

THE ORDER FOR READER NOCTURN SERVICE and MATINS SERVICE
WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO ATTEND CHURCH

THE FEAST OF FEASTS: HOLY PASCHA
THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD GOD and SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST
SUNDAY APRIL 19, 2020
(sung on Holy Saturday Night)

THE SERVICE TAKES PLACE IN FRONT OF OUR ICON CORNERS

EVERYONE: O, God cleanse me a sinner and have mercy on me! (3x)

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

READER: 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 ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

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

EVERYONE: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy 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 evil.

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

READER: Amen. Lord have mercy (12x)
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God, Our King! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, Our King and our God! Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God! Come, Let us worship and fall down before Him!

PSALM 50

READER: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Thy great mercy; and according to the multitude of Thy compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know mine iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against Thee only have I sinned and done this evil before Thee, that Thou mightest be justified in Thy words, and prevail when Thou art judged. For behold, I was brought forth in iniquities, and in sins did my mother conceive me. For behold, Thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Thy wisdom hast Thou made manifest unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; Thou shalt wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. Thou shalt make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that be humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Thy face away from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and with Thy governing Spirit establish me. I shall teach transgressors Thy ways, and the ungodly shall turn back unto Thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Thy righteousness. O Lord, Thou shalt open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

For Thou hast no delight in sacrifice; were I to give a brunt offering, Thou wouldst not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou will not despise. Do good to Zion in Thy good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then wilt Thou delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole brunt offerings; then bulls will be offered on Thy altar.

THE CANON

ODE ONE

Irmos (Choir)

Of old Thou didst bury the pursuing tyrant beneath the waves of the sea. Now the children of those who were saved, bury Thee beneath the earth. But with the maidens let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously has He been glorified.

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: Unto Thee I sing a hymn for the departed and a song of burial, O Lord my God, who by Thy burial hast opened for me the entrance to life and by Thy death hast put death and hell to death.

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

READER: Thou didst descend to the depths of the earth to fill all with Thy glory; for my person that is in Adam was not hidden from Thee, and when Thou wast buried, Thou didst renew me who am corrupt, O Lover of mankind.

ODE THREE

Irmos (Choir)

Thou didst suspend the earth immovably upon the waters. Now creation beholds Thee suspended on Calvary. It quakes with great amazement and cries: "None is holy but Thee, O Lord."

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: With their feet washed, and themselves purified by the participation in the Divine Mystery, Thy servants, O Christ, now ascend from Zion to the great Mount of Olives, praising Thee, who lovest mankind.

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

READER: Thou didst say: "See that you are not alarmed, O friends. For the hour is now at hand for me to be seized and slain at the hands of lawless men. All of you will be scattered, forsaking me. But I shall gather you to proclaim me, who lovest mankind.

READER: Come let us all sing the praises of Him who was crucified for us, for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the tree: Though Thou dost endure the cross, Thou art my son and my God.

ODE FOUR

Irmos (Choir)

Foreseeing Thy divine humiliation on the cross, Habakkuk cried out trembling: "Thou didst shatter the dominion of the mighty by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord."

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: With their feet washed, and themselves purified by the participation in the Divine Mystery, Thy servants, O Christ, now ascend from Zion to the great Mount of Olives, praising Thee, who lovest mankind.

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

READER: Thou didst say: "See that you are not alarmed, O friends. For the hour is now at hand for me to be seized and slain at the hands of lawless men. All of you will be scattered, forsaking me. But I shall gather you to proclaim me, who lovest mankind.

ODE FIVE

Irmos (Choir)

Isaiah saw the never-setting light of Thy compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ. Rising early from the night he cried out: "The dead shall arise. Those in the tombs shall awake. All those on earth shall greatly rejoice."

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: "O my disciples, now shake off sleep from your eyelids," said Christ. "Keep watch in prayer, that you may not fall into temptation; and I speak particularly to Simon, since the test is greatest to the strongest. O Peter, acknowledge me, whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages."

