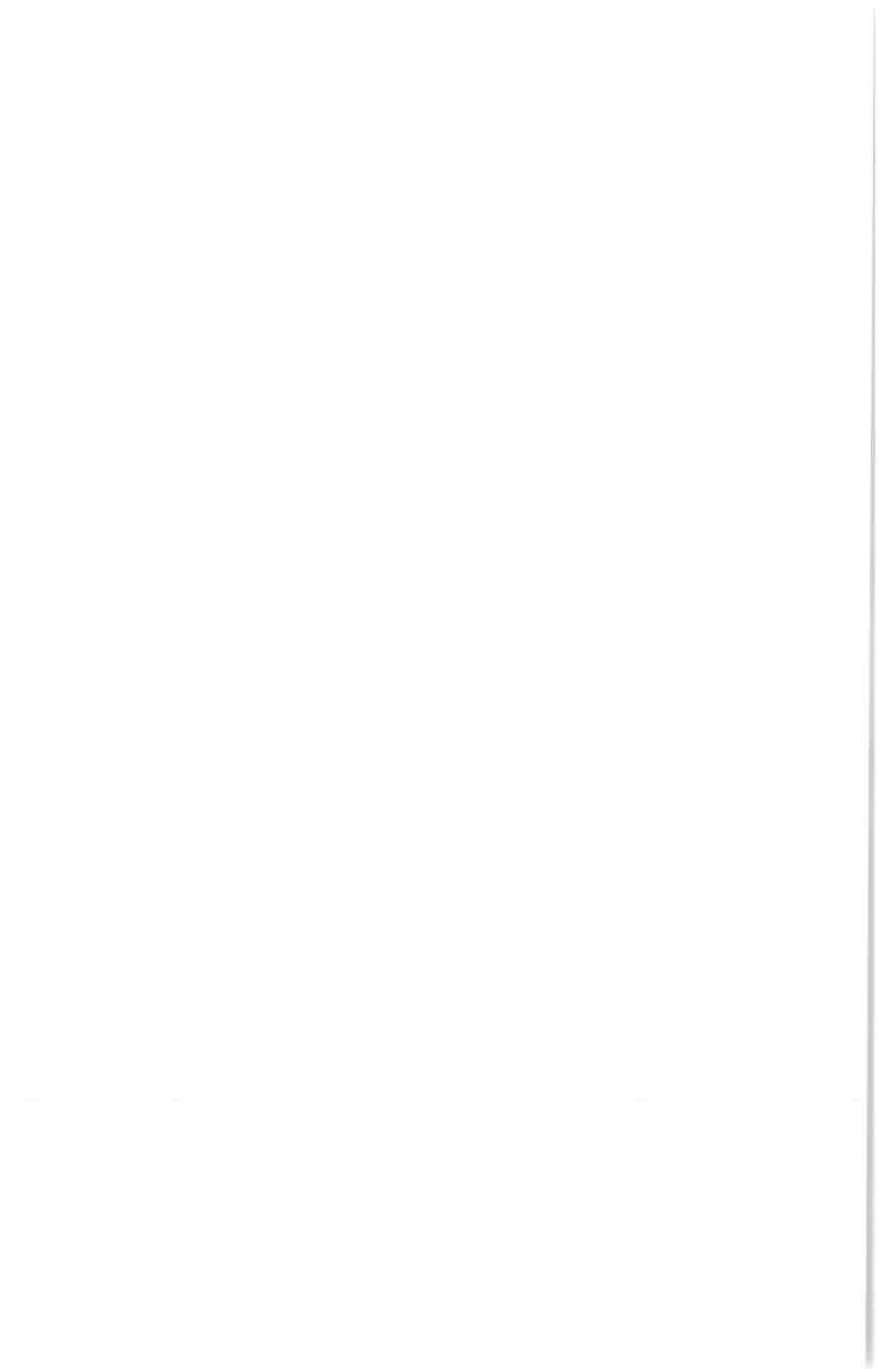
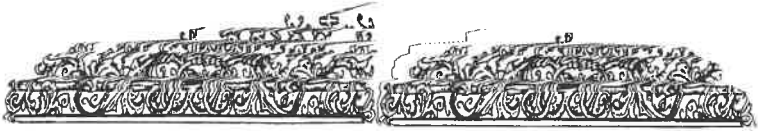


# The Vespers of Love on the Sunday of Pascha



**The Myrrh-bearing Women at the Empty Tomb**





## THE VESPERS OF LOVE on the Great and Holy Sunday of Pascha

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

**Choir:** Amen.

**People:** Χριστὸς Ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ, θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοὺς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι ζῶντων χαρισάμενος.

