


# Ἀγάπη Vespers

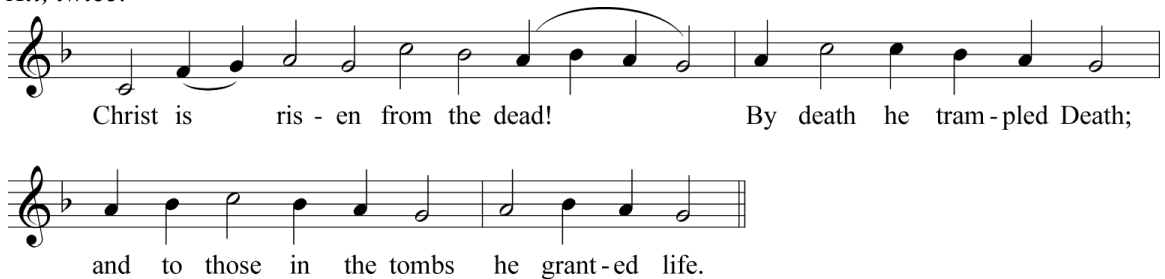
*Arranged for Use Without a Priest*

Leader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Response:   
A - men.

Leader: Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.

*All, twice:*



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

Leader: Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered, and let those who hate him flee from before his face!

**Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.**

Leader: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before a fire.

**Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.**

Leader: So let the wicked perish at the presence of God, but let the righteous ones rejoice.

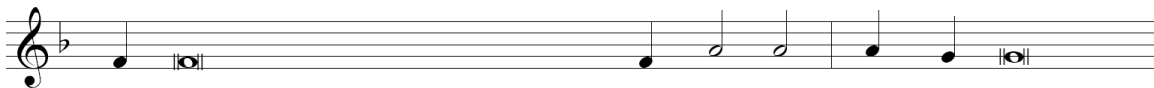
**Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.**

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.**

Leader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.

**Christ is risen from the dead! By death he trampled Death; and to those in the tombs he granted life.**



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



have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. *(sung twice)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

Leader: O good God, in all times and places you are worshipped and glorified both in heaven and on earth. You are long-suffering and generous in your mercy and compassion. You love the just and show mercy to the sinner, calling all to repentance through the promise of blessings to come. Deem, O Lord, at this very hour, to receive our supplications and to direct our lives in the path of your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, set right our minds, cleanse our thoughts; deliver us from all affliction, trouble and distress; surround us with your holy angels so that, guided and guarded in their camp, we may obtain oneness of faith and the knowledge of your unspeakable glory. For you are blessed, forever and ever. Amen.

LAMP-LIGHTING PSALMS

*Tone 2 Samohlasen*



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 *unharm*ed.

### **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.

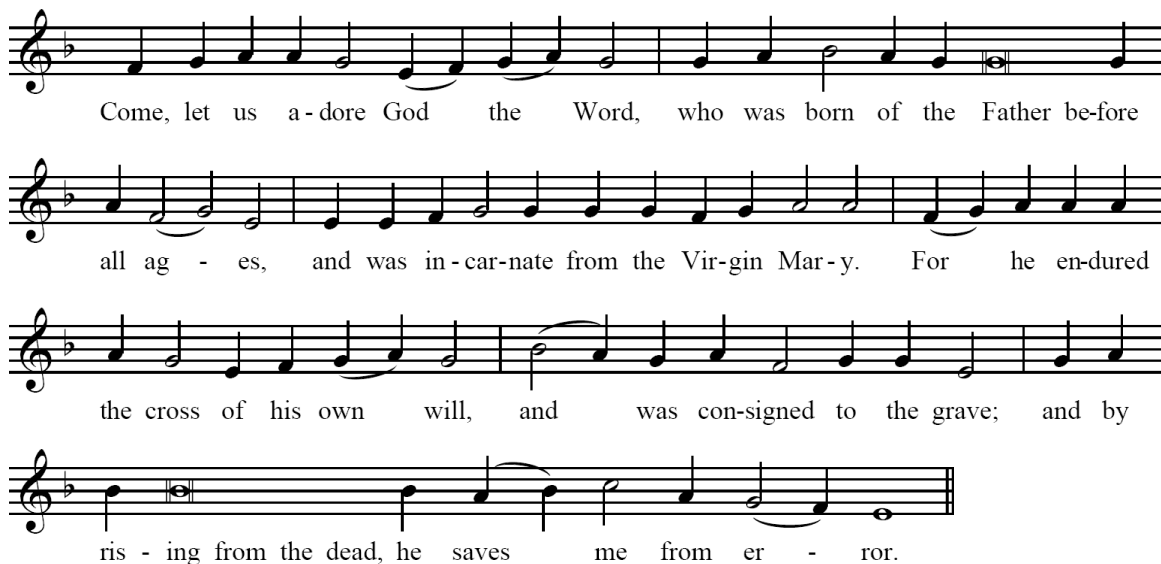
Around me the just will assemble  
because of your goodness *to* me.