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

READER: "You will deny your convictions as soon as the question is put to you, O Simon Peter, and the sudden approach of a servant girl will terrify you," said the Lord. "But after weeping bitterly you will have great mercy from me, whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages."

ODE SIX

Irmos (Choir)

Jonah was caught but not held fast in the belly of the whale. He was a sign of Thee who hast suffered and accepted burial. Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber, he called out to the guard" "By observing vanities and lies you have forsaken your own mercy."

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: With their feet washed, and themselves purified by the participation in the Divine Mystery, Thy servants, O Christ, now ascend from Zion to the great Mount of Olives, praising Thee, who lovest mankind.

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

READER: Thou didst say: "See that you are not alarmed, O friends. For the hour is now at hand for me to be seized and slain at the hands of lawless men. All of you will be scattered, forsaking me. But I shall gather you to proclaim me, who lovest mankind."

READER: Come let us all sing the praises of Him who was crucified for us, for Mary said when she beheld Him upon the tree: Though Thou dost endure the cross, Thou art my son and my God.

READER: Beholding her own lamb led to the slaughter, Mary followed with the other women, in distress and crying out: "Where goest Thou, my child? Why dost Thou run so swift a course? Surely there is not another wedding in Cana to which Thou now dost hasten to change water into wine? Shall I come with Thee, my child, or shall I wait for Thee? Give me a word, O Thou who art the Word. Do not pass me by in silence, O Thou who didst keep me pure, for Thou art my Son and my God.

ODE SEVEN

Irmos (Choir)

**Inexpressible wonder! In the furnace Thou didst save the holy youths from the flame. Now Thou art placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse, for the salvation of us who sing"
"Blessed art Thou, O God, our Redeemer!"**

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: With their feet washed, and themselves purified by the participation in the Divine Mystery, Thy servants, O Christ, now ascend from Zion to the great Mount of Olives, praising Thee, who lovest mankind.

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

READER: Thou didst say: "See that you are not alarmed, O friends. For the hour is now at hand for me to be seized and slain at the hands of lawless men. All of you will be scattered, forsaking me. But I shall gather you to proclaim me, who lovest mankind.

ODE EIGHT

Irmos (Choir)

Be amazed, O Heavens! Be shaken, O foundations of the earth! Behold, He that dwells in the highest is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O priests! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: "O my disciples, now shake off sleep from your eyelids," said Christ. "Keep watch in prayer, that you may not fall into temptation; and I

speaking particularly to Simon, since the test is greatest to the strongest. O Peter, acknowledge me, whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages."

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

READER: "You will deny your convictions as soon as the question is put to you, O Simon Peter, and the sudden approach of a servant girl will terrify you," said the Lord. "But after weeping bitterly you will have great mercy from me, whom all creation blesses and glorifies throughout all ages.

ODE NINE

Irmos (Choir)

Do not lament me, O mother, seeing me in the tomb, The Son conceived in the womb without seed. For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

READER: Glory to Thee, our God, Glory to Thee.

READER: With their feet washed, and themselves purified by the participation in the Divine Mystery, Thy servants, O Christ, now ascend from Zion to the great Mount of Olives, praising Thee, who lovest mankind.

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

READER: Thou didst say: "See that you are not alarmed, O friends. For the hour is now at hand for me to be seized and slain at the hands of lawless men. All of you will be scattered, forsaking me. But I shall gather you to proclaim me, who lovest mankind.

CHOIR: Do not lament me, O mother, seeing me in the tomb, The Son conceived in the womb without seed. For I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

READER: 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 ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

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

EVERYONE: Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy 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 evil.

READER: Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life Immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead!
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out: O Giver of Life! Christ our God! Glory to Thee!

**THE TRIPLE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION is not said
in the absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:**

READER: Amen. Lord have mercy (12x)

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

EVERYONE: Amen.

