Matins Propers
Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women

All page references are to The Order of Matins on Sundays After Pentecost, 2006

After "Glory to the holy, consubstantial...Amen", the following is sung, once by the celebrant and twice by the faithful:

**Troparion - Special Tone 5**

Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled death,

and to those in the tombs he granted life.

The service continues with the Hexapalsmos and the Litany of Peace.

"The Lord is God", Tone 2, p. 99.

**Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 2 (sung twice)**

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.
The noble Joseph took down your most pure body from the cross.

He wrapped it in a clean shroud, and with fragrant spices laid it in burial in a new tomb. But you, O Lord, arose on the third day, bestowing great mercy upon the world.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Second Troparion of the Myrrh-bearers - 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. So now cry out: The Lord is risen, bestowing great mercy upon the world.
You did not prevent the sealing of the stone at your tomb, and by your Resurrection you bestowed on all the rock of fidelity. O Lord, glory to you!

Cantor: Arise then, Lord, lift up your hand.
O God, do not forget the poor

You did not leave the bosom of the Father, yet for our salvation you accepted the tomb and the Resurrection. O Lord, glory to you!

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

O Theotokos, the mysteries surrounding you are exceedingly glorious, and beyond the power of understanding. For you retained the seal of purity, and your virginity remained inviolate;

yet you are acknowledged, without doubt, to be the Mother who gave birth
to the true God. We beg you, therefore, to entreat him to save our souls.

Sessional Hymn 2 - Tone 2

The myrrh-bearing women arrived early in the morning and seeing the tomb of the Lord empty, they ran to the apostles and said: The Mighty One has broken the strength of Death and has delivered all those held in the bonds of Hades. Announce with great confidence that Christ our God is truly risen and grants great mercy to us.

Cantor: I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart;
I will recount all your wonders.

The women prepared myrrh to anoint you, and secretly came to your tomb early in the morning. They feared the boldness of the Jews,
and they expected the soldiers to be keeping guard. But their weakness triumphed over manly strength for tenderness finds favor with God. And so they cry out: Arise, O Lord, protect us and save us for the love of your name.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

We praise you, O Theotokos, for you are covered with glory more than any other. Death has been put to death and Hades trampled underfoot by the Cross of your Son. He raised us from death granting us eternal life. Paradise is again offered for us to enjoy as before.

Therefore, in thanksgiving we glorify the love and power of Christ our God.
Take up the song of Moses and cry aloud,

O my soul: He is my helper and protector,

and is become my salvation; this is my God and I will glorify him.

Glory to your holy Resurrection, O Lord.
You suffered bodily on the Cross, O divinity beyond all suffering, and your side was pierced, opening a stream of blood and water to the world. You are our God and we glorify you. *Refrain*

I venerate your crucifixion; I glorify your burial; I praise and adore your Resurrection, and I cry out to you, O Lord of goodness: You are our God and we glorify you. *Refrain*

You have tasted the bitter gall, O Lord in whom the Church finds its sweetness. From your side which was pierced with the lance you gushed forth our immortality. You are our God and we glorify you. *Refrain*

O Savior who raised the dead, you yourself were numbered among the dead; you tasted death even though your body did not undergo corruption in the grave. You are our God and we glorify you. *Refrain*

Zion rejoices and may heaven exalt in joy with us; for Christ is risen, raising the dead who now sing: You are our God and we glorify you. *Refrain*

Joseph wrapped your most pure body in a white shroud, O Christ, and he placed you in a new tomb, O Savior, even though as God you raise the dead. *Refrain*

Hastening early in the morning, the holy myrrh-bearers have seen Christ; they proclaimed to the disciples: Christ is truly risen; come with us and sing praise to him.

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

Most Holy Trinity, unique divinity, without beginning or end, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant salvation to the world. You are our God and we glorify you.

In your womb, O most pure Virgin, you brought an end to the ancient curse. You blossomed forth our blessing by giving birth to your Child. He is God even though he bears our flesh. *Katavasia*  

It is the day of Resurrection. O people, let us be enlightened by it.
The Passover is the Lord's Pass-over, since Christ, our God, has brought us from death to life and from earth to heaven. We therefore sing the hymn of victory.

O God, the husbandman of all good trees and fruit, make fruitful my barren mind in your compassion.

