

AGAPE VESPERS

The celebrant vests himself in all his priestly vestments. Standing before the holy table, holding in his left hand the precious Cross and the candlestick, he traces the sign of the cross with the censer, and exclaims:

Deacon: Master, bless!

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Response: Amen.

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

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

And the celebrant chants the verses from Psalm 67:1-3, while he censes the holy table and the whole sanctuary in the usual manner while the deacon precedes him with a candle.

Priest: Let God be risen and His enemies be scattered, let those who hate Him fell from before His Face!

Response: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Priest: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the face of fire!

Response: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Priest: Thus the sinners will perish before the Face of God and the righteous be glad!

Response: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

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

Response: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

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

Response: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Priest: Now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Response: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Archbishop and Father ____, for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the civil authorities of this country and those serving in its armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city, monastery, and countryside, and for those who in faith dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For good temperance of the air, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful seasons, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and Ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Response: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Response: Amen.

PSALM 140

At "Lord, I call" the priest comes out with the cross and the deacon with the candlestick and censens the whole temple and all the people according to the usual order.

Sing:

Psalm 140 - Tone 2

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon You!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise

in Your sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Reader: Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord Keep watch over the door of my lips. Incline not my heart to any evil, To busy myself with wicked deeds. In company with men who work iniquity; And let me not partake of their delights! Let a good man strike or rebuke me in kindness, But let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head; for my prayer is continually against their wicked deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, Then they shall learn that the word of the Lord is true. As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, So shall their bones be strewn at the mouth of the grave. But my eyes are toward you, O Lord God; In you I seek refuge; leave me not defenseless. Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, And from the snares of evildoers. Let the wicked together fall into their own nets, While I escape.

PSALM 141

I cry with my voice to the Lord, With my voice I make supplication to the Lord. I pour out my complaint before him, I tell my trouble before him. When my spirit is faint, You know my way! In the path where I walk, They have hidden a trap for me. I look to my right and watch, But there is none who takes notice of me; No refuge remains to me, No man cares for me. I cry to you, O Lord; I say: you are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living. Give heed to my cry; For I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors; For they are too strong for me!

V. (10) **Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name!**

V. (9) **The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.**
V. (8) **Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!**
V. (7) **Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!**
V. (6) **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.**

Tone 2 Come, let us worship the Word of God
begotten of 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.

V. (5) **For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.**

Christ our Savior
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

V. (4) **From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on 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.

V. (3) **For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.**

The Angel proclaimed You,
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!

V. (2) **Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!**

By Your Cross, You destroyed the curse of the tree.
By Your burial You destroyed the dominion of death.
By Your rising, You enlightened the race of man.//

O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to You!

V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

The gates of death opened to You from fear, O Lord.

When the guards 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 shadows of death, and have broken our bonds.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: Tone 2

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.

Tone 2 (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

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.

The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame.//

Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

[The Prayer of the Entrance

And they go out at once through the northern door, the Deacon going first. And, standing directly in front of the holy doors, the Deacon says: Let us pray to the Lord.

The Priest, bowing his head, says quietly the prayer of the entrance:

In the evening, in the morning, and at noon, we praise, bless, give thanks, and pray to you, Master of all, Lord who love mankind.

Make our prayer arise straight like incense before you, and let not our hearts incline to words or thoughts of evil, but deliver us from all who seek after our souls, for toward you, Lord, Lord, are our eyes and in you we have hoped, our God, do not put us to shame, for to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amin.

The Deacon: Bless, Master, the holy entrance.

The Priest blesses toward the east, saying:

Blessed is the entrance of your holy place, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *The Deacon: Amin.]*

The Entrance

The entrance is made with the Gospel Book.

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright!

Response: O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. Having come to the setting of the sun and beheld the light of evening, we praise the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit God! At all times you are worthy of praise in songs as Son of God, Giver of Life, therefore the world glorifies you!

The priest completes the entrance by going to the High Place. Then, facing the people, intones the

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace to all.

Response: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Priest: The prokeimenon in the eighth tone: Who is so great a God as our God; You are the God who does wonders.

Response: Who is so great a God as our God; You are the God who does wonders.

Priest: You have made known Your power among the peoples.

Response: Who is so great a God as our God; You are the God who does wonders.

