

**Vesper Propers, May 8, 2011**  
**Sunday of the Myrrhbearers**  
**Third Paschal Sunday**

*All page numbers refer to the Paschal Vespers Book.*

**The holy apostle and evangelist John the Theologian**, who, son of Zebedee, with his brother James and Peter was a witness of the transfiguration and also of the passion of the Lord. At the cross he took Mary as his mother, at the command of the dying Lord. In the Gospel and his other writings he shows himself to be a theologian. He was found worthy to contemplate the glory of the incarnate Word, which he saw and proclaimed.

**Psalm 140 - Tone 2**

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, I have cried to you, hear me; re-ceive the voice of my pray'r when I

call up - on you. Hear me, O Lord! Let my pray'r

as-cend to you like in - cense and the lift - ing up of my hands

like an eve - ning sac - ri - fice. Hear me, O Lord!

O Lord, set a guard before my mouth  
and set a seal on the door of *my* lips.  
Let not my heart be inclined to evil,  
nor make excuse for the sins I *commit*.  
Let me never share in sinners' feasting.  
If a just man strikes or reproves me it *is* kindness  
but let the oil of the wicked not anoint my head.  
Let my prayer be ever against *their* malice.  
The princes were thrown down by the side of the rock;  
then they understood that my words *were* kind.

As a millstone is shattered to pieces on the ground,  
so their bones were strewn at the mouth of *the* grave.

To you, Lord God, my eyes are turned;  
in you I take refuge; spare *my* soul!

From the trap they have laid for me keep me safe;  
keep me from the snares of those who *do* evil.

Let the wicked fall into the traps they have set  
while I pursue my way *un*harmed.

**Psalm 141** With all my voice I cry to the Lord,  
with all my voice I entreat *the* Lord.

I pour out my trouble before him;  
I tell him all my distress while my spirit faints *with*in me.

But you, O Lord, know my path.  
On the way where I shall walk they have hidden a snare to *en*trap me.

Look on my right and see:  
there is no one who takes *my* part.

I have no means of escape,  
not one who cares for *my* soul.


I cry to you, O Lord.  
I have said: "You are my refuge, all I have in the land of *the* living."

Listen, then, to my cry  
for I am in the depths of *dist*ress.

Rescue me from those who pursue me  
for they are stronger *than* I.

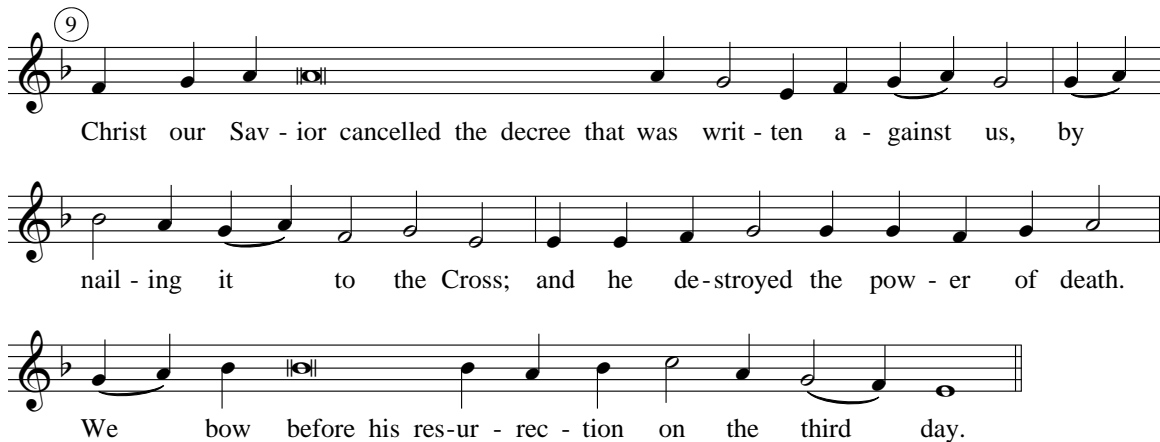
**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Bring my soul out of this prison  
(on 10) and then I shall praise your name.





