

Matins

Candles are distributed to all.

*The **Priest** vests himself in all his brightest vestments. He takes the precious Cross and the three-branched candlestick in his left hand, and the censer in his right. Preceded by the **Deacon** with a candle, he censes around the Altar three times, the rest of the Sanctuary, and the concelebrants. The Holy Doors are then opened, and, preceded by the **Deacon**, who censes, the **Priest** comes out with the concelebrants singing the sticheron:*

Tone 6

Clergy: Your resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing.
Enable us on earth to glorify You in purity of heart.

*Preceded by the **Cross**, the **banners**, the holy icons, the **Gospel book**, **torchbearers** and the **choir**, and followed by all the people carrying candles, the **Priest** and all the other concelebrants go around the Temple. The sticheron is sung continuously and the bells ring all the while.*

All: Your resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in heaven sing.
Enable us on earth to glorify You in purity of heart.

*Coming before the principle doors of the Temple, all the bearers of the holy objects turn to face the west and arrange themselves in the customary manner, with torchbearers on both sides. The **Priest** censes the Gospel book, the icons and banners, the clergy, the choir, and all the people. Then, standing before the doors of the Temple, which remain closed, with the censer in cross form thrice. He then exclaims in a loud voice:*

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity
always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

Troparion of Pascha

Clergy: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

Then the verses:

Priest: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

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

Priest: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

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

Priest: So the sinners shall perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad.

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

Priest: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

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

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

Priest: ...now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

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

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,

And the doors are opened. The Priest enters with the precious Cross, two torches being carried before him, and the People sing:

people: ...and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

*Then all the bells are rung. The **Priest** and concelebrants enter the Sanctuary and replace the icons and Gospel book. The **Deacon** moves to stand before the icon of Christ, lifts his Orarion and says:*

The Great Litany

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: ⁹For [his Beatitude] Metropolitan _____; for [his Grace] our Bishop _____; for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the President¹⁰ and all civil authorities of this country, and for those serving in its Armed Forces, let us pray to the Lord.

⁹ We pray for the bishop of the temple in which we are praying. When not in a temple, we pray for the bishop of the diocese in which we are located. If outside the territory of any Orthodox Church or mission, only then do we pray for the bishop of the celebrating priest.

eople: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, [*if a monastery:* For this holy habitation,] for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; the sick; the suffering; the captives; and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and distress, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

¹⁰ We pray for the Chief of State and the civil authorities of the place in which we are praying.

The Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.

People: Amen.

THE CANON

By John of Damascus

The Priest begins each ode of the canon. Preceded by the Deacon with a candle, he also does the customary Lesser Censing during each ode, holding the precious cross and the three-branched candlestick in his left hand. As he censes the people, he greets them, saying:

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is risen!

Ode I

Tone 1

Irmos: This is the day of resurrection.
Let us be illumined, O people.
Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord.
For from death to life and from earth to heaven
has Christ our God led us,
as we sing the song of victory.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Let us purify our senses and we shall see Christ
shining in the unapproachable light of His resurrection.
We shall clearly hear Him say: "Rejoice",
as we sing the song of victory.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.
Let the whole world, visible and invisible, keep the feast.
For Christ is risen, our eternal joy.

Katavasia: This is the day of resurrection...

Troparion of Pascha

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

At the end of the censuring, the Deacon hands off his candle, bows to the Priest, passing the High Place, exits the Sanctuary through the North door, and stands at his place on the solea, lifts his Orarion and says:

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ.

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Yours is the majesty, and Yours are the kingdom and the power and the glory: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, gets his candle and goes to the West side of the Altar Table for the censuring.

Ode III

Irmos: Come, let us drink, not miraculous water
drawn forth from a barren stone,
but a new vintage from the fount of incorruption,
springing from the tomb of Christ.
In Him we are established.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Now all is filled with light:
heaven and earth and the lower regions.
Let all creation celebrate the rising of Christ.
In Him we are established.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Yesterday I was buried with You, O Christ.
Today I arise with You in Your resurrection.
Yesterday I was crucified with You.
Glorify me with You, O Savior, in Your kingdom.