Thy Resurrection O Christ our Savior, The angels in heaven sing; enable us on earth to glorify Thee in purity of heart. (3x).

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

EVERYONE: Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (3x)

READER: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

EVERYONE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

READER: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

EVERYONE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

READER: So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad.

EVERYONE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

READER: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

EVERYONE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

READER: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

EVERYONE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

READER: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

EVERYONE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death! And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

THE GREAT LITANY is not said in the absence of a Priest or a Deacon The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

THE CANON OF PASCHA

ODE I

(Irmos) **This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined, O people. Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord. For from death to life and from earth to heaven has Christ our God led us, as we sing the song of victory.**

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Let us purify our senses and we shall see Christ shining in the unapproachable light of His resurrection. We shall clearly hear Him say: Rejoice, as we sing the song of victory.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice. Let the whole world, visible and invisible, keep the feast. For Christ is risen, our eternal joy.

(Pascal Troparion) Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. *(thrice)*

ODE III

(Irmos) **Come, let us drink, not miraculous water drawn forth from a barren stone, but a new vintage from the fount of incorruption, springing from the tomb of Christ. In Him we are established.**

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Now all is filled with light: heaven and earth and the lower regions. Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ. In Him we are established.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Yesterday I was buried with Thee, O Christ. Today I arise with Thee in Thy resurrection. Yesterday I was crucified with Thee. Glorify me with Thee, O Savior, in Thy kingdom.

HYPAKOE

Before the dawn, Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice: "Why do you seek among the dead as a man the one who is everlasting light? Behold the clothes in the grave. Go and proclaim to the world: The Lord is risen. He has slain death, as He is the Son of God, saving the race of men."

ODE IV

(Irmos) 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.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Christ our Pascha has appeared as a male child, the son that opens a virgin womb. He is called the lamb as one destined to be our food, unblemished for He has not tasted of defilement, and perfect for He is our true God.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Christ, the crown with which we are blessed, has appeared as a yearling lamb. Freely He has given Himself as our cleansing paschal sacrifice. From the tomb He has shown forth once again, our radiant sun of righteousness.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

David, the ancestor of God, leaped and danced before the ark which prefigured Thee. Now let us, the holy people of God, seeing the fulfillment of all figures, rejoice in piety, for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

ODE V

(Irmos) **Let us arise at the rising of the sun and bring to the Master a hymn instead of myrrh, and we shall see Christ, the sun of righteousness, who causes life to draw for all.**

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

The souls bound in the chains of hell, O Christ, seeing Thy compassion without measure, pressed onward to the light with joyful steps, praising the eternal Pascha.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Let us go with lamps in hand to meet Christ, who comes from the tomb like a bridegroom. And with the festive ranks of angels, let us celebrate the saving Pascha of God.

ODE VI

Thou didst descend, O Christ to the depths of the earth. Thou didst break the everlasting bars which had held death's captives, and like Jonah from the shale on the third day, Thou didst arise from the grave.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Thou didst arise, O Christ, and yet the tomb remained sealed, as at Thy birth the Virgin's womb remained unharmed; and You hast opened for us the gates of paradise.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

O my Savior, as God Thou didst bring Thyself freely to the Father, a victim living and unsacrificed, resurrecting Adam, the father of us all, when Thou didst arise from the grave.

KONTAKION (tone 8)

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God, proclaiming "Rejoice" to the myrrh bearing women, granting peace to Thine apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.

IKOS

Before the dawn, the myrrh bearing women sought, as those who seek the day, their sun, who was before the sun yet had descended to the grave, and they cried to each other: O friends, come let us anoint with spices His life-bearing yet buried body, the flesh which raised fallen Adam and now lies in the tomb. Let us assemble and, like the magi, let us hasten and let us worship. Let us bring Myrrh as a gift to Him who is wrapped now, not in swaddling clothes, but in a winding-sheet. Let us lament and cry: Arise, O Master, and bestow resurrection on the fallen.