Priest: And I said, now have I begun; this is the change of the Right Hand of the Most High.

Response: Who is so great a God as our God; You are the God who does wonders.

Priest: I remembered the works of the Lord; for from the beginning will I remember Your wonders.

Response: Who is so great a God as our God; You are the God who does wonders.

Priest: Who is so great a God as our God:

Response: You are the God who does wonders.

THE READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL

Deacon: And that we be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us implore the Lord our God.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Wisdom! Upright! Let us hear the holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace to all.

Response: And to your spirit.

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

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

Deacon: Let us attend!

Then the gospel is read in various languages, Selection 65 (John 20:19-25):

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."

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

GREAT EKTENIA

Deacon: Let us all say from our whole soul and from our whole mind, let us say.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Lord ruler-of-all, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

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

Response: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for pious and right-glorifying Christians.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for our Archbishop and Father (name).

Response: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for our brethren, priests, ieromonks, deacons, ierodeacons, and monastics, and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, care, and the pardon and remission of the sins of the servants of God (___, and of) all pious and right-glorifying Christians who dwell in or visit this town, and the members, stewards, founders, and benefactors of this holy church.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (3)

(special petitions may be taken here)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-remembered founders of this holy Church and for all our right-glorifying fathers and brethren who are in their rest before us (especially remembering ___), who piously lie asleep here and everywhere.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bring offerings and those who make acceptable sacrifices in this holy and all-venerable temple, for those who labor, those who sing, and all the people standing here, awaiting the great and rich mercy that is

from you.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: For you are a merciful God and love mankind, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Response: Amen.

Sing: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin.

Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is your name forever. Amen.

Let your mercy, O Lord, be upon us as we have set our hope on you.

Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Master, let me understand your statutes.

Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your statutes.

Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not despise the works of your hands.

To you is due praise, to you is due a song. To you is due glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

LITANY OF COMPLETION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening supplication to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us and keep us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: The whole evening, perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: An angel of peace, faithful guide, guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: The things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: To complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: The completions of our life to be Christian, painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Response: Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: Remembering our all-holy, pure, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Birthgiver of God and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one other, and our whole life to Christ God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

Priest: For you are a good God and love mankind and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Response: Amen.

Priest: Peace to all.

Response: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Response: To you, O Lord.

PRAYER OF THE BOWING OF HEADS

Priest: Lord our God, who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race, look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for to you, the fearful judge who love mankind, have your servants bowed their heads and bent their necks, not awaiting help from men, but looking for your mercy and longing for your salvation; keep them at every moment, both during this present evening and the approaching night from every enemy, from every adverse work of the devil, and from vain thoughts and evil imaginations. Blessed and glorified be the dominion of your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Response: Amen.

APOSTIKHA

A procession around the church takes places during the Apostikha

Tone 2 Your Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,
has enlightened the whole universe,
recalling Your creation.//
Glory to You, O almighty Lord!

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

Response: *(Special Paschal melody)* Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us, A new and holy Pascha, A mystical Pascha, A Pascha worthy of veneration, 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.

Priest: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish. As wax melts before the fire.

Response: Come from that scene, O women, bearers of glad tidings, And say to Sion: 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.

Priest: So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad.

Response: 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 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.

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

Response: Pascha of beauty, The Pascha of the Lord, A Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned for 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.

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

Response: 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 down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!" (3)

GREAT DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom.

Response: Father, bless.

Priest: Blessed is He-who-is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and to the ages of ages.

Response: Amen. Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages!

Priest: All-holy Birthgiver of God, save us.

Response: Shine! Shine! O New Jerusalem! The Glory of the Lord has shone on you! Exult now and be glad, O Sion! Be radiant, O Pure Theotokos, in the Resurrection of your Son!

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

Response: And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

Priest: He who is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of his all-pure and all-blameless holy Mother; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Ioakeim and Anna, of the holy (*of the day*), whose remembrance we also fulfill, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, as one who is good and loves mankind.

Response: Amen.

Priest: Christ is risen! (3)

People: Indeed He is risen! (3)

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (1)

Response: Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (2)

After that we conclude by singing:

And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His resurrection on the third day.

And we kiss the precious cross held in the hands of the celebrant.

