



AGAPE VESPERS

Deacon: Master, give the blessing.

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and for ever and ever.

All: Amen.

PASCHAL TROPARION

The Paschal Troparion is sung three times: first by the clergy, then by the faithful, then half by the clergy, and half by the faithful. We continue to sing the Troparion with verses from Psalm 67:

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling death by death,
and to those in the tombs
giving life.

Priest: Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: As smoke vanishes, let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire!

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: So let the sinners perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad!

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

All: Christ is risen...

Priest: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever. Amen.

All: Christ is risen...

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

All: And to those in the tombs giving life.

LITANY OF PEACE

LAMP-LIGHTING PSALMS

As the deacon (or priest if no deacon) performs the incensation, the Lamp-lighting Psalms (140, 141, 129, 116) are taken, with the introductory verses sung in Tone 2, Samohlasnyj.

Psalm 140

O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me;
Hear me, O Lord!
O Lord, I have cried to You, hear me;
receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon You.
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer rise like incense before You;
the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice.
Hear me, O Lord.

Set a guard, O Lord, before my mouth, • and a portal around my lips.* Incline my heart away from evil dealings, • from finding excuses for sinful deeds.* In company with men who work iniquity • let me not partake of what they choose.* May a just man chasten me with justice and reprove me; • may the oil of the wicked never touch my head.* Yet even then shall I pray for their welfare. • Their rulers were swallowed near the rock.* My words will be heard for they were sweet. • As a lump of clay broken on the ground, so their bones were strewn near the grave.* To You, Lord, O Lord, my eyes are lifted up; • in You have I hoped: let not my soul be lost.* Keep from me the snare that was set up for me. • and from the stumbling blocks of the wicked.* The wicked shall fall into their own nets • while I remain alone until I can escape.

Psalm 141

With my voice I cried out to the Lord, • with my voice I implored the Lord.* Before Him I pour out my supplication, • before Him I declare my distress.* When my breath was escaping me, • then You knew my paths.* On the road upon which I was walking • they set up snares for me.* I looked to my right and observed: • there was no friendly to me.* Even flight was denied me; • there was no one to take care of my life.* I cried out to You, O Lord, • and said: “You are my hope, my share in the land of the living.”* Listen to my supplication • for I am laid very low.* Deliver me from my oppressors, • for they have overwhelmed me.* Lead my soul forth from prison • that I may give thanks to Your name.* The just shall gather around me • when You have been good to me.

Psalm 129

Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; • O Lord, hear my prayer.* Let Your ears be attentive • to the voice of my prayer.

In Tone 2, Samohlasnyj:

*6. If You mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?** But with Your forgiveness is that You may be revered.

Come, let us worship Him who was born of the Father before all ages.* the Word of God incarnate of the Virgin Mary,* for by His own free will He has suffered crucifixion* and was committed to the tomb* and is now risen from the dead** and has saved me who had been lost.

*5. I have waited for You as You have commanded;*my soul patiently relies on Your promise,* for it has trusted in the Lord.*

By His cross, Christ our Saviour* wiped out the sentence written against us.* He wiped it out and abolished the might of death.* Let us therefore bow in adoration** before His resurrection on the third day.

4. From the morning watch until night let Israel trust in the Lord.*

With the archangels let us sing a hymn of praise* to the resurrection of Christ,* for He is the Redeemer and Saviour of our souls* and He shall come again with awesome glory and great might** to judge the world He Himself created.

3. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him there is plentiful redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all its iniquities.*

O You who were crucified and were buried,* the angel proclaimed You the Lord when he said to the women:* Come and see where the Lord was laid.* Since He is almighty* He is risen as He had foretold.* Therefore, we worship You, the only Immortal One,* O Christ, Giver of life,** have mercy on us!

Psalm 116

2. Praise the Lord, all the nations; proclaim His glory, all You people.*

By Your cross You abolished the curse of the tree.* By Your burial You put to death the might of death* and by Your resurrection You enlightened humankind.* Therefore, we cry out to You:** O Christ our God, the Benefactor, glory to You!

