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The Vespers of Pascha



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The celebrant vests himself in all his priestly vestments. Standing before the holy table, holding in his left hand the precious Cross and the three-branched candlestick, he traces the sign of the cross with the censer, and exclaims:

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

Paschal Troparion

Plain Chant

CHRIST IS RI-SEN FROM THE DEAD, TRAMP-LING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH
AND UP-ON THOSE IN THE TOMBS BE-STOW-ING LIFE.

The priest reads the Pascal verses and the choir sings the troparion once between each.

APPENDIX

Alternate prokeimenon settings

Great Prokimenon

Who is so Great a God as our God?

arr. W. Shymansky

WHO IS SO GREAT A GOD AS OUR GOD? THOU ART THE GOD WHO DOES
WON - DERS. THOU ART THE GOD WHO DOES WON - DERS. OUR
GOD, OUR GOD, OUR GOD IS SO GREAT, WHO DOES WON - DERS.

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

Choir: And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Priest: May He who is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, Christ our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother , and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

Then raising the cross, he says, Christ is risen (thrice) and we answer each time, Indeed He is risen. And finally we sing the whole troparion, Christ is risen ...(thrice) After that we conclude by singing:

Choir: And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His resurrection on the third day.

Verse 1: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered: let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

Verse 2: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish: as wax melts before the fire.

Verse 3: So the sinners will perish before the face of God: but let the righteous be glad.

Verse 4: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Verse 5: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

Verse 6: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Christ is Risen.....

Choir: And upon those....

The Great Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (repeat after each petition)

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

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

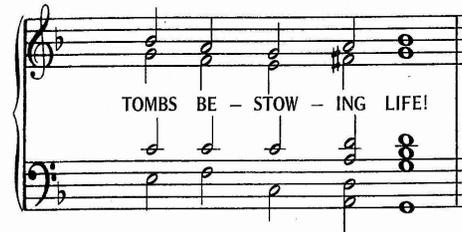
For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan _____, and for His Grace, our Bishop _____ for the honorable priesthood, the deaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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



The Dismissal

Priest: Wisdom.

Choir: Father, bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing, is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

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

IS THE DAY OF RE-SUR-REC-TION! LET US BE IL-LU-MINED

BY THE FEAST! LET US EM-BRACE EACH OTH--ER!

LET US CALL "BROTH-ERS" E-VEN THOSE THAT HATE US AND

FOR-GIVE ALL BY THE RE-SUR-REC--TION, AND SO

LET US CRY: CHRIST IS RI-SEN FROM THE DEAD TRAMP-

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.



Lord I Call

Common Chant

Tone 2

LORD, I CALL UPON THEE, HEAR ME. HEAR ME, O LORD. LORD, I CALL UP-ON

THEE, HEAR ME. RE-CEIVE THE VOICE OF MY PRAYER. WHEN I CALL UP-ON THEE,

HEAR - ME, O LORD. LET MY PRAYER A - RISE IN THY SIGHT

AS IN - CENSE, AND LET THE LIFT - ING UP OF MY HANDS BE AN EVE - NING

SAC - RI - FICE. HEAR - ME, O LORD. IF THOU, O LORD,

CHAM - BER CHRIST HAS SHONE FORTH FROM THE TOMB. AND

FILLED THE WO - MEN WITH JOY SAY - ING: PRO - CLAIM THE

GLAD TI - DINGS TO THE A - POS - TLES! GLORY TO THE

FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND

EVER AND UN - TO A - GES OF A - GES. A - - MEN. THIS

BE GLAD IN IT. PAS - CHA OF BEAU - - - TY! THE PAS -

CHA OF THE LORD! A PAS - CHA WORTHY OF ALL HO - NOR

HAS DAWNED FOR US. PAS - CHA! LET US EM - - BRACE

EACH O - THER JOY - OUS - LY. PAS - CHA, RAN - SOM FROM AF -

FLIC - TION! FOR TO - DAY AS FROM A BRI - DAL

SHOULDST MARK INIQUITIES, LORD, WHO COULD STAND? BUT THERE IS FOR - GIVE -

VERSE 6
NESS WITH THEE. COME, LET US WORSHIP THE WORD OF GOD, BEGOTTEN OF

THE FATHER BEFORE ALL A - GES, AND IN - CAR - NATE OF THE VIR - GIN MA - RY.

