

MAY 20

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 You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

- v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name!*
- v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.*
- v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*
- v. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*
- v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.*

Tone 2 *Idiomela* *(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 You, O Christ God, look upon me and have mercy on me!"

- v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your 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 your 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 You, O Lord:
"Open my eyes, O Son of David, our Savior, //
that with all people I too may hymn Your 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,
You met a man blind from birth.
Your 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 You, and we cry: "Have mercy on us!"

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

Tone 8

O Christ God, Sun of Righteousness,
by Your touch You enlightened all.
Give sight now to our spiritual eyes,
and show us to be sons of the day!
Great is Your ineffable goodness towards us!//
O Lover of man, glory to You!

v. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

In Your compassion, O Christ God, You became incarnate,
and in Your loving-kindness,
You deemed worthy of divine radiance the man who from the womb had been
deprived of light.
With Your fashioning fingers You anointed the pupils of his eyes with clay.
Now, O Giver of Life, illumine also the senses of our souls,//
for You alone are 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 *(from the Pentecostarion)*

Who can describe Your power, O Christ?
Who can count the multitude of Your wonders?
You appeared on earth in two natures, O compassionate One,
thus granting double healing to the sick:
not only did You open the bodily eyes of the man born blind,
but those of his soul as well.
Therefore he confessed You, the hidden God,//
Who grant the world great mercy.

Aposticha

Tone 5 *(for the Resurrection)*

We magnify You 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,
You overthrew the gates of hell,//
and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

(Then the Paschal Stichera with their verses from Psalm 67, Christ is Risen 1x)

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 you!
Rejoice, Unshakable Refuge!
Rejoice, you who knew not wedlock,
who gave birth in the flesh to your Creator and God!//
Do not cease praying for those who praise and worship your 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 You, O Christ, blind from birth in my spiritual eyes,
and call to You in repentance://
“You are the most radiant Light of those in darkness.”

Tone 8 Kontakion *(Pascha)*

You descended into the tomb, O Immortal,
You destroyed the power of death.
In victory You arose, O Christ God,
proclaiming: “Rejoice!” to the Myrrhbearing Women//
granting peace to Your Apostles, and bestowing Resurrection on the fallen.

Tone 8 Prokeimenon *(Pentecostarion)*

This is the day which the Lord has made; / let us rejoice and be glad in it!
(Ps.117:24)

V. O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, for His mercy endures forever!
(Ps. 117:1)

Epistle
(41) Acts 18:22-28

Tone 4

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

V. You shall arise, O Lord, and have mercy on Zion. (Ps. 101:14a)

V. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the earth. (Ps. 101:19b)

Gospel

(43) 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,
your 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 you.
Exult now, and be glad, O Zion!
Be radiant, O pure Theotokos,
in the Resurrection of your 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.)

Prepared by the Department of Liturgical Music and Translations, Orthodox Church in America.