*1. Strong is the love of the Lord for us;*eternally will His truth endure.*

O Lord, the gates of death opened to You out of fear,* and when the gate-keepers of Hades saw You, they trembled.* They trembled again when You crushed its gates of bronze and its iron bars* and delivered us from the shadow and gloom of death,** and broke our fetters.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Let us sing a salutary hymn or praise,* let us kneel in the house of the Lord and cry out:* O You who were crucified on a cross and rose from the dead* while still remaining in the bosom of the Father,** forgive us our sins.

Now and for ever and ever. Amen.

O Virgin, the shadow of the Law passed away with the realization of grace. For as the bush had burned without being consumed so you gave birth while a virgin, and you remained a virgin. Instead of the pillar of fire there rose the Sun of Justice. In stead of Moses, Christ God came forth, the Saviour of our souls.

ENTRANCE

The deacon takes the Holy Gospel and with the priest makes the entrance. The following dialogue is recited once they have come before the Royal Doors.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: In the evening, in the morning, and at midday, we praise and bless You, we give You thanks and we entreat You, Master of all things! Let our prayer rise like incense before You, and preserve our hearts from all evil words and thoughts. Rescue us from all those who hunt after our souls, for our eyes are fixed on You, O Lord, and on You we count: do not disappoint us! For you deserve all glory, honour and worship; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Amen. Master, bless the holy entrance!

Priest: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy places, always, now and for ever and ever.

Deacon: Amen.

At the completion of the last stichera, the deacon intones aloud:

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright!

EVENING HYMN

While the Evening Hymn is being sung, the deacon incenses the sanctuary, iconostasis and the people.

Tranquil Light of the holy glory the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father, O Jesus Christ; as we come upon the sunset, as we see the evening light, we sing to God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. At all times You are worthy of being hymned by joyful voices; O Son of God, You are the giver of life. For this the whole world glorifies You.

THE GREAT PROKEIMENON

The Great Prokeimenon is sung in Tone 7 or to the melody of Bortniansky.

Who is so great a God as our God?
Thou art the God who doest wonders!

verse: Amongst the people hast Thou made Thy power known!

verse: And I said: now have I made a beginning: this change has been wrought by the right hand of the Most High.

verse: I have remembered the works of the Lord, and called to mind Thy wonders from of old.

GOSPEL

Deacon: That we be deemed worthy to hear the holy Gospel, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand aright! Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be with all

All: And with your spirit.

Priest: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

All: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You!

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

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." [20:19-25 RSV]

All: Glory be to You, O Lord, glory be to You!

LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

DEIGN, O LORD

SECOND LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

APOSTICHA

In Tone 2, Samohlasnyj:

Your Resurrection, O Christ, the Saviour,* has lighted up the whole universe.* You have renewed Your creation,* O Lord almighty, glory to You!

Then, the Paschal Stichera as at Matins:

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered.

Today a sacred Pascha is revealed to us: a new and holy Pascha; a mystical Pascha; 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.

As smoke vanishes, let them vanish!

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!

So let sinners perish before the face of God, but let the righteous scatter rejoice!

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 a stone, he greeted the, with these words: "Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why do you mourn in the incorrupt amid corruption? Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples."

This is the day which the Lord has made: let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Pascha of beauty! The Pascha of the Lord! Pascha! A Pascha worthy of all honour has dawned on us. Pascha! Let us embrace each other joyously! 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!"

Glory... Now...

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 death by death,
and to those in the tombs,
giving life.

(3)

At this time, all exchange the Paschal Kiss

DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

All: Give the blessing!

Priest: Blessed is the One-Who-is, blessed is Christ our God, always, now and forever and ever.

All: Amen. O God, strengthen the orthodox faith forever and ever.

Priest: O most holy Mother of God, save us.

All: Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem! For the glory of the Lord has risen upon you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! And you, O chaste Mother of God, take delight in the resurrection of your Son

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

All: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs, giving life. Lord, have mercy. (3) Give the blessing!

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs, giving life, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother, of the holy glorious and all-praiseworthy Apostles, of our venerable god-bearing fathers, of Saint *N.*, patron of this temple, of Saint *N.*, whose memory we celebrate this day, and of all the saints, will have mercy and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling death by death,
and to those in the tombs,
giving life.
(3)