MATINS OF THE RESURRECTION

also known as Paschal Matins

Metropolitan Cantor Institute
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
March 2011
The service of Matins on Pascha – Easter Sunday – is the most joyous morning celebration of the church year. The feast of Pascha commemorates the day that our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ rose from the dead, and appeared to his disciples – the myrrhbearing women and the apostles. This service is different from all other celebrations of Matins; it begins with a procession around the church, and consists entirely of festive elements – the singing of the great Paschal Canon of Saint John Damascene, and the chanting of the Psalms of Praise (Psalms 148-150) with the paschal stichera. After the service, the priest customarily blesses baskets of paschal foods – some of which are symbolic, and others being the foods from which the faithful abstained during the Great Fast and Holy Week.

The text and music for this service are based on the Resurrection Matins booklet published by the Byzantine Seminary Press is 1976. Any official texts and music which have been published since that time by the Byzantine Catholic Church sui juris of the United States of America have been used here, superseding previous texts and musical settings. In addition, incorrect accents in the original Resurrection Matins booklet have been corrected throughout, although wherever possible the “flow” of the earlier music has been kept.

Since 1976, it has become common to sing “Having beheld the Resurrection” in Kievan tone 6 (see pages 22-23). The harmonization, which is fairly easy, adds greatly to the singing of this hymn. As an alternative, the text can be recited.

Also, note that in the Paschal stichera (pages 39-42), the ending phrases have been set using the original tone 5 ending from Slavonic, which matches the use of this tone in the Divine Liturgies book. These endings are not difficult, but cantors should master them thoroughly in advance of the service.

The Slavonic setting of the Paschal troparion included here is taken from the Tserkovanje Prostopinije of Father Ivan Bokshaj (1906).

Like the other publications of the Metropolitan Cantor Institute, this setting of the service of Paschal Matins is UNOFFICIAL and subject to change or revision by the Cantor Institute, the Inter-Eparchial Music Commission, or the Council of Hierarchs of the Byzantine Catholic Church. We hope that it provides spiritual benefit to all who use it.

The image on the cover is from the Ruthenian Časoslov (Rome, 1950).
The Office of Paschal Matins

If the burial shroud has not been removed from the tomb, then the priest vests in a dark epitrephion and phelonion. He opens the holy doors and censes the tomb (from the four sides if it is on the ambon.). As he does this the faithful STAND and sing:

**Troparion of the Resurrection - 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.

The priest then takes the shroud from the tomb, and carrying it upon his shoulders, he goes through the holy doors and circles the holy table with the shroud, then places it on the holy table, underneath the holy gospel book, and incenses it from the four sides of the holy table three times. During this ceremony, the faithful continue to sing the troparion. Then the holy doors are closed, and the faithful SIT. The shroud will remain on the holy table until the Leave-taking of Pascha, the day before the Ascension.

When the time for the Paschal Matins has arrived, the celebrant and any concelebrants fully vest in bright vestments. All the doors of the icon screen are opened. They will remain open throughout Bright Week.

The faithful STAND.
The celebrant, carrying a handcross and candle, and escorted by candle-bearers, servers, and appointed persons carrying the holy gospel book and icon of the Resurrection, exits from the church, followed by the faithful, whose candles he lights as he makes his way in procession through the church. They proceed once around the church, and where the custom exists, the bells are rung.

During the procession, the faithful repeatedly sing the following verse in tone 6:

**Sticheron - Tone 6 samohlasen**

The same, in Slavonic:

The procession stops before the closed exterior doors of the church, where the celebrant incenses the holy gospel book, the icon, and all the faithful. Then standing before the doors, the celebrant, holding the handcross in his left hand, signs the doors in the form of a cross with the censer three times. Candle-bearers stand at his right and left sides.
Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Then the clergy sing the Paschal troparion, in English:

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

Or in Slavonic:

Christós voskrése iz mértvych, smértiju smert’ popráv, i súščym vo hrobích život darováv.

