



# Service of Vespers

**Easter Sunday, May 5, 2013**

**Agape Vespers  
with the Feast of St. George**

**Text in English**

**The Web site can be found at this address:**

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Fr. Seraphim Dedes  
7900 Greenside Ct.  
Charlotte, NC 28277  
Phone: (704) 719-3074  
E-mail: [seraphimdedes@gmail.com](mailto:seraphimdedes@gmail.com)

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EASTER SUNDAY - AGAPE VESPERS

**PRIEST:**

Glory to the holy and consubstantial, and life-giving, and undivided Trinity, always, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**CHOIR:**

Amen.

**Mode pl. 1d.**

**PRIEST:**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**CHOIR:**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. (2)

**PRIEST:**

*Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.*

**CHOIR:**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**PRIEST:**

*As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire.*

**CHOIR:**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**PRIEST:**

*So shall the sinners perish from the face of God. And let the righteous be glad.*

**CHOIR:**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the

tombs He has granted life.

**PRIEST:**

*This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

**CHOIR:**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**PRIEST:**

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

**CHOIR:**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**PRIEST:**

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

**CHOIR:**

...He has granted life.

**The Peace Litany**

**DEACON**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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.

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

For our Archbishop (*Name*), the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ,

and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, the president, and all those in civil authority and public service, let us pray to the Lord.

For this parish and city, for every city and town, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

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

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

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

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us and protect us, O God, by your grace.

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.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST**

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

**CHOIR**

Amen.

**Mode 2.**

Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried to You; hear me. Give heed to the voice of my supplication when I cry to You. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the

evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

*Out of the depths I have cried to You, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.*

Come, let us adore God the Word, begotten of the Father before all ages, who took flesh from the Virgin Mary. For he willingly suffered the cross and submitted himself to burial, and he rose from the dead and saved me, the one who has gone astray.

*Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

Our Savior Christ blotted out the bond that pledged us to the decree by nailing it to the cross, and he abolished the dominion of death. Let us worship his third day resurrection.

*If You, O Lord, should mark transgression, O Lord, who would stand? For there is forgiveness with You.*

Together with the Archangels, let us praise the resurrection of Christ. He is the Deliverer and Savior of our souls. He will come again in awesome glory and mighty power to judge the world he fashioned.

*Because of Your law, O Lord, I waited for You; my soul waited for Your word. My soul hopes in the Lord.*

The angel proclaimed you Master, crucified and buried. And he said to the women: Come and see the place where the Lord lay. For he is risen as he foretold, for he is almighty. Therefore, we worship you who alone are immortal. Have mercy on us, O Christ, Giver of life.

**Stichera for the Saint.**

**Mode 4. Original Melody.**

*From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord.*

To a brave one in martyr saints we pay

tribute to you today gathered here together, victorious St. George. For you completed the martyr's course; devoutly you kept the faith; and from God you have received laurel crowns for your victory. Therefore supplicate that He free from corruption and from dangers those who loyally now honor your ever-ven'erable memory.

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption; and He shall redeem Israel from all his transgressions.*

With a valiant attitude as a lion you earnestly advanced to the contest, O glorious St. George, thus overlooking your physical body that would decompose, wisely caring for your soul which remains incorruptible. And when you endured many methods of torture, you, O Martyr, were refined like gold in fire seven times over and purified.

*Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples*

Voluntarily suffering with the Savior, O holy one, emulating His death by death through martyrdom, you now majestically reign with Him, attired in the radiant purple garment died in blood, and equipped with the scepter that marks the champion's prize, and distinguished with laurel crowns of vict'ry unto never ending ages, O great and glorious Martyr George.

*For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

With the breastplate of pious faith were you armed, and the shield of grace and the spear of Christ's cross, O holy Martyr George. And you became thus invincible contending against the foes. Therefore routing demons' ranks, as a model of excellence, now you celebrate with the Angels, while caring for the faithful whom

you sanctify and rescue when they invoke your exalted name.