On the Cross, O Jesus my Savior, you stretched out your hands pierced with nails to gather all your scattered people and lead them to the knowledge of God. Refrain

The people said to Pilate: Release Barabbas the criminal and raise up the Just One; crucify the sinless Lord. Refrain
When you were placed on the Cross, O Christ, the earth shook, light became dark, and many of the dead came forth from the grave venerating your power, O Lord. _Refrain_

Standing near your Cross, O Lord Jesus, your Mother cried out sighing: Alas, O my Son, where is the Lamb of God now going, the one who was immolated for the salvation of all? _Refrain_

Bowing before your Cross and tomb, I praise your passion and the nails of your hands, together with the lance that pierced your side; and I worship your holy Resurrection. _Refrain_

Resurrected, you despoiled our Enemy; Adam and Eve were both freed, escaping the chains of death by your holy Resurrection. _Refrain_

When you resurrected, O Christ, the bars and gates of Hades were shattered; the chains of Death were broken, terrified by your power, O Lord. _Refrain_

May Joseph come and stand among us, saying: He is risen, the God whom I carried, Jesus the Redeemer, who in his love raised up Adam. _Refrain_

May the Twelve rejoice with us, with the myrrh-bearing women, with Joseph and the disciples of Christ, and with the holy women who followed Jesus.

_Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit._

Together with the Father, I also praise the Son, and I sing praise to the Spirit of truth. I adore the unique nature distinguished in three persons and united in one essence.

_O blessed One of the root of Jesse! O holy Virgin, for our sake you gave birth in the flesh to the flowering rod who is Christ._

_Katavasia_  
**Tone 1 samopodoben**

_Come, let us partake of a new drink, not miraculously produced_
from the barren rock, but from the fountain of immortality,

springing up from the tomb of Christ. In him is our firm strength.

Sessional Hymn - Tone 2

With zeal, the holy women brought myrrh to your tomb, O Savior,

and their souls were filled with joy by a resplendent angel. They proclaimed

you as the God of the universe, and they cried joyfully to

the disciples: He is risen, our Lord and our Life.

Cantor: Glory...now and ever...

The choir of your disciples joined the myrrhbearers with joy; together

with them we all celebrate this feast and glorify your holy
Resurrection. Through their pray'rs, O Lord and Lover of us all, we pray to you: Grant great mercy to your people.

Ode 4
Irmos

Foreseeing your birth from a Virgin, the prophet cried aloud: I have heard the report of you and was afraid; for from Teman and the overshadowed mountain have you come, have you come, O Christ.

Refrain

Glory to your holy Resurrection, O Lord.
By your Cross you have despoiled the dens of Hades, awakening the dead and crushing the dominion of Death. We praise your burial, bowing down with all the children of Adam, and we worship your holy Resurrection. Refrain

You wished to ascend your Cross, O Savior, and save us from the curse of old because of your mercy. Deliver me also from the bonds of my passions, for you can do whatever you will. Refrain

You have nailed the ancient curse on the Cross, and by the blood flowing from your wounds, you made your blessing flow over me. Deliver me also from the bond of my passions, for you can do whatever you will. Refrain

Seeing you, O Savior, Hades was irritated in its infernal depths, since it was forced to give up those that it formerly had swallowed, all the dead of whom it is now deprived. Refrain

Despite the seals placed on the tomb and the soldiers put on guard, the Lord is risen as he said, delivering me from the bond of my passions, for he can do whatever he wills. Refrain

Risen from the dead, you despoiled Hades and gave life to the dead; by your Resurrection you opened to me the well-springs of immortality. Deliver me also from the bond of my passions, for you can do whatever you will. Refrain

May the evildoers be ashamed, for Christ is risen, awaking the dead and crying out to them: Take courage, for I have conquered the world. Believe in him or remain silent, all those who reject the Resurrection. Refrain

When you resurrected from the grave you said to the myrrh-bearers: Rejoice! You sent them to proclaim your Resurrection to the apostles. Deliver me also from the bond of passions, O Lord, for you can do whatever you will. Refrain

Let us honor Joseph, a supporter of godliness, a member of the Council, and a disciple of the Lord. Let us also praise the myrrh-bearers and the apostles. With all of them, O faithful, let us joyfully celebrate the Resurrection of the Savior.

Who is able to express the indivisible glory of the supreme Divinity? For it is one by nature, the consubstantial Trinity, and is praised as three persons without beginning.
Now and ever and forever. Amen.