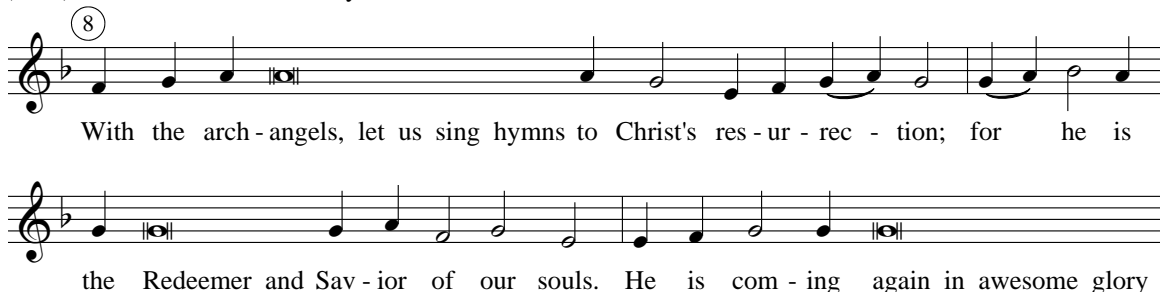
all ag - es, and was in - car - nate from the Vir - gin Mar - y. For he en - dured  
the cross of his own will, and was con - signed to the grave; and by  
ris - ing from the dead, he saves me from er - ror.

**Cantor:** Around me the just will assemble  
(on 9) because of your goodness to me.



Christ our Sav - ior cancelled the decree that was writ - ten a - gainst us, by  
nail - ing it to the Cross; and he de - stroyed the pow - er of death.  
We bow before his res - ur - rec - tion on the third day.

**Cantor:** Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord; **Psalm 129**  
(on 8) Lord, hear my voice!



With the arch - angels, let us sing hymns to Christ's res - ur - rec - tion; for he is  
the Redeemer and Sav - ior of our souls. He is com - ing again in awesome glory

and might - y pow - er to judge the world which he has fash - ioned.

**Cantor:** Let your ears be attentive  
(on 7) to the voice of my pleading.

Ear - ly at dawn, the myrrh-bear-ing wom - en a - rose, and car-rying

spic-es, came to the tomb of the Lord; and not find - ing what they ex - pect - ed,

the pi - ous wom - en pondered the re - mov - al of the stone. They spoke to

one an-oth-er, say - ing, Where are the seals of the grave? where are the guards

which Pi - late sent with great care? And be - hold, a ra - diant angel appeared

and pro-claimed to them: Why do you tear - ful - ly seek the living One who

gives life to all mor-tal flesh? Christ our God has ris-en from the dead. He

is the Al-might - y One who grants to all enlightenment, eter-nal life and



(5)

The myrrh-bearing women, O Christ, rose up early and hastened to your tomb,

seeking to anoint your most pure body. But when the glad tidings

were brought to them by the words of the angel, they hastened to the apostles

as heralds of joy. The Leader of our salvation has risen and

conquered death. He grants the world eternal life and great mercy.

**Cantor:** Let the watchman count on daybreak  
 (on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

*Tone 1 samohlasen*

(4) (3)

As the witness of revelations beyond words and interpreter of the sub-

lime mysteries of God, O son of Zebedee, you have written the gospel

of Christ for us. You taught us to glorify the Father, Son, and Holy

Spirit.

**Cantor:** Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,  
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.  
*All repeat: "As the witness of revelations beyond words..."*

**Cantor:** Praise the Lord, all you nations, **Psalm 116**  
(on 2) acclaim him all you peoples!

②

Lyre of heav-en - ly canti-cles, di-vine-ly moved, you are the mys-ti-cal writ - er

and the God - in - spired voice me - lo - diously singing the di - vine hymns.

