

# Vespers sung on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May for Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2025

## Fifth Sunday of Pascha ♦ Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

*At the beginning:*

**Reader:** Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us, and save us. Amen.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Reader:** 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.*

*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!*

**Tone 2** *(For the Blind Man: from the Pentecostarion)*

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!"

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

**Repeat:** The man blind from birth ...

*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.*

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: "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!"

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

**Tone 8** *(For the Forerunner)*

O blessed John the Forerunner,

thy head didst shine from the ground with rays brighter than the sun.

It enlightens the faithful.

We have it as a divine treasure

and draw rich grace from it,

sanctifying our souls, our bodies and thoughts.//

As we celebrate, we call thee blessed.

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

Thy holy head, O blessed Forerunner,

poured out abundant grace.

It was shown without his foreknowledge to the priest who was wise in God.

He quickly went with faith and grace

and openly brought about its manifest appearance,

which sanctified the emperor and the divinely wise people,//

who fervently maintain the Orthodox Faith.

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

We celebrate the third revelation of thy precious head,

crowned by the Holy Trinity,

which was severed, O glorious one, because of thy godly zeal.

The ranks of Angels, the company of martyrs,

the Apostles of God and all the Prophets

rejoice in its discovery.//

Together with them, ever remember us, O Forerunner of the Lord!

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

**Tone 6** *(For the Forerunner)*

Thy head is a treasury of godly gifts, O Forerunner.  
Guarded safely by God, it came to light from the hollows of the earth.  
With faith we gain possession of it, O glorious Baptist of Christ.  
As we venerate it, we are enriched through thee  
with the wonders of miracles,//  
and in the forgiveness of transgressions.

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

**Tone 5** *(For the Blind Man: from the Pentecostarion)*

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!

---

**OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

**The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.**

[Chapters 40, 41, 45, 48, 54]

Thus saith the Lord: “Comfort, comfort My people,” says God. “Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, ye priests, comfort her, for her humiliation is increased, her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the Lord’s hand double for her sins. The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight the paths of our God.’ “Go up to a high mountain, you who are proclaiming glad tidings to Zion, lift up your voice with strength, O herald of good tidings to Jerusalem. Lift it up, fear not! I the Lord God, I have heard the poor of Israel and will not forsake them. I will open rivers on the mountains, and fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the deserts pools of water, and the thirsty land springs of water. Let the heavens rejoice from above, and let the clouds rain down righteousness; let the earth bring forth, and let it sprout forth mercy and cause righteousness to shine forth also. “Declare this with a shout of joy, and let this be known, proclaim it to the end of the earth. Say, “The Lord hath redeemed his servant Jacob!’ And if they thirst, He shall lead them through the desert, He shall bring forth water for them out of the rock. Rejoice, O barren one who did not bear; break forth into singing and cry aloud, you who have not been in travail! For more are the children of the desolate one than of her who hath a husband.”

### The Reading from the Prophecy of Malachi.

[Chapters 3, 4]

Thus saith the Lord Almighty: "Behold, I send My messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee, and the Lord whom ye seek, shall come into His temple. But who can endure the day of His coming? For He is coming like the fire of a furnace and like the fuller's herb; and He shall cleanse, refining and purifying, as it were, silver and gold. And He comes to you with judgment, and will be a swift witness against the evil ones and against adulterers, and against those who swear falsely by My name, against those who withhold the hireling's wages, against those who oppress widows and beat orphans, against those who avoid judgment in favour of strangers, and against those who do not fear Him," saith the Lord Almighty. "For I am the Lord your God, and I change not; and you, the sons of Jacob, have turned aside from the Law and have not kept it. Return to me, therefore, and I will return to you," saith the Lord Almighty. "And all nations shall call you blessed, and they shall understand that I am the Lord, who distinguishes between the righteous and between the transgressors on that day, in which I shall act to spare those who love Me. "Know, therefore, and remember the Law of Moses, my servant, as I commanded you at Horeb, the statutes and ordinances for all Israel. And behold, I will send to you Elijah the Tishbite before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes, who shall turn the heart of a father to his son, and the heart of a man to his neighbour, lest I come quickly and smite the earth," saith the Lord Almighty, God, the Holy One of Israel.

### The Reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

[Chapters 4, 5]

The righteous man, though he die early, will be at rest. The righteous man who has died will judge the ungodly who are living. For they will see the end of the righteous, and will not understand what was said about him; for the Lord will cast down the ungodly speechless to the ground and shake them from the foundations; they shall become desolate to the end; they will be in sorrows, and their memory will perish. For they will come with fear at the thought of their sins, and their iniquities shall stand against them to convict them. Then the righteous man will stand with great boldness before those who have afflicted him, and those who have made of no account his labours. Having seen it, they shall be troubled with much fear and they will be amazed at his most-glorious salvation. They will say within themselves in repentance, in anguish of spirit. They will groan and say: "This was he whom we had sometimes in derision and a proverb of reproach—we fools! We accounted his life as madness, and his end to be without honour. How is he numbered among the sons of God? And why is his lot among the Saints? "Therefore, we have erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness did not illumine us, nor did the sun shine on us. We took our fill of the paths of lawlessness and destruction, and we walked impassible pathways, but the way of the Lord we have not known."

---

### APOSTICHA

#### Tone 5 (*For the Resurrection*)

We magnify Thee in songs of praise,  
O incarnate Christ and Saviour.  
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,  
as the Lord and Lover of man,  
Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell, //  
and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

*V. 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.

*V. 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!”

*V. 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!”

*V. 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 2 (For the Forerunner)**

O all-praiseworthy John,  
thy head, the all-revered vessel of divine thoughts,  
which clearly gazed on the mystery of the Essence beyond words,  
today has come to light from the recesses of the earth, as from a mother’s womb.  
It makes the whole world fragrant,  
pouring forth a myrrh of sanctification,  
preaching the way of repentance,//  
and interceding with the Saviour of all in behalf of our souls.

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

### **Tone 8 (For the Blind Man: from the Pentecostarion)**

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!

“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,*

### **Troparion of the Forerunner in Tone 4**

[Music on website / Sheet]

Thy head was revealed to us by Christ  
as a divine treasure in the earth, O Prophet and Forerunner.  
We gather in honour of this discovery  
with inspired hymns of praise to the Saviour,//  
Who saves us from corruption through thy prayers.

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

### **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 4**

The mystery hidden from before the ages  
and unknown even to the angels,  
through thee, O Theotokos,  
hath been revealed to those on earth:  
God incarnate in unconfused union,  
Who willingly accepted the Cross for our sake,  
and thereby raising up the first-formed man,//  
hath saved our souls from death.

---