O Theotokos and most pure Virgin, implore without ceasing the One who dwelt in your womb and to whom you gave birth without seed, that he deliver me from the bond of my passions, for you can aid us as you wish.

Katavasia

Tone 1 samopodoben

Let Ha-bak-kuk, speaking in be-half of God, stand with us at the di-vine watch;

let him show us the brilliant an-gel who pro-claims: To-day, sal-va-tion

comes to the world; for Christ, be-ing al-might-y is ris-en.

Ode 5

Irmos

Tone 2

Driv-ing a-way the dark-ness of my soul

by the light of your di-vine com-mand-ments; en-light-en me,

O God and Sav-ior, for you on-ly are the King of Peace.
Stripping me of the ancient garment that had been woven for me by the power of iniquity, you have clothed me, O Lord, in the garment of immortality. **Refrain**

Alas, my sin has sewn me a garment of fig leaves; for I have followed the advice of the Serpent and not kept your commandment, O Savior. **Refrain**

My soul has been wounded by sin and injured by the robbers of thought. But Christ has come through Mary, and he will heal me by pouring on the ointment of his mercy. **Refrain**

Standing near the Cross of the Redeemer, the all-pure Theotokos cried out maternally and sighed: You now leave me all alone, O my Son and my God! **Refrain**

With the weapon of the Cross, you have destroyed the Serpent, that prince of evildoers; and by your Resurrection, O Lord, you have broken the sting of death. **Refrain**

O Death, where is your sting? Where is the victory of Hades? Rejoice, Adam, for Death is abolished by the life of him who is risen from the dead. **Refrain**

The myrrh-bearing women came to the tomb of him who carried life even to Hades, and they heard the good news of the Resurrection of Christ. **Refrain**

Celebrating today the memory of the holy myrrh-bearing women and of all your disciples, O Lord, we praise you in your radiant Resurrection **Refrain**

All the faithful, let us praise, as is fitting, the noble Joseph of Arimathea who took the body of Christ down from the Cross and piously gave him a respectful burial.

I worship you in three persons, O my God; I bow before the Father, the Son, and the most Holy Spirit, confessing the unity of the three persons.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.
Let us rise at early dawn and bring to our Master a hymn instead of myrrh, and we shall see Christ, the Sun of righteousness, who enlightens the life of all.

I am held fast, O Savior, in the depths of sin and overwhelmed by the sea of life: but, as you have brought out Jonah from the belly of the whale, bring me out from the passions and save me.
Take courage! Hades is put to death, for by his death on the Cross Christ has turned the sword against it. It is now deprived of its spoils and has lost all the dead which it had seized. Refrain

Hades is despoiled! Take courage, O people! The tombs are opened. Awaken! Christ calls you forth from Hades; he has come to redeem the human race from the grave and death. Refrain

The Source of life said to Hades: I have now come to reclaim the dead which you had formerly swallowed up. For he is God who has come to redeem the human race from the grave and death. Refrain

Christ is rise, destroying our Enemy; breaking the bonds, he has delivered the human race. In his tenderness he has raised up adam, our first father, by extending his hand as the God of goodness. Refrain

Having wrapped you in a shroud, O christ, the noble Joseph placed you in a tomb. With precious ointments he anointed the detroyed temple of your most pure body, and then he rolled a stone over the entrance to the tomb. Refrain

Why do you hasten, O myrrh-bearers? Why are you carrying myrrh to the living God? Christ is risen as he said. Wipe away your tears and from now on change your tears into joy.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Refrain

O faithful, let us praise the unique Trinity; let us glorify the Father and the Son, together with the Spirit who is consubstantial with the Father and dwells with him from the beginning, divinity sharing the same eternity.

Now and ever and forever. Amen.

Without sowing nor laboring, O Virgin, as a true vine you have conceived the Grape of Immortality whose juice flows forth for us as a fount of eternal joy.
You have descended into the realm of Death, O Christ, and have broken ancient bonds which held the captive. You arose from the tomb on the third day like Jonah from the whale.

By your resurrection, O Christ our God, you told the myrrh-bearers to rejoice; and you stilled the weeping of Eve, the first mother. You commanded your apostles to proclaim: The Savior is risen from the tomb.

