PRAYER WITH THE HARP OF THE SPIRIT

THE PRAYER OF ASIAN CHURCHES



VOLUME IV

THE CROWN OF THE YEAR—PART III

The Seven Weeks after the Resurrection and Pentecost
The Seven Weeks of the Apostles
The Seven Weeks of the Transfiguration of our Lord
The Seven Weeks after the Exaltation of the Cross
and their Festal Feasts

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PRAYER
WITH THE HARP OF THE SPIRIT

The Prayer of Asian Churches

VOLUME IV

The Crown of the Year Part III

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR SUNDAYS
AND FEASTS IN THE SYRO-ANTIOCHEAN TRADITION
EVENING PRAYER AND NIGHT VIGIL

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Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit. The Prayer of Asian Churches, Volume IV, The Crown of the Year, Part III. The Seven Weeks after the Resurrection of our Lord, the Seven Weeks of the Apostles, the Seven Weeks of the Transfiguration of our Lord, the Seven Weeks after the Exaltation of the Cross, and their Fixed Feasts, Evening Prayer and Night Vigil, translated from the original Syriac of the Penqitho of Mosul, 1886–1896, vols. VI–VII, by Francis Acharya. An English edition of the Prayer of the Church in the West–Syrian Rite, published with an award of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches, Rome, at Kurisumala Ashram, Vagamon, Kerala, India 1986, pp. XXV + 743 First published in 1986. Printed at the C. M. S. Press, Kottayam.

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FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS 1986
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The Persian stone cross printed here in frontispiece, is the all embracing symbol of the Church's celebration of the Economy of Salvation. From it flows water in four streams, as that which flowed in Eden to water the garden, and beyond Eden, divided into four rivers which brought life to the four quarters of the Creation. It is quickened by the Spirit, "the life-giving breath breathed by God into the nostrils of Adam, and he began to live". But here the Spirit rests upon the Cross in the form of a mother dove, as it did on the head of Jesus at His baptism in the river Jordan. It is also a Cosmic Cross: it rests on three steps symbolizing the three worlds, heaven and earth and the underworld. Ultimately it is a monument of the theology of the Cross of Glory.

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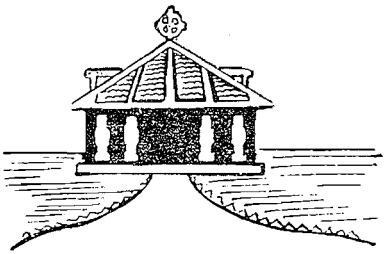
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INTRODUCTION

As it has been observed at the end of the Introduction to the previous volume of Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit, there is truly only one Christian feast, the celebration of the Lord's Death and Resurrection. All other feasts are but the unfolding in space and time of this unfathomable mystery. This previous volume ended with the Night of the Resurrection of our Lord, truly the feast of feasts, both fountain-head and climax of the Church's celebrations. But the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of God cannot be comprehended in the Service of one night. The Church's celebration recorded in the New Testament is the Lord's Supper or the Breaking of the Bread, soon assigned to the Lord's Day, the day on which He rose from the dead, and this throughout the year. In course of time the whole week of the Resurrection, following the celebration of baptism, became the occasion of a intense celebration, and eventually the seven weeks, crowned with Pentecost, emerged as one great uninterrupted celebration of the Great Mystery. In fact the days of the season of the Resurrection are known as "days of Pentecost."

This is the semitic *pentecontad,*[1] seven weeks climaxing, on the 50th day, in the celebration of a festival. Millenia before Christ the week had been discovered as a fitting unit to measure time—beside the lunar month. It obtained pre-eminence in the oldest west asiatic calendars. Seven thus became a sacred number in west asian cultures. In the Bible, which is rooted in this world, it acquired a mystical dimension expressing totality, completeness, fulness. When multiplied by itself, or by seventy, as in Matthew 18:22, it means an infinite number of times. As the Bible adopted its symbolism to record God's work of creation, the Church uses it very fittingly as a framework for the celebration of God's Economy of Salvation, the Crown of the Year consisting of seven seasons of seven weeks.