### **Psalm 129:**

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

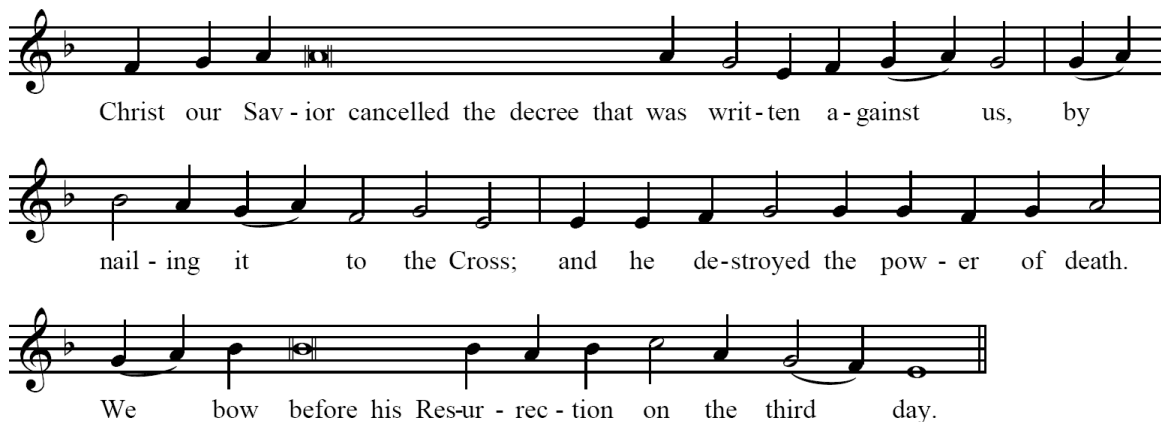
Let your ears be attentive  
to the voice of *my* pleading.

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



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.  
My soul is longing for the Lord more than watchman for daybreak.



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 and Israel on the Lord.



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,  
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.

**Psalm 116:**

Cantor: Praise the Lord, all you nations, acclaim him all you peoples!

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



de-royed 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; he is faithful forever.



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



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

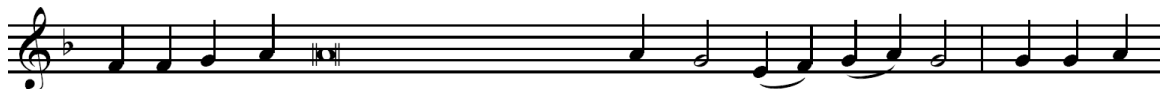


and crushed the posts of i-ron Then you burst our chains a - sun - der,



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

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



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 and forever. Amen.



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.