HAV - ING EN - DURED THE CROSS, HE WAS BURIED AS HE HIM - SELF DE - SIRE D AND

HAVING RISEN FROM THE DEAD, HE SAVED ME AN ERR - ING MAN. FOR

THY NAME'S SAKE I WAIT FOR THEE, O LORD. MY SOUL HAS WAITED FOR THE

VERSE 5

LORD, MY SOUL HAS HOPED ON THE LORD. CHRIST MY SAV - IOR, NAILED

TO THE CROSS THE BOND A-GAINST US. HE VOID - ED IT AND DESTROYED THE

DO - MIN - ION OF DEATH. WE FALL DOWN BEFORE HIS RESURRECTION ON THE

4.

THIRD DAY. FROM THE MORNING WATCH UNTIL NIGHT, FROM THE MORN -

HE GREET - ED THEM WITH THESE WORDS: WHY DO YOU

SEEK THE LI - VING A - MONG THE DEAD? WHY DO YOU MOURN

THE IN - COR - RUPT A - MID COR - RUP - - TION? GO: PRO -

CLAIM THE GLAD TI - DINGS TO HIS DIS - CI - - PLES. THIS

IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE! LET US RE - JOICE AND

CES - - SION. SO THE SINNERS WILL PERISH BEFORE THE

FACE OF GOD, BUT LET THE RIGHT - - - EOUS BE GLAD. THE

MYRRH - BEAR - ING WO - - MEN AT THE BREAK OF DAWN

DREW NEAR TO THE TOMB OF THE LIFE - GI - - VER. THERE

THEY FOUND AN AN - GEL SIT - TING UP - ON THE STONE,

VERSE 4

ING WATCH, LET IS - RA - EL HOPE ON THE LORD. WITH THE ARCH - AN - GELS

LET US PRAISE THE RES - UR - REC - TION OF CHRIST. HE IS OUR SAV - IOR, OUR

RE - DEEM - ER. HE IS COMING WITH AWESOME GLORY AND MIGH - TY POW - ER. TO

JUDGE THE WORLD WHICH HE MADE. FOR WITH THE LORD THERE IS MER -

CY AND WITH HIM IS REDEMPTION, AND HE WILL DELIVER ISRAEL FROM ALL

VERSE 3

HIS IN - QUI - TIES. THE ANGEL PRO - CLAIMED THEE THE CRU -

CI - FIED AND BURIED MAS - TER. HE TOLD THE WOMEN: COME, SEE THE PLACE

WHERE HE LAY HE IS RI - SEN AS HE SAID, FOR HE IS AL - MIGH - TY. WE WOR -

SHIP THEE, O ON - LY IM - MOR - TAL ONE. HAVE MERCY ON US, O CHRIST, THE GIV -

2.

ER OF LIFE. PRAISE THE LORD ALL NATIONS, PRAISE HIM ALL PEOP - LE.