Each ode concludes with the repetition of the Irmos as the Katavasia, and the singing of the Paschal Troparion thrice.

Then the Little Litany as above and the exclamation:

Priest: For You are our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Sessional Hymn (Hypakoe)

Tone 4

Before the dawn Mary and the women
came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.
They heard the angelic voice: “Why do you seek among the dead as a
Man
the One Who is everlasting Light?
Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world:
‘The Lord is risen; He has slain death,
as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.’”

Ode IV

Irmos: The inspired prophet Habakkuk now stands with us in holy vigil.
He is like a shining angel who cries with a piercing voice:
“Today salvation has come to the world,
for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ our Pascha has appeared as a male child,
the son that opens a virgin womb.
He is called the Lamb as one destined to be our food,
unblemished for He has not tasted of defilement,
and perfect for He is our true God.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Christ, the crown with which we are blessed,
has appeared as a yearling lamb.
Freely He has given Himself as our cleansing paschal sacrifice.
From the tomb He has shown forth once again,
our radiant sun of righteousness.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

David, the ancestor of God,
leaped and danced before the ark which prefigured You.
Now let us, the holy people of God,
seeing the fulfillment of all figures, rejoice in piety,
for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

Katavasia, and Paschal Troparion thrice.

Then the Little Litany as above and the exclamation:

Priest: For You are a good God, and You love mankind, and to You we send up
glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and
ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Ode V

Irmos: Let us arise at the rising of the sun
and bring to the Master a hymn instead of myrrh,
and we shall see Christ, the sun of righteousness,
Who causes life to dawn for all.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

The souls bound in chains of Hades, O Christ,
seeing Your compassion without measure,
pressed onward to the light with joyful steps,
praising the eternal Pascha.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Let us go with lamps in hand to meet Christ,
Who comes from the tomb like a Bridegroom.
And with the festive ranks of angels,
let us celebrate the saving Pascha of God.

Katavasia, and Paschal Troparion thrice.

Then the Little Litany as above and the exclamation:

Priest: For sanctified and glorified is Your all-honorable and majestic name: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Ode VI

Irmos: You descended, O Christ, to the depths of the earth.
You broke the everlasting bars which had held death's captives,
and like Jonah from the fish on the third day,
You arose from the grave.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

You arose, O Christ, and yet the tomb remained sealed,
as at Your birth the Virgin's womb remained unharmed;
and You have opened for us the gates of paradise.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

O my Savior, as God You brought Yourself freely to the Father,
a victim living and unsacrificed
resurrecting Adam, the father of us all,
when You arose from the grave.

Katavasia, and Paschal Troparion thrice.

Then the Little Litany as above and the exclamation:

Priest: For You are the king of peace and Savior of our souls, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Kontakion

Tone 8

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,
You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God,
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,//
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the
fallen.

Ikos

Reader: Before the dawn, the myrrh-bearing women sought, as those who seek the day, their sun, Who was before the sun yet had descended to the grave, and they cried to each other: O friends, come let us anoint with spices His life-bearing yet buried body, the flesh which raised fallen Adam and now lies in the tomb. Let us assemble and, like the magi, let us hasten and let us worship. Let us bring myrrh as a gift to Him Who is wrapped now, not in swaddling clothes, but in a winding-sheet. Let us lament and cry: “Arise, O Master, and bestow Resurrection on the fallen.”

Hymn of the Resurrection

Tone 6

People: Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One. We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your holy Resurrection; for You are our God, and we know no other than You; we call upon Your name. Come all you faithful, let us venerate 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. (3x)

Jesus has risen from the tomb, as He foretold, granting us eternal life, and great mercy. (3x)

Ode VII

Irmos: He Who saved the three young men in the furnace became incarnate and suffered as a mortal man. Through His sufferings He clothed what is mortal in the robe of immortality. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

The godly women hastened to You with myrrh, O Christ. In tears they sought You as a dead man, but in joy they worshipped You as a living God and proclaimed the mystical Pascha to Your disciples.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

We celebrate the death of death and the overthrow of Hades, the beginning of another life which is eternal, and in exultation we sing the praises of its source. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our fathers.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

This is the bright and saving night, sacred and supremely festal. It heralds the radiant day of the resurrection on which the timeless Light shown forth bodily from the tomb for all.

