

# The Agape Vespers

**Deacon:** Bless Master!

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

**Choir:** Amen.

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

**Choir:** Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and on those in the tombs bestowing life! **Thrice.**

*While the choir chanteth, the priest censeth the people exclaiming:*

**The Priest reads the stichoi, and the choir sings the troparion after each stichos:**

**Stichos 1:** Let God arise and let His enemies be scattered, and let them that hate Him flee from before His face.

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

**Stichos 2:** As smoke vanisheth, so let them vanish, as wax melteth before the fire.

**Choir:** *Repeat Troparion*

**Stichos 3:** So let the sinners perish at the presence of God, and let the righteous be glad.

**Choir:** *Repeat Troparion*

**Stichos 4:** This is the day which the Lord hath made; let us rejoice and be glad therein.

**Priest:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Choir:** *Repeat Troparion*

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

**Choir:** *Repeat Troparion*

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

**Choir:** And upon those in the tombs bestowing life.

**Deacon:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God, and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For this holy temple, and for them that with faith, reverence, and the fear of God enter herein, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For the our Great Lord and Father, His Holiness Patriarch *N.*; for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan *N.*, First Hierarchy of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop or Bishop *N.*); for the venerable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For this land, its authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For the God preserved Russian Land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That He may deliver His people from enemies both visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For this city (or this town, or this holy monastery), for every city and country, and the faithful that dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** For seasonable weather, abundance of the fruits of the earth, and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That we may be delivered from all tribulation, wrath, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For unto Thee is due all glory, honor and worship; to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### Lord I Have Cried...

**Reader:** In the **2nd Tone:** Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me.

**Choir:** Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me. \* Harken unto me, O Lord. \* Lord, I have cried unto Thee, hearken unto me; \* attend to the voice of my supplication, \* when I cry unto Thee. \* Harken unto me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth \* as incense before Thee, \* the lifting up of my hands \* as an evening sacrifice. \* Harken unto me, O Lord.

**Reader:** Set, O Lord, a watch before my mouth, and a door of enclosure round about my lips.

Incline not my heart unto words of evil, to make excuse with excuses in sins.

With men that work iniquity; and I will not join with their chosen.

The righteous man will chasten me with mercy and reprove me; as for the oil of the sinner, let it not anoint my head.

For yet more is my prayer in the presence of their pleasures; swallowed up near by the rock have their judges been.

They shall hear my words, for they be sweetened; as a clod of earth is broken upon the earth, so have their bones been scattered nigh unto hades.

For unto Thee, O Lord, O Lord, are mine eyes, in Thee have I hoped; take not my soul away.

Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and from the stumbling-blocks of them that work iniquity.

The sinners shall fall into their own net; I am alone until I pass by.

With my voice unto the Lord have I cried, with my voice unto the Lord have I made supplication.

I will pour out before Him my supplication, mine affliction before Him will I declare.

When my spirit was fainting within me, then Thou knewest my paths.

In this way wherein I have walked they hid for me a snare.

I looked upon my right hand, and beheld, and there was none that did know me.

Flight hath failed me, and there is none that watcheth out for my soul.

I have cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my hope, my portion art Thou in the land of the living.

Attend unto my supplication, for I am brought very low.  
Deliver me from them that persecute me, for they are stronger than I.  
Bring my soul out of prison that I may confess Thy name.  
The righteous shall wait patiently for me until Thou shalt reward me.  
Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.  
Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

## Tone 2

*If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? \* For with Thee there is forgiveness.*

Come let us worship God the Word, /  
Who was born of the Father before the ages, /  
and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary; /  
for having endured the Cross, /  
He gave Himself over to burial, as He Himself willed, /  
and having risen from the dead, //  
He saved me, the man who hath gone astray.

*For Thy name's sake have I patiently waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath patiently waited for Thy word, \* my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*

Christ our Savior, /  
having nailed to the Cross the handwriting against us, /  
blotted it out, and abolished the dominion of death; //  
we worship His Resurrection on the third day.

