

**VESPERS OF THE PASCHAL VIGIL
FOR CELEBRATION AT HOME
APRIL 3 EVENING**

Opening Hymn:

Troparion, Tone 2

- The angel standing by the tomb cried out to the myrrh-bearing women: Myrrh is fitting for the dead, but Christ has shown himself not subject to corruption.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord, Jesus Christ, our God, have mercy on us.

R: Amen.

Come, let us worship our King and God.

Come, let us worship Christ, our King and God.

Come, let us worship and bow before the only Lord Jesus Christ, the King and our God.

PSALM 103

Bless the Lord, O my soul!

Lord my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and glory,
wrapped in light as in a robe.

You stretch out the heavens like a tent,
Above the rains you build your dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot,
You walk on the wings of the wind.

You make your angels spirits
and your ministers a flaming fire.

You founded the earth on its base,
to stand firm from age to age.

You wrapped it with the ocean like a cloak
the waters stood higher than the mountains.

At your threat they took to flight;
at the voice of your thunder they fled.

They rose over the mountains and flowed down
to the place which you had appointed.

You set limits they might not pass
lest they return to cover the earth.

You make springs gush forth in the valleys;
they flow in between the hills.

They give drink to all the beasts of the field;
The wild asses quench their thirst.

On their banks dwell the birds of heaven;
from the branches they sing their song.

From your dwelling you water the hills;

earth drinks its fill of your gift.
You make the grass grow for the cattle,
and the plants to serve man's needs,
that he may bring forth bread from the earth,
and wine to cheer man's heart;
Oil, to make his face shine;
and bread to strengthen man's heart.
The trees of the Lord drink their fill,
the cedars he planted on Lebanon;
there the birds build their nests;
on the treetop the stork has her home.
The goats find a home on the mountains
and rabbits hide in the rocks.
You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for its setting.
When you spread the darkness it is night,
And all the beasts of the forest creep forth.
The young lions roar for their prey,
and ask their food from God.
At the rising of the sun they steal away
and go to rest in their dens.
Man goes out to his work,
to labor till evening falls.
How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
The earth is full of your riches.
There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its moving swarms past counting,
living things great and small.
The ships are moving there
and the monsters you made to play with.
All of these look to you,
to give them their food in due season.
You give it, they gather it up;
You open your hand, they have their fill.
You hide your face, they are dismayed;
you take back your spirit, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.
You send forth your spirit, they are created;
and you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord last forever:
may the Lord rejoice in his works;
He looks on the earth and it trembles;
the mountains send forth smoke at his touch.
I will sing to the Lord all my life,

make music to my God while I live.
May my thoughts be pleasing to him:
I find my joy in the Lord.
Let sinners vanish from the earth and the wicked exist no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!
You made the moon to mark the months;
the sun knows the time for its setting.
How many are your works, O Lord!
In wisdom you have made them all.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Glory to you, O God! (*Three times*)

Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshiped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls; purify our bodies; set aright our minds; cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble, and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may attain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For You are blessed forever and ever.

R. Amen.

PSALM 140

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me;
Refrain: Hear me, O Lord!
O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me;
receive the voice of my prayer when I call upon you.
Refrain: Hear me, O Lord!
Let my prayer ascend to you like incense
and the lifting up of my hands like an evening sacrifice.
Refrain: Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard, before my mouth
and set a seal on the door of my lips.
Let not my heart be inclined to evil,
nor make excuse for the sins I commit.
Let me never share in sinners' feasting
If a just man strikes or reproves me it is kindness
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.
Let my prayer be ever against their malice.
Their princes were thrown down by the side of the rock.
Then they understood that my words were kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of the grave.
To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned
in you I take refuge; spare my soul!
From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;
keep me from the snares of those who do evil.
Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set
while I pursue my way unharmed.

PSALM 141

With my voice I cry to the Lord;
with all my voice I entreat the Lord.
I pour out my trouble before him;
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints within me.
But you, O Lord, know my path.
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to entrap me.
Look on my right and see:
there is no one who takes my part.
I have no means of escape,
not one who cares for my soul.
I cry to you, O Lord,
I have said: You are my refuge, all I have in the land of the living.
Listen, then, to my cry
for I am in the depths of distress.
Rescue me from those who pursue me
for they are stronger than I.
Bring my soul out of this prison
And then I shall praise your name.
Around me the just will assemble
Because of your goodness to me.

