

THE VESPERS OF PASCHA

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 unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

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

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

Choir: 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 fire.

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

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

Choir: 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. (*Psalm 117:24*)

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

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

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

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

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

Choir: and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

The Great Litany

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For His Beatitude, our Metropolitan _____, and for His (Eminence, Grace) our (Archbishop, Bishop) _____ for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces everywhere, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and country, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating 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.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto Thee 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.

Choir: Amen.

Psalm 140

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

Choir: (Tone 2) Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee. Hear me, O Lord. Let my prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Choir: 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.

For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for the Lord, my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Choir: 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.

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

Choir: 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 redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Choir: The angel proclaimed Thee 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 Thee, O only immortal One. Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of Life.

Praise the Lord all nations. Praise Him, all peoples.

Choir: By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy the curse of the tree. By Thy burial Thou didst slay the dominion of death. By Thy rising, Thou didst enlighten the race of man. O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

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

Choir: The gates of death opened to Thee from fear, O Lord, when the guards of hell saw Thee they were afraid, for Thou didst demolish the gates of brass and smash the iron chains. Thou hadst led us from the darkness and the shadows of death and hadst broken our bonds.

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

Choir: Let us come and worship in the house of the Lord, singing the hymn of salvation. Cleanse our sins, O Thou, who wast crucified and raised from the dead, And art in the bosom of the Father.

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

Choir: 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

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

Priest: In the evening, the morning, and at noonday, we praise, bless, give thanks and pray to Thee, O Master of all. Let our prayer arise in Thy sight as incense, and do not give our hearts to words or thoughts of evil. Deliver us from all who seek our souls, for to Thee, O Lord, Lord, do we look and on Thee have we hoped, that Thou wilt not forsake us, O our God. For unto Thee 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. Amen.

Deacon: Master, bless the holy entrance.

Priest: Blessed is the entrance of Thy saints, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.]

The Entrance

The entrance is made with the Gospel Book.

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend.

Choir: O gladsome light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God, Father, Son, and Holy

Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship Thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of Life: therefore, all the world doth glorify Thee!

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

Deacon: Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Deacon: Wisdom.

Priest: (The Great Prokeimenon in the 8th Tone:) Who is so great a God as our God; Thou art the God who doest wonders.

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God; Thou art the God who doest wonders.

Priest: Thou hast made known Thy power among the peoples.

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God; Thou art the God who doest wonders.

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

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God; Thou art the God who doest wonders.

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

Choir: Who is so great a God as our God; Thou art the God who doest wonders.

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

Choir: Thou art the God who doest wonders.

The Reading of the Holy Gospel

Deacon: And that we may be accounted worthy to hear the Holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Wisdom. Let us attend. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Then the celebrant reads the Gospel from John, 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.”

Choir: Glory to Thee, O Lord. Glory to Thee.

The Augmented Litany

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for His Beatitude, our Metro-politan____, and His (Eminence, Grace), our (Archbishop, Bishop)____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy; and for all our brethren in Christ.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for the President of our country, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy temple; and for all of our fathers, mothers, brothers and sisters, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation, pardon and remission of sins, for all the brethren of this community.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy.

Choir: Lord, have mercy. (3)

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God, and lovest man-kind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Choir: (*Sung*)

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

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name forever. Amen.

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

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

Blessed art Thou, O Master, let me understand Thy statutes.

Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy statutes.

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

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

The Litany of Vespers

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

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

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: A Christian ending to our life; painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Choir: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating 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.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

Choir: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

The Prayer at the Bowing of the Heads

Priest: O Lord our God, Who bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race: Look upon Thy servants and upon Thine inheritance; for to Thee, the awesome Judge who loves mankind, have Thy servants bowed their heads and bent their necks; not expecting help from men, but hoping in Thy mercy and looking for Thy salvation. Protect them at all times, especially in this present evening and in the coming night, from every enemy, from every adverse work of the Devil, from vain thoughts and from evil memories. Blessed and most glorified be the majesty of Thy kingdom: of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

The Apostikha

A procession around the church takes places during the Apostikha

(Tone 2) Thy resurrection, O Christ our Savior, Has enlightened the whole universe, Recalling Thy creation. Glory to Thee, O Almighty Lord.

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

Choir: *(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.

Choir: 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.

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

Choir: 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.

Choir: 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 unto ages of ages. Amen.

Choir: 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)

The Great Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom.

Choir: Father, bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing, is blessed always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

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

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

Choir: And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.
Priest: May 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 prayers of His most pure Mother, and of all the Saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.
People: Amen.
Priest: Christ is risen! (*thrice*)
People: Indeed He is risen! (*thrice*)
Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (*once*)
Choir: Christ is risen from the dead, Trampling down death by death, And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (*twice*)

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!	Queshi 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
	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!	Skutocne 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!

Ganipun

Paschal Vespers

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