

Vespers sung on Saturday 3rd May 2025 for Sunday 4th May 2025

Third Sunday of Pascha • The Holy Myrrh-Bearing Women The Holy and Righteous Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus

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 2

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 2 (For the Resurrection)

Come, let us worship the Word of God

begotten of the Father before all ages,

and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!

Having endured the Cross,

He was buried as He Himself desired.//

And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

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

Christ our Saviour
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

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

With the Archangels
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!
He is our Saviour, our Redeemer.
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//
to judge the world which He made.

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

The Angel proclaimed Thee,
the crucified and buried Master.
He told the women: "Come, see the place where He lay!
He is risen as He said,
for He is almighty."
We worship Thee, O only immortal One.//
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

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

Tone 2 *(From the Pentecostarion)*

Early in the morning,
the myrrh-bearing women brought spices to the tomb of the Lord.
They found the stone unexpectedly rolled away,
and they asked among themselves:
"Where are the seals of the tomb?
Where are Pilate's guards?"
The radiant Angel came to the wondering women and proclaimed to them:
"Why do you seek with tears the Life Who gives life to the human race?
Christ our God has risen from the dead as almighty,//
granting us incorruption, life, enlightenment, and 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.

O women disciples,
why do you mingle myrrh with your tears?
The stone is gone; the tomb is empty.
Behold, corruption destroyed by life!
The seals witness that the guards of the godless have watched in vain.
Mortal nature has been saved by the flesh of God.
Hell is wailing.
Go with joy, and proclaim to the Apostles:
"Christ has slain death as the first-born of the dead.//
He awaits you in Galilee!"

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

The Myrrh-bearers came early to Thy tomb, O Christ,
seeking Thee to anoint Thy most pure Body.
Enlightened by the Angel's words,
they proclaimed joyous tidings to the Apostles:
"The Leader of our salvation has been raised;
He has captured death,//
granting the world eternal life and great mercy!"

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)*

"O myrrh-bearing women,
why have you come to the grave?
Why do you seek the Living among the dead?//
The Lord is risen, take courage!" cried the Angel.

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

The women came with fear to the tomb,
hastening to anoint Thy Body with sweet spices.
Not finding it, they were perplexed and questioned one another,
as they did not know of Thy Resurrection.
But an Angel appeared to them and said://
“Christ is risen, granting us great mercy.”

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

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to the tomb, seeking the Lord.
They saw an Angel, who shone like lightning, sitting on the stone.
And he said to them: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?
He is risen, as He said;
in Galilee you will find Him.”
Let us cry out to Him://
“O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to Thee!”

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

Tone 6 *(From the Pentecostarion)*

The myrrh-bearing women reached Thy tomb
and saw the seals of the tomb broken.
Not finding Thy most pure Body, they lamented, saying:
“Who has stolen our hope?
Who has taken the dead One, naked and anointed,
the sole consolation of His Mother?
How can the Life of the dead have died?
How can the Capturer of hell have been buried?//
But arise in three days as Thou didst say, O Saviour, and save our souls!”

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

Tone 2 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;
as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.
The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame.//
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

APOSTICHA

Tone 2 *(For the Resurrection)*

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,
has enlightened the whole universe,
recalling Thy creation.//
Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!

Then the Paschal Stichera with their verses from Psalm 67:

V. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; and 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 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 5 *(From the Pentecostarion)*

Joseph, together with Nicodemus,
took Thee down from the Tree,
Who clothest Thyself with light as with a garment.
He gazed on Thy body – dead, naked, and unburied,
and in grief and tender compassion he lamented:
"Woe is me, my sweetest Jesus!
A short while ago, the sun beheld Thee hanging on the Cross,
and it hid itself in darkness.
The earth quaked in fear at the sight.
The veil of the Temple was torn in two.
Lo, now I see Thee willingly submit to death for our sake.
How shall I bury Thee, O my God?

[How can I wrap Thee in a shroud]?

How can I wrap Thee in a shroud?
How can I touch Thy most pure Body with my hands?
What songs can I sing for Thine exodus, O compassionate One?
I magnify Thy Passion.
I glorify Thy burial,
and Thy holy Resurrection,
crying, O Lord, glory to Thee!"

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

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!" (*Once*)

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 2

[Music on website / Green Book page 86]

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,
Thou didst slay hell with the splendour of Thy Godhead.
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out://
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

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

Troparion of the Noble Joseph in Tone 2

[Music on website / Green Book page 87]

The noble Joseph,
when he had taken down Thy most pure Body from the Tree,
wrapped it in fine linen and anointed it with spices,
and placed it in a new tomb.
But Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord,//
granting the world great mercy.

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

Troparion of the Holy Myrrh-bearers in Tone 2

[Music on website / Green Book page 87]

The Angel came to the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb and said:
"Myrrh is fitting for the dead;
but Christ has shown Himself a stranger to corruption!
So proclaim: "The Lord is risen, //
granting the world great mercy.""