PSALM 129

*8. Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice!*

(Tone 1) Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord, and grant us forgiveness of sins. For you alone manifested resurrection to the world.

7. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.

- O you peoples, walk around Zion and encompass her and there give glory to him who rose from the dead. For he is our God who delivered us from our transgressions.

6. If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?

But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

- Come, you peoples, let us praise and worship Christ, and give glory to his resurrection from the dead. For he is our God who delivered the world from the deceit of the enemy.

5. My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

- Rejoice, O you heavens; sound the trumpets, you foundations of the earth, cry out with joy, O you mountains. For behold, Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross; the Giver of life has put death to death; and the Lover of us all has raised Adam up.

4. *Let the watchman count on daybreak,
and Israel on the Lord.*

(Tone 8) Today Hades sighs and cries aloud: Better that I had never received the one whom Mary bore, for when he came to me, he undid my power. He trampled the brazen gates, and being God, he raised up the souls which once I held. O Lord, glory to your cross and to your resurrection.

3. *Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.*

- Today Hades sighs and cries aloud: Better that I had never received the one whom Mary bore, for when he came to me, he undid my power. He trampled the brazen gates, and being God, he raised up the souls which once I held. O Lord, glory to your cross and to your resurrection.

PSALM 116

2. *Praise the Lord, all you nations;
Acclaim him, all you peoples!*

- Today Hades sighs and cries aloud: my power is destroyed! I received a mortal as if he were merely one of the dead. But I was powerless to hold him. And along with him I shall lose those over whom I ruled. I held the dead from all ages; but behold, he is raising them all! O Lord, glory to your cross and to your resurrection.

1. *Strong is the love of the Lord for us;
he is faithful forever.*

Today Hades sighs and cries aloud: My power has been swallowed up. The shepherd has been crucified and has raised Adam up. I am deprived of those over whom I used to rule. I have vomited up all those whom I devoured in my strength. He who was crucified has emptied the graves. Death's power has lost its strength. O Lord, glory to your cross and to your resurrection. *v. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

(Tone 6) The great Moses mystically prefigured this present day when he said, God blessed the seventh day. For this is the blessed Sabbath! This is the day of rest on which the only begotten Son of God kept the sabbath in the flesh, By resting in death from all his works. According to the plan of salvation. Returning again to what he was through the Resurrection, He granted us eternal life. He alone is good and loves us all.

v. Now and ever and forever. Amen.

(Tone 1) Let us praise the Virgin Mary, the glory of the whole world. Born of man, she bore the Master. She is the gate of heaven, the song of angels, and adornment of the faithful. She is heaven itself and the temple of God. She tore down the dividing wall of enmity, bringing peace and opening the kingdom. If we cling to her, then, as an anchor of faith, the Lord born of her will be our champion. Take courage, then, take courage, people of God. For he who is all-powerful will fight our enemies.

HYMN OF THE EVENING

O joyful Light of the holy glory of the Father Immortal, the heavenly, holy, blessed One, O Jesus Christ, now that we have reached the setting of the sun, and see the evening light, we sing to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to raise a song of praise in measured melody to you, O Son of God, the Giver of Life. Therefore, the universe sings your glory.

THE OFFICE OF READINGS

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-13

A reading from Genesis

In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth - and the earth was without form or shape, with darkness over the abyss and the Spirit of God hovering over the waters - then God said: Let there be light, and there was light. God saw that the light was good. God then separated the light from the darkness. God called the light day, and the darkness he called night. Evening came, and morning followed - the first day.

Then God said: Let there be a dome in the middle of the waters, to separate one body of water from the other. God made the dome, and it separated the water below the dome from the water above the dome. And so it happened. God called the dome sky. Evening came, and morning followed - the second day.

Then God said: Let the water under the sky be gathered into a single basin, so that the dry land may appear. And so it happened: the water under the sky was gathered into its basin, and the dry land appeared. God called the dry land earth, and the basin of water he called sea. God saw that it was good. Then God said: Let the earth bring forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree on earth that bears fruit with its seed in it. And so it happened: the earth brought forth vegetation: every kind of plant that bears seed and every kind of fruit tree that bears fruit with its seed in it. God saw that it was good. Evening came, and morning followed—the third day.