Katavasia, and Paschal Troparion thrice.

Then the Little Litany as above and the exclamation:

Priest: Blessed and glorified by the might of Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Ode VIII

Irmos: This is the chosen and holy day, first of the new creation,
king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days.
On this day we bless Christ forevermore.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Come on this chosen day of the resurrection,
let us partake of the new fruit of the vine.
Let us share in the divine rejoicing of the kingdom of Christ,
praising Him as God forevermore.

Refrain: Christ is risen from the dead!

Lift up your eyes, O Zion, round about and see.
Your children like divinely shining stars assemble from the North,
the South, the East and the West
to bless Christ in you forevermore.

Refrain: Most holy Trinity, our God, glory to You.

Father almighty, Word and Spirit, one nature in three persons,
surpassing essence and divinity.
In You have we been baptized,
and You we bless forevermore.

Katavasia, and Paschal Troparion thrice.

Then the Little Litany as above and the exclamation:

Priest: For blessed is Your name, and glorified is Your kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

At the 9th Ode, the Deacon receives the blessing from the Priest does the Great Censing.

Ode IX

Refrain 1: My soul magnifies Him Who rose from the tomb on the third day:
Christ, the Giver of life.

Irmos: Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
Exult now and be glad, O Zion.
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the resurrection of your Son.

Refrain 2: My soul magnifies Him Who willing suffered and was buried,
and rose from the tomb on the third day.

Irmos: Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
Exult now and be glad, O Zion.
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the resurrection of your Son.

Refrain 3: Christ, the new Pascha, the living sacrifice,
the Lamb of God Who takes away the sins of the world.

How divine! How beloved! How sweet is Your voice, O Christ!
For You have faithfully promised to be with us to the end of the world.
Having this as our anchor of hope,
we the faithful rejoice.

Refrain 4: The angel cried to the Lady full of grace: “Rejoice, O pure Virgin.
Again I say: Rejoice.
Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb.
With Himself He has raised all the dead.
Rejoice all you people.”

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha,
O Wisdom, Word, and Power of God:
grant that we may more perfectly partake of You
in the never-ending day of Your Kingdom.

Refrain 5: After You fell asleep, Your royal voice,
roaring like the lion of Judah, awakened the dead from all ages.
How divine!...

Refrain 6: Mary Magdalene hastened to the tomb,
and seeing Christ, she questioned Him as though He were the gardener.
How divine!...

Refrain 7: An angel appeared to the women and cried:
“Cease your tears, for Christ is risen.
How divine!...

Refrain 8: Christ is risen, trampling down death and raising the dead.
Rejoice, all you people.
How divine!...

Refrain 9: Today all creation rejoices and makes glad,
for Christ is risen and Hades has been despoiled.
O Christ, great and most holy Pascha...

Refrain 10: Today the Master has despoiled Hades and raised the prisoners
whom it had held from the ages in harsh captivity.

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha...

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

Refrain 11: My soul magnifies the might of the Godhead,
in three Persons yet undivided.

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha...

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

Refrain 12: Rejoice, O Virgin rejoice!
Rejoice O blessed one! Rejoice, O glorified one!
Your Son is risen from His three days in the tomb.

O Christ, great and most holy Pascha...

Refrain 1: My soul magnifies Him Who rose from the tomb on the third day:
Christ, the Giver of life.

Irmos: Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem!
The glory of the Lord has shone on you.
Exult now and be glad, O Zion.
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the resurrection of your Son.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

The Deacon moves to stand before the Holy Doors, lifts his Orarion and says:

The Little Litany

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

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

people: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ:

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise You, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Deacon enters the Sanctuary through the South door, goes to the High Place, bows, turns, bows to the Priest, and goes to his place at the Altar Table.