The faithful repeat the troparion twice, and where the custom exists, the bells are rung during the singing.

R. Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death, and to those in the tombs he granted life. (2 times) | R. Christós voskrése iz mértvych, smértiju smert’ popráv i súščym vo hrobích, život darováv. (2 times)

Then the celebrant sings a series of psalm verses, to which the faithful reply with the Paschal troparion.
Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered, and let those who hate him flee from before his face!

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

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

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

So let the wick-ed perish at the presence of God, but let the right-eous ones re-joice.

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

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us be glad and re-joice in it.

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

R. Christós voskrése iz měrtvých, směrt’ popráv i súščym vo hrobích, život darováv.

R. Christós voskrése iz měrtvých, směrt’ popráv i súščym vo hrobích, život darováv.

R. Christós voskrése iz měrtvých, směrt’ popráv i súščym vo hrobích, život darováv.

R. Christós voskrése iz měrtvých, směrt’ popráv i súščym vo hrobích, život darováv.
Celebrant:

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

now and ever and forever. Amen.

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

R. Christós voskrése iz mértvyh, smértiju smert’ popráv i súščym vo hrobích, živót darováv.

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

Celebrant: Christós voskrése iz mértvyh,
smértiju smert’ popráv,

The doors are opened, and the celebrant, preceded by candle-bearers and servers, enters the fully-lit church, followed by the faithful who sing:

R. ...and to those in the tombs he granted life!

R. ... i súščym vo hrobích, živót darováv!

All the church bells are rung.

As the faithful make their way into the church, the Paschal troparion (“Christ is risen from the dead”) is sung repeatedly, until all have found their places. Alternate melodies for this hymn may be used; see page 53.

The celebrant returns to the holy table, censing the interior of the church, and the deacon returns to the ambon for the following Litany. If there is no deacon, the celebrant intones the Litany at the holy table.

The faithful may SIT for the Litany of Peace. During the service of Paschal Matins, all those who are able to stand are encouraged to do so throughout. If rest is needed, sitting is appropriate during the Litanies, except when an incensation is taking place.

During an incensation, all should stand.
Litany of Peace

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

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

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

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

Deacon: For our holy father (Name), Pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.
Response:

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan (Name), for our God-loving bishop (Name), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.
Response:

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.
Response:

Deacon: For this city, for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.
Response:
Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

The faithful STAND.

Celebrant: We thank you, Lord our God, for you have wakened us from our sleep, and have filled our lips with praise that we might worship you and call upon your holy name. We beg of your compassion that you have always shown towards us, hear us now and send help to those who stand before your holy glory awaiting your abundant mercy. O Lord, grant that those who serve you in fear and love may praise your ineffable goodness.

For to you is due all glory, honor, and worship, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.
The Paschal Canon

The clergy begin the CANON OF SAINT JOHN DAMASCENE, singing the first Irmos of each Ode. The faithful sing the remainder of each Ode while the celebrant incenses in the usual manner.

Ode 1

The clergy sing the Irmos:

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

and the faithful respond:

The priest incenses, and the faithful sing the rest of the Ode.

“Rejoice!”— as we sing the hymn of victory.

Christ is risen from the dead!
Let the heavens properly rejoice, and let the earth be glad,
and let the whole visible and invisible world celebrate; for Christ,
our everlasting joy is risen.

Christ is risen from the dead!

The faithful repeat the irmos as katavasia:

It is the day of Resurrection. O People, let us be enlightened by it.

The Passover is the Lord’s Passover, since Christ, our God,
has brought us from death to life and from earth to heaven.

We therefore sing the hymn of victory.
Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: For you are the supreme ruler, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Ode 3

The clergy sing the irmos:

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.


Christ is risen from the dead!

Chris-tós vos-kré-se iz mért-vých!
To-day all things are filled with light—earth and heaven and the world beneath. Then let all creation celebrate the resurrection of Christ. In him is the firm foundation of all things.