One may choose also to read any of the following:

- 2) *Isaiah 60:1-16*
- 3) *Exodus 12:1-11*
- 4) *Jonah 1:1-4:11*
- 5) *Joshua 5:10-15*

Sixth Reading:

A Reading from Exodus [*Exodus 13:20-15:19*]

A Reading from Exodus

At that time: Setting out from Succoth the Israelites camped at Etham near the edge of the wilderness. The Lord preceded them, in the daytime by means of a column of cloud to show them the way, and at night by means of a column of fire to give them light. Thus they could travel both day and night. Neither the column of cloud by day nor the column of fire by night ever left its place in front of the people.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses: Speak to the Israelites: Let them turn about and camp before Pihahiroth between Migdol and the sea. Camp in front of Baal-zephon just opposite, by the sea. Pharaoh will then say, The Israelites are wandering about aimlessly in the land. The wilderness has closed in on them. I will so harden Pharaoh's heart that he will pursue them. Thus I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am the Lord. This the Israelites did. When it was reported to the king of Egypt that the people had fled, Pharaoh and his servants had a change of heart about the people. What in the world have we done! they said. We have released Israel from our service! So Pharaoh harnessed his chariots and took his army with him. He took six hundred select chariots and all the chariots of Egypt, with officers on all of them. The Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh, king of Egypt, so that he pursued the Israelites while they were going out in triumph. The Egyptians pursued them - all

Pharaohs horses, his chariots, his horsemen, and his army - and caught up with them as they lay encamped by the sea, at Pi-hahiroth in front of Baal

Now Pharaoh was near when the Israelites looked up and saw that the Egyptians had set out after them. Greatly frightened, the Israelites cried out to the Lord. To Moses they said, Were there no burial places in Egypt that you brought us to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Did we not tell you this in Egypt, when we said, Leave us alone that we may serve the Egyptians? Far better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness. But Moses answered the people, Do not fear! Stand your ground and see the victory the Lord will win for you today. For these Egyptians whom you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you have only to keep still.

Then the Lord said to Moses: Why are you crying out to me? Tell the Israelites to set out. And you, lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea, and split it in two, that the Israelites may pass through the sea on dry land. But I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them, and I will receive glory through Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots and his horsemen. The Egyptians will know that I am the Lord, when I receive glory through Pharaoh, his chariots, and his horsemen.

The angel of God, who had been leading Israel's army, now moved and went around behind them. And the column of cloud, moving from in front of them, took up its place behind them, so that it came between the Egyptian army and that of Israel. And when it became dark, the cloud illumined the night; and so the rival camps did not come any closer together all night long. Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the Lord drove back the sea with a strong east wind all night long and turned the sea into dry ground. The waters were split, so that the Israelites entered into the midst of the sea on dry land, with the water as a wall to their right and to their left.

The Egyptians followed in pursuit after them - all Pharaohs horses and chariots and horsemen- into the midst of the sea. But during the watch just before dawn, the Lord looked down from a column of fiery cloud upon the Egyptian army and threw it into a panic; and he so clogged their chariot wheels that they could drive only with difficulty. With that the Egyptians said, Let us flee from Israel, because the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt.

Then the Lord spoke to Moses: Stretch out your hand over the sea, that the water may flow back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and their horsemen. So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at daybreak the sea returned to its normal flow. The Egyptians were fleeing head on toward it when the Lord cast the Egyptians into the midst of the sea. As the water flowed back, it covered the chariots and the horsemen. Of all Pharaohs army which had followed the Israelites into the sea, not even one escaped. But the Israelites had walked on dry land through the midst of the sea, with the water as a wall to their right and to their left. Thus the Lord saved Israel on that day from the power of Egypt. When Israel saw the Egyptians lying dead on the seashore and saw the great power that the Lord had shown against Egypt, the people feared the Lord. They believed in the Lord and in Moses his servant. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord:

Refrain: Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

Horse and chariot he has cast into the sea. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

My strength and my refuge is the Lord.

and he has become my savior. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

This is my God, I praise him;
the God of my father, I extol him.

Refrain: Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

The Lord is a warrior, Lord is his name!

