

VESPERS ON THE EVENING OF PASCHA

(also called “Agape Vespers”)

Metropolitan Cantor Institute

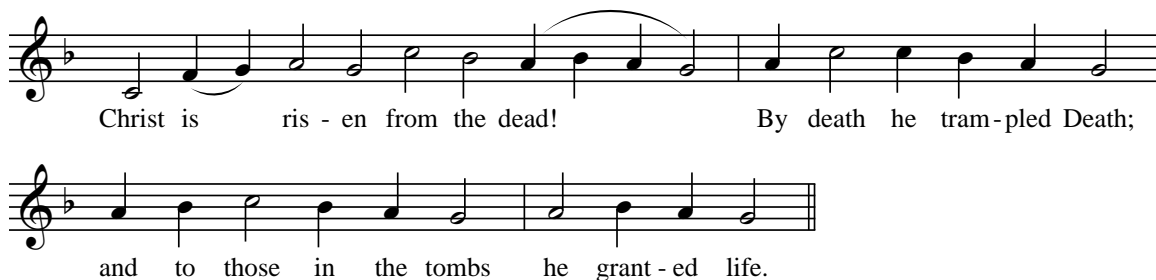
2007

The celebrant, fully vested in bright vestments, stands before the Holy Table and begins.

Celebrant: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

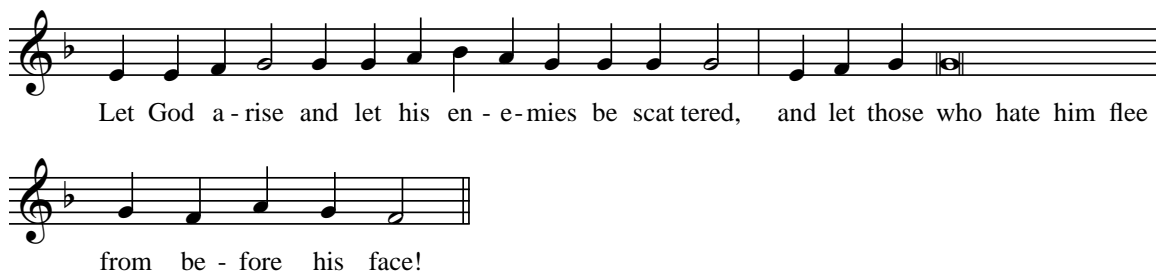
Immediately the Paschal Troparion is sung three times: once by the celebrant, and twice by the faithful.



Christ is ris - en from the dead! By death he tram-pled Death;
and to those in the tombs he grant - ed life.

The celebrant sings the following versicles, and to each one the faithful respond by singing, Christ is risen!


Priest:



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

All: Christ is risen...

Priest:



As smoke van - ish - es, so let them van - ish, as wax melts be - fore a fire.

All: Christ is risen...

Priest:



So let the wick-ed perish at the pres ence of God, but let the right eous ones re-joyce.

All: Christ is risen...

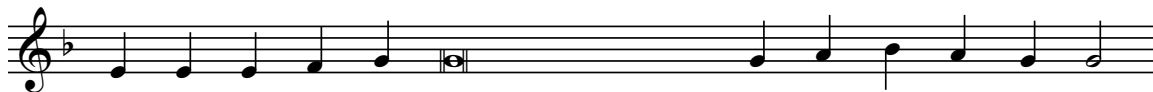
Priest:



This is the day that the Lord has made; let us re-joyce and be glad in it.

All: Christ is risen...

Priest:



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



now and ev - er and for ev - er. A - men.

All: Christ is risen...

Litany of Peace

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



Response:

1. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: For peace from on high and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.



Response:

2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: For peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this holy church and for all who enter it with faith, reverence, and fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop, (*Name*), for the venerable presbyterate, the diaconate in Christ, and all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For our government and for all in the service of our country, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For this city, [*or*: For this holy monastery], for every city, community, and for the faithful living in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: For those who travel by sea, air, and land, for the sick, the suffering, the captive and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: That we be delivered from all affliction, wrath, and need, let us pray to the Lord.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (1)

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (2)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and our whole life to Christ our God.

Response: 
To you, O Lord.


