

May 8, 2013
Holy Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian
Leave-taking of Pascha

GREAT 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

Kathisma

"Blessed is the man..." is sung.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 2

10. The man who was blind from birth asked himself:
Was I born blind because of the sin of my parents,
or am I a living sign of the unbelief of the nations?
I am not content to ask whether it is night or day;

my feet can no longer endure tripping upon the stones.
I have not seen the brightness of the sun,
nor have I seen the image and likeness of my Creator.
Yet I beseech You, O Christ our God,
to look upon me and have mercy on me.

9. Passing by the Temple, Jesus saw a man who was blind from birth.
He had compassion on him and put mud on his eyes.
He said to him: Go to the pool of Siloam and wash.
He washed and recovered his sight;
then he rendered glory to God.
But his neighbours said to him:
Who opened your eyes which no one before could heal?
And he answered them, saying: A man called Jesus.
He told me to go and wash in the pool of Siloam, and now I see.
He is in truth Christ the Messiah,
of whom Moses wrote in the Law.
He is the Saviour of our souls.

In Tone 5

8. As you walked along, O Lord,
You found a man who had been blind from birth.
In surprise, the disciples asked You:
Was it because of the sin of this man or his parents
that he was born, O Master?
But You, O Saviour, answered them, saying:
Neither has this man sinned, nor his parents,
but that the works of God would be revealed in him.
I must accomplish the works of Him who sent me,
which no one else can work.
As you said that, You spat on the ground
and made mud from the dust to anoint his eyes.
And You said to him: God and wish in the pool of Siloam.
When he washed, he was healed and cried out to you:
O Lord, I believe!
And he bowed down and worshipped You.
Therefore, we also cry out to You: Have mercy on us!

In Tone 4

7. The blind man imagined that his whole life was night;
he cried out to You: O Lord, open my eyes,
O Son of David, O our Saviour,
that with all humanity I may praise your power.

In Tone 8

6. O Christ our God, spiritual Sun of Justice,
by your pure touch, You enlightened the eyes of him
who from his mother's womb was without light.
Enlighten the eyes of our hearts
and make us children of the light and of the day,
that we may cry out to You in faith:
How great is your compassion toward us!
O Lover of Mankind, glory to You!

5. In your merciful loving-kindness
You took flesh for us, O Christ our God.
You gave light to a man who, from his mother's womb, lived in darkness.
How boundless is your compassion!
You anointed his eyes with the mud your fingers had molded
and made him worthy to be flooded with light divine.
So now enlighten him, O Giver of light;
illumine our spiritual perceptions,
for You alone are the Fountain of grace.

In Tone 1

4. The beholder of ineffable revelations
and recounter of the most sublime mysteries of God,
the son of Zebedee, who set down in writing the Gospel of Christ,
has taught us to theologize
concerning the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

3. The beholder of ineffable revelations
and recounter of the most sublime mysteries of God,
the son of Zebedee, who set down in writing the Gospel of Christ,
has taught us to theologize
concerning the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

2. The harp of heavenly songs played by God,
the recorder of mysteries, the divinely eloquent mouth,
beautifully chants the hymn of hymns;
for, moving his lips as though they were strings,
and using his tongue as a plectrum,
he prays that we be saved.

1. Proclaiming with your thunderous tongue
the hidden Word of divine wisdom, O beloved of God,
you ever cry out, continually moving your lips:
In the beginning was the Word!
And you instruct every man in the knowledge of God.

In Tone 1, Glory...

O you of the race of man,
let us offer goodly praise as is meet to the beloved and virginal John,
the son of thunder, the foundation of the words of God, the author of theology,
the first preacher of the truth of the dogmas of the wisdom of God;
for having the Divine continually within him, he said:
In the beginning was the Word,
Who is inseparable from the Father and of the same essence with the Father,
revealing to us through himself the orthodoxy of the Holy Trinity.
And he has likewise shown us that He creates with the Father
and bears life and the light of Truth.
O awesome wonder! O uttermost wisdom!
For, full of love, he was also filled with theology through glory, honour and faith,
as a founder of our pure Faith.
Wherefore, we shall receive everlasting blessings on the day of judgment.

