

THE ORDER OF THE FUNERAL DURING PASCHA AND BRIGHT WEEK

When the priest is come, with his assistants, to the house where the body of the dead person lies, he puts on his epitrachilion and phelonion, and censes the remains, and he begins: Blessed is our God... Amen. Christ is risen... (thrice), and then the customary verses for Pascha and Bright Week: Let God arise, and so on. Then the priest sprinkles the body with holy water, and the coffin, and immediately places the body into the coffin, and then the deacon says the customary litany for the dead Have mercy on us, O God, According to Thy great goodness (page 8). And the priest recites, secretly, the prayer: O God of spirits and of all flesh.... After the exclamation, the hymn: Having beheld the resurrection of Christ... is sung. Then, taking up the remains, the Paschal Canon is sung, as much as necessary until reaching the Church, where the Canon concludes.

However, now the funeral is usually celebrated as below.

Deacon: Bless Master!

Rector: Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages!

People: Amen.

Clergy: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life! (thrice)

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life! (thrice)

Clergy: (Paschal Stikhiri) v.1. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; let those who hate Him flee from before His face.

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life! (once, after each verse)

Clergy: v.2. As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish; as wax melts before the fire.

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

Clergy: v.3. So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad.

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

Clergy: v.4. This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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

Clergy: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

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

Clergy: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

People: 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...

People: And upon those in the tombs, bestowing life!

(Note: ALL the responses in the litanies are sung 'straight,' the melodies for the departed are not sung at all.)

Deacon: In Peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.
People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the remission of the sins of him/her who has departed this life in blessed memory, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the ever-memorable servant/handmaiden of God (name); for his/her repose, tranquillity, and blessed memory, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will pardon him/her every transgression, whether voluntary or involuntary, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That he/she may stand uncondemned before the dread throne of the Lord of glory, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For those who weep and those who grieve, and those who look for the consolation of Christ, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That He will release him/her from all sickness, sorrow, and sighing, and make him/her glad where the light of God's countenance will visit, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord, Our God, will establish his/her soul in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of rest, where all the Righteous dwell, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Having implored for him/her the mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the remission of sins, let us commend ourselves, and each other, and all our life, to Christ our God.

People: To Thee, O Lord.

And the priest recites, secretly, the prayer: O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death, and overthrown the devil, and given life unto Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant/handmaiden (name), in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. Pardon every transgression which he/she has committed, whether by word, or deed, or thought.

For Thou art a good God, and lovest mankind; because there is no man who lives and does not sin; for Thou only art without sin, and Thy righteousness is to all ages, and Thy word is Truth.

Priest: Thou art the Resurrection and the life and the repose of Thy servant / handmaiden (name) who has fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father who is without beginning, and Thine all holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Canon of Pascha (One song version)

People:Irmos 1: This is the Day of Resurrection. Let us be illumined, O people. Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord. For from death to life and from earth to heaven has Christ our God led us, as we sing the song of victory.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Irmos 3: Come let us drink, not miraculous water drawn forth from a barren stone, but a new vintage from the fount of incorruption, springing from the tomb of Christ. In Him we are established.

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

Deacon: Again, and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Furthermore, we pray for the repose of the soul of the ever-memorable servant/ handmaiden of God (name); departed this life; and that he/she may be pardoned all his/her sin, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord God will establish his/her soul where the Just repose.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the remission of his/her sins let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

And the priest recites, secretly, the prayer: O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death, and overthrown the devil, and given life unto Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant/handmaiden (name), in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. Pardon every transgression which he/she has committed, whether by word, or deed, or thought.

For Thou art a good God, and lovest mankind; because there is no man who lives and does not sin; for Thou only art without sin, and Thy righteousness is to all ages, and Thy word is Truth.

Priest: Thou art the Resurrection and the life and the repose of Thy servant/handmaiden (name) who has fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father who is without beginning, and Thine all holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

[People: Before the dawn, Mary and the women came and found the stone rolled away from the tomb. They heard the angelic voice: "Why do you 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 men."]

