**MAY 27**

**Leavetaking of Pascha—Forefeast of the Ascension**

*(The beginning of Vespers is as on the day of Pascha itself. Before the opened Holy Doors, the Priest, with the Cross, Triple-candlestick and censer, exclaims: “Blessed is our God…” and then sings “Christ is risen…” with its verses, and the rest, as on Pascha.)*

**"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!

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

**Tone 2** *(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!”

*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.*

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 neighbors 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 Savior of our souls!”

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

**Tone 4**

The Blind Man, regarding the whole of life as night,

cried out to Thee, O Lord:

“Open my eyes, O Son of David, our Savior, //

that with all people I too may hymn Thy power!”

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

**Tone 5**

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!”

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

**Tone 8**

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!

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.*

**Tone 8**

In Thy compassion, O Christ God, Thou didst become incarnate,

and in Thy loving-kindness,

Thou didst deem worthy of divine radiance the man who

from the womb had been deprived of light.

With Thy fashioning fingers Thou didst anoint the pupils of his eyes with clay.

Now, O Giver of Life, illumine also the senses of our souls,//

for Thou alone art the bountiful Bestower!

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

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

**Tone 8**

Who can describe Thy power, O Christ?

Who can count the multitude of Thy wonders?

Thou didst appear on earth in two natures, O compassionate One,

thus granting double healing to the sick:

not only didst Thou open the bodily eyes of the man born blind,

but those of his soul as well.

Therefore he confessed Thee, the hidden God,//

Who grantest the world great mercy.

**Aposticha**

**Tone 5**  *(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*)

 **Tone 5** *(pointed for the adapted Znamenny melody as printed in the 1869*

*Obikhod of N. Bakhmetev)*

*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! *(once)*

***(at Vespers)***

**Tone 5** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

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,*

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

**Tone 5** **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

Rejoice, Impassable Gate of the Lord!

Rejoice, Wall and Protection of those who run to thee!

Rejoice, Unshakable Refuge!

Rejoice, thou who knewest not wedlock,

who gavest birth in the flesh to thy Creator and God!//

Do not cease praying for those who praise and worship thy Son!

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

*(We begin as on the day of Pascha itself.)*

**Tone 5** **Troparion**  *(Resurrection)*

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.

**Tone 4** **Kontakion**  *(Pentecostarion)*

I come to Thee, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,

and call to Thee in repentance://

“Thou art the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

**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 Thine Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

**Tone 8 Prokeimenon**

This is the day which the Lord has made; / let us rejoice and be glad in it!

(Ps 117/118:24)

*v: O Give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endureth forever!*

*(Ps 117/118:1)*

**Epistle**

 Acts 18:22-28

**Tone 4**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*v: Thou shalt arise, O Lord, and have mercy on Zion. (Ps 101/102:14)*

*v: The Lord looked down from heaven upon the earth. (Ps 101/102:20*

**Gospel**

John 12:36-47

***(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!

*(And the rest as on the day of Pascha itself, including the Paschal Dismissal with the Cross.)*

In addition to translations from the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, 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), Father Benedict Churchill, Isaac Lambertson, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Holy Transfiguration Monastery, among others.