

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 touch thy most pure body with my hands? What songs can I sing for thy exodus, O compassionate one? I magnify thy passion. I glorify thy burial and thy holy resurrection, crying: O Lord, glory to thee!

The Resurrection

Arise O God

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to thee belong all the nations!

God has taken His place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods He holds judgment.

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to thee belong all the nations!

How long will you judge unjustly and accept the faces of sinners?

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to thee belong all the nations!

Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute.

Arise, O God, judge the earth, for to thee belong all the nations!

Pascha Kontakion

O Christ our God, though thou didst descend into the grave, yet didst thou overthrow the power of hades, and rise as an immortal conqueror. Thou didst greet with joy the myrrh-bearing women, and to thine apostles hast sent thy peace, and to the fallen, O Lord, didst bring resurrection.

The Angel Cried

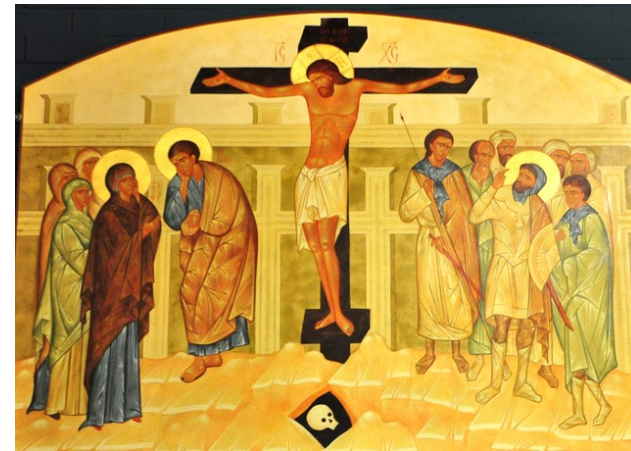
The angel cried to the lady full of grace: Rejoice, rejoice, O pure virgin! Again I say, Rejoice! Your Son is risen from his three days in the tomb; with himself he has raised all the dead. Rejoice, rejoice, O ye people! Shine! Shine! Shine, O new Jerusalem. The glory of the Lord has shone on you. Exult now, exult and be glad, O Zion. Be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.

This is the day of Resurrection

It is the day of resurrection - be illumined for the feast and embrace one another. Let us speak, brothers, even unto those who hate us, and forgive all for the sake of the resurrection. And so, together, let us cry out: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Christ is risen

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



Pray your way through Holy Week with Orthodox Hymnography

Triumphal Entrance into Jerusalem

Lazarus Saturday Troparion

O Christ God, when thou didst raise Lazarus from the dead before thy passion, thou didst confirm the universal resurrection. Wherefore we like babes carry the banner of triumph and victory, and cry unto thee, O vanquisher of death: Hosanna in the highest! Blest is He that cometh in the name of the Lord!

Rejoice, O Bethany

Rejoice, rejoice, O Bethany! On this day God came to thee! And in Him the dead are made alive, as is right, for He is the Life.

When Martha went to receive Him, grieving loudly with bitter tears, she poured out the sorrow of her heart to Him with great sadness, wailing her lament.

Then He, the faithful Redeemer, made His way unto the tomb, where He cried unto him who was buried four days, calling him forth, saying: Lazarus arise!

Come with haste, ye two sisters, and behold a wondrous thing, for your brother from the tomb has returned to life; to the beloved Redeemer now give thanks!

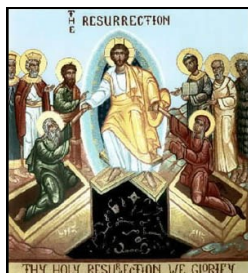
The Bridegroom Waits

Alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! My spirit seeks the early in the nightwatches, for thy commandments are a light on the earth. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Behold the Bridegroom

Behold, the Bridegroom cometh at midnight, and blessed is the servant whom he shall find awake. But he whom he shall find neglectful is verily unworthy. Behold, therefore, my soul; beware, lest thou fall into deep slumber, and the door of the kingdom be closed against thee, and thou be delivered unto death. But be thou wakeful, crying: Holy, holy, holy art thou, O God! Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.



