

April 24

**Bright Wednesday;
Commemoration of Our Venerable Mother
Elizabeth the Wonderworker and of the Holy Martyr
Sabas the Goth, an Army Officer
(5th Class)**

BRIGHT WEEK VESPERS

The priest is fully vested. Standing before the Holy Table, he sings:

P: Glory to the Holy, consubstantial, life-giving and undivided Trinity, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

All: Amen.

P: Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled upon Death and has given life to those who were in the tombs.

All: Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled upon Death and has given life to those who were in the tombs. *(twice)*

The priest censens the four sides of the Holy Table, one at each of the following verses; at "Glory...", he censens the iconostasis and the congregation.

(Tone 5)

P: Let God arise and His enemies will scatter; and those who hate Him will flee before Him.

All: Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled upon Death and has given life to those who were in the tombs.

P: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish and melt as wax before the fire.

All: Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled upon Death and has given life to those who were in the tombs.

P: So do sinners perish before God; but let the just exult with joy before God.

All: Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled upon Death and has given life to those who were in the tombs.

P: This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice therein.

All: Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled upon Death and has given life to those who were in the tombs.

P: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All: Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled upon Death and has given life to those who were in the tombs.

Then one more time, more solemnly:

P: Christ is risen from the dead, and by His death, He has trampled upon Death

All: and has given life to those who were in the tombs.

Great Litany

LAMP LIGHTING PSALMS

Psalm 140

(music in Great Vespers booklet)

(Tone 5)

O Lord, to You I call, hasten to me. Hasten to me, O Lord. O Lord, to You I call, hasten to me. Hearken to the voice of my prayer when I call upon You. Hasten to me, O Lord. Let my prayer come like incense before You, the lifting up of my hands, like the evening sacrifice. Hasten to me, O Lord.

Medial verses are omitted during Bright Week

Psalm 129

~If You retain sins, Lord, O Lord, who will be left?

With You there is forgiveness.

6. By Your precious Cross, You have put the deceitful devil to shame, O Christ, and by Your Resurrection You have annihilated the power of sin and snatched us away from the gates of death. Therefore, we sing to You a hymn of glory, Only-begotten One.

~For Your Name's sake, O Lord, I have waited for You;
my soul has waited for Your word,
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

5. As a lamb, He was led to the slaughter, He who bestowed Resurrection upon the human race. As King of glory, Christ entered Hades, saying to those in fetters: "Come out;" and to those in darkness: "let light surround you!" Wherefore the powers of Hades trembled and its gates flew open.

~From the watch of dawn until the night,
from the watch of dawn let Israel long for the Lord.

4. It is a great wonder indeed that in His love for mankind, the Creator of the material and the spiritual worlds had to suffer in the flesh, and that the Immortal One rose from the dead. Come, therefore, all you nations of the world: let us bow down to Him in worship, for His love saves us from the ways of error and teaches us how to sing a hymn of praise to the One God in Three Divine Persons.

~For with the Lord there is mercy
and with Him abundant redemption.

And it is He who will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.

3. O Light who never fade, we offer You this evening worship, for in the fullness of time You filled the world with light, Your flesh being a mirror to Your splendor. You went down to Hades, dispelled the darkness and

made manifest to all nations the light of the Resurrection. O Lord, O Giver of Light, glory to You!

Psalm 116

~Praise the Lord, all you nations,
exalt Him, all you peoples.

2. Let us with hymns of glory praise Christ, our very salvation: for His Resurrection from the dead has saved the world from error. The ranks of the angels rejoiced, the demons' deceit vanished, Adam rose from his fall and the deceitful devil was humiliated and cast away.

~For mighty is His love for us,
and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.

1. The guards appointed by the transgressors of the law were told to deny the Resurrection of Christ. They were bribed with money and directed to say: "While we were sleeping, the body was taken away from the tomb." Who ever heard or who ever saw a body stolen, especially naked and embalmed, while the linen is left in the tomb? Do not be misled, O people of the Old Law, but learn what the prophets teach and understand that Christ is indeed the Savior of the world and the Almighty!

~Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,

Doxastikon

O Lord our Savior, who despoiled Hades and crushed Death and enlightened the world through the precious Cross: have mercy on us!