Christ is risen from the dead!

I was buried yesterday with you, O Christ; but today I rise, resurrected with you. Yesterday I crucified myself with you, O Savior. Now glorify me with you in your kingdom.

Christ is risen from the dead!

The faithful repeat the irmos as katavasia:

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.

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: For you are our God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Hypakoje

The women with Mary before the dawn found the stone rolled away from the tomb, and they heard the angel say: “Why do you seek
among the dead, as a mortal, the One who abides in ever-lasting light?

Behold the linens of burial. Go in haste and proclaim to the world that, having conquered Death, the Lord is risen; for he is the Son of God, the Savior of all.”

Ode 4

The clergy sing the irmos:

Let Habakkuk, * speaking in behalf of God, * stand with us at the divine watch; * let him show us the brilliant Angel who proclaims: * “Today, salvation comes to the world; * for Christ, being Almighty, is risen.”

Christ is risen from the dead!

The priest incenses, and the faithful sing the rest of the Ode.

Christ had appeared as a man when he was born of the Virgin.
As a mortal, he was called “Lamb”. Being undefiled and without blemish, he is our Passover; and as true God, he is proclaimed perfect.

Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ, our blessed crown, was sacrificed of his own will like a yearling lamb for all of us, and so became our cleansing Pasch. From his tomb he shines on us again as the splendid Sun of Righteousness.

Christ is risen from the dead!

David, ancestor of the Lord, danced and made music before the Ark which was only a symbol. As God’s holy people,
let us wit ness the sym bol ful-filled and re- joice in spir-it;

for Christ, be-ing Al-might-y, is ri-sen.

Christ is ri-sen from the dead!

The faithful repeat the irmos as katavasia:

Let Ha-bak-kuk, speak-ing 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 ri-sen.

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us,
O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: For you are a good and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Ode 5

*The clergy sing the irmos:*

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.

The priest incenses, and the faithful sing the rest of the Ode.

Christ is risen from the dead!


Christós voskré-se iz mért-vych!

When those bound by chains in the realm of Death saw your bound-less mer-cy,

O Christ, they has-tened to the light with joy, prais-ing the E-ter-nal Pasch.

Christ is ri-sen from the dead!
Bearing torches let us meet the bride-groom, Christ, as he comes forth from his tomb; and let us greet, with joyful song, the saving Pasch of God.

Christ is risen from the dead!

_The faithful repeat the irmos as katavasia:_

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.
Small Litany

**Deacon:** Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us,
O God, by your grace.

**Response:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious
Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us
commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

**Response:** To you, O Lord.

**Celebrant:** For sanctified and glorified is your all-honorable and majestic name:
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

**Response:** Amen.

Ode 6

*The clergy sing the irmos:*

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.

Christ is ri-sen from the dead!

Snizšél jesí vo preispódňaja zemlí, * i sokrušil jesí verejí vičnyja, * soderžaščyja svjázannyja, Christë; * i tridnéven, * jáko ot kita Jóna; * voskrėsl jesí ot hróba.

The priest incenses, and the faithful sing the rest of the Ode.
When you arose from the tomb, O Christ, you preserved its seals intact,
just as in your holy birth a virgin’s vow was unbroken.

You opened to us the gates of paradise.

Christ is risen from the dead!

O my Savior, being God, willingly you offered yourself. As a
never-consumed yet living victim, you gave yourself to the Father.

You arose from the tomb, resurrecting Adam, the father of all.

Christ is risen from the dead!

The faithful repeat the irmos as katavasia:

You have descended into the realm of Death, O Christ, and have broken
You arose from the tomb on the third day like Jonah from the whale.

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: For you are the King of peace and the Savior of our souls, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Kontakion of Pascha - Tone 8

Al-though you descended into the grave, O Immortal One, you destroyed Hades’ power. You arose as a victor, O Christ God. You exclaimed
to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice! You gave peace to your apostles

and granted resurrection to the fallen.