*From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch \* let Israel hope in the Lord.*

With the archangels let us sing praises to the Resurrection of Christ, /  
for He is the Redeemer and Savior of our souls; /  
and in fearful glory and mighty power, //  
He is coming again to judge the world, which He hath fashioned.

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; \* and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.*

Thee, the Crucified and buried, /

did the angel proclaim to be Master, /  
and He said unto the women: /  
Come, see where the Lord lay, /  
for He is risen, as He said, for He is Almighty. /  
Wherefore, we bow down before Thee, who alone art Immortal; //  
O Christ, Giver of life, have mercy on us.

*O praise the Lord, all ye nations; \* praise Him, all ye peoples.*

By Thy Cross Thou didst abolish the curse of the tree; /  
by Thy burial Thou hast slain the dominion of death; /  
and by Thine arising hast Thou enlightened the race of man. /  
Therefore, we cry out to Thee: //  
O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory be to Thee.

*For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, \* and the truth of the Lord  
abideth forever.*

Out of fear the gates of death were opened unto Thee, O Lord, /  
and the gatekeepers of hades, having beheld Thee, were afraid; /  
for Thou didst shatter the brazen gates, /  
and didst break the iron bars, /  
and thou didst lead us out of the darkness and the shadow of death, //  
and didst burst our bonds asunder.

***Reader: Glory in the Same Tone:***

***Choir: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.***

Chanting the hymn of salvation, /  
with our lips let us call out: /  
Come ye all, in the house of the Lord let us fall down, saying: /  
O Thou Who wast crucified on the Tree, /  
and didst rise from the dead, and art in the bosom of the Father, //  
blot out our sins.

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

The shadow of the law passed away when grace arrived; /  
for, as the bush wrapped in flame did not burn, /

so did the Virgin give birth and yet remain a virgin. /  
In place of the pillar of fire, the Sun of righteousness hath shone forth. / Instead of  
Moses, Christ is come, //  
the salvation of our souls.

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Aright!

**Choir:** O Gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed  
Father, O Jesus Christ: Having come to the setting of the sun, having beheld the  
evening light, we praise the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: God. Meet it is for  
Thee at all times to be praised with gladsome voices, O Son of God, Giver of life.  
Wherefore, the world doth glorify Thee.

**Deacon:** Let us attend.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all.

**Deacon:** Wisdom! The Great Prokimenon in the 7<sup>th</sup> Tone.

**What God is as great as our God? / Thou art God Who workest wonders**

**Stichos 1:** Thou hast made Thy power known among the peoples

**Stichos 2:** And I said: Now have I made a beginning; this change hath been  
wrought by the right hand of the Most High.

**Stichos 3:** I remembered the works of the Lord; for I will remember Thy wonders  
from the beginning.

**Deacon:** What God is as great as our God?

**Choir:** Thou art the God Who workest wonders.

**Deacon:** And that He will vouchsafe unto us the hearing of the Holy Gospel, let us pray  
unto the Lord God.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. **Thrice.**

**Deacon:** Wisdom! Aright! Let us hear the Holy Gospel.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all!

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Priest:** The Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. John.

**Choir:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Deacon:** Let us attend.

*John 20:19-25 §65*

**Choir:** Glory to Thee, O Lord, glory to Thee.

**Deacon:** Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great mercy, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. **Thrice.**

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our Great Lord and Father, His Holiness Patriarch N.; for our lord the Very Most Reverend Metropolitan N., First Hierarch of the Russian Church Abroad; for our lord the Most Reverend (Archbishop or Bishop N., whose diocese it is) and all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for this land, its authorities and armed forces.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for the God-preserved Russian land and its Orthodox people both in the homeland and in the diaspora and for their salvation.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

**Deacon:** Again we pray to the Lord our God that He may deliver His people from enemies visible and invisible, and confirm in us oneness of mind, brotherly love and piety.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for our brethren, the priests, priestmonks, and all our brethren in Christ.