Priest: Evening, morning, and at noon we praise you, we bless you, we thank you, and we pray to you, Master of All, Lord and Lover of us all. Let our prayer rise like incense before you and do not let our hearts be turned to evil words or thoughts, but deliver us from all that might ensnare our souls. For to you, Lord, O Lord, our eyes are turned and in you we hope; let us not be put to shame, O our God. For to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is due all glory, honor, and worship now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

The Lamplighting Psalms

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 excuses for 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*harméd.

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 *within* me.

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

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

Bring my soul out of this prison
and then I shall praise *your* name.

Around me the just will assemble
because of your goodness *to* me.

Psalm 129 Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear *my* voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of *my* pleading.

Cantor: If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt, Lord, who would survive?
(on 6) But with you is found forgiveness: for this we revere you.

⑥



Come, let us a-dore God the Word, who was born of the Father be-fore

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: My soul is waiting for the Lord. I count on his word.
(on 5) My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.

5
 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: Let the watchman count on daybreak,
(on 4) and Israel on the Lord.

4
 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

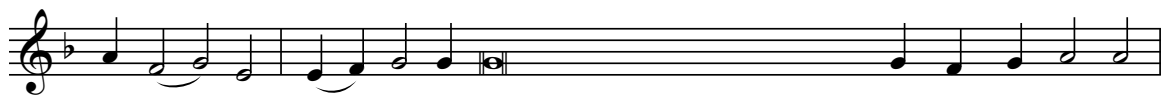


and might - y pow - er to judge the world which he has fash - ioned.


Cantor: Because with the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption,
(on 3) Israel indeed he will redeem from all its iniquity.




Al - though you died and were bur - ied, the an - gel yet de - clared you



as Mas - ter. He said to the women: Come and see where the Lord was bur - ied;



for he is ris - en as he fore - told, for he is al - might - y.

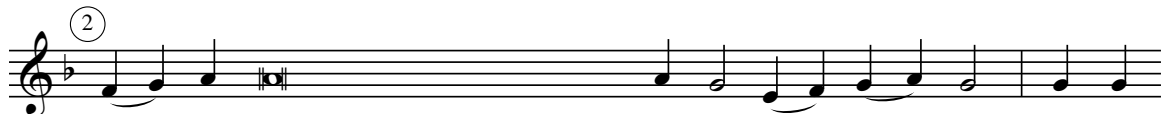


There - fore we wor - ship you the on - ly Im - mor - tal One, and we




be - seech you to have mercy on us, O Giv - - - er of Life.

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



O Christ you have abolished the curse of the tree by your Cross; you have



de - stroyed the pow - er of death by your bur - i - al, and you en - light - ened




the human race by your Res - ur - rec - tion. There-fore we cry out to you:




O God and Ben - e - fac - tor, glo - - - ry to you.


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



O Lord, the gates of death opened be-fore you in fear, and the gate - keep-ers



of Hades were filled with dread at the sight of you. You smashed the gates of brass




and crushed the posts of i - ron Then you burst our chains a - sun - der,



and led us out of darkness, a-way from the shad - ow of death.

Cantor: (Tone 2) Glory...

Doxastikon - Tone 2



Let us all come and prostrate ourselves in the house of the Lord sing-ing this



hymn of sal - va - tion: O Christ, you were crucified on the tree and rose



from the dead; and now you a-bide in the bos-om of the Fa - ther. Please



cleanse us of our sins.

Cantor: Now and ever...

Dogmatikon



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 Festive Entrance

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

The Hymn of the Evening

O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,
the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have
reached the set - ting of the sun, and see the eve - ning light, we sing to God,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it. It is fit - ting at all times to raise
a song of praise in meas - ured mel - o - dy to you, O Son of God, the
Giv - er of Life. There - fore, the u - ni - verse sings your glo - ry.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

Priest: ✠ Peace be to all!

Deacon: Wisdom! Be attentive!

Paschal Great Prokeimenon - Tone 7

What God is as great, is as great as our God? You are the
God, you are the God who works wonders!

Verse: You showed your power among the peoples. Your strong arm redeemed your people.

Verse: I said: Now I begin, and this is the will of the Most High

Verse: I remember the deeds of the Lord. I remember your wonders of old.

The Gospel

Deacon: That we may be deemed worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord, our God.

Response:

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - - - cy.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us stand and listen to the Holy Gospel.

Priest: Peace ☩ be to all!

Response:

And to your spir - it, to your spir - - - it.

Deacon: A reading of the Holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist John.

Response:



Glo - ry to you, glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo-ry to you.

