

# *“Agape” Vespers*

## *of Holy and Glorious Pascha*

PRIEST: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving, and undivided Trinity always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

*The priest censens the front of the altar as he sings:*

PRIEST: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. *(1x)*

PEOPLE: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. *(2x)*

### *The Paschal Verses*

PRIEST: Let God arise! Let His enemies be scattered! Let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen from the dead...

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

PEOPLE: Christ is risen from the dead...

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

PEOPLE: Christ is risen from the dead...

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

PEOPLE: Christ is risen from the dead...

PRIEST: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen from the dead...

PRIEST: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

PEOPLE: Christ is risen from the dead...

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

PEOPLE: And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

### *The Great Litany*

DEACON: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For the peace of the whole world, for the good estate of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all men, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N., the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For our president, all civil authorities, and for our armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For this city, every city and countryside, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: For healthful seasons, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

*Exclamation of the Fourth Prayer*

PRIEST: For unto You 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.

PEOPLE: Amen.

**“O Lord, I Cry...”**

DEACON: Bless, father, the incense.

PRIEST: Blessed is our God always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. We offer incense to You, O Christ our God, as a fragrance of spiritual sweetness. Receive it on Your heavenly altar and send down on us in return the grace of Your all-holy Spirit.

DEACON: Amen.

***Opening Psalm Verses - Psalm 141:1, 2 (LXX 140)***

O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me! Hear me, O Lord. O Lord, I cry out to You, hear me. Give ear to my voice when I cry out to You. Hear me, O Lord.

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

*(Tone 2)*

*Come, let us worship God the Word begotten from the Father before all ages, and incarnate of the Virgin Mary. Having endured the Cross, He was buried as He Himself desired. And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.*

I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in His word I do hope.

*Christ our Savior nailed to the Cross the bond against us, He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death. Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day.*

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning, I say more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord;

*With the Archangels let us praise the Resurrection of Christ! He is our Savior, our Redeemer; He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power to judge the world which He made.*

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

*The angel proclaimed You as the crucified and buried Master. He told the women: ‘Come, see the place where He lay. He is risen as He said, for He is Almighty.’ We worship You, O only immortal One. Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of Life.*

***Psalm 117 (LXX 116)***

O, praise the Lord, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!

*By Your Cross, You destroyed the curse of the tree. By Your burial You slew the dominion of death. By Your rising, You enlightened the race of man. O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to You.*

For His merciful kindness is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

*The gates of death opened to You from fear, O Lord. When the gatekeepers of hell saw You they were afraid, for You demolished the gates of brass and smashed the iron chains. You have led us from the darkness and the shadows of death and have broken our bonds.*

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit:

*Let us come and worship in the house of the Lord, singing the hymn of salvation. Cleanse our sins, O You, Who were crucified and raised from the dead and are in the bosom of the Father.*

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*The shadow of the Law passed when grace came; as the bush burned, yet was not consumed, so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a virgin. Instead of a pillar of flame, the Righteous Sun has risen! Instead of Moses, Christ the salvation of our souls!*

### ***The Prayer before the Entrance***

DEACON: Let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mercy.

PRIEST: 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 before You as incense, and incline not our hearts to words or thoughts of evil; but deliver us from all who seek after our souls. For unto You, Lord, O Lord, we lift up our eyes, and in You have we hoped. Put us not to shame, O our God.

For unto You 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.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Bless, father, the holy entrance.

PRIEST: Blessed is the entrance into Your holy place always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

DEACON: Amen.

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend.

### ***“O Joyful Light”***

PEOPLE: O joyful Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun and behold the light of evening, we praise God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For it is right at all times to worship You with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life. Therefore all the world glorifies You.

### ***The Evening Prokeimenon: Tone 7***

#### ***Psalm 77 (LXX 76)***

DEACON: The evening prokeimenon.

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

*Verse: You have declared Your strength among the peoples. You have redeemed the people with Your arm.*

*Verse: And I said: “This is my anguish; but I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.”*

*Verse: I will remember the works of the Lord; surely I will remember Your wonders of old.*

### ***The Gospel Reading – John 20:19-25***

*It is customary for this Gospel to be read in many languages as a celebration of the universality of the “Good News” of Christ’s Resurrection.*

DEACON: That we may be counted worthy to hear the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us hear the holy Gospel.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

PRIEST: The reading from the holy Gospel according to Saint John.

PEOPLE: Glory to You, O Lord. Glory to You.

DEACON: Let us attend.