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

O Christ is risen from the dead. And through death, He did trample, trample upon death and thus bestowed upon those in the tombs the gift of life, of eternal life.

### THE GREAT LITANY

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** 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.

**Priest:** 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.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** 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.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** 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.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Priest:** 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:** O Lord, compassionate and loving, long-suffering and merciful, listen to our prayer and give heed to the voice of our supplication. Guide us in Your way that we may live in Your truth. Gladden our hearts that we may fear Your holy name. You are great and perform wondrous deeds. You are the only God! You are merciful and able to save all those who hope in Your holy name.

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

**Choir:** Amen.



## PSALM 140:1-2

**Choir:** Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried out to You, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer when I cry out to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth as incense before You, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

## VERSES AND HYMNS

**Chantor:** I cried out to You, O Lord and said: “You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.” *Psalm 140:7*

## Tone 2

Come let us worship God the Word, begotten of the Father before all ages and born incarnate of the Virgin Mary for He chose to endure the cross and was given over to burial. Rising from the dead, He saved me, a lost and wandering human being.

**Chantor:** If You retain sins, Lord, O Lord, who would remain standing? With You there is forgiveness. *Psalm 129:3-4*

Christ our savior nailed the indictment against us to the cross and abolished the power of death. We worship His resurrection on the third day!

**Chantor:** For the sake of Your name, O Lord, I have waited for You; my soul has waited for Your word, my soul has hoped in the Lord. *Psalm 129:5*

Together with the archangels, let us sing hymns and praise the resurrection of Christ for He is the savior and redeemer of our souls. He will come again in awesome glory and mighty power to judge the world that He made.

**Chantor:** From the watch of dawn until the night, from the watch of dawn, let Israel hope in the Lord. *Psalm 129:6*

You were crucified and buried, O Christ, yet the angel proclaimed You our Master, saying to the women who had come to the tomb: "Come, see where He lay, for He is risen as He foretold, the Lord who is all-powerful." We worship You, O life-giving Christ, for You alone are immortal. Have mercy on us.

**Chantor:** Praise the Lord all you nations, praise Him all you peoples! *Psalm 116:1*

By Your cross, You have destroyed the curse of Eden's tree. By Your burial, You have slain the dominion of death. By Your rising from the dead, You have enlightened the human race. And so we cry out to You in praise: "Christ our God and benefactor, glory to You!"

*Chantor:* For mighty is His love for us and the truth of the Lord endures forever. *Psalm 116:2*

The gates of death opened in fear of You, O Lord, setting free those who had been held captive, for the guardians of Hades saw You risen and were stricken with terror. You have smashed the gates of Hades and shattered the chains of death that held us in bondage, leading us out of darkness and the shadow of death. Glory to You!

*Chantor:* Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Standing in the house of the Lord and singing a hymn of praise for our salvation, come and let us bow down before our savior and say to Him: “O Christ, crucified on the tree of the cross, risen from the dead and resting in the bosom of the Father, forgive our sins.”

*Chantor:* Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

The shadow of the Law has passed away with the coming of grace: for just as the bush Moses stood before burned but was not consumed, so the Virgin Mary gave birth and yet remained a virgin. In place of the pillar of fire, the Sun of Righteousness has dawned and instead of Moses, we have been given Christ, the salvation of our souls.



## THE ENTRANCE

*Priest:* In the evening, morning and at noon, we praise You, bless You, give thanks to You, and pray to You, O Master of all and loving Lord. Guide our prayers aright, as incense before You; do not let our hearts be led to words or thoughts of evil but deliver us from all those who pursue our souls; for it is to You, O Lord, that we lift up our eyes

and in You, O Lord, that we hope. O God, do not be ashamed of us.

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

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Wisdom. Let us stand.

**Choir:** O joyful light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the evening light, we sing to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is proper at all times to praise You with cheerful voices, O Son of God, the Giver of life. Behold, the world sings of Your glory.