Irmos 4: The inspired prophet Habakkuk now stands with us in holy vigil.

He is like a shining angel who cries with a piercing voice: Today salvation has come to the world, for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Irmos 5: Let us arise at the rising of the sun and bring to the Master a hymn instead of myrrh, and we shall see Christ, the sun of righteousness, who causes life to dawn for all.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Irmos 6: Thou didst descend, O Christ to the depths of the earth. Thou didst break the everlasting bars which had held death's captives, and like Jonah from the whale on the third day, Thou didst arise from the grave.

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

Deacon: Again, and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Furthermore, we pray for the repose of the soul of the ever-memorable servant/ handmaiden of God (name); departed this life; and that he/she may be pardoned all his/her sin, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord God will establish his/her soul where the Just repose.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the remission of his/her sins let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

And the priest recites, secretly, the prayer: O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death, and overthrown the devil, and given life unto Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant/handmaiden (name), in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. Pardon every transgression which he/she has committed, whether by word, or deed, or thought.

For Thou art a good God, and lovest mankind; because there is no man who lives and does not sin; for Thou only art without sin, and Thy righteousness is to all ages, and Thy word is Truth.

Priest: Thou art the Resurrection and the life and the repose of Thy servant / handmaiden (name) who has fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father who is without beginning, and Thine all holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

With the Saints give rest, O Christ, to the souls of Thy servant, where sickness and sorrow are no more, neither sighing, but life everlasting.

Thou only art immortal, who hast created and fashioned man. For out of the earth were we mortals made, and unto the same earth shall we return again, as Thou didst command when Thou madest me, saying unto me; For dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return, Whither we mortals all shall go, Making our funeral dirge the song, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

[and; Thou didst descend into the tomb, O Immortal, Thou didst destroy the power of death. In victory didst Thou arise, O Christ God, proclaiming "Rejoice!" to the myrrhbearing women, granting peace to Thy apostles, and bestowing resurrection on the fallen.]

(Some add this exclamation:

Priest: Wisdom! For Holy art Thou, O our God, and rests in the saints; and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.)

People: As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

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As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now, and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

...Have put on Christ. Alleluia.

As many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. Alleluia.

Deacon: Wisdom! Let us attend.

Priest: Peace be with you all.

Reader: And with thy spirit.

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The prokeimenon in the tone:(sung for Liturgy that day)
(the Prokeimenon, Epistle, and Alleluia verses, are appended)

People: (repeat the Prokeimenon)

Deacon: Wisdom!

Reader: The reading from the reads the Acts of the Apostles.
(that which is read for Liturgy that day)

Deacon: Let us attend.

Reader: (reads the Epistle reading)

Rector: Peace be to thee, reader.

Reader: And to thy spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! (and the verses which are sung for Liturgy that day)

People: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Rector: Peace be unto all.

Deacon: The reading is from the Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew.

People: Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee!

Rector: Let us attend.

Deacon: Matthew 28: 16-20

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you:
and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

People: Glory to Thee O Lord, Glory to Thee!

(According to one text, the Gospel reading is that which is assigned to the Liturgy for that day. See the Appendix.)

SERMON

[People: Having beheld the Resurrection of Christ, let us worship the Holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. We venerate Thy Cross, O Christ, and we praise and glorify Thy holy resurrection. For Thou art our God, and we know no other than Thee. We call on Thy name. Come, all you faithful, let us venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For behold, through the cross, Joy has come into all the world. Let us ever bless the Lord, praising His resurrection. For by enduring the Cross for us, He has destroyed death by death.]

People:

Irmos 7: He who saved the three young men in the furnace became incarnate and suffered as a mortal man. Through His sufferings He clothed what is mortal in the robe of immortality. He alone is blessed and most glorious: the God of our fathers.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Irmos 8: This is the chosen and holy day, first of sabbaths, king and lord of days, the feast of feasts, holy day of holy days. On this day we bless Christ forevermore.