Ikos

The lector chants the ikos in recitando, except for the ending, which uses the melody of the kontakion.

Early in the morning, before sunrise, * as if it were already day, * myrrh-bearing virgins were seeking the Sun, * previously descended into the grave; * and they cried out to one another: * “Come, O friends! * Let us anoint with fragrant spices * the life-giving and yet already buried body of Christ * who resurrected the fallen Adam. * Let us hasten, as did the Magi, and adore Christ * and bring our myrrh as a gift to him * who is wrapped not in swaddling clothes but in a shroud. * Let us weep and exclaim: * “Arise, O Master,
The Hymn of the Resurrection

By custom, this hymn is sung three times: once by the clergy, and twice by the people.

Kievan chant, Tone 6 samohlas

Hav-ing beheld the Res-ur-rec-tion of Christ, let us bow to the holy Lord Je-sus

who a- lone is sin- less. We bow to your Cross, O Christ,

and we praise and glorify your holy Res-ur-rec-tion. For you a- lone

are our God, and we know no oth-er. 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.
The clergy sing the irmos:

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.

The priest incenses, and the faithful sing the rest of the Ode.

Christ is risen from the dead!

but instead, they adored you in joy as the living God

and announced your mystical Passover to your disciples.
Christ is risen from the dead!

We celebrate your victory over Death, the destruction of the deep abyss, and the birth of a new eternal life. With joy, we praise the Author of all things, the only Blessed One, God of our fathers, for he is worthy of all praise.

Christ is risen from the dead!

This most splendid and saving night is sacred and all-worthy of solemnity. It heralds the bright day of resurrection on which the Eternal Light in the flesh has shown forth from the tomb to all.
Christ is risen from the dead!

The faithful repeat the irmos as katavasia:

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.

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.
Celebrant: For yours is the might; and yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Ode 8

The clergy sing the irmos:

This is that chosen and holy day, * feast of feasts, * most solemn day, * only king and lord of all Sabbaths, * on which we ever praise Christ.


The priest incenses, and the faithful sing the rest of the Ode.
Lift up your eyes, O Zion, and behold. See your children coming to you.

From the east, west, north, and south, they come to you like stars of light divine, ever blessing Christ.

Special refrain before the hymn to the Trinity:

O most holy Trinity, our God, glory to you!

O Almighty Father, Spirit and Word, three persons, yet one essence, fullness of all being and divinity— we have been baptized in you, and ever bless you.

O most holy Trinity, our God, glory to you!

The faithful repeat the irmos as katavasia:
This is that chosen and holy day, feast of feasts, most solemn day,
on-ly king and lord of all Sab-baths, on which we ever praise Christ.

Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord
Response: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.
Response: Lord, have mercy.
Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.
Response: To you, O Lord.
Celebrant: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.
Response: Amen.

Ode 9

At the end of the Eighth Ode, the deacon (or priest if there is no deacon) comes with the censer before the icon of the Theotokos on the icon screen. Incensing her icon, he intones:

Deacon: Let us greatly extol the Theotokos and the Mother of Light in hymns!
The angel exclaimed to her, full of grace:

Rejoice, O pure Virgin; and again, I say: Rejoice!

Your Son is risen from the grave on the third day and has raised the dead. Rejoice, all you nations!

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!

CONTINUE on page 32.
Or in Slavonic:

Magnification of Pascha

Anhel vopijase
Blahodatnij:

Cista jaj Divovo raduj sja, i paiki reku, raduj sja:

Tvoj Syn vosekrese trindven ot hroba, imertvyja

vozdvinuvyj: ludi je veselitesja.

Irmos

Svitisja, svitisja, novyj Jerusalime, slava bo Hospodna

na tebi vossijaja, likuj nyni i veselisja, Sionce: Ty ze

чистая krasuj sja Bohorodi ce, o vostaniji Rojestvav Tvoje ho.