Hymn of Light

People: In the flesh You fell asleep as a mortal man, O King and Lord.
You arose on the third day,
raising Adam from corruption and destroying death:
O Pascha of incorruption, the salvation of the world! (3x)

The Praises

Tone 1

People: Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens,
Praise Him in the heights,
To You, O God, is due a song.

Praise Him, all you angels of His,
Praise Him, all His hosts.
To You, O God, is due a song.

Psalm 148:3-14

Praise Him, sun and moon,
praise Him, all you stars and light.

Praise Him, you heavens of heavens
and you water that is above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for He spoke and they were born,
He commanded and they were created.

He has fixed them forever and ever.
He has made a law and it will not be bypassed.

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea monsters and all depths,

fire, hail, snow, ice,
the storm wind, all obeying His word,

all you mountains and hills,
all you fruit trees and cedars,

you wild beasts and all cattle,
reptiles and winged birds,

you kings of the earth and all peoples,
all you rulers and judges of the earth;

young men and virgins,
old men and children,

let them praise the name of the Lord,
for His name only is exalted;
His praise is above heaven and earth.

And He will exalt the power of His people.
This is a song for all His saints,
for the children of Israel,
for people drawing near to Him.

Psalm 149

Sing to the Lord a new song!
Let His praise be sung in the church of the saints.

Let Israel rejoice in Him Who made him,
and let the children of Zion exult in their King.

Let them praise His name with dancing,
let them sing to Him with drum and harp.

For the Lord takes pleasure in His people
and will exalt the meek with His salvation.

The saints will exult in glory,
and they will rejoice on their beds.

The high praises of God will be in their throat
and two-edged swords in their hands,

to pass judgment on the nations
and give rebukes among the peoples,

to bind their kings with chains
and their nobles with fetters of iron,

to pass judgment on them as God has written.
This glory will be for all His saints.

Psalm 150

Praise God in His saints,
praise Him in the expanse of His power.

5. Praise Him for His mighty acts,
praise Him for His infinite greatness.

We praise Your saving suffering, O Christ,
and glorify Your resurrection.

4. Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet,
praise Him with psaltery and harp.

You endured the Cross and destroyed death by rising from the dead.
Give peace to our life, O Lord, as the only almighty One.

3. Praise Him with drum and dancing,
praise Him with strings and bells.

You captured Hades, O Christ, and resurrect man by Your resurrection.
Enable us to praise and glorify You in purity of heart.

2. Praise Him with well-tuned cymbals,
praise Him with cymbals of victory!

1. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!

We glorify Your divine condescension, and we praise You, O Christ.
You were born of a virgin yet not separated from the Father.
You have suffered as a man and voluntarily endured the Cross.
You have risen from the tomb,
coming as from a bridal chamber to save the world.
O Lord, glory to You!

The Paschal Verses

Tone 5

Verse: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee
from before His face.

- people:* Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us:
a new and holy Pascha,
a mystical Pascha,
a Pascha worthy of veneration,
a Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer,
a blameless Pascha,
a great Pascha,
a Pascha of the faithful,
a Pascha which has opened to us the gates of Paradise,
a Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.
- Verse:* As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.
- People:* Come from that scene, O women bearers of glad tidings,
and say to Zion:
“Receive from us the glad tidings of joy,
of Christ’s Resurrection!
Exult and be glad,
and rejoice, O Jerusalem,
seeing Christ the King, Who comes forth from the tomb
like a bridegroom in procession!”
- Verse:* So the sinners shall perish before the face of God; but let the righteous
be glad.
- People:* The myrrh-bearing women,
at the break of dawn,
drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver.
There they found an Angel
sitting upon the stone.
He greeted them with these words:
“Why do you seek the Living among the dead?
Why do you mourn the Incorrupt amid corruption?
Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples!”

erse: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

People: Pascha of beauty,
the Pascha of the Lord,
a Pascha worthy of honor has dawned for us.
Pascha!
Let us embrace each other joyously!
Pascha, ransom from affliction!
For today, as from a bridal chamber,
Christ has shown forth from the tomb,
and filled the women with joy saying:
“Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles!”