The Week of the Resurrection

We have adopted this symbolism also for the celebration of the season of the Resurrection, on the pattern of its first week. The whole week of the Resurrection is a celebration of the Great Mystery of the Death and Resurrection from among the dead of the Word of God become flesh. Its hallmark is a distinctive universalism. It resounds with cosmic thanksgiving and encompasses in its ambit the whole

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creation, and more particularly the whole human history. It is universal both in space and time. In space it embraces the three worlds: the heavens, the earth and the underworld, gloomy Sheol. Heaven is both the beginning and the end, the starting point and the goal, the place where man, after the fall, has to find his way back. The whole journey has already been completed by the Word of God, in the heart of the Father from all eternity, who left the legions of the heavenly ones, wove Himself a body from the womb of the Virgin, put it on, and mingling with men proclaimed the coming of God's Kingdom. For it He endured the passion, crucifixion and death. By His death and burial He broke down Sheol, overpowered its rulers, Death and Satan, and led out Adam and Eve and their children to make them ascend with Him to heaven, to Him who sent Him. The celebration will reach its ultimate fulfilment when the Son of Man comes in glory before the gathering of all nations. And He will say to those at His right hand, "Come, O blessed of My Father, take possession of the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world".

In time also the Mystery is all embracing. It has its origin in the beginning, at the foundation of the world, when God created heaven and earth and all that is in them, when He fashioned Adam and Eve in His own image and likeness. The stages of this long history are framed into three Covenants: the cosmic, the mosaic and the new. The Cosmic Covenant is the time of those who observed the law, without having been instructed in it. It is illustrated by the long expectation of the seers, including the rishis of India as well as the sages and the simple good people of all climes and times, "All those who did the will of God from the beginning", as well as those who waited and searched for a divine manifestation. Secondly the Mosaic Covenant, the age of the prophets, to whom God revealed Himself personally as their saviour and instructed them accordingly: "The Word of God came to Abraham..." God also entrusted His commandments to Moses for the people whom He chose as His instrument for the unfolding of His Economy of Salvation. Thirdly the New Covenant, the time of fulfilment in history. It begins with the birth in time of Him who is beyond time, yet who grew in wisdom and in favour before God and men, who preached the Good News of the coming of God's Kingdom, and for this purpose chose twelve apostles who walked with Him. And later, as witnesses of his passion death and resurrection

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after receiving the Power from on high, the Holy Spirit, they went and proclaimed God's gift of life eternal to the world. It is the communication of this gift, the communication of God's life, that takes place in the celebrations of the Church, the Holy Mysteries, in one single celebration as well as in the yearly unfolding of God's saving acts. It is for the celebration of these great works that the Church assembles her children, in obedience to the Lord's command, "Do, this in memory of Me".

> The Church gives thanks to You, O Good One, who by Your Resurrection delivered her children from the captor and taught them to worship in spirit and in truth, and behold, in the four quarters of the earth she sings praise through the mouth of her children.[2]

This is the Mystery unceasingly celebrated, throughout the Year of Grace, and with a particular intensity during the week of the Resurrection. At the Evening Prayer the Church, on four days, reads in succession one of the four Gospel accounts of the death and resurrection of her Lord, and on the two other days particular appearances which bring out its significance. Thus each day takes on particular features.

Monday is the day on which the Church recalls the Lord's appearance on the road to Emmaus, when He joined two dejected disciples who did not believe the Good News of His Resurrection, as they had been unable to accept His passion and death. The Church recounts how He opened their inner eye to the understanding of the Suffering Servant of the Lord, mysteriously foreshadowed in the law and the prophets, and how He explained to them the passages which referred to Himself in every part of the Scriptures, making their hearts burn within, until they recognized Him, when He broke the bread and offered it to them. Hence she prays:

> Make us worthy, Lord God, that with Your disciples Cleopas and Luke, we may be joined in intimate company with Your Majesty, that like them we may be struck with wonder at the great depth of Your Economy, and filled with Your wondrous light...[3]

On **Tuesday** it is the part of the holy women that makes the Church to pray her Lord and to ask Him in all humility,

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To celebrate Your Glorious Resurrection from among the dead with the joy of the women disciples when they received the news from the angel in the empty tomb filled with holy light. Adorn our lives with deeds of truth and love, and strengthen and expand our hearts that we may run like them, the way of Your commandments, and praise You and revere You with sincerity and holiness...[4]

On **Wednesday,** the day on which is read the account of the Great Mystery in the Gospel according to the Evangelist Luke, it is the thief crying out his faith from the top of the cross, who comes into prominence, in an introductory response, at the Evening Prayer.