So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?" The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord. 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Verily, I behold thy chamber

Verily, I behold thy chamber adorned, O my Saviour, and I possess no garment with which to enter therein. Delight thou in the robe of my soul, O giver of light, and save me.

Verily, this present day

Verily, this present day ushers in with splendor the Passion of the Lord. Come, therefore, O ye lovers of the feast, let us welcome it with songs; for the Creator cometh to accept crucifixion, examination, and lashes, and to be condemned by Pilate, smitten on his face by a servant, and to bear all things to save mankind. Wherefore do we cry out unto him: O Christ our God, who lovest mankind, grant forgiveness of sins to them who in faith do worship thy pure Passion.

The Last Supper

Of Thy mystical supper

Of thy Mystical Supper, O Son of God, accept me today as a communicant, for I will not speak of thy Mystery to thine enemies, neither like Judas will I give thee a kiss, but like the thief will I confess thee: remember me, O Lord, in thy kingdom!

The Crucifixion

The Wise Thief

The wise thief didst thou make worthy of paradise in a single moment, O Lord. By the wood of the cross, illumine me as well, and save me.

Today he is suspended

Today He is suspended on a tree, who suspended the earth over the waters. A crown of thorns was placed on the head of the king of angels.

He who wore a false purple robe covered the heavens with clouds.

He was smitten, who in the Jordan delivered Adam.

The groom of the Church was fastened with nails, and the Son of the Virgin was pierced with a spear.

Thy sufferings we adore, O Christ.

Make us to behold thy glorious resurrection!

The Burial

Lamentations

Stasis 1

In a grave they laid thee, O my life and my Christ,
And the armies of the angels were so amazed
As they sang the praise of thy submissive love.

How, O life, can'st thou die; in a grave how can'st dwell?

For the proud domain of death thou destroyest now,
And the dead of Hades makest thou to rise.

Now we magnify Thee, O Lord Jesus our King,
And we venerate thy passion and burial,
For therewith hast thou delivered us from death.

O my dear Christ Jesus, King and ruler of all,
Why to them that dwelt in hades didst thou descend?
Was it not to set the race of mortals free?

Lo, the sovereign Ruler of creation is dead,
And is buried in a tomb never used before,
He that all the graves hath emptied of their dead.

Stasis 2

Right is it indeed, life bestowing Lord, to magnify thee;
For upon the cross were thy hands outspread,
And the strength of our dread foe thou hast destroyed.

Right is it indeed, Maker of all things, to magnify thee;
For by thy dear passion have we attained Victory o'er the flesh and rescue from decay.

I am rent with grief, and my heart with woe is crushed and broken,
As I see them slay thee with doom unjust,
So bewailing him, his grieving Mother cried.

Ah, those eyes so sweet and thy lips, O Word, how shall I close them?
How the dues of death shall I pay to thee,
So cried Joseph as he shook with holy fear.

Dirges at the tomb goodly Joseph sings with Nicodemus,
Bringing praise to Christ, who by men was slain,
And in song with them are joined the Seraphim.

Stasis 3

Every generation
To the grave comes bringing,
Dear Christ, its dirge of praises.

From the Cross he brought thee,
That Arimathean,
And in the grave he laid thee.

Women bringing spices
Came with loving forethought,
Thy due of myrrh to give thee.

Come, all things created,
Let us sing a dirge hymn
To honour our Creator.

Him as dead though living,
Let us, like the women,
In love anoint with spices.

Do not lament me, O Mother

Do not lament me, O Mother, seeing me in the tomb, the Son conceived in the womb without seed, for I shall arise and be glorified with eternal glory as God. I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

The Noble Joseph

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.
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.

Keeping the Sabbath

The Great Moses

The great Moses foreshadowed this day mystically by his saying: And God blessed the seventh day. For this is the day of quiet and rest, on which the only son of God rested from all his works, keeping Sabbath in the body (by means of the mystery of the dispensation taking effect in death), returning through resurrection to what he had been, and granting us eternal life; for He alone is good and the lover of mankind.

Joseph with Nicodemus

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