Glory. **For the Saint.**  
**Mode pl. 2.**

True to your name was the manner of your life, O soldier George. For taking up the cross of Christ on your shoulders, you tilled the earth parched by diabolical delusion. As you uprooted the thorny religion of the idols, you planted the vine of the Orthodox faith everywhere. Therefore you pour out healings for the faithful throughout the civilized world; and you have shown yourself to be a righteous husbandman of the Trinity. We beseech you: intercede for the peace of the world and the salvation of our souls.

Both now. **Mode 2.**

At the coming of grace, the shadow of the law passed away. Just as the bush that burned was not consumed, so have you given birth and remained a virgin. Instead of a pillar of fire, the Sun of Righteousness shone forth; instead of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls appeared.

**DEACON:** Wisdom. Let us stand.

*The clergy and people sing:*

**Mode 2.**

Gladsome light of holy glory of the holy, blessed, heavenly, immortal Father, O Jesus Christ: arriving at the hour of sunset and having seen the evening light, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. It is worthy for You to be praised at all times with happy voices, O Son of God and Giver of life; and therefore the world glorifies You.

**DEACON:** The evening Prokeimenon.

**CHOIR**

**The Great Prokeimenon  
Grave Mode.**

Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God who does wonders.

*Verse: You made known Your power among the peoples.*

*Verse: I said, "Now I am beginning to see; this change is by the right hand of the Most High."*

*Verse: I remembered the Lord's works, for I will remember Your wonders of old.*

**DEACON**

Let us pray to the Lord, our God that we may be made worthy to hear the holy Gospel.

*(Lord have mercy. 3x)*

**DEACON**

Wisdom! Arise! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

**PRIEST**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**PRIEST**

The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**DEACON**

Let us attend!

*(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to you.)*

**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."

*(Glory to You, O Lord, glory to you.)*

**DEACON**

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

*(Lord, have mercy. 3x)*

Lord Almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy; we pray you, hear us and have mercy.

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

Let us pray for our Archbishop *(name)*.

Let us pray for our brethren, priests, hieromonks, deacons, and monastics, and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Let us again pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, protection, and forgiveness of the sins of all pious and Orthodox Christians living and visiting in this city, the parishioners, the members of the Parish Council and every Ministry of this Parish, and the donors and benefactors of this holy Sanctuary.

Let us again pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church, and

for all our fathers, mothers, brothers, and sisters who are asleep here in the Lord and for the Orthodox everywhere.

Let us again pray for those who do charitable work, for those who serve in this holy house, for those who labor, teach, and sing, and for all the people here present who await your great and rich mercy.

**PRIEST:**

For you are a merciful and loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. (Amen.)

**READER:**

O Lord, keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name to the ages. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be upon us for we have set our hope in you. Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments. Blessed are you, Master, grant me understanding of your commandments. Blessed are you, Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments. Lord, your mercy is forever. Do not despise the works of your hands. To you is due praise, to you is due song, to you is due glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. (Amen.)

**DEACON:**

Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

*(Lord, have mercy.)*

Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God by your grace. (Lord, have mercy.)

For a perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless evening, let us ask the Lord.

*(Grant this, O Lord.)*

For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask the

Lord.

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

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

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

For a Christian end to our lives, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good account of ourselves before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask the Lord.

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.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST:**

For you are a good and loving God, and to you we give glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

*(Amen.)*

**PRIEST:**

Peace be with all.

*(And with your spirit.)*

**DEACON:**

Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

*(To You, O Lord.)*

**PRIEST:**

Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of mankind, look upon Your servants and Your inheritance; for to You, the fearful Judge who yet love mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads and submissively inclined their necks,

awaiting not help from men, but entreating Your mercy and looking confidently for Your salvation. Guard them at all times, both during this present evening and in the approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse powers of the devil and from vain thoughts and from evil imaginations.