### HYMN OF THE EVENING



O Joy - ful Light of the ho - ly glo - ry of the Fa - ther Im - mor - tal,

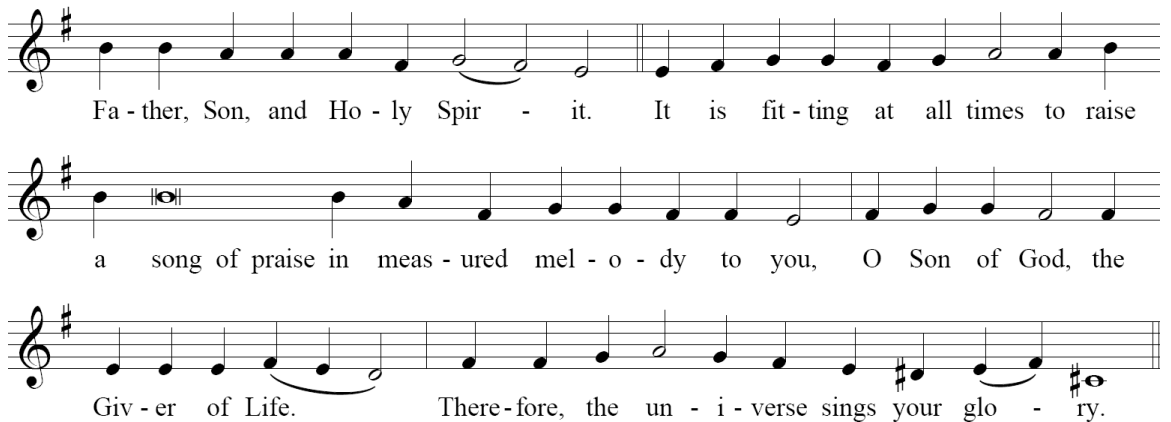


the hea - ven - ly, ho - ly, bles - sed One, O Je - sus Christ: Now that we have



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 un - i - verse sings your glo - ry.

### EVENING PROKEIMENON

#### Great Prokeimenon of Pascha – Tone 7 (Psalm 76:14-16, 11, 12):



What God is as great, is as great as our God? You are the  
God, you are the God who works won - - - ders!

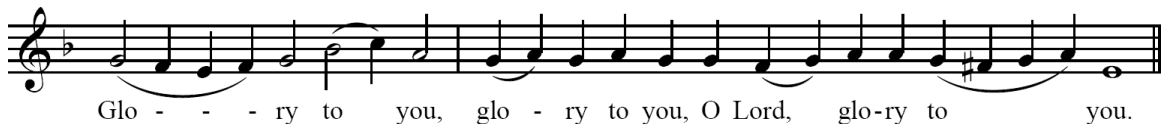
*Verse:* You showed your power among the peoples. Your strong arm redeemed your people.

*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.

### GOSPEL READING

Leader: A reading from the holy Gospel according to the holy apostle and evangelist John the Theologian.



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

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me,

even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see in his hands the print of the nails, and place my finger in the mark of the nails, and place my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

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

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

have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. *(sung twice)*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

### HYMN OF GLORIFICATION

Make us wor - thy, O Lord, to be kept sin - less this eve - ning.

Bless-ed are you, O Lord, the God of our fa - thers, and praise-wor - thy

and glorious is your name for ev - er. A - men. May your mer - cy, O Lord,

*reverence*

be up-on us who have placed our hope in you. Bless-ed are you O

*reverence*



Lord; teach me your com-mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Mas-ter;

*reverence*



make me un-der-stand your com-mand - ments. Bless-ed are you, O Ho-ly One;



en - light-en me with your com-mand - ments. O Lord, your mer-cy is for-ev - er;



de - spise not the work of your hands. To you is due praise; to you



is due a hymn; to you is glo - ry due, Father, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it,