Deacon: Let us be attentive!

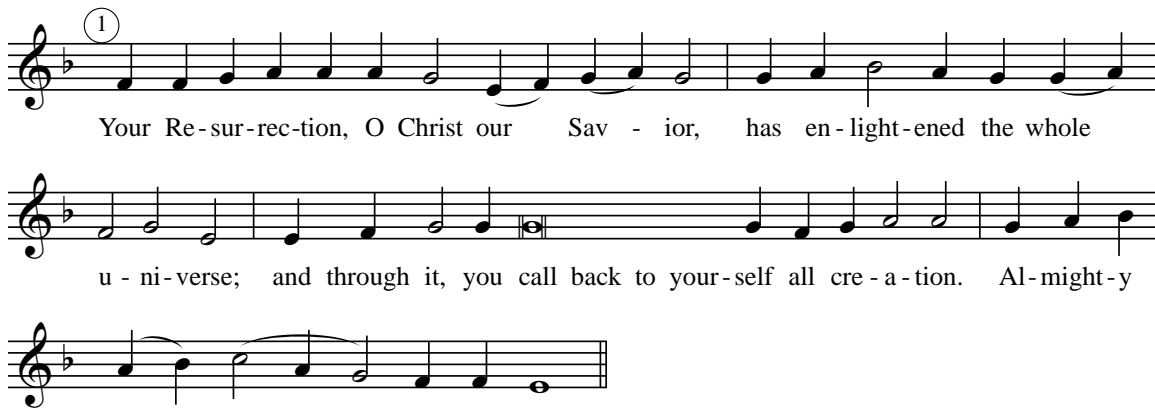
[John 20: 19 - 25]

Response:



Glo - ry to you, glo - ry to you, O Lord, glo-ry to you.

Aposticha



①
Your Re-sur-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.

Priest:



Let God a - rise! Let his ene-mies be scat - tered! Let those who hate him

flee from be - fore his face.

All:

To - day the sa - cred Pas - cha is shown to us: Pas - cha, new and ho - ly;

the mys - ti - cal Pas - cha, all - ven - er - a - ble Pas - cha,

Christ our Re deem er, the Pas - cha; spot - less Pas - cha, the great Pas - cha;

the Pas - cha of the faith - ful, the Pas - cha which opened to us the gates of

Par - a - dise, the Pas - cha which sanc - ti - fies all the faith - ful.

Priest:

As smoke van ish - es, so let them van ish, like wax that melts be fore the fire.

All:

O wo - men, come and an - nounce what you have seen and say to Zi - on:

Re - ceive from us the joy - ful good news of Christ's Re - sur - rec - tion.

Re - joice and dance and be glad, O Je - ru - sa - lem, see - ing Christ the King,

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

Priest:

So let the wicked perish at the presence of God, but let the right - eous re - joice.

All:

The myrrh - bear - ing wo - men stood be - fore the dawn at the tomb of the


Giv - er of Life. They found an an - gel seat - ed up - on the stone,

who ad - dressed them, say - ing: Why do you seek the liv - ing a - mong the dead?

Why do you mourn the in - cor - rup - ti - ble as cor - rupt?

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

Priest:




This is the day that the Lord has made; let us re-joice and be glad in it.

All:



Beau-ti-ful Pas-cha! Pas-cha of the Lord, Pas - cha! Pas-cha most ven-er - a - ble




dawns for us. Pas-cha! with joy let us em-brace one an-oth - er. O Pas-cha,



our salvation from sor - row. For from the grave to-day Christ shone forth as

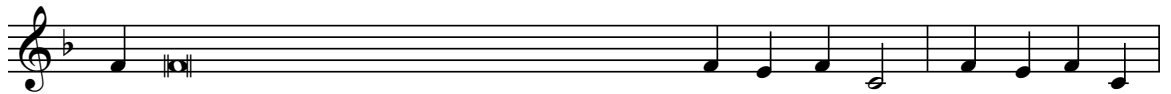


from a bri-dal cham - ber and filled the wo-men with joy by say - ing:



Make known the glad tid - ings to the A - pos - - - tles.

Priest:



Glo - ry to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it, now and ev - er



and for - ev - er. A-men.