Christos vosekrese iz meritvych!
How pleasingly divine and sweet was your voice, O Christ, when you promised without fail to remain with us until the end of time.

We, the faithful rejoice in this firm foundation of hope.

Christ is risen from the dead!

O Christ, Great and Sacred Pasch, Wisdom, Power and Word of God,

grant that we be with you in your kingdom on the never-ending day.

Christ is risen from the dead!

The faithful repeat the irmos (“Shine in splendor”) as katavasia, either in English (page 30) or in Slavonic (page 31).
Small Litany

Deacon: Again and again, in peace, let us pray to the Lord

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: For all the heavenly powers praise you, and we give glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Hymn of Light (Exapostilarion)

Traditionally, the clergy sing the following once, and the people twice more.

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.

Or in Slavonic:

Plóti ju usnúv jáko mertv Carjú

i Hós-poi-di, trůdně-ven vos-krěsl je-si, A-dáma

voz-dvích ot tli, i u-prazd-niv směrt: Pás-cha

ne-tl’i-ni-ja, mí-ra spásé-ni-je.
Let ev'rything that lives and that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise him in the heights. To you is due a hymn, O God. Praise him, all his angels, praise him, all his host. To you is due a hymn, O God.

Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, shining stars.
Praise him, highest heavens
and the waters above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord,
He commanded; they were made.
He fixed them forever,
gave a law which shall not pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth,
sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey his word;
all mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
beasts, wild and tame,
reptiles and birds on the wing;
all earth’s kings and peoples,
earth’s princes and rulers.
young men and maidens,
old men together with children.
Let them praise the name of the Lord
for he alone is exalted.
The splendor of his name
reaches beyond heaven and earth.
He exalts the strength of his people,
he is the praise of all his saints,
of the children of Israel,
of the people to whom he comes close.

Psalm 149
Sing a new song to the Lord,
his praise in the assembly of the faithful.
Let Israel rejoice in its Maker,
let Zion’s sons exult in their king.
Let them praise his name with dancing
and make music with timbrel and harp.
For the Lord takes delight in his people.
He crowns the poor with salvation.
Let the faithful rejoice in their glory,
shout for joy and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips
and a two-edged sword in their hand,
to deal out vengeance to the nations
and punishment on all the peoples;
to bind their kings in chains
and their nobles in fetters of iron.
To carry out the sentence pre-ordained:
this honor is for all his faithful.

Psalm 150
Praise God in his holy place,
praise him in his mighty heavens.

Cantor:
\[
\text{Praise him for his powerful deeds, praise his surpassing greatness.}
\]
Stichera of the Resurrection - Tone 1

All:

We praise your saving passion, O Christ, and we glorify your Resurrection.

Cantor:

O praise him with sound of trumpet, praise him with lute and harp.

All:

You endured the cross and abolished death; you arose from the dead.

Make our lives peaceful, O Lord, for you alone are most powerful.

Cantor:

Praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with strings and pipes.

All:

You despoiled Hades and raised up humanity at your Resurrection, O Christ.

Make us worthy to praise and glorify you with a pure heart.
The Paschal Stichera

The praises continue with the Paschal stichera. The celebrant (or an appointed person) sings the verses and the faithful respond with the stichera. During the singing of the stichera, the faithful approach to kiss the holy cross, the gospel book, and the icon of the Resurrection. The celebrant stands outside the holy doors, holding the handcross and greeting each of the faithful as they come to kiss the cross and holy articles, saying to each:

Celebrant: Christ is risen!  
Response: Indeed he is risen!  

Celebrant: Christos voskrese!  
Response: Voinstinnu voskrese!
Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered, and let those who hate him flee from before his face.

