

The Paschal Hours

To be read during bright week in place of morning and evening prayers, thanksgiving prayers after holy communion, the prayers of the hours, compline, and the midnight office.

Apolytikion of Pascha, Tone Five, thrice:

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

Resurrectional Ikos, Tone Six, thrice:

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. We worship Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy Holy Resurrection, for Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee: we call on Thy name. Come, all you faithful, let us worship Christ's holy Resurrection, for behold, through the Cross joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His Resurrection, for by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death.

The Hypakoe, Tone Six, once:

Forestalling the dawn, the women came with Mary, and found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre, and heard from the angel: why seek ye among the dead, as though He were a mortal, Him Who liveth in everlasting light? Behold the grave-clothes. Go quickly and proclaim to the world that the Lord is risen and hath slain death. For He is the Son of God Who saveth mankind.

The Kontakion, Tone Eight, once:

Though Thou didst descend into the grave, O Immortal One, yet didst Thou destroy the power of hades. And didst arise as victor, O Christ God, calling to the myrrh-bearing women: Rejoice! And giving peace unto Thine apostles: Thou Who dost grant resurrection to the fallen.

And these Troparia, Tone Eight, once:

In the grave bodily; in Hades with Thy soul, though Thou wast God; in Paradise with the thief; and on the Throne with the Father and the Spirit wast Thou who fillest all things, O Christ the Uncircumscribable.

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

How life-giving, how much more beautiful than paradise, and truly more resplendent than any royal palace proved Thy grave, the source of our resurrection, O Christ.

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Rejoice, O sanctified and divine tabernacle of the Most High; for through Thee, O Theotokos, joy is given to them that cry: Blessed art thou among women, O all immaculate Lady.

Lord, have mercy. (40 times)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos thee do we magnify.

If replacing evening prayers or compline, say the following prayer of St Basil the Great:

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, Master Almighty, Who hast lightened the day with the light of the sun and hast illumined the night with flashes of fire, Who hast vouchsafed us to pass through the length of the day and to draw near to the beginning of the night; hearken to our prayer and to that of all Thy people; and, having pardoned us all our

voluntary and involuntary sins, receive our evening supplications, and send down the multitude of Thy mercy and compassions upon Thine inheritance. Wall us in with Thy holy angels. Arm us with the armor of Thy righteousness. Make a bulwark about us with Thy truth. Guard us with Thy power. Deliver us from all oppression and every plot of the adversary. Grant us also that the present evening with the coming night and all the days of our life may be holy, perfect, peaceful and sinless, without stumbling-blocks and without fantasy, through the intercessions of the All-holy Theotokos and of all the saints, who in all ages have been well pleasing unto Thee. For Thine it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and unto Thee we ascribe glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Dismissal

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord have mercy (thrice)

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (thrice)

O Lord, bless!

Through the prayers of the most holy Theotokos, *[daily dismissal, as given below]*

[On Monday, say:] by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven;

[On Tuesday, say:] at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John;

[On Wednesday and Friday, say:] by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross;

[On Thursday, say:] at the supplication of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles; of our father among the saints, Nicholas the Wonderworker, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia;

[On Saturday, say:] at the supplication of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers;

[If replacing post-communion prayers, add:] of our father among the saints, John Chysostom, archbishop of Constantinople, whose Divine Liturgy we have now celebrated;

through the prayers of our holy and God-bearing fathers and all the saints: O Lord Jesus Christ our God, Who is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, have mercy on us and save us.

Amen.