Pray for the sal - va - tion of our souls.

**Cantor:** Strong is the love of the Lord for us;  
(on 1) he is faithful forever.

①

O be-lov-ed of God, with your thun-der-ing voice, you de-clared the wis-dom of God.

You pro-claimed a - loud the hid - den word by fre-quent-ly say - ing:

In the be - gin - ning was the Word. You have il - lu - mined all with the

knowl-edge of God.

**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Glory...

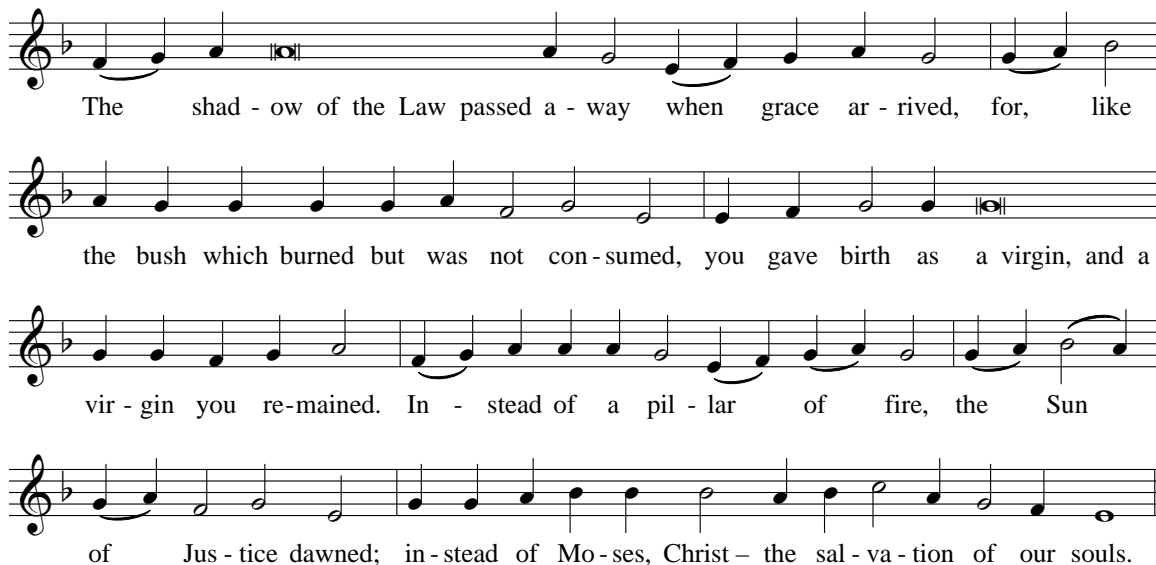
**Doxastikon - Tone 6**



The myrrh-bearing women, O Savior, came to your grave, and they saw that  
it was empty but did not find your most pure body. Therefore they  
cried out with tears and said: Who has robbed us of our hope? Who has  
taken away a naked and anointed corpse, the only consolation to  
his Mother? How could they bury the One who trampled Hades down?  
But in your own power, O Lord, arise after three days as you said,  
and grant great mercy to our souls.