This is Re - sur - rec - tion Day! Let us be bright - ened by the feast;



let us em-brace one an - oth - er! Let us call "broth-ers" and "sis - ters"



e - ven those who hate us, and, be-cause of the Re - sur - rec - tion,



for - give ev - 'rything, and let us cry a - loud:



Christ is ris - en from the dead! By death he tram - pled death;



and to those in the tombs he grant - ed life.

Litany of Fervent Supplication

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




1. Lord, have mer - cy.


Deacon: O Lord almighty, God of our fathers, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to your great mercy, we pray you, hear and have mercy.

Response: 
3. Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer-cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our holy father, (*Name*), pope of Rome, and for our most reverend metropolitan, (*Name*), for our God-loving bishop, (*Name*), for those who serve and have served in this holy church, for our spiritual fathers, and for all our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Response: 
4. Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Again we pray for our government and for all in the service of our country.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*three times, using response 4.*)

Deacon: Again we pray for the people here present who await your great and abundant mercy, for those who show us mercy, and for all Christians of the true faith.

Response: Lord, have mercy. (*three times, using response 3.*)

Priest: For you are a merciful and loving God, and we give glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Litany of Supplication


Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer to the Lord.

Response: 
1. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: Protect us, save us, have mercy on us, and preserve us, O God, by your grace.

Response: 
2. Lord, have mer - cy.

Deacon: That this whole evening be perfect, holy, peaceful, and without sin, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 
3. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For an angel of peace, a faithful guide and guardian of our souls and bodies, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: 
4. Grant this, O Lord.

Deacon: For the pardon and remission of our sins and offenses, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For what is good and beneficial to our souls and for peace in the world, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord (4)

Deacon: That we may spend the rest of our life in peace and repentance, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (3)

Deacon: For a Christian, painless, unashamed, peaceful end of our life, and for a good account before the fearsome judgment seat of Christ, let us beseech the Lord.

Response: Grant this, O Lord. (4)

Deacon: Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary with all the Saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.


Response: The musical notation consists of a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in a simple, rhythmic style. The notes are: a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4, a quarter note on B4, a quarter note on C5, and a quarter note on B4. The text 'To you, O Lord.' is written below the staff, with the words aligned under the notes: 'To' under G, 'you,' under A, 'O' under B, and 'Lord.' under C.
To you, O Lord.

Priest: Great and most high God, you alone possess immortality and dwell in unapproachable light. You made all creation with wisdom, dividing light from darkness, establishing the sun to rule the day and the moon and stars to rule the night. You have allowed us sinners to approach your presence with thanksgiving in this present hour and to offer you evening praise. O Lord, Lover of us all, make our prayer ascend to you like incense and accept it as a sweet fragrance. Grant that we may spend the present evening and the coming night in peace; clothe us with the armor of light; deliver us from the fears of the night and from everything that lurks about in darkness. Grant that the sleep you have given us to refresh our fatigue may be free from all illusions of the devil. Yes, O Master of All, Giver of good things, let us feel contrition as we lie on our beds remembering your name throughout the night. Enlightened by meditation on your commands, may we rise with gladdened soul to give glory to your goodness, offering prayers and supplications to your compassion for our sins and those of all your people. Visit us with mercy through the intercession of the holy Theotokos.

For you, O God, are good and love us all, and we glorify you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

Priest: ❖ Peace be to all!

Response: 
And to your spir - it.

Deacon: Bow your heads to the Lord!

Response: 
To you, O Lord.

Priest: Lord our God, you bowed the heavens and came down for the salvation of the human race. Look upon your servants and upon your inheritance, for they have bowed their heads and bent their necks to you, the awesome Judge who love mankind. They do not expect human help, but await your mercy and long for your salvation. Protect them at all times, this evening and tonight, from every enemy, from all the devil's assaults, from vain thoughts and evil imaginings. May the might of your kingdom be blessed and glorified, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever.

Response: 
A - men.

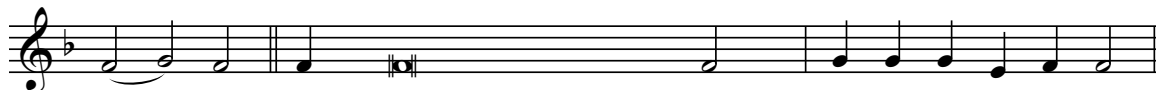
Paschal Dismissal

Deacon: Wisdom!

Response: 
Give the bless-ing.

Priest: Blessed is Christ our God, the One-Who-Is, always, now and ever and forever.