Christ is risen from the dead.

Irmos 9: Shine! Shine! O new Jerusalem! The glory of the Lord has shown on you. Exult and be glad, O Zion, be radiant, O pure Theotokos, in the resurrection of your Son.

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

Deacon: Again, and again, in peace let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Furthermore, we pray for the repose of the soul of the ever-memorable servant/ handmaiden of God (name); departed this life; and that he/she may be pardoned all his/her sin, both voluntary and involuntary.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord God will establish his/her soul where the Just repose.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the remission of his/her sins let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

And the priest recites, secretly, the prayer: O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death, and overthrown the devil, and given life unto Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant/handmaiden (name), in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. Pardon every transgression which he/she has committed, whether by word, or deed, or thought.

For Thou art a good God, and lovest mankind; because there is no man who lives and does not sin; for Thou only art without sin, and Thy righteousness is to all ages, and Thy word is Truth.

Priest: Thou art the Resurrection and the life and the repose of Thy servant / handmaiden (name) who has fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father who is without beginning, and Thine all holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

People: In the flesh Thou didst fall asleep as a mortal man, O King and Lord. thou didst rise on the third day, raising Adam from corruption and destroying death: O Pascha of incorruption, the salvation of the world.

[People: Blessed art Thou O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

The Angelic host was filled with awe, when it saw Thee among the dead.

By destroying the power of death, O Savior. Thou didst raise Adam, and save all men from hell!

Blessed art Thou O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

In the tomb, the radiant angel cried to the myrrhbearers: Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand! The Savior is risen from the dead!

Blessed art Thou O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

Very early in the morning, the myrrhbearers ran with sorrow to Thy tomb, but an angel came to them and said: The time for sorrow has come to an end! Do not weep but announce the resurrection to the apostles!

Blessed art Thou O Lord, teach me Thy statutes.

The myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they neared Thy tomb, but the angel said to them: Why do you number the living among the dead? Since He is God, He is risen from the tomb!

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

We worship the Father, and His Son, and the Holy Spirit: the Holy Trinity, one in essence! We cry with the Seraphim: Holy, Holy, Holy art Thou, O Lord!

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Since you gave birth to the Giver of Life, O Virgin, you delivered Adam from his sin! You gave joy to Eve instead of sadness! The God-man who was born of you has restored to life those who had fallen from it!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory to Thee, O God.]

Prayer of Forgiveness:

Priest: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord have mercy (on one note).

Priest: May the Lord Jesus Christ our God, who gave His divine commands to His holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose the sins of the fallen (we, in turn, having received from them the right to do the same) pardon thee, O spiritual child (name), all thy deeds done amiss in this life, both voluntary and involuntary: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(But in place of this prayer, the following Prayer of Absolution is usually read, and, printed separately, and placed in the hand of the departed.)

Priest: Our Lord Jesus Christ, by His divine grace, as also by the gift and power vouchsafed unto His holy Disciples and Apostles, that they should bind and loose the sins of men: (For He said unto them: Receive the Holy Spirit: Whosoever sins you remit, they are remitted, and whosoever sins you retain, they are retained. And whatsoever you shall bind or loose upon earth shall be bound or loosed also in heaven.)

By that same power, also transmitted unto us from them, this my spiritual child, (name) is absolved through me, unworthy though I be, from all things wherein as mortal, he/she has sinned against God, whether with knowledge or through ignorance. If he/she be under the ban or excommunication of a Bishop, or a Priest; or has sinned by an oath; or has been bound, as a man, by any sins whatsoever, but has repented him/her thereof, with contrition of heart: he/she is now absolved from all those faults and bonds.

May all those things which have proceeded from the weakness of his/her mortal nature be consigned to oblivion, and be remitted unto him/her; through His loving-kindness; through the prayers of our most holy, most blessed, and glorious Lady, the Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostles, and of all the Saints. Amen.

