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The Service of Vespers

Holy Pascha 2015 - Easter Sunday

The Agape Vespers Service

Text in English

Sources (CoG)

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PRIEST

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

(Amen.)

PRIEST

Mode pl. 1.

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

CHOIR

...He has granted life.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR

...He has granted life.

PRIEST

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

CHOIR

...He has granted life.

PRIEST

Verse 1: *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. (GOA)

PRIEST

Verse 2: *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. (GOA)

PRIEST

Verse 3: *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. (GOA)

PRIEST

Verse 4: *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. (GOA)

PRIEST

Glory to Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

CHOIR

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

PRIEST

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. (GOA)

PRIEST

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death... (GOA)

CHOIR

...and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

DEACON

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our (episcopal rank) (name), the honorable presbyters, the deacons in the service of Christ, and all the clergy and laity, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For the Holy and Great Church of Christ, for this Holy Metropolis, this parish and city, for every city and town, and for the faithful who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray 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.)

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. *(Amen.)*

CHOIR

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. (SAAS)

Let my prayer be set forth before You as incense, the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord. (SAAS)

From Pentecostarion - - -

Resurrectional Stichera. Mode 2.

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

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.

(HC)

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

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. (HC)

From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch until night, let Israel hope in the Lord. (SAAS)

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. (HC)

For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is abundant redemption. And He will redeem Israel from all his transgressions. (SAAS)

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. (HC)

Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; praise Him, all you peoples. (SAAS)

You have abolished the curse of the tree by your cross, and by your burial you have done away with the dominion of death, while by your rising you have enlightened mankind. Therefore, we cry out to you: Glory to you, O Christ, our God and benefactor. (HC)

For His mercy rules over us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever. (SAAS)

The gates of death opened before you in fear, O Lord, and the gatekeepers of Hades, beholding you, were filled with awe. You destroyed the gates of brass and crushed the posts of iron. You led us out of the valley of the shadow of death and broke our chains. (HC)

Glory.

From Pentecostarion - - -

Mode 2.

Let us open our mouths and sing hymns of salvation. Come and bow down in the house of the Lord and say: Pardon our sins, you who hung upon the cross and rose from the dead, and yet are forever in the bosom of the Father. (HC)

Both now.

From Pentecostarion - - -

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. (HC)

DEACON *(in a low voice)*

Let us pray to the Lord.

PRIEST *(in a low voice)*

Prayer of the Entrance

In the evening and in the morning and at noonday we praise You, we bless You, we give thanks to You, and we pray to You, O Master of all, Lord who love mankind: Direct our prayer as incense before You, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For to You, O Lord, O Lord, are our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

DEACON

Wisdom! Arise!

CLERGY AND PEOPLE

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. ^(SD)

DEACON

The evening Prokeimenon.

CHOIR

Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.

Who is so great a God as our God? You alone are the God Who does wonders. ^(SAAS)

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE GOSPEL

DEACON

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

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

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 be attentive!

CHOIR

Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

PRIEST

(20:19-25)

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." *(RSV)*

CHOIR

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.)

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

(Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Let us pray for (episcopal rank) (name).

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

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

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, forgiveness and remission 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 church.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

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.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.)

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.

(Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have 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. ^(HC)

(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.

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

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

(Grant this, O Lord.)

For a Christian end to our life, peaceful, without shame and suffering, and for a good

account before the awesome judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

(Grant this, O 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 *(in a low voice)*

O 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.

PRIEST

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.)

From Pentecostarion ---

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. (HC)

From Pentecostarion ---
From Pentecostarion ---

Stichera of Pascha.

Mode pl. 1.

Verse 1: *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. (SD)

Verse 2: *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." (SD)

Verse 3: *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." (SD)

Verse 4: *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." (SD)

Glory. Both now. **Of Pascha.**

From Pentecostarion ---

Mode pl. 1.

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." (SD)

From Pentecostarion ---

Mode pl. 1.

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

DEACON

Wisdom!

(Father, bless!)

PRIEST

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

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

READER

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. (3) 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 praiseworthy Apostles, the holy, glorious, and triumphant Martyrs, our holy and God-bearing Fathers, (**local patron saint**); the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as a good, loving and merciful God.

Let us forgive everything for the Resurrection, And thus let us cry aloud:

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 Resurrection on the third day!

PEOPLE

We worship His Resurrection on the third day!

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!