Coming near to your tomb, O Savior, the myrrh-bearers hesitated, saying to each other: Who will roll the stone away from the tomb for us? They looked and saw that it had been rolled away. Startled by the sight of the radiant angel, they were seized with fear and wanted to flee, but the young man cried out to them: Do not be afraid! The One whom you seek is risen; come and see the place where the body of Jesus lay. Hasten to his disciples and proclaim to them:
As the cherubim in heaven, the Children sang together in the furnace: Blessed are you, O God, for in truth and judgment have you brought all these things upon us because of our sins; and you are praised above all and glorified forever.

Refrain


Wishing to save the work of your hands from wandering astray, O God of goodness, you endured being nailed to a cross to restore in your flesh, O Savior, the image that was broken by our passions. Destroying Hades, you raised up the dead with you. Refrain

Raised upon the Cross, O God of tenderness, you called all people back to you according to your promise. In truth, O Lord, you deigned to suffer death for our sins; even to the Thief you opened the gates of Paradise, O Savior. Refrain
You raised the destroyed temple of your body from the grave on the third day according to your promise, so that you might truly manifest the glory that you share with us in faith; you freed the prisoners which Hades formerly held captive. *Refrain*

What do the stricken guards now say? How was he stolen whom they were not able to guard? If they did not see him raised up, how can they say that his body was stolen? The empty tomb together with the shroud and wrappings are witnesses to this. *Refrain*

Who is this dead One whom you guard? Why do you seal the stone for fear that someone might steal him? Behold now the tomb and the seals: How is he risen if he is not the Lord God? Rather believe the departed just ones who have appeared to many after their resurrection.

With the Father we also glorify the Son and the Holy Spirit, crying out with an unceasing voice: O Holy Trinity, have mercy on us! In your love, save us, O Divinity, glorified in three persons forever.

How have you held as an infant in your womb, O immaculate Virgin, the God whom the angels adore? According to the wisdom of his good will, he dwelt there to save all the children of Adam and to repeal the bitter condemnation that was reaped from the forbidden tree.

*Katavasia*  
*Tone 1 samopodoben*

God, who saved the three youths from the furnace, has become man and suffered as any mortal; but his passion clothed his mortality
with the splendor of incorruption. He is the only blessed One, God of our fathers, and is worthy of all praise.

Ode 8
Irmos Tone 2

Let us praise him who, in the bush of old, prefigured the miracle of the Virgin to Moses on Sinai; let us praise and exalt him above all forever.

Refrain
Glory to your holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The rays of the sun were hidden in fear when they saw the sufferings of Christ. The dead rose up and the mountains trembled; the earth shook in fright and Hades was deprived of its spoils. Refrain

In days of old the thrice-blessed youths raised their hands in the furnace, Thus they prefigured the image of your precious Cross on which you, O Jesus Christ, shattered the power of the Enemy. Refrain
The arguments of the unbelievers are nothing but lies! For the soldiers saw nothing in their sleep. Who rolled away the stone from the tomb? It was none other than Christ who is risen and has raised all the dead with him. *Refrain*

Who dried up the sterile fig tree? Who healed the paralyzed hand? Who fed the multitude in the desert? It was none other than Christ our God, who raised all the dead with him. *Refrain*

Who gave sight to the blind? Who healed the lepers and the lame? Who made the people cross the Red Sea as if on dry land? It was none other than Christ our God, who raised all the dead with him. *Refrain*

Who raised from the tomb the man who was dead four days? Who raised the dead son of a widowed mother? Who freed the paralytic from his mat? It was none other than Christ our God, who raised all the dead with him. *Refrain*

The rock itself is a witness together with the tomb that was guarded by the soldiers; even the seals placed on the tomb say: Christ is truly risen! He lives forever! *Refrain*

Christ is truly risen; Hades is empty, the Serpent is crushed, and Adam returned to grace. Despite the doubts of the impious, the entire human race is saved by Christ.

Let us bless the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Lord.

Together with the Father we also glorify the Son and the Holy Spirit as one God, the Holy Trinity, and we sing this hymn: Holy, holy, holy are you, O Lord, forever. *Refrain*

O Virgin, you carried the bread of heaven and the wheat of eternity in your womb. Without change or mixture you kneaded him from the dough of humanity and gave birth to him; having two natures, he is the only Christ and our God.

Let us praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and highly exalting him above
Katavasia

This is that chosen and holy day, Feast of feasts, most solemn day,
only king and lord of all Sab-baths, on which we ever praise Christ.