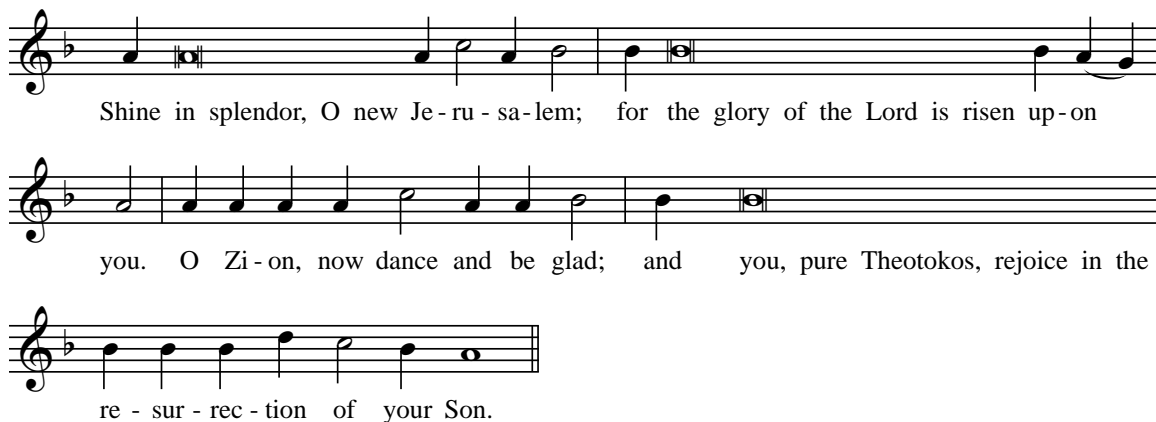
Response:



A - men. O God, strengthen the true faith, for - ev - er and ev - er.

Priest: O most holy Theotokos, save us!

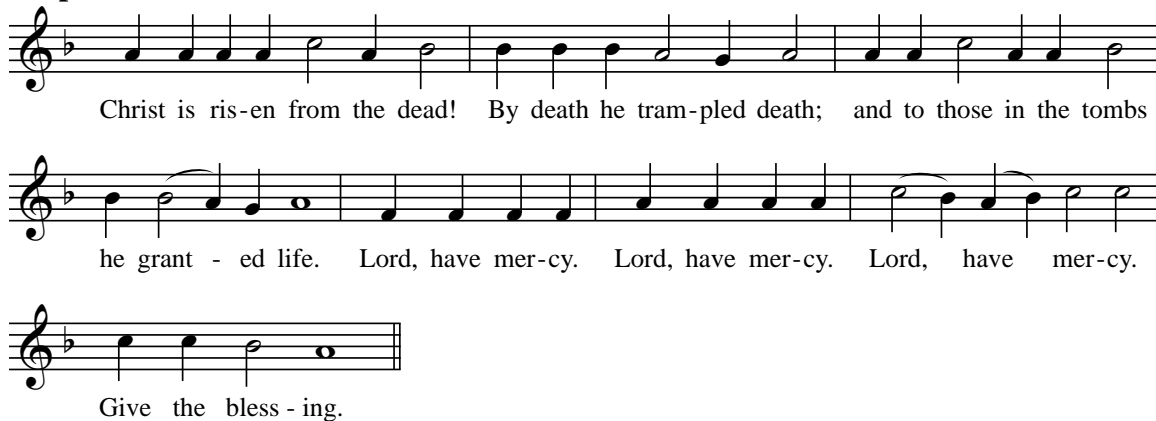
Response:



Shine in splendor, O new Je - ru - sa - lem; for the glory of the Lord is risen up - on
you. O Zi - on, now dance and be glad; and you, pure Theotokos, rejoice in the
re - sur - rec - tion of your Son.

Priest: Glory to you, O Christ our God, our hope; glory to you!

Response:



Christ is ris - en from the dead! By death he tram - pled death; and to those in the tombs
he grant - ed life. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Give the bless - ing.

Priest: May Christ our true God, risen from the dead, by death trampling death and giving life to those in the tombs, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of his most pure Mother and all the saints; for he is gracious and loves us all.

Response: A - - - - - men.

The musical notation consists of a single staff in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (quarter), F#4 (quarter), E4 (quarter), D4 (half). A slur covers the first seven notes. The lyrics 'A - - - - - men.' are written below the staff, with hyphens under the first seven notes and a period under the final note.