Pharaohs chariots and army he hurled into the sea. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

The elite of his officers were drowned in the Red Sea. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

The flood waters covered them, they sank into the depths like a stone. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

Your right hand, O Lord, magnificent in power. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

Your right hand, O Lord, shattered the enemy.
In your great majesty you overthrew your adversaries. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

You loosed your wrath to consume them like stubble.
At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

The flowing waters stood like a mound,
the flood waters foamed in the midst of the sea. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

The enemy boasted, I will pursue and overtake them;
I will divide the spoils and have my fill of them;
I will draw my sword; my hand will despoil them! *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

When you blew with your breath, the sea covered them;
like lead they sank in the mighty waters *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

Who is like you among the gods, O Lord?
Who is like you, magnificent among the holy ones?
Awe-inspiring in deeds of renown, worker of wonders. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

When you stretched out your right hand, the earth swallowed them!
In your love you led the people you redeemed. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

In your strength you guided them to your holy dwelling.
The peoples heard and quaked;
anguish gripped the dwellers in Philistia. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

Then were the chieftains of Edom dismayed,
the nobles of Moab seized by trembling;
All the inhabitants of Canaan melted away. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

Terror and dread fell upon them.
By the might of your arm they became silent like stone. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

While your people, Lord, passed over,
while the people whom you created passed over. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

You brought them in, you planted them
on the mountain that is your own -
the place you made the base of your throne, Lord,
the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

May the Lord reign forever and ever.

When Pharaoh's horses and chariots and horsemen entered the sea,
the Lord made the waters of the sea flow back upon them. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for
he is gloriously triumphant.

Though the Israelites walked on dry land through the midst of the sea. *Refrain:* Let us sing to
the Lord, for he is gloriously triumphant.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. *Refrain:* Let us sing to the Lord, for
he is gloriously triumphant.

Now and ever, and forever. Amen.

Refrain: Let us sing to the Lord, for he is
gloriously triumphant.

One may choose also to read any of the following:

7) *Zephaniah 3:8-15*

8) *1 Kings 17:8-24 (in some Bibles 3 Kings)*

9) *Isaiah 61:10-62:5*

10) *Genesis 22:1-18*

11) *Isaiah 61:1-9*

12) *2 Kings 4:8-37 (in some Bibles 4 Kings)*

13) *Isaiah 63:11-64:5*

14) *Jeremiah 31:31-34*

Fifteenth Reading:

A Reading from the Prophecy of Daniel [Daniel 3:1-88]

In his eightieth year King Nebuchadnezzar had a golden statue made, sixty cubits high and six cubits wide, which he set up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He then ordered the satraps, prefects, and governors, the counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the officials of the provinces to be summoned to the dedication of the statue which he had set up. The satraps, prefects, and governors, the counselors, treasurers, judges, magistrates and all the officials of the provinces came together for the dedication and stood before the statue which King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. A herald cried out: Nations and peoples of every language, when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, you must fall down and worship the golden statue which King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. Whoever does not fall down and worship shall be instantly cast into a white-hot furnace. Therefore, as soon as they heard the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, the nations and peoples of every language all fell down and worshiped the golden statue which King Nebuchadnezzar set up.

At that point, some of the Chaldeans came and accused the Jews to King Nebuchadnezzar: O king, live forever! O king, you issued a decree that everyone who heard the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, and double-flute, and all the other musical instruments should fall down and worship the golden statue; whoever did not was to be cast into a white-hot furnace. There are certain Jews whom you have made administrators of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have paid no attention to you; they will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up. Nebuchadnezzar flew into a rage and sent for Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who were promptly brought before the king. King Nebuchadnezzar questioned them: Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you will not serve my god, or worship the golden statue that I set up? Now, if you are ready to fall down and worship the statue I made, whenever you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, zither, dulcimer, harp, double-flute, and all the other musical instruments, then all will be well; if not, you shall be instantly cast into the white-hot furnace; and who is the God who can deliver you out of my hands? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar

There is no need for us to defend ourselves before you in this matter. If our God, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if he will not, you should know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue which you set up.