HYMN OF THE RESURRECTION *(tone 6)*

Having beheld the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless One. We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy holy resurrection; for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee; we call on Thy name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For, behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His resurrection, for by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death. Jesus has risen from the tomb, as He foretold, granting us eternal life, and great mercy.

ODE VII

(Irmos) He who saved the three young men in the furnace became incarnate and suffered as a mortal man. Through His sufferings He clothed what is mortal in the robe of immortality. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

The godly woman hastened to Thee with myrrh, O Christ. In tears they had sought You as a dead man, but in joy they worshipped Thee as the living God and proclaimed the mystical pascha to Thy disciples.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

We celebrate the death of death and the overthrow of hell, the beginning of another life which is eternal, and in exultation we sing the praises of His source. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

This is the bright and saving night, sacred and supremely festal. It heralds the radiant day of the resurrection on which the timeless light shown forth bodily from the tomb for all.

ODE VIII

(Irmos) This is the chosen and holy day, first of Sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Come on this chosen day of the resurrection, let us partake of the new fruit of the vine. Let us share in the divine rejoicing of the kingdom of Christ, praising Him as God forevermore.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead.

Lift up your eyes, O Zion, round about and see Thy children like divinely shining stars assemble from the North, the South, the East and the West to bless Christ in you forevermore.

Refrain: Most holy Trinity, our God, glory to You.

Father almighty, Word, and Spirit, one nature in three persons, surpassing essence and divinity. In You have we been baptized, and You we bless forevermore.

ODE IX

Refrain 1: My soul magnifies Him who rose from the tomb on the third day: Christ, the giver of life.

(Irmos) **Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.**

Refrain 2: My soul magnifies Him who willingly suffered and was buried, and rose from the tomb on the third day.

(Irmos) **Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.**

THE LITTLE LITANY is not said in the absence of a Priest or a Deacon The reader continues:

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

THE SONG OF LIGHT

In the flesh Thou didst fall asleep as a mortal man, O King and Lord. Thou didst rise on the third day, rising Adam from corruption and destroying death: O Pascha of incorruption, the salvation of the world!

THE PRAISES (Tone 1)

Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord in heaven. Praise Him in the highest. To You, O God, is due a song. Praise Him all you angels of His. Praise Him, all His hosts. To Thee, O God, is due a song. Praise Him for His mighty deeds; praise Him according to His exceeding greatness.

We praise Thy saving suffering, O Christ, and we glorify Thy resurrection.

Verse: Praise Him with trumpet sound; praise Him with lute and harp.

Thou didst endure the Cross and destroy death by rising from the dead. Give peace to your life, O Lord, as the only almighty one.

Verse: Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and pipe.

You did capture hell, O Christ, and resurrect man by Thy resurrection. Enable us to praise and glorify Thee in purity of heart.

Verse: Praise Him with sounding cymbals; praise Him with loud clashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

We glorify Thy divine condescension, and we praise Thee, O Christ. Thou wast born of a virgin yet not separated from the Father. Thou hast suffered as a man and voluntarily endured the Cross. Thou hast risen from the tomb, coming as from a bridal chamber to save the world. O Lord, glory to Thee.

THE PASCHAL VERSES

Verse: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered. [Let those who hate Him flee from before His face.]

Choir: **Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us, A new and holy Pascha, A mystical Pascha, A Pascha worthy of veneration, A Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer, A blameless Pascha, A great Pascha, a Pascha of the faithful, A Pascha which has opened for us the gates of Paradise, A Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.**

Verse: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish. [As wax melts before the fire.]

Choir: **Come from that scene, O women, bearers of glad tidings, And say to Zion: Receive from us the glad tidings of joy, of Christ's resurrection. Exult and be glad, And rejoice, O Jerusalem, Seeing Christ the King, Who comes forth from the tomb like a bridegroom in procession.**

Verse: So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad.