**Choir:** Lord have mercy. *Thrice.*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable, holy Orthodox patriarchs; for pious kings and right-believing queens; and for the founders of this holy temple (if it be a monastery: this holy monastery): and for all our fathers and brethren gone to their rest before us, and the Orthodox here and everywhere laid to rest.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

**Deacon:** Again we pray for them that bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for them that minister and them that chant, and for all the people here present, that await of Thee great and abundant mercy.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. *Thrice.*

**Priest:** For a merciful God art Thou, and the Lover of mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Choir: (Tone 8):** Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

**Deacon** Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

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

**Choir:** Grant this, O Lord.

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

**Choir:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Deacon:** Pardon and remission of our sins and offences, let us ask of the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Deacon:** Things good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

**Choir:** Grant this, O Lord.

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

**Choir:** Grant this. O Lord.

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

**Choir:** Grant this, O Lord.

**Deacon:** Calling to remembrance our most holy, most pure, most blessed, glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For a good God art Thou, and the Lover of Mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Deacon:** Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

**Choir:** To Thee, O Lord. *Very Slowly.*

**Priest:** Blessed and most glorified be the dominion of Thy kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*And after the exclamation, we chant the Resurrection Apostichon of the Octoechos:*

**Tone 2:** Thy resurrection, O Christ our Savior, /  
hath illumined the whole universe; /  
and Thou hast called forth Thy creation. //  
O Lord almighty, glory be to Thee!

*Then the Paschal Stichera*

51

E major

# Let God Arise



LET GOD A - RISE, LET HIS E - NE - MIES BE SCAT - - TERED.

*A<sub>b</sub>*

TO - DAY A SA - CRED PAS - CHA IS RE - VEALED TO US. A NEW

AND HO - LY PAS - - - CHA. A MY - STI - CAL PAS - - - CHA,

A PAS - CHA WOR - THY OF VE - NE - RA - TION. A PAS - CHA

WHICH IS CHRIST, THE RE - DEEM - - - ER. A BLAME - LESS

PAS - - - CHA. A GREAT PAS - - - CHA. A PAS - CHA OF

THE FAITH - FUL. A PASCHA WHICH HAS OPENED FOR US THE

GATES OF PAR - A - DISE. A PAS - CHA WHICH SANC - TI - FIES

ALL THE FAITH - - - FUL. AS SMOKE VAN - ISH - ES SO LET

THEM VAN - - - ISH. COME FROM THAT SCENE O WO - MEN



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AND SAY TO ZI - - ON:



RE - CEIVE FROM US THE GLAD TI - DINGS OF JOY

OF CHRIST'S



RE - SUR - REC - - TION:

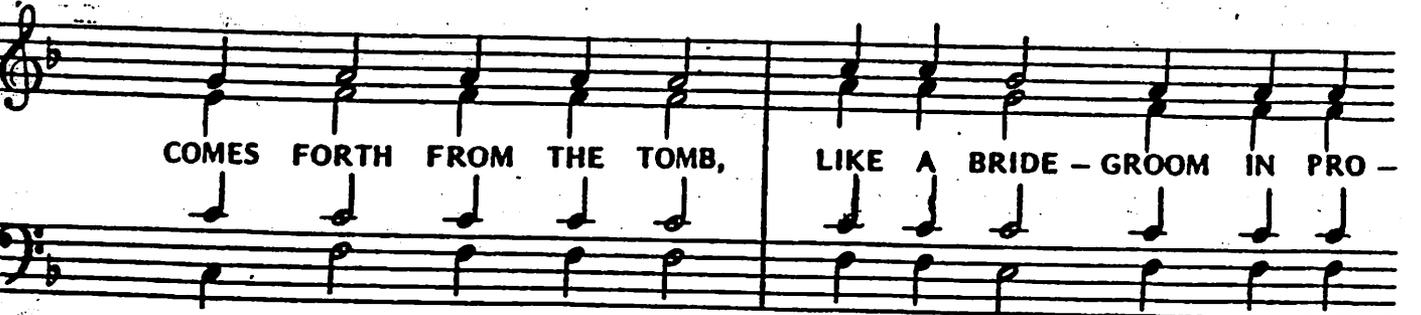
EX - UIT AND BE GLAD,

AND RE -



JOICE, O JE - RU - SA - LEM,

SEE - ING CHRIST, THE KING, WHO



COMES FORTH FROM THE TOMB,

LIKE A BRIDE - GROOM IN PRO -

CES - - - SION. SO THE SINNERS WILL PERISH BEFORE THE

FACE OF GOD, BUT LET THE RIGHT - - - EOUS BE GLAD. THE

MYRRH - BEAR - ING WO - MEN AT THE BREAK OF DAWN

DREW NEAR TO THE TOMB OF THE LIFE - GI - - VER. THERE

THEY FOUND AN AN - GEL SIT, - TING UP - ON THE STONE,

HE GREET - ED THEM WITH THESE WORDS: WHY DO YOU

SEEK THE LI - VING A - MONG THE DEAD? WHY DO YOU MOURN

THE IN - COR - RUPT A - MID COR - RUP - - TION? GO: PRO -

CLAIM THE GLAD TI - DINGS TO HIS DIS - CI - PLES. THIS

IS THE DAY WHICH THE LORD HAS MADE! LET US RE - JOICE AND

BE GLAD IN IT. PAS - CHA OF BEAU - - - TY! THE PAS -

CHA OF THE LORD! A PAS - CHA WORTHY OF ALL HO - NOR

HAS DAWNED FOR US. PAS - CHA! LET US EM - - BRACE

EACH O - THER JOY - OUS - LY. PAS - CHA, RAN - SOM FROM AF -

FLIC - TION! FOR TO - DAY AS FROM A BRI - DAL

CHAM - BER CHRIST HAS SHONE FORTH FROM THE TOMB. AND

FILLED THE WO - MEN WITH JOY SAY - ING: PRO - CLAIM THE

GLAD TI - DINGS TO THE A - POS - - - TLES! GLORY TO THE

FATHER AND TO THE SON AND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, NOW AND

EVER AND UN - TO A - GES OF A - GES. A - - - MEN. THIS

IS THE DAY OF RE - SUR - REC - TION! LET US BE IL - LU - MINEI

BY THE FEAST! LET US EM - BRACE EACH OTH - ER!

A<sub>b</sub>

LET US CALL "BROTH - ERS" E - VEN THOSE THAT HATE US AND

~~And~~ A A<sub>b</sub> F# A

FOR - GIVE ALL BY THE RE - SUR - REC - - TION, AND SO

~~Stop~~ as written

LET US CRY: CHRIST IS RI - SEN FROM THE DEAD TRAMP -

~~Stop~~

Musical notation for the first system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: LING DOWN DEATH BY DEATH, AND UP - ON THOSE IN THE

Musical notation for the second system, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The lyrics are: TOMBS BE - STOW - ING LIFE!

**Deacon:** Wisdom!

**Choir:** Father, bless.

**Priest:** He that is, is blessed, Christ our God, always, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen. Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and Orthodox Christians, unto the ages of ages.

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

**Choir:** And upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

### THE DISMISSAL:

**Priest:** May Christ our true God, Who rose from the dead, and trampled down death by death and upon those in the tombs bestowed life, through the intercessions of His most pure Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and the Lover of mankind.

**Priest:** CHRIST IS RISEN! *Thrice.*

**People:** INDEED HE IS RISEN! *After each.*

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

And unto us hath He granted life eternal; we worship His Resurrection on the third day.

*Revised 4/9/2020*