Nebuchadnezzar's face became livid with utter rage against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego . He ordered the furnace to be heated seven times more than usual and had some of the strongest men in his army bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and cast them into the white-hot furnace. They were bound and cast into the white-hot furnace with their trousers, shirts, hats and other garments, for the king's order was urgent. So huge a fire was kindled in the furnace that the flames devoured the men who threw Shadrach, Meshach, and into it. But these three fell, bound, into the midst of the white-hot furnace. They walked about in the flames, singing to God and blessing the Lord. Azariah stood up in the midst of the fire and prayed aloud:

Blessed are you, and praiseworthy,
O Lord, the God of our ancestors,
and glorious forever is your name.
For you are just in all you have done;
all your deeds are faultless, all your ways right,
and all your judgments proper.
You have executed proper judgments
in all that you have brought upon us
and upon Jerusalem, the holy city of our ancestors.
By a proper judgment you have done all this
because of our sins;
For we have sinned and transgressed
by departing from you,
and we have done every kind of evil.
Your commandments we have not heeded or observed,
nor have we done as you ordered us for our good.
Therefore all you have brought upon us,
all you have done to us,
you have done by a proper judgment.
You have handed us over to our enemies,
lawless and hateful rebels;
to an unjust king, the worst in all the world.
Now we cannot open our mouths;
shame and reproach have come upon us,
your servants, who revere you.
For your name's sake, do not deliver us up forever,
or make void your covenant.
Do not take away your mercy from us,
for the sake of Abraham, your beloved,
Isaac your servant, and Israel your holy one,
To whom you promised to multiply their offspring
like the stars of heaven,
or the sand on the shore of the sea.
For we are reduced, O Lord, beyond any other nation,
brought low everywhere in the world this day
because of our sins.
We have in our day no prince, prophet, or leader,
no burnt offering, sacrifice, oblation, or incense,
no place to offer first fruits, to find favor with you.

But with contrite heart and humble spirit
let us be received;
As though it were burnt offerings of rams and bulls,
or tens of thousands of fat lambs,
So let our sacrifice be in your presence today
and find favor before you;
for those who trust in you cannot be put to shame.
And now we follow you with our whole heart,
we fear you and we seek your face.
Do not put us to shame,
but deal with us in your kindness and great mercy.
Deliver us in accord with your wonders,
and bring glory to your name, O Lord:
Let all those be put to shame
who inflict evils on your servants;
Let them be shamed and powerless,
and their strength broken;
Let them know that you alone are the Lord God,
glorious over the whole world.

Now the king's servants who had thrown them in continued to stoke the furnace with naphtha, pitch, tow, and brush. The flames rose forty- nine cubits above the furnace, and spread out, burning the Chaldeans that it caught around the furnace. But the angel of the Lord went down into the furnace with Azariah and his companions, drove the fiery flames out of the furnace, and made the inside of the furnace as though a dew-laden breeze were blowing through it. The fire in no way touched them or caused them pain or harm. Then these three in the furnace with one voice sang, glorifying and blessing God: Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our ancestors, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever; and blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages. Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, praiseworthy and glorious above all forever. Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever. Blessed are you who look into the depths from your throne upon the cherubim, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever. Blessed are you in the firmament of heaven,
(*Here we stand and sing:*) Praise and exalt him above all forever.

The reader then reads the verses, and we sing the refrain: Praise and exalt the Lord above all forever.

Bless the Lord, all you works of the Lord,
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Angels of the Lord, bless the Lord,
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
You heavens, bless the Lord,
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you waters above the heavens, bless the Lord,
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you powers, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Sun and moon, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Stars of heaven, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Every shower and dew, bless the Lord;

Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you winds, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Fire and heat, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Cold and chill, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Dew and rain, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Frost and chill, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Hoarfrost and snow, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Nights and days, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Light and darkness, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Lightnings and clouds, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Let the earth bless the Lord,
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Mountains and hills, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Everything growing on earth, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
You springs, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Seas and rivers, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
You sea monsters and all water creatures, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you birds of the air, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you beasts, wild and tame, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
All you mortals, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
O Israel, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Priests of the Lord, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Servants of the Lord, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Spirits and souls of the just, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Holy and humble of heart, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Hananiah, Azariah, Mishael, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.
Apostle, prophets and martyrs of the Lord, bless the Lord;
Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;

Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.

Refrain: Praise and exalt him above all forever.