***Choir:* The myrrh-bearing women, At the break of dawn, Drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver. There they found an angel sitting upon the stone. He greeted them with these words: Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why do you mourn the incorrupt amid corruption? Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples.**

Verse: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***Choir:* Pascha of beauty, The Pascha of the Lord, A Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned for us. Pascha! Let us embrace each other joyously. O Pascha, ransom from affliction! For today as from a bridal chamber Christ has shown forth from the tomb and filled the women with joy saying: Proclaim the glad tidings to the apostles.**

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

***Choir:* This is the day of resurrection. Let us be illumined by the feast. Let us embrace each other. Let us call "Brothers" even those that hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let us cry: Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (thrice)**

THE SERMON OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

The Catechetical Sermon of St. John Chrysostom is read during Matins of Pascha.

READER: If any man be devout and love God, let him enjoy this fair and radiant triumphal feast. If any man be a wise servant, let him rejoicing enter into the joy of his Lord. If any have labored long in fasting, let him now receive his recompense. If any have wrought from the first hour, let him today receive his just reward. If any have come at the third hour, let him with thankfulness keep the feast. If any have arrived at the sixth hour, let him have no misgivings; because he shall in nowise be deprived thereof. If any have delayed until the ninth hour, let him draw near, fearing nothing. If any have tarried even until the eleventh hour, let him, also, be not alarmed at his tardiness; for the Lord, who is jealous of his honor, will accept the last even as the first; He gives rest unto him who comes at the eleventh hour, even as unto him who has wrought from the first hour.

And He shows mercy upon the last, and cares for the first; and to the one He gives, and upon the other He bestows gifts. And He both accepts the deeds, and welcomes the intention, and honors the acts and praises the offering. Wherefore, enter you all into the joy of your Lord; and receive your reward, both the first, and likewise the second. You

rich and poor together, hold high festival. You sober and you heedless, honor the day. Rejoice today, both you who have fasted and you who have disregarded the fast. The table is full-laden; feast ye all sumptuously. The calf is fatted; let no one go hungry away.

Enjoy ye all the feast of faith: Receive ye all the riches of loving-kindness. let no one bewail his poverty, for the universal kingdom has been revealed. Let no one weep for his iniquities, for pardon has shown forth from the grave. Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free. He that was held prisoner of it has annihilated it. By descending into Hell, He made Hell captive. He embittered it when it tasted of His flesh. And Isaiah, foretelling this, did cry: Hell, said he, 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 slain. It was embittered, for it was overthrown. It was embittered, for it was fettered in chains. It took a body, and met God face to face. It took earth, and encountered Heaven. It took that which was seen, and fell upon the unseen.

O Death, where is your sting? O Hell, where is your 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 the grave. For Christ, being risen from the dead, is become the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages. Amen.

CHOIR 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!

**THE TRIPLE LITANY is not said in the
absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:**

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

**THE MORNING LITANY is not said in the
absence of a Priest or Deacon. The reader continues:**

READER: Lord have mercy (12x)

Through the Prayers of Our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, Have Mercy on us.

CHOIR: Amen.

READER: More honorable than the Cherubim and more glorious beyond than the Seraphim, without defilement, You gave birth to God the Word, True Theotokos, we magnify You.

CHOIR: Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (*thrice*)

READER: Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, through the Prayers of the Most Holy Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, by the Power of the Precious and Life-Creating Cross, through the protection of the Bodiless Powers of Heaven, through the prayers of Holy Glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, through the prayers of the holy glorious and all-laudable Apostles, through the Prayers of all the North American Saints, through the prayers of _____ the patrons of this Holy Temple, of all those whom we commemorate today, of the holy and righteous Ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, O Lord Jesus Christ Our God, have mercy on us and save us.

(The faithful now come up and venerate the Precious Cross and Icons in our Icon Corner.)

READER: Through the Prayers of our Holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us and save us.

CHOIR: Amen. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.