The Canticle of the Theotokos is not sung.

Ode 9
Irmos

Who, among those born upon earth, has ever seen or heard of such a thing? That a Virgin should conceive and without pain or travail bear a child. Beholding this your wonder, O Mary, pure Theotokos, we ex-tol you.
On the Cross the Good Thief recognized you as God, and you made him an inhabitant of the heavenly Paradise when he said: Remember me, O almighty Savior. *Refrain*

For us you were insulted by the faithless and lawless impious ones, even though you were the One who wrote the tablets of the Law for your servant Moses on Sinai. *Refrain*

For us, O Savior, you drank vinegar and gall, even though you were the One who gave your body and precious blood as the nourishment for eternal life. *Refrain*

A sword pierced your life-giving side, o Christ, bringing forth blood and water as a source of eternal life for the world. *Refrain*

You were numbered among the dead, even though you gave life to us who were placed in the tomb. You emptied the tombs when you conquered Hades and raised up Adam. *Refrain*

You are risen, O Jesus, and the Enemy is in chains; both Hades and the tombs are emptied, and the dead rise up to adore you. *Refrain*

Who would steal a dead body, especially a naked one? This is no myth; Christ is risen breaking down the gates and bolts of Hades. *Refrain*

Glory to you, o Christ, Savior and Source of life; you have made light dawn upon the darkness of error, illuminating the whole world by your Resurrection. *Refrain*

Let us praise Joseph, the noble counsellor; together with the myrrh-bearers and the disciples of the Lord, he attests to the Resurrection of Christ. *Refrain*

O faithful, let us praise Joseph of Arimathea, together with Nicodemus and the ointment-bearing women; for they said: The Lord is truly risen!

O eternal Father and uncreated Son, sharing the same throne with the Spirit, you are the only true God, in the triple unity of nature and the trinity of persons.
Jesse rejoices and David exalts! Behold, here is the Virgin who, as a branch planted by God, has given birth to Christ the eternal Flower.

**Katavasia**

"Holy is the Lord" Tone 2. p. 122.

**Hymns of Light**

You, O King and Lord, have fallen asleep in the flesh as a mortal man, but on the third day you arose. You have raised Adam from his corruption and made Death powerless. You are the Pasch of incorruption. You are the salvation of the world.

Glory...now and ever...

O myrrh-bearing women, listen to the news that brings joy: I have put Hades, that cruel tyrant, to flight; I have made the world rise from the depths of the tomb; I hasten to my friends, the disciples, and quickly bring this news to them. For it is my will that the work of my hands shines with joy because in days of old it gave birth to sorrow.
The companions of Mary were bearing ointments and wondering how they would carry out their plan; but they saw the stone removed and a divine messenger appeared to them, and he gave peace to their troubled souls. For he said that the Lord Jesus is risen. Take the good news to his disciples and messengers, so that they may go ahead to Galilee where they will see him risen from the dead. He is the Lord and Giver of life.

Theotokion for normal Sundays, p. 40.

Great Doxology p. 41.
Troparion "You came forth from death..." p. 45.
Litany of Supplication, p. 45.
Prayer over Bowed Heads, p. 47.
Paschal Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: \(\text{Give the blessing.}\)

Celebrant: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: \(\text{Amen. O God, strengthen the true faith, forever and ever.}\)

Celebrant: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response: \(\text{Shine in splendor, O new Jerusalem; for the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. O Zion, now dance and be glad; and you, pure Mother of God, rejoice in the resurrection of your Son.}\)

Celebrant: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

Response: \(\text{Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled death; and to those in the tombs}\)
Celebrant: May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, through the might of the precious and life-creating Cross, through the prayers of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy apostles, of the holy __________ (patron of this Church), and of the holy _______ (commemorated this day), and through the prayers of all the saints; for he is gracious and loves us all.

Response: Amen.

After the Dismissal, the celebant says three times: “Christ is risen!” and the faithful respond each time: “Indeed he is risen!” The celebant then sings once: “Christ is risen from the dead! By death . . .,” and the faithful sing:

Christ is ris-en from the dead! By death he tram-pled death; and to those in the tombs he grant-ed life. And to us he grant-ed life e-ter-nal.

Let us bow be-fore his resur-rection on the third day!

After the Dismissal, the second Gospel Stanza is sung, p. 55.