**Priest:** The evening prokeimenon.

*There is a prokeimenon  
or special verse from the Book of Psalms  
appointed to be sung at every Vespers Service.*

## THE PROKEIMENON

### *Tone 7*

**Choir:** Who is so great a God as our God? You are our God who alone works wonders. *Psalms 77:14*

**Verse:** You have displayed Your power among the nations and redeemed Your people. *Psalms 77:15*

**Choir:** Who is so great a God as our God? You are the God Who alone works wonders. *Psalms 77:14*

**Verse:** I remembered the wonderful deeds of the Lord and rejoiced: for Your way, O Lord, is holy. *Psalms 77:12*



**Choir:** Who is so great a God as our God? You are our God who alone works wonders. *Psalm 77:14*



## THE READING OF THE GOSPEL IN MANY LANGUAGES

**Priest:** 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.

**Priest:** Wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the holy Gospel!  
Peace be with you all.

**Choir:** And with your spirit.

**Priest:** The reading is from the holy Gospel according to St. John ! Let us listen attentively!

**Choir:** Glory to You, O Lord, glory to You!

*The Gospel is then read from the pulpit:  
First, in the original Greek in which it was written  
and then in many different languages, ending in English,  
in order to show that the Good News of Jesus Christ  
is for peoples of all nations, all cultures and all languages.*

**Priest:**

<sup>19</sup> Οὐσῆς οὖν ὀψίας τῇ ἡμέρᾳ ἐκείνῃ τῇ μιᾷ σαββάτων, καὶ τῶν θυρῶν κεκλεισμένων ὅπου ἦσαν οἱ μαθηταὶ διὰ τὸν φόβον τῶν Ἰουδαίων, ἦλθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς καὶ ἔστη εἰς τὸ μέσον καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς, Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν.

<sup>20</sup> καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἔδειξεν τὰς χεῖρας καὶ τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῖς, ἐχάρησαν οὖν οἱ μαθηταὶ ἰδόντες τὸν κύριον.

<sup>21</sup> εἶπεν οὖν αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς πάλιν, Εἰρήνη ὑμῖν· καθὼς ἀπέσταλκέν με ὁ πατήρ, ἀγὼ πέμπω ὑμᾶς.

<sup>22</sup> καὶ τοῦτο εἰπὼν ἐνεφύσησεν καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς, Λάβετε πνεῦμα ἅγιον·

<sup>23</sup> ἂν τινῶν ἀφῆτε τὰς ἁμαρτίας ἀφεῶνται αὐτοῖς, ἂν τινῶν κρατῆτε κεκράτηνται.

<sup>24</sup> Θωμᾶς δὲ εἷς ἐκ τῶν δώδεκα, ὁ λεγόμενος Δίδυμος, οὐκ ἦν μετ' αὐτῶν ὅτε ἦλθεν Ἰησοῦς.

<sup>25</sup> ἔλεγον οὖν αὐτῷ οἱ ἄλλοι μαθηταί, Ἐωράκαμεν τὸν κύριον. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς, Ἐὰν μὴ ἴδω ἐν ταῖς χερσίν αὐτοῦ τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων καὶ βάλω τὸν δάκτυλόν μου εἰς τὸν τύπον τῶν ἥλων καὶ βάλω μου τὴν χεῖρα εἰς τὴν πλευρὰν αὐτοῦ, οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said: "Peace be with you." After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again: "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." And when He had said this He breathed on them and said to them: "Receive the Holy Spirit! If you forgive the sins of anyone, they are forgiven. If you retain the sins of anyone, they are retained." But Thomas, who was called "the Twin," who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails, and my hand in His side, I will not believe."



## THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

**Priest:** Let us say with our whole soul and our whole mind, let us say:

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

**Priest:** Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray to You, hear us and have mercy.

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

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

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

**Priest:** Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

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

**Priest:** Again we pray for our Archbishop (*Name*), and all our brothers in Christ.

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

**Priest:** Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, deacons, monks and nuns and all our brethren in Christ.

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

**Priest:** Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation and visitation; for the forgiveness and remission of the sins of the servants of God, all pious and Orthodox Christians who dwell and sojourn in this city and those who gather for worship in this holy church.

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

**Priest:** Again we pray for the blessed and ever memorable founders of this holy church and for all our Orthodox fathers, mothers and brethren who have gone before us and who, here or elsewhere, have been laid to pious rest.

**People:** Eternal be their memory.

**Priest:** Again we pray for those who bear offerings and do good works in this holy and most venerable church, for those who labor and those who sing and all the people here present who await Your great and rich mercy.

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

**Priest:** O Lord our God, be mindful of us sinners, Your unworthy servants, as we call upon Your holy Name: do not put us to shame for having placed our hope in Your mercy. Grant us all of our prayers that are for salvation. Make us worthy to love and fear You with all our heart and to do Your will in everything.

For You are a merciful and loving God and unto You do we offer up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*(The congregation stands and recites the following prayer.)*

**People:** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fathers! Praised and glorified is Your name forever! Amen. O Lord, let Your mercy rest upon us, for we have placed our hope in You. Blessed are You, O Lord, teach me Your

commandments.

Blessed are You, O Master, grant that I may understand  
Your commandments.

