3rd Sunday of Pascha
The Holy Myrrh-Bearers & Righteous Joseph
Great Vespers

Christ is Risen (3x) as usual, then the Proemial Psalm "Bless the Lord, O my soul..."; the Great Litany; and the 1st Kathisma of the Psalter "Blessed is the man..."; On "Lord I have cried...", 10 stichera: 7 of the Resurrection (from the Octoechos) in then 2nd Tone, and 3 of the Myrrh-bearing women in the same tone—

Stichera on "Lord I have cried"
Tone 2, Kievan

(3) Reader: In the same tone: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption;

Very early in the morning, / the myrrh-bearing women bearing spices, reached the tomb of the Lord; / and finding that which they had not expected, / they pondered piously the rolling away of the stone, / and said to one another: / "Where are the seals of the tomb? / Where is the watch set by Pilate, and the careful security?" / But a radiant angel / was a herald for the bewildered women, and he said unto them: / "Why do you seek with lamentation / the Living One Who hath enlivened the human race? / Christ our God hath risen from the dead as almighty!" / He Who granteth incorruption and life, enlightenment and great mercy to us all!"
"Lord I have cried..." (continued)

(2) Reader: O praise the Lord, all ye nations;

Praise Him all ye peoples.

"Why mingle ye myrrh with tears, O ye women disciples? /
The stone hath been rolled away; the tomb is empty. /
Behold, corruption hath been trampled down by life, /
the seals and the sleeping guardsmen of those who are wickedly insubordinate /
bearing manifest witness. /
That which is mortal hath been saved by the flesh of God. /
Hades lamenteth, /
Hastening with joy, say unto the apostles: /
'Christ, Who hath slain death, as the Firstborn from among the dead, //
goeth before you into Galilee."
And the truth of the Lord abideth forever.

Early in the morning, seeking Thy tomb with diligence, /  
the myrrh-bearing women sought Thee, O Christ, /  
to anoint Thine all-pure body; /  
and having heard the words of the angels, /  
they proclaimed to the apostles the joyous tidings, /  
that the Author of our salvation, Who hath made death captive /  
and granteth the world everlasting life and great mercy, //  
hath risen from the dead.
"Lord I have cried..." (continued)

**Reader: Glory, in the 6th Tone.**

Arriving at Thy tomb and seeing the seals of the sepulcher, /
yet failing to find Thine all-pure body, /
the myrrh-bearing women came with haste, lamenting and saying: /
"Who hath stolen our Hope? /
Who hath taken the Dead One, naked and embalmed with myrrh, /
the only consolation of His Mother? /
O how hath He died Who hath given life to the dead? /
How hath He been buried Who hath made hades captive? /
Yet arise Thou of Thine own power, O Savior, /
on the third day, as Thou hast said, //
Who savest our souls!"

**Both Now... The Dogmatic Theotokion in Tone 2 "The shadow of the law..."**

**Entrance. "O Gladsome Light..." Prokeimenon: "The Lord is King..."**
At the Litia, these stichera in Tone 1:

O ye myrrh-bearing women, /
wherefore have ye come to the tomb? /
Why do ye seek among the dead He Who is alive? /
The Lord hath risen! //
Be ye of good cheer!", the angel cried.

With fear the women came to the tomb, /
seeking to anoint Thy body with spices; /
and not finding it, they expressed their perplexity to one another, /
not knowing of the resurrection. /
But an angel stood before them and said: //
"Christ hath risen, Who bestoweth great mercy upon us!"

The Magdalene and another Mary /
came to the tomb, seeking the Lord; /
and they beheld an angel bright as lightning, seated upon the stone, /
who said to them: /
"Why seek ye among the dead Him Who is alive? /
He hath risen, as He said. /
Ye shall find Him in Galilee. /
Unto Him let us cry out: //
O Lord Who hast arisen from the dead, glory to Thee!"
Glory, in the 6th Tone.

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

Joseph begged for the body of Jesus / and placed it in his new sepulcher; / for it was fitting that He issue forth from the tomb as from a bridal chamber. / O Lord Who didst break the dominion of death / and open to men the gates of paradise, // glory to Thee!

Both now, in the same tone.

Both now and ever and unto the ages of ages. A-men.

Christ the Lord, my Creator and Deliverer, / Who came forth from Thy womb, O all-pure one, / and robed Himself in me, / hath freed Adam from the curse. / Wherefore, like the angel do we unceasingly cry out to thee, O most pure one, / who art truly the Mother of God and Virgin: / Rejoice! Rejoice, O Mistress, // thou intercession, protection and salvation for our souls!
Reader: Glory, in the same tone.

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

Joseph, with Nicodemus took Thee down from the Tree, /
Who dost clothe Thyself with light as with a garment; /
and seeing Thee dead, naked, and unburied, /
he took up heartfelt weeping and said lamenting: /
"Woe, is me, O Jesus most sweet, /
Whom when the sun, but a little while past, beheld Him hanging on the Cross /
shrouded itself in darkness; /
and the earth quaked in fear; /
and the veil of the temple was rent in twain. /
But lo! now I see Thee, Who of Thine own will didst undertake to die for my sake. /
How can I bury Thee, O my God, /
or how can I wind Thee in a shroud? /
With what hands shall I touch Thy body? /
Or what hymns shall I chant for Thy departure, O Compassionate One? /
I magnify Thy sufferings, /
and I hymn Thy burial and resurrection, crying out: //
O Lord, glory to Thee!"

Both now... "It is the day of Resurrection...", "Christ is Risen...", once.

Adapted from the English translation by Isaac E. Lambertsen, ©2005, "The Pentecostarion of the Orthodox Church", St. John of Kronstadt Press. The complete service text may be purchased through: sjkp.org
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