Today the sacred Pasch is revealed to us, holy and new Pasch, the mystical Pasover, the venerable Pasover, the Pasch which is Christ the Redeemer, spotless Pasch, great Pasch, the Pasch of the faithful, the Pasch which is the key to the gates of Paradise, the Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

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.

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.
who spoke these words to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead? Why do you mourn the incorruptible among those subject to decay? Go announce the good news to his disciples. This is the day that the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Pasch so delightful, Pasch of the Lord, is the Pasch—most honored Pasch now dawning on us. It is the Pasch! Therefore, let us joyfully embrace one another. O Passover, save us from sorrow; For to-day, 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.

Celebrant:

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

now and ever and for ever. 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.
After the veneration, if it be the local custom, the Paschal sermon of Saint John Chrysostom is read by the celebrant or by an appointed person, while the faithful remain standing.

At the conclusion of the Paschal sermon, the following may be sung:

**Troparion of Saint John Chrysostom - Tone 8**

The grace shining forth from your mouth like a torch has enlightened the universe; it has stored up in the world the treasure of disdain for wealth. It has shown us the heights of humility. Instruct us by your words, John Chrysostom our father, and intercede with the Word, Christ God, to save our souls.
Litany of Fervent Supplication

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

Response:  

Deacon:  Again we pray for our holy father, (Name), pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan, (Name), for our God-loving bishop, (Name), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Response:  

Deacon:  Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

Response:  

Deacon:  Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.

Response:  

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

The faithful may SIT during the Litanies.
Celebrant: For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

Litany of Supplication

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord

Response: }

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: }

Deacon: That this whole day be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: }

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: }

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)
Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Deacon: That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: To you, O Lord.

Celebrant: We sing to you, we praise you, we bless you, and we thank you, God of our Fathers, for you have banished the dark of night and shown us once again the light of day, We beseech you, forgive our sins and accept our prayer in your great tenderness of heart because we take refuge in you, the merciful and all-powerful God. Shine in our hearts your true Sun of Justice. Enlighten our minds and guard all our senses, so that walking blamelessly in the path of your commandments as in daylight, we may reach eternal life, for in you is the source of life. Make us worthy to enjoy the unapproachable light.

For you are our God and we give glory to you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.
Celebrant:  Peace be to all!

Response:  

Deacon:  Bow your heads to the Lord.

Response:  

Celebrant:  Holy Lord, you dwell on high and look upon the lowly, and with your all-seeing eye you watch over all creation. To you we bend our neck in spirit and body and we implore you, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth your invisible hand from your holy dwelling place and bless us all. If we have sinned voluntarily or involuntarily forgive us as a good God who loves mankind and gives us earthly and heavenly gifts.

For yours are mercy and salvation, O Christ our God, and we give glory to you, with your eternal Father and your life-creating Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response:  

Dismissal

Deacon:  Wisdom!

Response:  

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

Response:  

A - men.  O God, strengthen the true faith, for-ev-er and ev-er.
Celebrant: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

Response:

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.

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

Response:

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. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing.

Celebrant: May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, by death trampling death, and to those in the graves granting life, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother, of the holy, glorious and praiseworthy apostles, and of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.
Then the celebrant raises the handcross to the people three times, each time saying:

**Celebrant:** Christ is risen!  
**Celebrant:** Christós voskrése!

And the people respond each time:

**Response:** Indeed he is risen!  
**Response:** Voístinnu voskrése!

Then the troparion of Pascha is sung three times, once by the celebrant, and then twice by the faithful:

Then the celebrant raises the handcross to the people three times, each time saying:

**Celebrant:** Christ is risen from the dead!  
**Celebrant:** By death he trampled death;

and to those in the tombs he granted life.

After the third time, the following is added:

And to us he granted life eternal. Let us bow before his resurrection on the third day!
Blessing of Paschal Food

Celebrant: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and forever.

Response: Amen.

The celebrant sings: Christ is risen from the dead..., and the faithful sing it twice more.