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

O Lord, Your mercy is everlasting; do not forsake the  
works of Your hands.

To You belongs praise, to You belongs song, to You  
belongs glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

### THE EVENING LITANY

*Priest:* Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

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

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy.

*Priest:* For this whole evening, that it might be perfect, holy,  
peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Priest:* For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our  
souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Priest:* For the forgiveness and remission of our sins and  
transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Priest:* For all that is good and beneficial to our souls and for  
peace in the world, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Priest:* For the completion of our lives in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

*Priest:* For a Christian end to our lives, peaceful, without shame and suffering; and for a good account before the awesome judgement seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

*Choir:* Grant this, O Lord.

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

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* O great and Most High God, You alone are immortal and dwell in unapproachable light! You fashioned all of creation in wisdom, separating light from darkness, setting up the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to govern the night: make us sinners worthy, at this present hour, to stand in Your presence with thanksgiving and offer You our evening praise. O Lord and lover of mankind, accept our prayer as incense before You, as a sweet spiritual fragrance; grant that this evening and the coming night may be spent in peace; clothe us with the armor of light and grant that the sleep You have given us to refresh us from our weakness may be free from every satanic fantasy. Yea, O Lord of all and giver of every good thing: may we remember Your name throughout the night and enlightened by the practice of Your commandments, may we rise with joy in our hearts, praising Your goodness and praying for our sins and for the sins of Your people. By the prayers of the Mother of God, look upon us in mercy.

For You are a good and compassionate God and unto You do we offer up glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.

*Priest:* Peace be with you all!

*Choir:* And with your spirit.

*Priest:* Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

*Choir:* To You, O Lord.

*Priest:* O Lord our God, You parted the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance who have bowed their heads and bent their necks to You, O Judge both fearful and loving. They do not seek human help but wait upon Your mercy and look to You for salvation. Guard them at all times, this evening and the rest of the night, from all enemies, from every assault of the Devil and from vain thoughts and evil dreams.

May the might of Your kingdom be blessed and glorified, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*Choir:* Amen.



## THE APOSTICHA

*Tone 2*

O Christ our savior, Your resurrection has illumined the universe, calling Your creation back to You. Almighty Lord, glory to You!

*Tone 5*

**Chantor:** 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 who is Christ the redeemer. The spotless Pascha, the great Pascha, the Pascha of the faithful, the Pascha which has opened for us the gates of paradise, the Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

**Chantor:** 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.

**Chantor:** 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."

**Chantor:** This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it! *Psalm 118:24*

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, 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 congregation stands!*

*Chantor:* 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:

Χριστὸς Ἄνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ, θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

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

O Christ is risen from the dead. And through death, He did trample, trample upon death and thus bestowed upon those in the tombs the gift of life, of eternal life.

**THE DISMISSAL**

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

May Christ our true God, who rose from the dead, through the intercessions of His most pure and holy Mother, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the power of His precious and Life-giving Cross; the protection of all the angelic powers of heaven; the supplications of the holy, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist; the prayers of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy apostles, especially St. Paul the apostle to the Gentiles, whose name our church bears; the holy, glorious and triumphant martyrs; our venerable and God-bearing fathers; the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna and all

Your saints: have mercy on us and save us as our good, loving and merciful God.

*Holding the great candle of Pascha aloft,  
the priest then leads the congregation  
in proclaiming the resurrection  
in Greek, Russian, Romanian, Arabic and English.*

Christ is risen!

*People:* Truly, He is risen!

*Priest:* Glory to His resurrection on the third day!

*People:* We worship His resurrection on the third day!

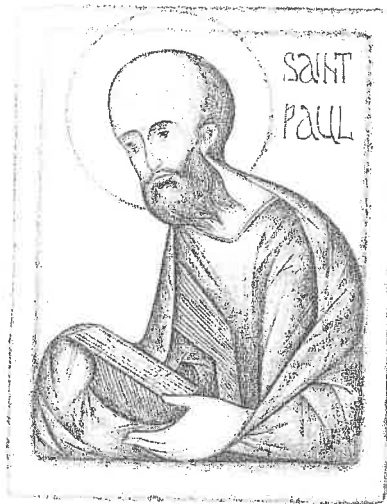
*Priest:* Christ is risen from the dead. By death He has trampled upon death and on those in the tombs He is bestowing life.

*People:* Truly, the Lord is risen!





**All I want is to know Christ  
and to experience the power of His resurrection,  
to share in His sufferings and become like Him in His death  
in the hope that I myself will be raised from death to life.  
- Philipians 3:10-11**



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