**MAY 2**

**Bright Thursday**

**St Athanasius the Great**

***(Vespers celebrated on Wednesday)***

***(Divine Liturgy celebrated on Thursday)***

**"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!

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**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, the only begotten One.

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

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!”

*v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning, watch let Israel hope on the Lord!*

Oh, 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!

*v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

*(for the Resurrection, by Anatolius)*

We offer Thee our evening worship,

O never-setting Light,

Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh;

even descending to hell to dispel its darkness.

Thou hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//

Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

*v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

We glorify the Leader of our salvation;

by His Resurrection from the dead,

the world was saved from deceit.

The assembly of Angels rejoices

as the deceit of demons is overthrown.//

Fallen Adam rises as the devil falls.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

The guards were instructed by the lawless ones:

“Hide the rising of Christ, take money and say:

‘The body was stolen from the tomb while we were asleep.’”

But who has heard of a body being stolen,

a body embalmed and naked,

with its grave clothes left behind in the tomb?

Do not be deceived, O Jews,

study the words of the Prophets and understand://

Christ is the Redeemer of the world and all powerful!

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

O Lord, Thou hast captured hell

and trampled on death;

Thou hast enlightened the world by Thy precious Cross.//

O Savior, 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!

**Tone 7 Great Prokeimenon**

Hearken unto my prayer, O God, and hide not Thyself from my

supplication! (*Ps 54/55:1)*

*v: Attend to me, and hear me!. (Ps 54/55:3)*

*v: For they bring iniquity upon me.* *(Ps 54/55:4*

*v: I cried out to God, and the Lord heard me in the evening and the morning and at noon. (Ps 54/55:17-18)*

**Bright Thursday**

**Aposticha**

**Tone 5**  *(from the Octoechos, for the Resurrection)*

We magnify Thee in songs of praise,

O incarnate Christ and Savior.

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.

(*Then the Paschal Stichera with their verses from Psalm 67/68*)

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

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 to 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 honor has dawned for us.

Oh, Pascha!

Let us embrace each other joyously!

Pascha, ransom from affliction!

For today, as from a bridal chamber,

Christ has shown 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,*

*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! *(Thrice)*

**Bright Thursday**

***(at the Divine Liturgy)***

(After “Blessed is the Kingdom…” and “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 upon those in the tombs bestowing life! *(thrice)*

*(The clergy then chant the Paschal verses with the choir singing the Troparion “Christ is risen…” after each verse.)*

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and

upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

*v: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire!*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and

upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

*v: So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad!*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and

upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

*v: This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and

upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and

upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

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

Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and

upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

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

Choir: and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

**The First Antiphon**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth! Sing of His name, give glory to

His praise! *(Ps 65/66:1-2)*

*Refrain:* *Through the prayers of the Theotokos, O Savior, save us!*

Say to God: “How awesome are Thy deeds! So great is Thy power that

Thine enemies cringe before Thee!” *(Ps 65/66:3)* *(Refrain))*

Let all the earth worship Thee and praise Thee! Let it praise Thy name, O

most High! *(Ps 65/66:4) (Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever

and unto ages of ages. Amen. *(Refrain)*

**The Second Antiphon**

God be bountiful and bless us! Show the light of Thy countenance upon

us and have mercy on us! *(Ps 65/66:1)*

*Refrain:* *O Son of God Who arose from the dead, save us who sing to Thee:*

*Alleluia!*

That we may know Thy way upon the earth, and Thy salvation among

all nations. *(Ps 65/66:2)* *(Refrain)*

Let the people give thanks to Thee, O God! Let all the people give thanks to

Thee! *(Ps 65/66:5)* *(Refrain)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever,

and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*(“Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God … “)*

**The** **Third Antiphon**

*v: Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from*

*before His face! (Ps 67/68:1)*

Christ is risen from the dead,

trampling down death by death,

and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

*v: As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire! (Ps 67/68:2)*

*Troparion: “Christ is risen from the dead …”*

*v: So the sinners will perish before the face of God. But let the righteous be glad! (Ps 67/68:2b-3a)*

*Troparion: “Christ is risen from the dead …”*

***(After the Entrance)***

**Troparion** *(Pascha)*

Christ is risen from the dead,

trampling down death by death,

and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!

Before the dawn Mary and the women

came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb.

They heard the angelic voice: “Why do ye seek among the dead as a Man

the One Who is everlasting Light?

Behold the clothes in the grave; go and proclaim to the world:

‘The Lord is risen; He has slain death,

as He is the Son of God, saving the race of man.’”

**Tone 8 Kontakion** *(Pascha)*

Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal,

Thou didst destroy the power of death.

In victory Thou didst arise, O Christ God,

proclaiming, “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women,//

granting peace to Thy Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

***(Instead of the Trisagion, we sing:)***

As many as have been baptized into Christ,

have put on Christ. Alleluia.

**Tone 3** **Prokeimenon**

Sing praises to our God, sing praises! Sing praises to our King, sing

praises! *(Ps 46/47:6)*

*v: Clap your hands, all peoples! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!*

*(Ps 46/47:1)*

**Epistle**

**Acts 2:38-43**

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v. Go forth, prosper and reign, for the sake of meekness, righteousness and truth. (Ps 44/45:5)*

*v. For Thou lovest righteousness, and hate iniquity. (Ps 44/45:8)*

**Gospel**

**John 3:1-15**

***(Instead of “It is truly meet …,” we sing:)***

The Angel cried to the Lady, full of grace:

“Rejoice, O pure Virgin! Again, I say: ‘Rejoice,

thy Son is risen from His three days in the tomb!

With Himself He has raised all the dead.’”

Rejoice, O ye people!

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem!

The glory of the Lord has shone on thee.

Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!

Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,

in the Resurrection of thy Son!

**Communion Hymn**

Receive the Body of Christ; taste the fountain of immortality!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*(During Bright Week, instead of “Blessed is He that comes in the Name of the Lord,” we sing the troparion “Christ is risen …” (once). Instead of “We have seen the True Light” and “Let our mouths be filled …,” we sing “Christ is risen …” (once). Instead of “Blessed be the Name of the Lord,” we sing “Christ is risen …” (thrice). Instead of “Glory to You, O Christ our God…, “ the priest sings: “Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death,” and the choir concludes: “and upon those in the tombs bestowing life.” The priest gives the Dismissal, and after the singing of “Christ is risen” (thrice), we finish with: “And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His Resurrection on the third day!)*

Liturgical texts for this service represent modified versions of translations provided by Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery, Otego, New York and St. Tikhon’s Monastery, South Canaan, Pa. The Department of Liturgical Music and Translations of the Orthodox Church in America expresses its gratitude to Holy Myrrhbearers Monastery and St. Tikhon’s Monastery and to those translators whose work has been consulted at times in the course of reviewing and modifying these texts to their present form: Metropolitan Kallistos (Ware), Archimandrite Ephrem (Lash), Archimandrite Juvenaly, Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.