Then we sing: All you who have been baptized have been clothed with Christ, alleluia (*Three times*)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever, amen. Have been clothed with Christ, alleluia.

All you who have been baptized have been clothed with Christ, alleluia (*Once*)

Leader: Let us listen to a reading from the Gospel of the Holy Apostle Matthew. [Matthew 28:1-20]

Prokeimenon, Tone 5 [Psalm 65(66): 4.2]

Let all the earth worship you and sing praise to you; let everyone sing praise to your name, O Most High.”

Verse: Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; sing praise to his name, give to him glorious praise.

A Reading of the Letter of St. Paul the Apostle to the Romans. [Romans 6:3-11]

Brothers and sisters: are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. For if we have grown into union with him through a death like his, we shall also be united with him in the resurrection. We know that our old self was crucified with him, so that our sinful body might be done away with, that we might no longer be in slavery to sin. For a dead person has been absolved from sin. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him. As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

Instead of “Alleluia,” [Psalm 81(82): refrain, verse 8]

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for you rule all the nations.

Verse: God stands in the divine assembly. In the midst of the gods he gives judgment.

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for you rule all the nations.

Verse: “How long will you judge unjustly and favor the cause of the wicked?”

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for you rule all the nations.

Verse: Do justice for the weak and the orphan, defend the afflicted and the needy.

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for you rule all the nations.

Verse: Rescue the weak and the poor; set them free from the hand of the wicked.

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for you rule all the nations.

Verse: Unperceiving, they grope in the darkness and the order of the world is shaken.

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for you rule all the nations.

Verse: I have said to you: 'You are gods and all of you, sons of the Most High.'

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for you rule all the nations.

Verse: And yet, you shall die like men, you shall fall like any earthly princes.

Refrain: Arise, O God, judge the earth, for you rule all the nations.

Leader: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to the Apostle and Evangelist Matthew.

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

At that time: After the sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb. And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, approached, rolled back the stone, and sat upon it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing was white as snow. The guards were shaken with fear of him and became like dead men. Then the angel said to the women in reply, "Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.' Behold, I have told you." Then they went away quickly from the tomb, fearful yet overjoyed, and ran to announce this to his disciples. And behold, Jesus met them on their way and greeted them. They approached, embraced his feet, and did him homage. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me." While they were going, some of the guard went into the city and told the chief priests all that had happened. They assembled with the elders and took counsel; then they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came by night and stole him while we were asleep.' And if this gets to the ears of the governor, we will satisfy [him] and keep you out of trouble." The soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has circulated among the Jews to the present day. The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted. Then Jesus approached and said to them, "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age."

Response: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

The leader then proclaims: Christ is risen!

We respond: Indeed, he is risen!

This may be done three times.

Then we pray together:

Then, we may pray:

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us bow to the holy Lord Jesus who alone is sinless. We bow to your Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify your holy Resurrection. For you alone are our God, and we know no other. We call you by name. Come all you faithful, let us bow to the holy Resurrection of Christ, for behold, through the Cross, joy has come to the whole world. Always blessing the Lord, let us praise his Resurrection. By enduring the Cross for us, he destroyed Death by death.

Then:

HYMN OF GLORIFICATION.

Make us worthy, O Lord, to be kept sinless this evening.

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our Fathers, and praiseworthy and glorious is your name forever. Amen.

May your mercy, O Lord, be upon us

who have placed our hope in you.
Blessed are you, O Lord, teach me your commandments.
Blessed are you, O Master, make me understand your commandments.
Blessed are you, O Holy One, enlighten me with your commandments.
O Lord, your mercy is forever; despise not the work of your hands.
To you is due praise, to you is due a hymn; to you is glory due.
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

Leader: Blessed are you, Master and Ruler of All, for you have lighted the day with the brilliance of the sun and the night with fiery stars. You have counted us worthy of the length of this day and to come to the beginning of night. Hear our prayer and forgive the voluntary and involuntary sins of all your people. Accept our evening prayers and upon your inheritance. send down in return your abundant mercy and kindness. Guard us by your holy angels, clothe us in righteousness as a defense, protect us in your truth and keep us in your strength. Deliver us from all enemies and from every hostile attack. Grant that this evening and the approaching night and all the days of our life be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, and free from violence and evil dreams. Through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who have been pleasing to you from all ages.