**Cantor:** (Tone 2) Now and ever...

**Dogmatikon - Tone 2**



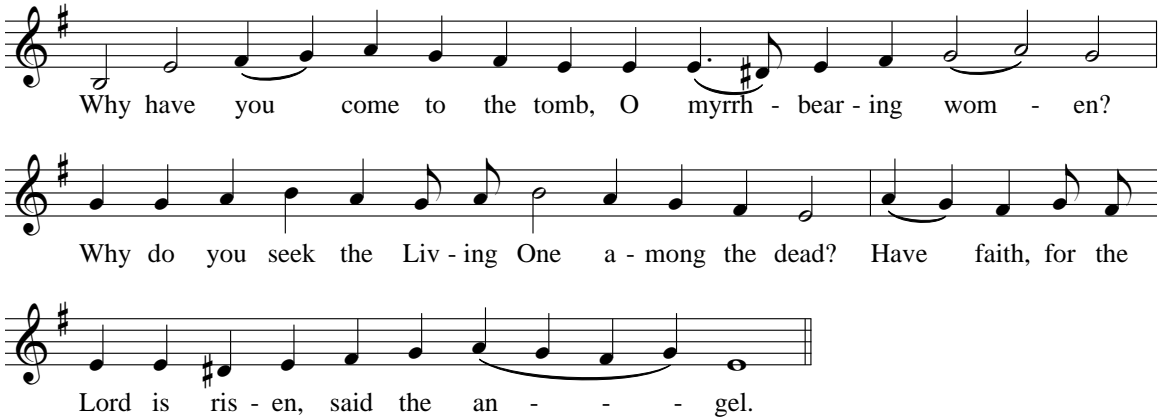
The shad - ow of the Law passed a - way when grace ar - rived, for, like  
the bush which burned but was not con - sumed, you gave birth as a virgin, and a  
vir - gin you re - mained. In - stead of a pil - lar of fire, the Sun  
of Jus - tice dawned; in - stead of Mo - ses, Christ - the sal - va - tion of our souls.

*The service continues on page 12.*

- Readings**
- 1 John 3: 21 - 4: 6
  - 1 John 4: 11 - 16
  - 1 John 4: 20 - 5: 5

# Litija Hymns

*Tone 1 Bolhar*

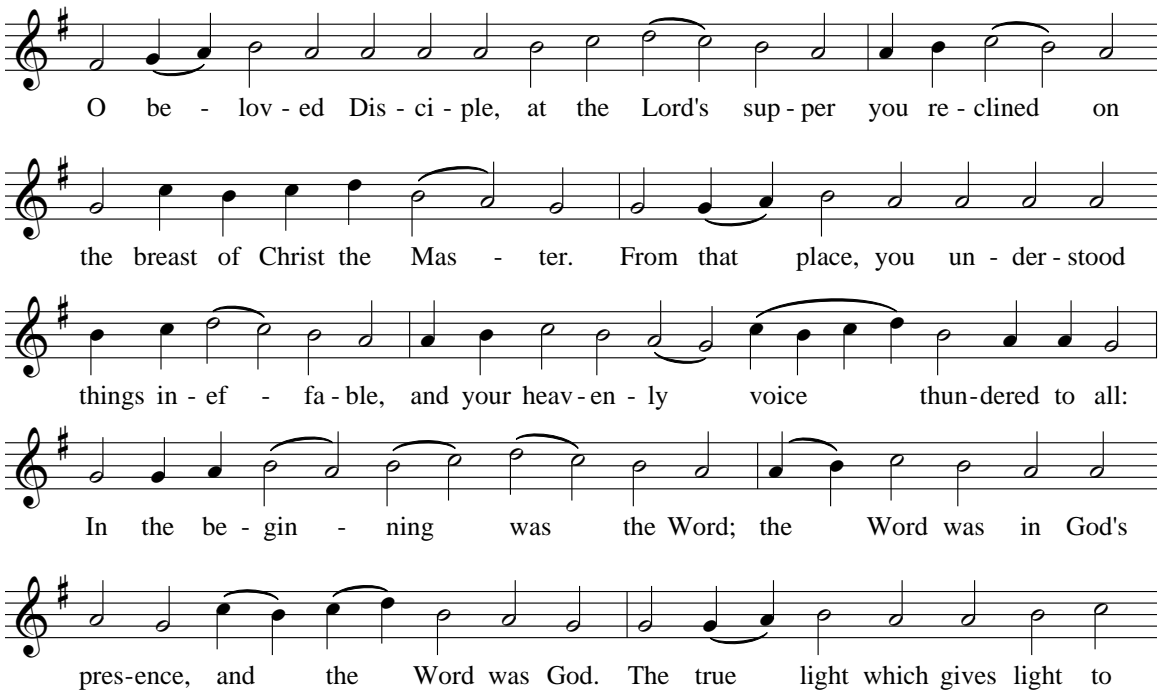


Why have you come to the tomb, O myrrh - bear - ing wom - en?  
Why do you seek the Liv - ing One a - mong the dead? Have faith, for the  
Lord is ris - en, said the an - - - gel.