Blessing of Bread

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: O Holy Master, Almighty Father and Eternal God, through our Lord Jesus Christ Who came down from heaven, giving life and salvation to the world, bless this bread by Your holy and spiritual blessing so that it may be, to all who will eat of it, for the salvation of soul, the health of body, and the protection against every illness and hostile attack. For you are a merciful and gracious God and we give glory to You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

Blessing of Meat Products

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, look down upon these meat products and bless them as You sanctified the ram which the faithful Abraham offered to You, and the lamb which Abel presented to You as a holocaust, and as You also sanctified the fattened calf which You ordered to be slain for the prodigal who returned to You. As he was considered worthy to partake of Your goodness, may we also enjoy these meats which You blessend and sanctified for the benefit of all of us. For you are the true Nourishment and the Giver of all good things, and we give glory to You, together with your eternal Father, and your most holy, gracious, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.
Blessing of Dairy Products

Celebrant: Let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant: O God, our Lord and Master, Creator and Maker of all things, bless this cheese and butter, and together with them, the eggs and all other foods here present. Keep us in Your goodness, so that, as we partake of them, we may be filled with all Your generous gifts and indescribable goodness. For you are the Supreme Ruler and Yours are the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever, and forever.

Response: Amen.

Sprinkling the food with holy water, the celebrant says:

Celebrant: These foods are blessed and sanctified by the sprinkling of this holy water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dismissal (music on page 48)

Celebrant: Wisdom!

Response: (recited) 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.

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

Response: 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. Lord, have mercy. Give the blessing!
Celebrant: May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, by death trampling Death and granting life to those in the tombs, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother; and of the holy, glorious, and illustrious apostles; and through the prayers of all the saints; for Christ is good and loves us all.

Response: Amen.

Then the celebrant raises the handcross to the people three times, each time saying:

Celebrant: Christ is risen!  
Celebrant: Christós voskrése!

And the people respond each time:

Response: Indeed he is risen!  
Response: Voístinnu voskrése!

Then the troparion of Pascha is sung three times, once by the celebrant, and then twice by the faithful:

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

After the third time, the following is added:

And to us he granted life eternal.  Let us bow before his resurrection on the third day!
Christ is risen, Christ is risen, Christ is risen, Christ is risen from the dead! By death, by death he trampled Death, by death, by death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs, and to those in the tombs he granted, he granted, he granted life.

Christ is risen from the dead! Christ is risen from the dead! Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death, by death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs, and to those in the tombs he granted, he granted, he granted life.
About the service of Paschal Matins

“At the end of the long period of fasting, and of the dramatic services of Holy Week, the faithful sit in a darkened church. Then the doors of the icon screen are opened, symbolizing the salvation of God and the renewed access to Paradise. In Greek and Slavonic, the first word that is said is “resurrection”:

YOUR RESURRECTION, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven praise with hymns. Make us, on earth, also worthy, with a pure heart, to extol and give glory to you!

This hymn has a theme common to processional hymns in the Byzantine Church – the presence of angels. “The angels in heaven praise with hymns...” They join us in the procession, which symbolizes the journey of the women to the empty tomb, where they are greeted by angels. We pray, “Make us on earth, also worthy...” We have not been able to achieve this worthiness by our fasting and asceticism – it is a gift of God – but the result is a pure heart. Only with a pure heart given by God can we see the resurrection.” (Father David Petras)

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!

Christós voskrése! Voístinnu voskrése! (Slavonic)

Christós anésti! Alithós anésti! (Greek)

Al Maseeh Qam! Haqqan Qam! (Arabic)

Kristus vstal zm'r'tvych! Skutočne vstal! (Slovak)

Krisztus feltámadt! Valóban feltámadt! (Hungarian)

Hristus a Înviat! Adeverat a Înviat! (Romanian)

Cristo ha resucitado! En verdad, está resucitado! (Spanish)

Christ is risen! Indeed he is risen!