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

People: This is the day of resurrection!
Let us be illumined by the feast!
Let us embrace each other!
Let us call “brothers” even those that hate us,
and forgive all by the resurrection,
and so let us cry:

Christ is risen from the dead,
Trampling down death by death,
And upon those in the tombs bestowing life. (3x)

Catechetical Homily

Of Our Father Among The Saints John Chrysostom,
Archbishop Of Constantinople (+407)

Instead of preaching their own homilies, the holy Church bids Orthodox Christian pastors to read this ancient text. No one is to remain seated during its reading; all stand and listen.

Priest: If there are any who are devout and love God, let them enjoy this beautiful and radiant feast of triumph!
If there are any who have been wise servants, let them enter the joy of their Lord!
If there are any who have labored long in fasting, let them now receive their wages!
If there are any who have worked from the first hour, let them receive their fair compensation today!
If there are any who came at the third hour, let them celebrate the feast with thanksgiving!
If there are any who arrived at the sixth hour, let them have no misgivings; they will not be deprived because of that!
If there are any who delayed until the ninth hour, let them approach and not be afraid!
If there are any who tarried even as late as the eleventh hour, let even them not be alarmed by their tardiness!
For the Lord, Who is jealous of His honor, will accept the last as well as the first. He gives rest to those who come at the eleventh hour just as He does to those who work from the first hour.
He is merciful to those who come last, even while He cares for the first ones. He gives gifts to each of them, bestowing His grace on all of them.
He not only accepts their deeds, He welcomes even their intentions! He not only respects their actions, but also gives high praise to what they offer!
So then, all of you, enter the joy of your Lord! Receive your reward, whether you came first or last! Rich and poor, dance for joy together! Sober people with the heedless, honor this day! Whether you kept the fast or disregarded it, rejoice today!
The table is fully laden: feast sumptuously! The calf is fattened: let no one go hungry! All of you, enjoy the banquet of faith! All of you, enjoy this abundance of kindness!
Let no one mourn because of poverty, for the royalty of all has been revealed! Let no one weep over transgressions, for pardon has dawned

from the tomb! Let no one fear death, for the Savior's death has set us free!

The One Who was the Prisoner of Death has utterly destroyed it; the One Who descended to Hades took it captive.

He made Hades take a bitter bite when it tasted His flesh, just as Isaiah cried out when he foretold this, saying: 'Hades tasted bitterness when it encountered You below.'

It tasted bitterness, for it was undone! It tasted bitterness, for it had been deceived! It tasted bitterness, for it had been made to die! It tasted bitterness, for it had been demolished! It tasted bitterness, for it had been fettered in chains!

It took a body, but happened upon God! It took earth, but encountered Heaven! It took what was visible, but stumbled upon the invisible!

So, Death, where is your sting? So, Hades, where is your victory?

CHRIST IS RISEN, and you are overthrown!

CHRIST IS RISEN, and the demons have fallen!

CHRIST IS RISEN, and the angels rejoice!

CHRIST IS RISEN, and life takes command!

CHRIST IS RISEN, and not a single corpse remains in the grave!

For when Christ was raised from the dead, He became the very first of those who had fallen asleep.

To Him be glory and dominion unto ages of ages! Amen!

The Deacon bows to the Priest, passing the High Place, exits the Sanctuary through the North door, and stands at his place on the solea.

Troparion of St. John Chrysostom

Tone 8:

People: Grace shining forth from you lips like a beacon has enlightened the universe. It has shown to the world the riches of poverty. It has revealed to us the heights of humility. Teaching us by your words, O father John Chrysostom, intercede before the Word, Christ our God, to save our souls.