**Cantor:** (Tone 4) Glory...

## Doxastikon

*Tone 4 Bolhar*



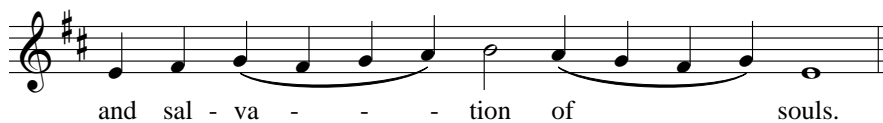
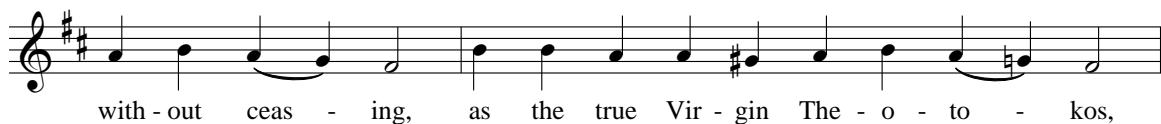
O be - lov - ed Dis - ci - ple, at the Lord's sup - per you re - clined on  
the breast of Christ the Mas - ter. From that place, you un - der - stood  
things in - ef - fa - ble, and your heav - en - ly voice thun - dered to all:  
In the be - gin - ning was the Word; the Word was in God's  
pres - ence, and the Word was God. The true light which gives light to



**Cantor:** (Tone 6) Now and ever...

**Theotokion**

*Tone 6 samohlasen*



*The Litany of the Litija is found in the Appendix on page 26.*

## Aposticha

① Tone 2

Your Res - ur - rec - tion, O Christ our Sav - ior, has en - light - ened the whole  
u - ni - verse; and through it, you call back to your - self all cre - a - tion. Al - might - y  
God, glo - - ry to you.

*The aposticha continue with the Paschal Stichera. The faithful come forward to kiss the cross as at Paschal Matins.*

*Celebrant:*

Let God a - rise and let his ene - mies be scat - tered,  
and let those who hate him flee from be - fore his face.

*All:*

To - day the sa - cred Pasch is re - vealed to us, ho - ly and new Pasch,  
the mys - ti - cal Pass - o - ver, the ven - er - a - ble Pass - o - ver,  
the Pasch which is Christ the Re - deem - er, spot - less Pasch, great Pasch,




the Pasch of the faith-ful, the Pasch which is the key to the gates of Par - a-dise,



the Pas - cha which sanc - ti - fies all the faith - - - ful.

*Celebrant:*  As smoke van - ish - es, so let them van - ish,



as wax melts be - fore a fire.


*All:*



O wo - men, be the her - alds of good news and tell what you saw;




tell of the vision and say to Zi - on: "Ac - cept the good news of joy



from us, the news that Christ has ri - sen." Ex - ult and cel - e - brate



and re - joice, O Je - ru - sa - lem, see - ing Christ the King,



com - ing forth from the tomb like a bride - - - groom.

*Celebrant:*

So let the wicked perish at the pres - ence of God, but

let the right - eous ones re - jice.

*All:*

The myrrh - bear - ing wo - men ar - rived just be - fore the dawn

at the tomb of the Giv - er of Life and found an an - gel seat - ed on the stone

who spoke these words to them: "Why do you seek the liv - ing a - mong the dead?"