~now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon

A symbol of the undefiled Virgin and Bride was revealed in the Red Sea. There, Moses divided the waters; here, Gabriel is the messenger of a wondrous miracle. There, the Israelites crossed the deep, and their

feet were not even wet; here, the Virgin gives birth to Christ without human seed. There, the sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel; here, the immaculate remained incorrupt after giving birth to Emmanuel. Therefore, O immortal God, existing before all ages, who appeared in the flesh as a true Man: have mercy on us!

Entrance. "O Joyful Light..."

GREAT PROKIMENON (*Tone 7*)

O Lord, listen to my prayer and do not overlook my supplication.

- v. Give heed to me and answer me.
- v. They brought down evil upon me and seethed with anger against me.
- v. As for me, I have appealed to God, and the Lord has heard me.

Ecumenic Prayer. "Deign, O Lord..." Aitesis and blessing.

APOSTICHA (*Tone 5*)

1. O Christ the Savior, who became incarnate while not leaving Heaven, we magnify You in hymns of praise, for You suffered crucifixion and death for our human race, because You are the Lord who loves mankind. You crushed the gates of Hades and rose on the third day, granting salvation to our souls.

All: Let God arise and His enemies will scatter; and those who hate Him will flee before Him.

2. Our Passover, Christ the Redeemer, is revealed to us today as a noble Passover. This is a new and holy Passover, a mystical Passover, a blameless Passover, a glorious Passover, a Passover for the faithful, a Passover that opens for us the gates of Paradise, a Passover that sanctifies all believers.

All: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish and melt as wax before the fire.

3. Come back from what you have seen, O women heralds of good tidings, and say to Sion: "Accept from us the joyful announcement of the Resurrection of Christ! O Jerusalem, rejoice, exult and leap for joy! For you have seen Christ the King coming out of the tomb as fair as a bridegroom!"

All: So do sinners perish before God; but let the just exult with joy before God.

4. When, early in the morning, the ointment-bearing women stood before the tomb of the Giver of Life, they saw an Angel sitting on the stone, and he spoke to them, saying: "Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? Why do you mourn, as if the Incorruptible One has suffered corruption? Go to His disciples and proclaim the glad tidings!"

All: This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice therein.

5. A glorious Passover has shone upon us: a Passover of the Lord, a Passover perfectly honorable. Let us embrace one another with joy! O, what a Passover, delivering from sorrow: for Christ, coming out of the tomb as from a bridal chamber, fills the women with joy by telling them to bring this happy news to the disciples.

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Dogmatikon

Today is the day of the Resurrection: let us glory in this feast and embrace one another. O brethren, let us say:

"Because of the Resurrection, we forgive all things to those who hate us." And let us all sing together:

"Christ is risen from the dead; and by His death, He has trampled upon Death; and has given life to those who were in the tombs!" *(three times)*

P: Wisdom!

All: A blessing!

Turning to the icon of Christ and, making the sign of the Cross:

P: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed at all times, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

All: Amen. Make firm, O Christ God, the holy Orthodox Faith in this holy church for ever and ever. Amen.

Turning toward the icon of the Theotokos and, making the sign of the Cross:

P: O all-holy Theotokos, save us!

All: More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, who without stain bore God the Word: you are truly Theotokos, you do we exalt!

P: Glory to You, Christ God, our Hope, glory to You!

All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. *(three times)*

Give the blessing, Father, in the name of the Lord.

P: May He who is risen from the dead, trampling down Death by death and granting life to those in the tombs, Christ our true God, have mercy on us and save us through the prayers of His all-pure Mother, of His glorious Apostles who are worthy of all praise, and through the intercession of St. *N.*, patron of this holy church (*or* monastery) and of St. *N.*, whose memory we celebrate today, and of the holy and just ancestors of Christ, Joachim and Ann, and of our Father among the

saints Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra in Lycia and of all the saints, for He is good and loves mankind.

All: Amen.

P: Christ is risen!

All: He is truly risen! (*three times*)

P: Glory to His Resurrection on the third day!

All: We adore His holy Resurrection on the third day!

Christ is risen from the dead; and by His death, He has trampled upon Death; and has given life to those who were in the tombs!