Ἀγάπη Vespers
Arranged for Use Without a Priest

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

Response: Amen.

Leader: Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

All, twice:

Leader: Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

Leader: Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered, and let those who hate him flee from before his face!

Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

Leader: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before a fire.

Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

Leader: So let the wicked perish at the presence of God, but let the righteous ones rejoice.

Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshipped 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 right 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 obtain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMP-LIGHTING PSALMS

Tone 2 Samohlasen

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; receive the voice of my pray'r when I
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.

The 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 all 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:

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

Let your ears be attentive
   to the voice of my pleading.
Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

Cantor: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

Christ our Savior cancelled the decree that was written against us, by
nailing it to the Cross; and he destroyed the power of death.

We bow before his Resurrection on the third day.

Cantor: Let the watchman count on daybreak and Israel on the Lord.

With the archangels, let us sing hymns to Christ’s Resurrection; for he is
Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption, Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.

Although you died and were buried, the angel yet declared you as Master. He said to the women: Come and see where the Lord was buried; for he is risen as he foretold, for he is almighty.

Therefore we worship you the only Immortal One, and we beseech you to have mercy on us, O Giver of Life.

Psalm 116:

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples!

O Christ you have abolished the curse of the tree by your Cross; you have
Cantor: Strong is the love of the Lord for us; he is faithful forever.

O Lord, the gates of death opened before you in fear, and the gatekeepers of Hades were filled with dread at the sight of you. You smashed the gates of brass and crushed the posts of iron. Then you burst our chains asunder, and led us out of darkness, away from the shadow of death.

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

Let us all come and prostrate ourselves in the house of the Lord singing this hymn of salvation: O Christ, you were crucified on the tree and rose...

from the dead; and now you abide in the bosom of the Father. Please cleanse us of our sins.


The shadow of the Law passed away when grace arrived, for, like the bush which burned but was not consumed, you gave birth as a virgin, and a virgin you remained. Instead of a pillar of fire, the Sun of Justice dawned; instead of Moses, Christ, the salvation of our souls.

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,
Verse: You showed your power among the peoples. Your strong arm redeemed your people.

Verse: I said: Now I begin, and this is the will of the Most High

Verse: I remember the deeds of the Lord. I remember your wonders of old.

GOSPEL READING

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist John the Theologian.

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.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

HYMN OF GLORIFICATION

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.
Leader: Blessed are you, O Almighty Master, for you have lighted the day with the brilliance of the sun and the night with the 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 send down in return the greatness of your mercy and kindness upon us, your inheritance. Guard us with 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 our enemies and their hostile attacks. Grant that this evening and the approaching night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without violence and free of nightmares. Through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who from all ages have been pleasing to you. Amen.

APOSTICHA

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.

PASCHAL STICHERA

Cantor: Let God arise! Let his enemies be scattered! Let those who hate him flee from before his face.

Today the sacred Pasch is revealed to us, holy and new Pasch, the mystical Pascha, the venerable Pascha, the Pasch which is Christ the Redeemer, spotless Pasch, great Pasch,
Cantor: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before a fire.

O women, be the heralds of good news and tell what you saw:

tell of the vision and say to Zion: "Accept the good news of joy from us, the news that Christ has risen." Exult and celebrate and rejoice, O Jerusalem, seeing Christ the King, coming forth from the tomb like a bridegroom.

Cantor: So let the wicked perish at the presence of God, but let the righteous ones rejoice.

The myrrh-bearing women arrived just before the dawn at the tomb of the Giver of Life and found an angel seated on the stone
Cantor: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us exult and rejoice in it.

Pasch so delightful, Pasch of the Lord, is the Pasch—
most honored Pasch now dawned on us. It is the Pasch! Therefore, let us
joyfully embrace one another. O Pass-over, save us from sorrow;
For today, Christ has shown forth from the tomb as from a bridal
chamber and filled the women with joy by saying: Announce
the good news to the Apostles.
Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

This is the Resurrection Day! Let us be enlightened by this Feast and let us embrace one another! Let us call "Brethren" even those who hate us, and in the Resurrection, forgive ev'ry thing and let us sing: Christ is risen from the dead!

By death he trampled death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

PASCHAL DISMISSAL

Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. O Zion, now dance and be glad; and you, pure Theotokos, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.
Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Leader: O Christ our true God, risen from the dead, by death trampling death and giving life to those in the tombs, through the prayers of your most pure Mother, and through the prayers of all your saints, have mercy on us.

Response: Amen.

THE END OF ΑΓΑΠΗ VESPERS