Why do you mourn the in - corruptible among those sub - ject to de - cay?

Go an - nounce the good news to his dis - ci - - - - ples.

*Celebrant:*

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us be glad

and re - jice in it.

All:

Pasch so de - light - ful, Pasch of the Lord, is the Pasch -  
most hon - ored Pasch now dawned on us. It is the Pasch! There-fore, let us  
joy - ful - ly em-brace one an - oth - er. O Pass - o - ver, save us from sor - row;  
For to - day, Christ has shown forth from the tomb as from a bri - dal  
cham - ber and filled the wo - men with joy by say - ing: An - nounce  
the good news to the A - pos - - - - tles.

*Tone 6*

*Celebrant:*

Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly  
Spir - it.

**Doxastikon of the holy apostle and evangelist John - *Tone 6***

O a - pos - tle of Christ, O evangelist, O the - o - lo - gian, you were the mystic of the

in - ef - fa - ble mys - ter - ies. You pro - claimed to us the untold teach - ings  
of Wis - dom. You clar - ified for the faith - ful that the word was present  
to God in the be - gin - ning. You cast a - side the words of the her - e - tics  
and re - ject - ed their false teach - ings. You ap - peared as the favorite and be - lov - ed  
friend of Christ, e - ven as the thundering Isaiah and Mo - ses who saw God.  
Hav - ing bold - ness be - fore him, ear - - nest - ly pray for our souls.

*Celebrant:* Now and ev - er and for - ev - er. A - men.

**Doxastikon of Pascha**

This is the Re - sur - rec - tion Day! Let us be en - light - ened by this Feast  
and let us em - brace one an - oth - er! Let us call "Bre - thren"

e - ven those who hate us, and in the Re - sur - rec - tion,  
 for-give ev - 'ry thing and let us sing: Christ is ris - en from the dead!  
 By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the tombs he grant - ed life.

*The service continues on page 19.*

## Troparia

### Troparion of the Resurrection - Tone 2

When you de - scended to death, O Im - mor - tal Life, you de - stroyed  
 Ha - des by the brilliance of your di - vin - i - ty; and when you raised the dead  
 from the depths of the earth, all the heav - en - ly pow - ers cried out:  
 O Giv - er of Life, Christ our God, glo - - - ry to you.  
 The no - ble Joseph took down your most pure bod - y from the cross.

He wrapped it in a clean shroud, and with fra - grant spices laid it in bur-ial  
in a new tomb. But you, O Lord, a - rose on the third day,  
be - stow - ing great mer - cy up - on the world.

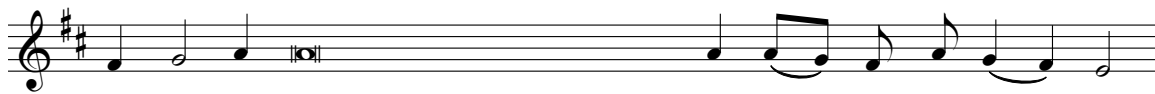
**Cantor:** Glory...

**Troparion of the holy apostle and evangelist John - Tone 2**

Be - lov - ed a - pos - tle of Christ our God, has - ten to deliver a people that  
lacks an - y oth - er de - fense He who ac - cepted that you lay your head  
on his breast will al - so ac - cept your pray'r. Pray to Christ, O  
The - o - lo - gian, that he may overcome the darkness of pa - gan  
na - tions, and beg that he grant us peace and a - bun - dant mer - cy.

**Cantor:** Now and ever...

**Troparion of the Myrrh-bearers - Tone 2**



The an - gel standing by the tomb cried out to the myrrh - bear - ing wo - men:



Myrrh is fit - ting for the dead, but Christ has shown himself not



sub-ject to cor - rup - tion. So now cry out: The Lord is ris - en,



be - stow - ing great mer - cy up - on the world.

*The service continues with the Blessing of Bread, page 29.*