BEAR - ERS OF GLAD TI - DINGS AND SAY TO ZI - ON:

RE - CEIVE FROM US THE GLAD TI - DINGS OF JOY OF CHRIST'S

RE - SUR - REC - TION: EX - ULT AND BE GLAD, AND RE -

JOICE, O JE - RU - SA - LEM, SEE - ING CHRIST, THE KING, WHO

COMES FORTH FROM THE TOMB, LIKE A BRIDE - GROOM IN PRO -

PAS - - - CHA. A GREAT PAS - - - CHA. A PAS - CHA OF

THE FAITH - FUL. A PASCHA WHICH HAS OPENED FOR US THE

GATES OF PAR - A - DISE. A PAS - CHA WHICH SANC - TI - FIES

ALL THE FAITH - - - FUL. AS SMOKE VAN - ISH - ES SO LET

THEM VAN - - - ISH. COME FROM THAT SCENE O WO - MEN

BY THY CROSS, THOU DIDST DESTROY THE CURSE OF THE TREE. BY THY BURIAL

THOU DIDST SLAY THE DO - MIN - ION OF DEATH. BY THY RIS - ING, THOU DIDST EN -

LIGHT - EN THE RACE OF MAN. O BENEFAC - TOR, CHRIST OUR GOD, GLO - RY TO THEE.

1.
FOR HIS MERCY IS CONFIRMED ON US, AND THE TRUTH OF THE LORD ENDURES

VERSE 1
FOR - E - VER. THE GATES OF DEATH OPENED TO THEE FROM FEAR, O

SINGING THE HYMN OF SA-VA-TION. CLEANSE OUR SINS, O THOU, WHO WAS

CRU-CI-FIED AND RAISED FROM THE DEAD, AND ART IN THE BOSOM OF THE

FA-THER. NOW AND EVER AND UNTO A-GES OF A-GES, A-MEN,

THE SHADOW OF THE LAW PASSED WHEN GRACE CAME, AS THE BUSH BURNED,

YET WAS NOT CON-SUMED. SO THE VIR-GIN GAVE BIRTH, YET RE-MAINED A

Then the Paschal Stikhera, with their verses

Let God Arise

Obikhod
N. Bakhmetev

LET GOD A-RISE, LET HIS E-NE-MIES BE SCAT--TERED.

TO-DAY A SA-CRED PAS-CHA IS RE-VEALED TO US. A NEW

AND HO-LY PAS--CHA. A MY-STI-CAL PAS--CHA,

A PAS-CHA WOR-THY OF VE-NE-RA-TION. A PAS-CHA

WHICH IS CHRIST, THE RE-DEEM--ER. A BLAME-LESS

powers of the Devil, from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations. Blessed and glorified be the majesty of Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Apostikha (Tone 2)

Tone 2

THY RESURRECTION, O CHRIST OUR SAV - IOR, HAS ENLIGHTENED THE

WHOLE U - NI - VERSE, RE - CALL - ING THY CRE - A - TION, GLO - RY

TO THEE, O AL - MIGHT - Y LORD.

VIR - GIN, THE RIGHTEOUS SUN HAS RISEN INSTEAD OF A PIL - LAR OF FLAME,

INSTEAD OF MOSES, CHRIST, THE SAL - VA - TION OF OUR SOULS.

The Entrance

Priest: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Choir: O gladsome light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of Life: therefore, all the world doth glorify Thee!

This can be done in a simple Tone 6 melody; an additional melody has been provided here.

O Gladsome Light

Dvoretzky



O glad - some light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the im - mor - tal Fa - ther:
hea - ven - ly ho - ly bless - ed Je - sus Christ!
Hav - ing come to the set - ting of the sun, and be - hold the light of eve - ning,
we praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spi - rit: God!
At all times Thou art wor - thy, Thou art wor - thy of praise in songs
as Son of God, Giv - er of Life. There - fore the world
glo - ri - fies Thee.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, who didst bow the heavens and come down for the salvation of mankind: Look upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance: for unto Thee, the awesome Judge, who yet lovest mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads, and submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help from men, but asking Thy mercy, and looking confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord. (repeat after each petition)

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

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

A Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful: and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The priest completes the entrance by going to the High Place. Then, facing the people, he intones:

Priest Let us attend. Peace be unto all. Wisdom. The Great Prokeimenon in the 7th Tone: Who is so great a God as our God: Thou art the God who doest wonders.