PASCHAL GREETING IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES

English:	Christ is risen!	Indeed He is risen!
Albanian:	Krishhti Unjall!	Vertet Unjall!
Arabic:	Al Maseeya kam!	Hakkam kam!
Amharic:	Kristos Tenestwal!	Bergit Tenestwal!
Armenian:	Christos harjav i merelotz!	Orhniale harutjun Christosi!
Byelorussian:	Khristos Uvoskros!	Zaprowdu Uvoskros!
Middle English:	Crist is arisen!	Arisen he sothe!
Chinese:	Helisituosi fuhuole!	Qeshi fuhuole!
Slavonic:	Christos Voskrese!	Voistinu Voskrese!
Coptic:	Pchristos Aftooun!	Alethos Aftoon!
Czech:	Kristus Vstal A Mrtvych!	Opravdi Vstoupil!
Dutch:	Christus is opgestaan!	Hij is waarlijk opgestaan!
Esperanto:	Kristo Levigis!	Vere Levigis!
Estonian:	Kristus on Oolestoosunt!	Toayestee on Oolestoosunt!
Ethiopian:	Christos T'ensah Em' Muhtan!	Exai' Ab-her Eokala
Finnish:	Kristus Nousi Kuolleista!	Totisesti Nousi!

French:	Le Christ est Resurrecté!	En Verite, il est Resurrecté!
Gaelic:	Taw Creest Ereen!	Taw Shay Ereen Guhdyne!
Gaelic (Scotch):	Tha Crìosd air èiridh!	Gu dearbh, tha e air èiridh!
Georgian:	Kriste aghsdga!	Cheshmaritad aghsdga!
German:	Christus ist Auferstanden!	Wahrhaf auferstanden!
Greek:	Christos Anesti!	Alithos Anesti!
Hawaiian:	Ua Ala Hou 'o Kristo!	Ua Ala 'I 'o No 'oia!
Hebrew:	Ha-Mashiah qom!	Be-emet qom!
Indian:	Christu Uyirthezhunnettu!	Theerchayayum Uyirthezhunnettu!
Indonesian:	Krisuts Telah Bangkit!	Benar dia Telah Bangkit!
Italian:	Cristo e' Risorto!	Veramente e' Risorto!
Iyoric Patwa (Dialect of English used by the Rastafarian subculture of the West Indies):		
	Krestos a uprisin!	Seen, him a uprisin fe tru!
Japanese:	Harisutosu Fukkatsu!	Jitsu Ni Fukkatsu!
Javanese:	Kristus Sampun Wungu! Saesto Panjene Ganipun Sampun Wungu!	
Kpelle:	Korai aa mu su Saa-yeei!	Toya ma, E mu su Saa-yeei!
Korean:	Kristo Gesso!	Buhar ha sho Nay!
Latin:	Christus Resurrectus Est!	Vere Resurrectus Est!
Lugandan:	Kristo Ajukkide!	Amajim Ajukkide!
Macedonian:	Kristos Voskres!	Voistinu Voskres!
Nigerian:	Jesu Kristi Ebiliwo!	Ezia o'biliwo!
Norwegian:	Christus er Oppstanden!	Sandelig Han er Oppstanden!
Polish:	Khristus Zmartvikstau!	Zaiste Zmartvikstau!
Portugese:	Christo Ressuscitou!	Em Verdade Ressuscitou!
Romanian:	Hristus A Inviat!	Adeverat a Inviat!
Russian:	Khristos Voskrese!	Voistinu Voskrese!
Sahidic Coptic:	Pchristos aftooun!	Alethos aftooun!
Sanskrit:	Kristo'pastitaha!	Satvam Upastitaha!
Serbian:	Christos Vaskres!	Vaistinu Vaskres!
Slovak:	Kristus vstal zmr'tvych!	Skutočne vstal!
Spanish:	Cristo esta resucitado!	En verdad, esta resucitado!
Swahili:	Kristos Ame Fu Fuka!	Kweli Ame Fu Fuka!
Swedish:	Kristus är Upstånden!	Sannerligen Upstånden!
Syriac:	Meshiha qam!	Bashrira qam!
Turkish:	HristosDiril-Di!	Hakikaten Diril-Di!
Ukrainian:	Khristos Voskres!	Voistinu Voskres!
Zulu:	Ukristu Uvukile!	Uvukile Kuphela!