R. Amen.

Then:

Profession of Faith

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, the only-begotten, born of the Father before all ages. Light from light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in essence with the Father; through whom all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven and was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became man. He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered and was buried. He rose on the third day according to the scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he is coming again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. And in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Creator of Life, who proceeds from the Father. Together with the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified; he spoke through the prophets. In one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I profess one baptism for the remission of sins. I expect the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Remit, pardon, and forgive our transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in deed and in word, with knowledge and in ignorance, in thought and in desire, by night and by day, forgive them all, O God, for you are good and love us all.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Leader: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Kontakion - Tone 8

Although you descended into the grave, O Immortal One, you destroyed the power of Death. You arose as a victor, O Christ God. You exclaimed to the myrrh-bearing Women: "Rejoice!" You gave peace to your Apostles and resurrection to the fallen

Amen. Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

Leader: All-holy Trinity, consubstantial power, indivisible kingdom, and Cause of all good, be favorable even to me, a sinner. Give strength and understanding to my heart, cleanse me of all defilement, and enlighten my mind, that I may always glorify, praise and worship you, saying:.

Response: One is holy, one is Lord Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Leader bows his head and together with the faithful makes a spiritual Communion praying aloud:

O Lord, I believe and confess that you are truly Christ,
who came into the world

To save sinners of whom I am the first.

Although I cannot be a partaker now of your mystical supper, O Son of God,
on this bright day on which you rose from the dead to destroy death by death and to grant life to those in the tombs.

Come at least spiritually into my heart by Your Divine Grace
for the healing of my soul and body.

For I will not reveal your mystery to your enemies,
Nor will I give you a kiss as did Judas,

But like the thief I profess to you:

+ Remember me, O Lord, when you come in your kingdom.

+ Remember me, O Master, when you come in your kingdom.

+ Remember me, O Holy One, when you come in your kingdom.

O Lord, I also believe and profess, that this,

Which I would receive, and which is now here present with us in Mystery,

Is truly your most precious Body, and your life-giving Blood,

Which, I pray, I may one day receive again

For the remission of all my sins and for life everlasting. Amen

+ O God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

+ O God, cleanse me of my sins and have mercy on me.

+ O Lord, forgive me for I have sinned without number.

Blessed be the name of the Lord, now and forever.

(*Three times*)

Then immediately:

Psalm 33

I will bless the Lord at all times,
his praise always on my lips;

In the Lord
my soul shall make its boast
The humble shall hear
and be glad.

Glorify the Lord with me.
Together let us praise his name.

I sought the Lord and he answered me;
from all my terrors he set me free.

Look towards him and be radiant;
let your faces not be abashed.

This poor man called, the Lord heard him
and rescued him from all his distress.

The angel of the Lord is encamped,
around those who revere him, to rescue them.

Taste and see that the Lord is good.
He is happy who seeks refuge in him.

Revere the Lord, you his saints.
They lack nothing, those who revere him.

Strong lions suffer want and go hungry
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Come, children, and hear me
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.

Who is he who longs for life and many days,
to enjoy his prosperity?

Then keep your tongue from evil
and your lips from speaking deceit.

Turn aside from evil and do good;
seek and strive after peace.

The Lord turns his face against the wicked
to destroy their remembrance from the earth.

The Lord turns his eyes to the just
and his ears to their appeal.

The just cried out and the Lord heard them,
and rescued them from all their distress.

The Lord is close to the broken-hearted;
those whose spirit is crushed he will save.

Many are the trials of the just,
but from them all the Lord will rescue them.

He will keep guard over all their bones,
not one of their bones shall be broken.

Evil brings death to the wicked;
those who hate the good are doomed.

The Lord ransoms the souls of his servants.
Those who hide in him shall not be condemned.

It is truly proper to glorify you, O Theotokos, the ever-blessed, immaculate, and the mother of our God.

More honorable than the cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the seraphim; who, a virgin, gave birth to God the Word, you, truly the Theotokos, we magnify.

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

Closing Hymn:

Troparion, Tone 2:

When you descended to death, O Immortal Life, you destroyed Hades by the brilliance of your divinity; and when you raised the dead from the depths of the earth, all the heavenly powers cried out: O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory to you.