The Deacon lifts his Orarion and prays:

The Litany of Fervent Supplication

Deacon: Have mercy upon us, O God, according to Your great goodness, we implore You, hear us and have mercy.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for [His Beatitude] Metropolitan _____, for [His Grace] our Bishop _____, for priests, deacons, and all other clergy, and for all our brethren in Christ.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the (*President*) and all civil authorities of this country and for those serving in its Armed Forces.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; for the blessed and ever memorable founders of this holy house; for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, [especially _____ and all those] who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God [especially _____], and for the pardon and remission of their sins.

People: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Deacon: Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable house; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Your great and rich mercy.

people: Lord, have mercy. (3x)

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ.

Priest: For You are a merciful God, and You love mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Deacon moves to stand before the Holy Doors, lifts his Orarion and says:

The Morning Litany

Deacon: Let us complete our morning prayer to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Your grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

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

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: For pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: For all things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

people: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: For a Christian ending to our life: painless, blameless, and peaceful; and a good defense before the dread judgment seat of Christ, let us ask of the Lord.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

The Deacon moves to stand before the icon of Christ:

People: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For You are a good God, and You love mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Priest turns toward the people and blesses:

Priest: + Peace be unto all.

People: And to your spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads to the Lord.

People: To You, O Lord.

The Prayer with Heads Bowed

Priest: O Holy Lord, Who dwell on high and look upon the humble, and Who with Your all-seeing eye do behold all creation: to You have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we implore You, O Holy of Holies, stretch forth Your invisible hand from Your holy dwelling place and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, either willingly or unwillingly, pardon us, inasmuch as You are good, and You love mankind, granting us Your good things in this age and in the age to come. For Yours it is to have mercy on us and to save us, O our God, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

The Great Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

People: Father, bless.

Standing in front of the Altar Table, the Priest says:

Priest: + Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Confirm, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

People: More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption you gave birth to God, the Word. True Theotokos, we magnify you.

*Holding the Cross, standing in the Holy Doors, facing the people, in place of “Glory to You...”
the **Priest** sings:*

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,

People: ... and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Priest: May Christ, Who is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and He loves mankind.

Reader: Amen.

*The **Priest** raises the Cross and says:*

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is risen!

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is risen!

Priest: Christ is risen!

People: Indeed He is risen!

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (3x)

And unto us He has given eternal life! Let us worship his resurrection
on the third day!

The Hours of Pascha

Beginning with this day, the Holy and Great Sunday of Pascha, up to Saturday, Hours, Compline and Midnight Office are sung thus:

Priest: + Blessed is our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

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

Tone 6

Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the holy Lord Jesus, the only Sinless One. We venerate Your Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Your holy Resurrection; for You are our God, and we know no other than You; we call upon Your name. Come all you faithful, let us venerate 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.

Hypakoe

Tone 8

Before the dawn Mary and the women
came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.
They heard the angelic voice: "Why do you seek among the dead as a
Man
the One Who is everlasting Light?
Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world:
'The Lord is risen; He has slain death,
as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.'"

Kontakion

Tone 8

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,
You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God,
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,//
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the
fallen.

Tone 8

In the tomb with the body, in Hades with the soul as God, in paradise
with the thief and on the throne with the Father and the Spirit, were
You, O boundless Christ, filling all things.

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

Bearing life and more fruitful than paradise, brighter than any royal
chamber: Your tomb, O Christ, is the fountain of our resurrection.

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

Tone 8

Rejoice, O holy and divine abode of the most high!
For through you, O Theotokos, joy is given to those who cry:
“Blessed are you among women, All-undefiled Lady!”

Lord, have mercy. (40x)

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

More honorable than the cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare
than the seraphim: without corruption you gave birth to God the Word.
True Theotokos, we magnify you.

The Dismissal

People: In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Standing in front of the Altar Table, the Priest says:

Priest: + Through the prayers of our holy Fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

People: Amen.

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life! (3x)

Lord, have mercy. (3x)

Father, bless.

Priest: May Christ, Who is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us for He is good and He loves mankind.

Reader: Amen.