PRIEST: *(The priest reads the Gospel from the holy doors.)*

On the evening of that day, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, 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.

So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also 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 them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said to him, “We have seen the Lord.” So he said to them, “Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe.”

*The priest blesses the people with the Gospel as they sing:*

PEOPLE: Glory to you, O Lord. Glory to You.

### ***The Litany of Fervent Supplication / The Ektenia***

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

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy, hear us we pray, and have mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians; for our father, (*metropolitan, archbishop, or bishop*) N.; for our brethren: the priests, deacons, and monastics and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (*and for the servants of God. NN.*); and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, and for pardon and forgiveness of sins for (*the servants of God NN., and*) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

DEACON: Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who serve and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

PRIEST: [O Lord our God, receive this fervent supplication of Your servants, and have mercy on us according to the multitude of Your mercy; and send down Your compassion on us and on all Your people, who await Your great and rich mercy.]

For You are a merciful God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

### *The Evening Prayer*

PEOPLE: Grant, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Your name forever. Amen. Let Your mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on You. Blessed are You, O Lord; teach me Your statutes. Blessed are You, O Master; make me to understand your statutes. Blessed are You, O holy One; enlighten me with Your statutes. Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever. Despise not the works of Your hands. To You belongs worship, to You belongs praise, to You belongs glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### *The Evening Litany*

DEACON: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

DEACON: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

PEOPLE: Lord, have mercy.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For pardon and forgiveness of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: For all things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

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

PEOPLE: Grant this, O Lord.

DEACON: Calling to remembrance 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.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

*Exclamation of the Seventh Prayer*

PRIEST: For You are a good God and love mankind, and unto You we ascribe glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRIEST: Peace be to all.

PEOPLE: And to your spirit.

*The Prayer with Heads Bowed*

DEACON: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

PEOPLE: To You, O Lord.

PRIEST: 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 love mankind, have Your servants bowed their heads, and

submissively inclined their necks, not awaiting 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 enemy, from all adverse powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Your kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

PEOPLE: Amen.

### *Aposticha – Tone 2*

*Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,  
Has enlightened the whole universe;  
And through it, You call back to Yourself all creation.  
Almighty God, glory to You!*

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

*Today the sacred Pascha is revealed to us,  
The new and holy Pascha,  
The Pascha worthy of veneration,  
The Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer,  
The blameless Pascha,  
The great Pascha,  
The Pascha of the faithful,  
The Pascha which has opened for us the gates of Paradise,  
The Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.*

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

*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 the sinners will perish before the face of God, but let the righteous be glad.

*The myrrh-bearing women,  
At the break of dawn,  
Drew near to the tomb of the Giver of life.  
There they found an angel sitting upon the stone.  
He greeted them with these words:  
Why do you seek the living among the dead?*



*Why do you mourn 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.

*The Pascha of beauty,  
The Pascha of the Lord,  
The Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned upon us.  
It is the Pascha!  
Let us embrace each other joyously.  
O 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 to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

***Doxastikon, Tone 5 - "This is the Day of Resurrection..."***

This is the day of Resurrection, let us be illumined by the Feast. Let us embrace each other. Let us call brothers even those who hate us, and forgive all by the resurrection, and so let cry:

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

***The Paschal Dismissal***

PRIEST: Glory to You, O Christ, our God and our hope, glory to You.

PEOPLE: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

PRIEST: May Christ our true God, *Who rose from the dead, trampling down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowing life*, through the intercessions of His all-pure and all-blameless, holy Mother, by the protection of the honorable, bodiless powers of heaven, at the supplication of (*N., patron of the church*), of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

PRIEST: Christ is risen. (3x)

PEOPLE: Indeed, He is risen. (3x)

PRIEST: Glory to His holy third-day Resurrection.

PEOPLE: We adore His third-day Resurrection.

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

PEOPLE: And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

*“Christ is risen” in Other Languages*

*(Greek)*

Christos anesti!                      Alethos anesti!  
(Chree-STOS ah-NEST-ee) (Ah-lee-THOS ah-NEST-ee)

*(Russian)*

Christos voskrese!                      Voistinu voskrese!  
(Chree-STOS vos-KRE-syeh) (Vah-EES-tyee-noo vos-KRE-syeh)

*(Arabic)*

Al masseah qam!                      Haqan qam!  
(el mass-EE-ah KHAM)                      (HAK-am KAHM)

*(Yupik)*

Chreestoósak ungoíkhtuk!                      Eeloómun ungoíkhtuk!



*The Resurrection*