

Vespers sung on Saturday 8th June 2024 for Sunday 9th June 2024

Sixth Sunday of Pascha ♦ Sunday of the Blind Man

At the beginning:

Priest: Blessed is our God ...

Reader: Amen.

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

Sung or intoned three times

The Reader continues with Psalm 103, as usual.

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 5

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Hear me, O Lord!

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!

Receive the voice of my prayer,

when I call upon Thee!//

Hear me, O Lord

Let my prayer arise

in Thy sight as incense,

and let the lifting up of my hands

be an evening sacrifice!//

Hear me, O Lord!

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 5 (For the Resurrection)

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ,

Thou hast put the devil to shame.

By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin

and saved us from the gates of death.//

We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter

in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.

The princes of hell were frightened by this,

for the gates of sorrow were lifted.

Christ the King of glory had entered,

saying to those in chains: “Go forth!”//

And to those in darkness: “Come to the light!”

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

O great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man

and rose again immortal.

Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

for delivered from error by His compassion,//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

We offer Thee our evening worship,
O never-setting Light,
Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh;
Who even didst descend to hell to dispel its darkness.
Who hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

We glorify the Leader of our salvation;
by His Resurrection from the dead,
the world was saved from deceit.
The assembly of Angels rejoices
as the deceit of demons is overthrown.//
Fallen Adam rises as the devil falls.

For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

The guards were instructed by the lawless ones:
"Hide the rising of Christ, take money and say:
"The body was stolen from the tomb while we were asleep."
But who has heard of a body being stolen,
a body embalmed and naked,
with its grave clothes left behind in the tomb?
Do not be deceived, O Jews,
study the words of the Prophets and understand://
Christ is the Redeemer of the world and all powerful!

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

O Lord, Who hast captured hell
and trampled on death,
Thou hast enlightened the world by Thy precious Cross.//
O Saviour, have mercy on us!

For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 2 *(For the Blind Man)*

The man blind from birth asked himself:
"Was I born blind because of my parents' sins?
Or am I a living sign of the people's faithlessness?
I am not content to continue asking whether it is night or day.
My feet can no longer endure tripping on the stones.
I have seen nothing: neither the sun shining, nor the image of my Maker.//
But I entreat Thee, O Christ God, look upon me and have mercy on me!"

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Repeat: The man blind from birth asked himself:

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Jesus, passing by the Temple, met a man blind from birth.
He had compassion on him and put spittle on his eyes,
saying: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam!"
He washed himself and then gave glory to God.
His neighbours asked him:
"Who opened thine eyes, which no one could heal before?"

[He cried out ...

He cried out: "A man called Jesus said to me:
'Wash in Siloam!' and now I see;
He is truly the Christ, the Messiah Whom Moses foretold in the Law.//
He is the Saviour of our souls!"

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

Tone 5 (*For the Blind Man*)

Passing by the way, O Lord,
Thou didst meet a man blind from birth.
Thy Disciples were puzzled and asked:
"Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
Jesus answered: "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents,
but that the works of God might be revealed in him.
I must work the works of Him Who sent me, which no one else can do."
As He said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle,
and anointed the man's eyes with the clay and said to him:
"Go, wash in the pool of Siloam!"
He went and washed, and was made whole, crying: "Lord, I believe!"//
He worshipped Thee, and we cry: "Have mercy on us!"

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

Tone 5 (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

In the Red Sea of old,
a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.
There Moses divided the waters;
here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;
after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.
O ever-existing God Who didst appear as Man,//
O Lord, have mercy on us!

APOSTICHA

Tone 5 (*For the Resurrection*)

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,
Thou hast annulled our ancestral curse.
By descending to hell, Thou hast freed the eternal prisoners,
granting incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Thy life-creating and saving Resurrection.

Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face!] (Ps. 67:1)

Tone 5

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 for us the gates of Paradise,
a Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!

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!"

So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad!

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!"

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

Pascha of beauty,
the Pascha of the Lord,
A Pascha worthy of all honour has dawned for us.
O Pascha!
Let us embrace each other joyously!
Pascha, ransom from affliction!
For today, as from a bridal chamber,
Christ has shone forth from the tomb,
and filled the women with joy saying:
"Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles!"

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

Tone 8 *(For the Blind Man)*

O Christ God, Thou Sun of Righteousness,
by Thy touch Thou didst enlighten all.
Give sight now to our spiritual eyes,
and show us to be sons of the day!
Great is Thine ineffable goodness towards us!//
O Lover of man, glory to Thee!

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

Tone 5

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!"

TROPARIA**Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 5**

[Music on website / Green Book page 98]

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,
born for our salvation from the Virgin;
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,
to endure death, and to raise the dead//
by His glorious Resurrection.

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

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 5

Rejoice, impassable gate of the Lord!
Rejoice, rampart and protection of those who have recourse unto thee!
Rejoice, haven untouched by storms,
thou that knowest not wedlock,
who gavest birth in the flesh to thy Creator and God!
Fail not in thy supplications
for those who hymn and venerate thy birthgiving!