In Tone 8, Now...

Who can describe your power, O Christ;
who can count the multitude of your wonders?
You appeared on earth in two natures, O compassionate One,
and thus you granted double healing to the sick.
Not only did you open the bodily eyes of the man born blind,
but You gave sight to those of his soul as well.
Therefore, He confessed You, the hidden God
who grants the world great mercy.

Prokeimenon
of the day

Readings
1 John 3:21-4:6; 1 John 4:11-16; 1 John 4:20-5:5

Lytia

In Tone 1

Rivers of theology poured forth from your honoured mouth, O apostle,
and the Church of God, watered thereby, worships the consubstantial Trinity in Orthodoxy.
Pray now to the Trinity, O theologian John,
that our souls be made steadfast and saved.

The garden of purity has emitted for us the myrrh of sweet fragrance on this present feast,
that we may cry out to him: O Apostle John,
who reclined against the Master's breast,
who has rained down discourse upon the world

and preserved the Virgin as the apple of your eye,
beseech Christ, that He grant us great mercy.

O disciple of the Saviour, virgin and theologian, when Christ God was crucified
He committed the Virgin Theotokos to your care, in that you are virginal;
and you preserved her as the apple of your eye.

Wherefore, pray that our souls be saved.

As an eyewitness to ineffable mysteries, you cried out, exclaiming:

"In the beginning the pre-eternal Word was with God, and He was God!"

O Apostle John, intimate and faithful friend of Christ,

delight of the Trinity, unshakable confirmation of Ephesus and Patmos, our help.

Pray, O most blessed theologian, that the people who ever celebrate your memory with faith
be delivered from wicked enemies, material and noetic.

In Tone 5

O venerable father, having heard the voice of the Gospel of the Lord,
you forsook the world, holding riches and glory to be as naught.

Wherefore, you cried out to all:

"Love God and you shall find eternal grace.

Prefer nothing to His love, that when He shall come in His glory,
you shall find rest with all the saints."

By his supplications, O Christ, preserve and save our souls.

In Tone 4, Glory... Now...

Reclining against the breast of Christ the Teacher at the Lord's supper,

O beloved disciple, you thereby came to know ineffable things,

and has thundered forth your heavenly voice for all to hear,

saying: "In the beginning was the Word,

and the Word was with God, and the Word was God:

Christ God, the Saviour of our souls,

the Light of truth Who enlightens every man

who comes into the world."

Aposticha

In Tone 5

O Christ our Saviour,

we lift up our voices in song to glorify You.

For, in Your love for humanity,

You became incarnate without leaving heaven;

You accepted the Cross and death;

You cast down the gates of Hades;

and on the third day You arose from the dead

for the salvation of our souls.

The Paschal Stichera are now sung in the customary manner:

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!"

In Tone 6, Glory...

O apostle of Christ, evangelist and theologian,
as an initiate of ineffable mysteries you have thundered forth upon us
the ineffable doctrines of wisdom,
explaining to the faithful that He was in the beginning,
and discounting that there was a time when He did not exist,
thus rejecting the words of the heretics.
And as you were shown to be the beloved intimate and friend of Christ,
like the eloquent Isaiah and Moses the God-seer,
pray earnestly for our souls, in that you have boldness before God.

Continuing the Paschal Stichera:

Now and forever and ever. Amen.

This is the day of Resurrection, let us be illumined by the Feast! Let us embrace each other! Let us call "brothers and sisters" 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)

Troparia

In Tone 2

O beloved apostle of Christ our God,* hasten, deliver a people without defense.* He who received you when you leaned upon His breast accepts you as you bow in prayer.* Implore Him, O Theologian, to scatter the cloud of nations that besets us,* asking peace and great mercy for us. *Twice*

and then, "Rejoice, Mother of God, Virgin Mary, full of grace..."