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



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



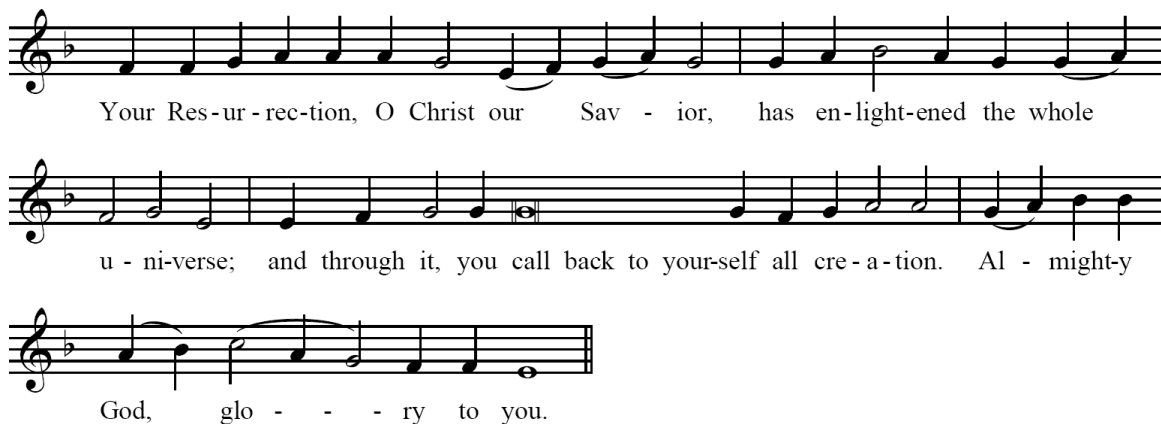
have mercy. Lord, have mer - cy. (*sung twice*)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and forever. *Amen.*

Leader: Blessed are you, O Almighty Master, for you have lighted the day with the brilliance of the sun and the night with the fiery stars. You have counted us worthy of the length of this day and to come to the beginning of night. Hear our prayer and forgive the voluntary and involuntary sins of all your people. Accept our

evening prayers and send down in return the greatness of your mercy and kindness upon us, your inheritance. Guard us with your holy angels, clothe us in righteousness as a defense, protect us in your truth, and keep us in your strength. Deliver us from all our enemies and their hostile attacks. Grant that this evening and the approaching night and all the days of our life may be perfect, holy, peaceful, sinless, without violence and free of nightmares. Through the prayers of the holy Theotokos and of all the saints who from all ages have been pleasing to you. Amen.

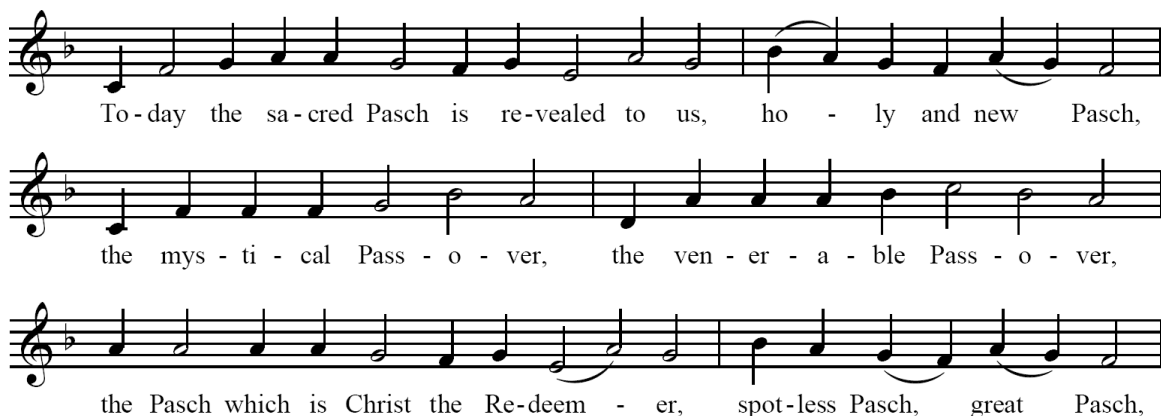
### APOSTICHA



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.

### PASCHAL STICHERA

Cantor: Let God arise! Let his enemies be scattered! Let those who hate him flee from before his face.



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.

Cantor: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish, as wax melts before a fire.



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-joyce, O Je-ru-sa-lem, see-ing Christ the King,




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

Cantor: So let the wicked perish at the presence of God, but let the righteous ones rejoice.



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.

Cantor: This is the day that the Lord has made; let us exult and rejoice in it.



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.

Cantor: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and forever. Amen.



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.

### PASCHAL DISMISSAL



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.



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. Bless, O Lord.

Leader: O Christ our true God, risen from the dead, by death trampling death and giving life to those in the tombs, through the prayers of your most pure Mother, and through the prayers of all your saints, have mercy on us.



Response:

A - - - - - men.

THE END OF ΑΓΑΠΗ VESPERS