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

*(Amen.)*

**CHOIR:**

**Aposticha. Mode 2.**

Your resurrection, O Christ our Savior, has illumined the entire earth and has recalled your creation. O almighty Lord, glory to you.

**The Stichera of Pascha**

**Mode pl. 1a**

*Let God arise, and let His enemies be scattered, and let those who hate Him flee from before His face.*

Today a sacred Pascha has been revealed to us; a Pascha new and holy, a Pascha mystical, a Pascha all venerable Pascha, the Redeemer Christ himself; a Pascha that is blameless, a Pascha that is great, a Pascha of believers, a Pascha that has opened for us the gates of Paradise, a Pascha that sanctifies believers all.

*As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before the fire.*

Come now from that sight, O you women and heralds of good news, and say to Zion, "Receive from us the joyful tidings of the Resurrection of Christ. O Jerusalem, be exultant, dance and leap for joy, for you have witnessed Christ the King coming forth as a Bridegroom

from the sepulcher.

*So shall the sinners perish from the face of God. And let the righteous be glad.*

The myrrh-bearing women at dawn very early, standing outside the tomb of the Giver-of-Life, found an Angel who was seated upon the stone. And the Angel addressed them and this is what he said, "Why do you seek among the dead the One who is alive? Why do you grieve as though corruptible the Incorrupt? So go back and proclaim it to His Disciples."

*This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

Pascha of delight! Pascha, the Lord's Pascha! A Pascha all-venerable has risen for us. Pascha! With joy let us embrace one another. Pascha, the ransom from sorrow! Today from the sepulcher Christ emerged resplendently as from a bridal chamber, and the women He filled with joy, saying, "Proclaim this to the Apostles."

Glory. **For the Saint.**  
**Mode 4d.**

O brethren, let us spiritually extol that veritable diamond of endurance, George the illustrious Martyr. He was set on fire for the sake of Christ and forged by perils. Tortures trained him. Multiple martyrdoms devastated his body, which by nature was subject to decay. For love's longing overcame nature, persuading the lover to cross over, by means of death, to the loved One, Christ our God and the Savior of our souls.

Both now. **Mode pl. 1d.**

It is the day of the Resurrection. Let us shine brightly for the festival, and also embrace one another. Brethren, let us say even to those who hate us, "Let us forgive everything for the Resurrection." And thus let us cry



aloud, "Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life."

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. (2)

**Apolytikion for the Saint**  
**Mode 4g.**

As the one renowned for setting captives free and for defending those in poverty, the physician of the sick and the champion of emperors, great and victorious Martyr George, intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.

**Mode pl. 1d.**

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**DEACON**

Wisdom! (Father, bless.)

**PRIEST**

Blessed are You, Christ our God, always now and forever and to the ages of ages.

**READER**

Amen. Make firm, Lord our God, the holy and pure faith of the pious Orthodox Christians, together with His holy Church and this city forever. Amen.

Be illumined, illumined, O New Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord has arisen over you. Dance now for joy, O Zion, and exult. And you be merry, O pure Theotokos, at the arising of the One you bore.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

**PRIEST**

May he who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his most

pure and holy Mother; the power of the precious and life-giving Cross; the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven; the supplications of the honorable, glorious prophet and forerunner John the Baptist; the holy, glorious, and praise-worthy Apostles; the holy, glorious, and triumphant Martyrs; our holy God-bearing Fathers; the holy, and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna; of the holy, glorious Great Martyr George the Trophy-bearer, whose memorial we are celebrating, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as a good, loving and merciful God.

**PRIEST:** Christ is risen!

**PEOPLE:** Truly he is risen!

**PRIEST:** Christ is risen!

**PEOPLE:** Truly he is risen!

**PRIEST:** Christ is risen!

**PEOPLE:** Truly he is risen!

**PRIEST:** Glory to his holy third-day Resurrection!

**PEOPLE:** We worship his third-day Resurrection!

**PRIEST:** Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

**PEOPLE:** Truly the Lord is risen!