The Great Prokeimenon

Tone 7 Obikhod
N. Bakhmetev

WHO IS SO GREAT A GOD AS OUR GOD? THOU ART THE GOD WHO
DO - EST WON - DERS !

An alternate melody is in the Appendix at the end of this booklet

And we sing the same once. The priest then chants the verses. And we sing at each verse: Who is so great. ..

Verse 1: Thou hast made known Thy power among the peoples.

Verse 2: And I said, now have I begun: this is the change of the right hand of the Most High

Verse 3: I remembered the works of the Lord: for from the beginning will I remember Thy wonders.

Priest: Who is so great a God as our God:

Choir: Thou art the God who doest wonders.

The Reading of the Holy Gospel

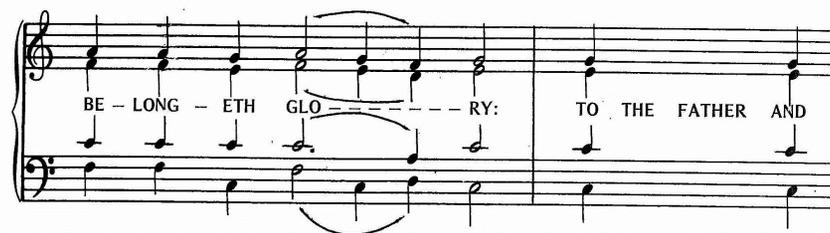
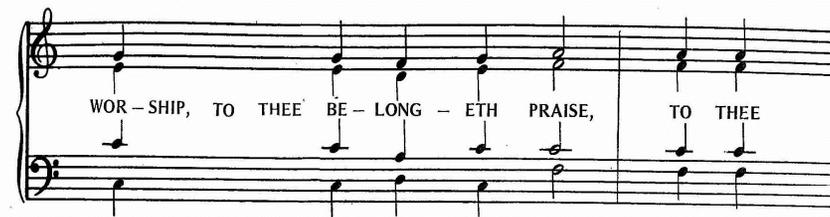
Priest: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel. Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John. (*John 20:19-25*):



The Litany of Vespers

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (repeat after each petition)

Priest: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

O LORD, TEACH ME THY STA -- TUTES. BLESSED ART THOU

O MASTER, MAKE ME TO UNDERSTAND THY COM - MAND MENTS

BLESSED ART THOU, O HOLY ONE, ENLIGHTEN ME WITH THY PRE -

CEPTS. THY MERCY, O LORD, ENDURETH FOREVER: O DESPISE

NOT THE WORKS OF THY HANDS. TO THEE BELONGETH

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Priest: On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even 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 any, they are forgiven: if you retain the sins of any they are retained." Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, 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 in His hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in His side, I will not believe."

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee

The Augmented Litany

Priest: Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (repeat after each petition)

Priest: O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers,
we pray Thee, hearken al have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy
great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have
mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3x) (repeat after each peti-
tion)

Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metropolitan
_____, and His Grace _____, our
Bishop, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy:
and for all our brethren in Christ.

Again we pray for the President of our coun-
try, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-
memorable founders of this holy house: and for all
of our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, the
Orthodox departed this life before us, who here
and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health,
salvation, and visitation, pardon and remission of
sins, for all the brethren of this community.

Again we pray for those who bring offerings
and do good works in this holy and all-venerable
house: for those who labor and those who sing:
and for all people here present, who await Thy
great and rich mercy.

For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest man-
kind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Fa-
ther, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now
and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen

Vouchsafe, O Lord

VOUCHSAFE, O LORD, TO KEEP US THIS NIGHT WITH - OUT SIN.

BLESSED ART THOU, O LORD, THE GOD OF OUR FA - - THERS,

AND PRAISED AND GLORIFIED IS THY NAME FOR - - EV - - ER, A -

- MEN. LET THY MERCY BE UPON US, O LORD, EVEN AS WE

HAVE SET OUR HOPE ON THEE. BLESSED ART THOU,