(Note: In one text, this prayer is placed after the Gospel, or sermon.

(In another text, it is placed after "In the flesh..." and before "Blessed art Thou, O God, teach me Thy statutes" and the verses.

(In another text, it is placed here.

(In another text, it is placed after the final litany.)

Then, the People sing the Paschal stikhiri:

(during the funeral, the last kiss is given at this time)

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 for us the gates of Paradise,
A Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

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.

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.

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 all honor has dawned for us.
Pascha!
Let us embrace each other joyously.
O 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.

(But this can be sung as: Let God arise... and the stikhira: Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us,... Glory... now and ever... This is the day of resurrection....)

Deacon: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Deacon: Again, we pray for the repose of the soul of the servant/handmaiden of God (name); departed this life; and that he/she may be pardoned all his/her sin, both voluntary and involuntary.

Peaople: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Deacon: That the Lord God will establish his/her soul where the Just repose.

Peaaaople: Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.

Deacon: The mercies of God, the kingdom of heaven, and the remission of his/her sin let us ask of Christ, our Immortal King and our God.

People: Grant it, O Lord.

Deacon: Let us pray to the Lord.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Priest: (aloud) O God of spirits and of all flesh, Who has trampled down death, and overthrown the devil, and given life unto Thy world: Do Thou, the same Lord, give rest to the soul of Thy departed servant/handmaiden (name), in a place of brightness, a place of refreshment, a place of repose, where all sickness, sorrow and sighing have fled away. Pardon every transgression which he/she has committed, whether by word, or deed, or thought.

For Thou art a good God, and lovest mankind; because there is no man who lives and does not sin; for Thou only art without sin, and Thy righteousness is to all ages, and Thy word is Truth.

Thou art the Resurrection and the life and the repose of Thy servant/handmaiden (name) who has fallen asleep, O Christ our God, and unto Thee do we ascribe glory, together with Thy Father who is without beginning, and Thine all holy, good and life-creating Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

People: Amen.

Deacon: Wisdom!

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

People: And upon those in the tombs, bestowing life.

Priest: May Christ, who is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs bestowing life, our true God, through the prayers of His most pure Mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for He is good and loves mankind.

People: Amen.

Priest: Grant rest eternal in blessed repose O Lord, to thy servant / handmaiden(name), who has fallen asleep, and make his/her memory to be eternal!

People: Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life. *

(*If the Rector desires, Memory Eternal! may be sung.)

(In the funeral, at the carrying out of the remains, we sing: "Christ is risen from the dead, trampling down death by death, and upon those in the tombs, bestowing life.")

At the end the People sing:

And unto us He has given eternal life. Let us worship His resurrection on the third day.

In the Byzantine custom, at the end the People sing:

The rich have become poor and hungry, but those who seek the Lord shall lack no good thing.

(The sections [between brackets] can be omitted if the service must be shortened.)

This service follows the outline given in Posledovanie vo Sviatuyu i Velikuyu Nedelyu Paskhi i vo vsiyu Sviatuyu Sedmitsu compiled by Very Reverend Igumen Julian (Trotsky), and approved for publication by His Eminence, Metropolitan Irenei, Archbishop of New York, Metropolitan of All America and Canada, March 2, 1971, which is taken from the Sputnik Regenta of P. M. Kireev, Petrograd, Aleksandro-Nevskaya Lavra (n.d.). It agrees with the outlines given in the Typikons of Bulgakov, and Nikolsky, and a contemporary Typikon of the Patriarchate of Moscow.

The texts are from The Paschal Service prepared by John Erikson and Very Reverend Paul Lazor, (1977) and Matins of Holy Saturday prepared by John Erikson and David Anderson, (1982) published by the Department of Religious Education, Orthodox Church in America, and the Service for Those Fallen Asleep ‘Panikhida’ adapted and compiled by Reverend Igor Soroka (1972).

