

Vespers sung on Saturday 10th May 2025 for Sunday 11th May 2025

Fourth Sunday of Pascha • Sunday of the Paralytic

At the beginning:

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

Choir: Amen.

Priest: Christ is risen from the dead ... *(3½ times: English, Greek, Church Slavonic, Romanian)*

Choir: ... Și celor din morminte viața dăruindu-le!

The Reader continues the Trisagion Prayers: "Glory to the Father ..." "All Holy Trinity ..." etc.

PSALM 103

"LORD, I CALL ..."

Tone 3

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 3 (For the Resurrection)

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Saviour,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.

The race of man, being saved by faith,//
always offers Thee a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.

Paradise has been opened again.

All creation, praising Thee,//
always offers Thee a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.

I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:

the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection,//
for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

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

We praise the Saviour incarnate of the Virgin,
for He was crucified for our sake and resurrected on the third day,//
granting us great mercy.

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.

Christ descended to hell proclaiming the glad tidings:

"Behold! Now I have triumphed!

I am the Resurrection, I will lead you out, //

for I have shattered the gates of death!"

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

Standing unworthily in Thy most pure house, O Christ God,

we offer our evening song, crying from the depths:

Thou Who didst enlighten the world,

by Thy Resurrection on the third day,

O Lover of man, deliver Thy people //

from the hand of Thine enemies!

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

Tone 1 *(From the Pentecostarion)*

With Thy pure hand, Thou didst create man,

and Thou didst come to heal the sick, O compassionate Christ.

By Thy word Thou didst raise the paralytic at the Sheep's Pool,

and didst cure the pain of the woman with the issue of blood.

Thou hadst mercy on the daughter of the Canaanite woman,

and didst not reject the request of the centurion.

Therefore we cry to Thee: //

"Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!"

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

Repeat: With Thy pure hand ...

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

The Paralytic was like an unburied corpse.

He saw Thee and shouted: "Lord, have mercy on me!

My bed has become my grave! Why should I live?

What use is the Sheep's Pool to me?

I have no one to put me into the pool when the waters are stirred,

but I come to Thee, O Fountain of healing.

Raise me up, that with all I may cry to Thee: //

'Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!'"

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

Tone 5 *(From the Pentecostarion)*

Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He came to the Sheep's Pool, called in Hebrew "Bethesda."

It had five porches, each filled with a multitude of the sick,

for at certain times an angel of the Lord stirred up the water,

and granted strength to those who approached in faith.

There the Lord saw a man who for many years had been afflicted.

He said: "Dost thou want to be whole?"

The sick man replied to the Lord:

"I have no man to lower me into the pool when the water is stirred.

I have spent all my wealth on physicians,

but have not been granted mercy!"

Then the Physician of souls and bodies said to him:

"Take up thy bed and walk! //

Proclaim My power and great mercy to the ends of the earth!"

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

Tone 3 (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

How can we not wonder
at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man,
thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honoured Lady.
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
but preserved the fullness of each nature.
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee//
to be the Theotokos.

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 (*For the Resurrection*)

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

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

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 *(From the Pentecostarion)*

Solomon's porch was filled with the sick.
In the middle of the feast,
Christ found a man who had been paralyzed for thirty-eight years.
He shouted to him in a commanding voice:
"Dost thou want to be healed?"
The sick man replied: "Lord, when the water is stirred, I have no man to lower me into the pool."
The Lord said to him:
"Pick up thy bed!
Now that thou art healed, see that thou sin no more!"
Show to us Thy great mercy, O Lord, //
through the prayers of the Theotokos!

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 3

[Music on website / Green Book page 6]

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world //
great mercy.

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

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 3

Tone 3

We hymn thee who hast mediated the salvation of our race, O Virgin Theotokos;
for thy Son and our God,
accepting suffering on the Cross in the flesh He had received of thee,
hath delivered us from corruption, //
in that He is the Lover of mankind.