode***

This is the chosen and holy day, the first of Sabbaths, the Queen and Sovereign. It is the feast of all feasts and festival of all festivals, in which we bless Christ unto all the ages.

*Glory to Your Holy Resurrection O Lord!*



*The congregation stands.*

**Deacon:** Let us honor and magnify the Theotokos and Mother of the Light, with hymns.

*The deacon censens the congregation  
while the following hymns are sung:*

**9th Ode**

*Magnify, O my soul, Him Who suffered willingly and was buried, and arose 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 O Zion, and to you exalt all pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him whom you did bear.

*Magnify, O my soul, Christ the giver of Life, Who arose from the grave on the third day.*

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

*Christ is the new Pascha, the living sacrificial Victim, the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.*

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.

*The angel cried to her who is full of grace: "O pure virgin rejoice! And again I say rejoice! For you 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 O Zion, and to you exalt all pure Theotokos, in the arising of Him whom you did bear.

Christ is risen from the dead by death He has trampled upon death and on those in the tombs He is bestowing life. Jesus having risen from the grave as He foretold, has bestowed on us eternal life and great mercy.

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

**Chanters:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your Grace.

**Chanters:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos, and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

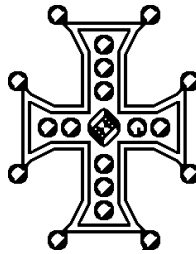
**Chanters:** To You, O Lord.

**Priest:** O God, our God: all spiritual and rational powers are subject to Your will. We pray to You and we beg You: accept our praises offered to You, together with those of all creation. We ask that You give us all the riches of Your compassion and loving kindness. Before You every knee bows in heaven and on earth, for all things living and created sing of Your boundless glory. You are the one true and living God, abounding in mercy.

For all the powers of Heaven praise You, and to You they ascribe glory; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever, and to the ages of ages.

**Chanters:** Amen.

**Chanters:** In the flesh you fell asleep, O King and Lord, as a mortal man. On the third day You arose, raising up Adam from corruption, and abolished death. Pascha of incorruption, salvation of the world.



*The congregation is seated while the Paschal Chant Choir sings the following hymns in the 1st Tone:*

## **THE PSALMS AND HYMNS OF PRAISE**

Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens. Praise Him in the highest. To You, belongs hymns of praise O God. *Psalm 150:6 and Psalm 148:1*

Praise Him, all you His Angels; Praise Him all you His Powers. To You belongs hymns of praise O Lord. *Psalm 148:2*

Praise Him for His might acts; praise Him in the greatness of His majesty. *Psalm 150:2*

We praise in song Your saving Passion O Christ, and we glorify Your Resurrection.

Praise Him in the sound of the trumpet; praise Him upon the lyre and harp. *Psalm 150:3*

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.

Praise Him in the cymbals and dances; praise Him with strings and pipe. *Psalm 150:4*

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.

Praise Him with the well-sounding cymbals; praise Him with cymbals of joy. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. *Psalm 150:5-6*

As we glorify Your God-befitting condescension, we praise You in song, O Christ. You were born from a 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.

Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered and let those who hate Him flee before His face. *Psalm 68:1*

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 unto us the gates of Paradise. The Pascha which sanctifies all faithful.

As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire. *Psalm 68:2*

Hasten from that vision O women, bearers of good news, and say unto 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

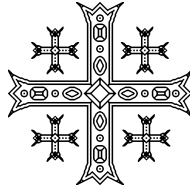
coming forth from the tomb.

Let the sinners perish before the face of God but let the righteous rejoice. *Psalm 68:3*

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 unto His disciples!"

This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. *Psalm 117:24*

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, deliverance 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 unto my Apostles."



***The congregation stands as the following hymns are sung:***

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

This is the day of resurrection, let us be radiant in the festival, 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:

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

**Χριστός ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν,  
θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας,  
καί τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι ζωὴν χαρισάμενος!**

*And the Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom begins!*



*Christos anesti ek nekron, thanato thanaton,  
patisas ke tis en tis mnimasi, zoin harisamenos.*



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



**Χριστός ἀνέστη ἐκ  
νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον  
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