APPENDIX

Prokeimenon, Epistle, and Alleluia verses during Pascha and Bright Week:
Gospel readings are given at the end.

PASCHA

Prokeimenon: Tone 8: This is the day which the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
v. O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, for his mercy endures forever!

Epistle: Acts 1:1-8

1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Spirit had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:
1:3 To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:
1:4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.
1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.
1:6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?
1:7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Alleluia: Tone 4: Thou didst arise and have mercy on Zion.

v The Lord looked down from heaven and saw all the sons of men.

BRIGHT MONDAY

Prokeimenon: Tone 8: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe.
v. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Epistle: Acts 1:12-17;21-26.

In those days, 1:12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.
1:13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

1:14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.
1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)
1:16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.
1:17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.
1:21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,
1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.
1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.
1:24 And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen,
1:25 That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.
1:26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

Alleluia: Tone 1: Let the heavens praise Thy wonders, O Lord; Thy faithfulness in the assembly of the saints.
v. God is glorified in the council of the saints.

BRIGHT TUESDAY

Prokeimenon: Tone 3: The Canticle of the Theotokos: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my savior.
v. For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, all generations will call me blessed.

Epistle: Acts 2:14-21

In those days, 2:14 ...Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:
2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.
2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;
2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:
2:18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:
2:19 And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:
2:20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come:
2:21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Alleluia: Tone 8: Arise, O Lord, and go to Thy resting place, Thou and the ark of Thy might.
v. The Lord swore to David a sure oath from which He will not turn back.

BRIGHT WEDNESDAY

Prokeimenon: Tone 6: I will remember your name in all generations.
v. Hear, O daughter, consider, and incline your ear.

Epistle: Acts 2:22-36

In those days, [2:14 ...Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them,] 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:
2:23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:
2:24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.
2:25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved:
2:26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope:
2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.
2:28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.
2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.
2:30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;
2:31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.
2:32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.
2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.
2:34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,
2:35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.
2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Alleluia: Tone 2: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

v. For He has exalted the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, all generations will call me blessed.

BRIGHT THURSDAY

Prokeimenon: Tone 3: Sing praises to our God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.

v. Clap your hands, all peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.

Epistle: Acts 2:38-43

In those days, 2:38 ... Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2:43 And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

Alleluia: Tone 4: Go forth, and prosper and reign, because of truth and meekness and righteousness.

v. You love righteousness and hate wickedness.

BRIGHT FRIDAY

Prokeimenon: Tone 1: Let the heavens praise Thy wonders, O Lord: Thy faithfulness in the assembly of the saints.

v. The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

And The Canticle of the Theotokos: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my

spirit rejoices in God my savior.

Epistles: Acts 3:1-8 and Philippians 2:5-11 In those days, (Acts 3:1) Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;
3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.
3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.
3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.
3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.
3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.
3:8 And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Brethren: (Philippians 2:5) Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
2:7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
2:8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;
2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia: Tone 1: Let the heavens praise Thy wonders, O Lord: and Thy faithfulness in the assembly of the saints.

v. God is glorified in the council of the saints.
v. Hear, O daughter, consider, and incline your ear.

BRIGHT SATURDAY

Prokeimenon: Tone 3: The Lord is my Light and my Savior; whom shall I fear?

v. The Lord is the defender of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Epistle: Acts 3:11-16

In those days: (3:11) ... As the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's, greatly wondering.

3:12 And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?
3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.
3:14 But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;
3:15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.
3:16 And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

Alleluia: Tone 5: The Lord reigns: He is robed in majesty.

v. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

Some texts say that the Gospel readings appropriate to the day may be read.

PASCHA:

Matt 28:16-20

BRIGHT MONDAY:

John 1:18-28

BRIGHT TUESDAY:

Luke 24:12-35

BRIGHT WEDNESDAY: John 1:35-51
BRIGHT THURSDAY: John 3: 1-15
BRIGHT FRIDAY: John 2:12-22 and Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28
BRIGHT SATURDAY: John 3:23-33