Remember me, my Lord, at Your coming
in that Kingdom which does not pass away.
I entreat You, Lord of all,
that I may see Your compassion
and offer thanksgiving to You, halleluia,
for You are above all powers.[5]

The work of the Redeemer is sometimes described with the imagery of the single battles of ancient mesopotamian cosmogonies, with the descent into the gloomy places of Sheol as the climax before the final victory, the glorification and divinization of humankind:

The Sun shone upon the earth from within Sheol and illumined it, and at His Resurrection the whole Creation exulted. God mighty for evermore descended and visited the dead in Sheol and when He ascended He laid it waste and pulled down its foundations, halleluia, halleluia, and now the Church rejoices in His glorious Resurrection.[6]

Glory to You. Glory to You, O Jesus, the Light,
Uniquely Beloved Son of God
who rose from the tomb with glory,
in the power of Your Godhead,
and clothed our human nature with glory.[7]

On **Thursday,** the prominent figures are Thomas the Apostle and Mary Magdalen, singled out for their unique place in the revelation

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of the Glorious Mystery. The Church does not hide the weaknesses of the chosen ones but she draws on them for her own enlightenment,

> Christ our Lord, increase our faith, as You quickened and strengthened the faith of Your apostle Thomas, confounding his pride and compelling him to acknowledge You as Lord and God, that on the Great Day of the resurrection of all flesh, we may be given light by Your light and rejoice at the sight of You...[8]

At the night vigil Mary Magdalen is celebrated in the *Madrosho*[9] and the Supplication Song which bring out beautifully both the human qualities and the intensity of her love for her Rabbi,

> On Sunday Mary ran
> to see her Lord among the dead,
> with the spices she had prepared to honour His body
> and the fragrant herbs for His burial.
>
> She reached the tomb in great distress,
> speaking to herself and lamenting Him,
> My Lord, was it not sheer wickedness that they killed You!
> And now they shut You up in the tomb like in a prison!
>
> As You did not take away anything from the Tree,
> what then brought You into Sheol?
> As You did not eat from its fruit
> what for did You suffer such a disgrace?[10]

Friday of the Confessors

This is a unique and extraordinary celebration of the Paschal Mystery proper to the Syro-Antiochean tradition and unknown, to our knowledge, in other liturgical traditions, which brings out its universal dimension in a truly astonishing way. The word confessor does not designate here the category of saints coming after the prophets, the apostles and the martyrs. It takes on a broader meaning. The feast commemorates, "All the just and holy people from everlasting who have been pleasing to God." It celebrates the participation of the whole human family in the Resurrection of its Firstborn to the new life. It breaks through all particularisms of churches, sects and even religions, beyond distinctions of race and culture, caste and belief, to

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reach out to all those on whom the Father makes His sun to rise, the whole human family, to reveal the existential relationship of all human sainthood with the Son of Man. This mystery has been celebrated earlier, on the Fifth Saturday of the Great Fast, our first commemoration of all saints:

> When we bring before Your love of humankind the remembrance of the glorious and sublime deeds of those who were pleasing to You from the origins of our race, the first Adam, up to our own days...we remember first the holy fathers of the first ages who lived under the Cosmic Covenant and kept Your law without having been instructed in it.[11]

Some have related our celebration to the thousands of martyrs who gave the supreme witnessing to Christ during the Persian persecutions, especially under Chosroes II, but we do not find the least allusion to this in our text. Whatever be the origin of the feast, the most striking feature in the text which has found place in the Penqitho is this unheard of universalism in the realm of human sanctity extended beyond the confines of institutional religion. It is indeed a feast of the communion of saints of the human family, and this in a very real sense, as it recognizes in them the power of intercession for the forgiveness of sins:

> All praise...on this day on which we commemorate...all the just, men and women, who pleased You from the beginning. By their prayers forgive the sins of Your servants, and with them we will offer praise to You...[12]

The prophetic character of the feast becomes more remarkable at a time when the Catholic Church addresses the other Churches as Sisters Churches, and when Christianity as a whole takes a new look at the other living faiths of the human family, and comes to acknowledge in them genuine means of salvation for their believers, and acknowledges them as integral parts of God's Economy of Salvation. It is not difficult to see how such a view opens up new areas of mutual acceptance, creating a permanent and living source of reconciliation and world peace.

Saturday of Repose

Saturday brings a note of completion. The Gospel at the Evening Prayer is Saint John's account of the death of Christ on the Cross and

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of the awakening of Peter and John to the faith in the Resurrection, at the sight of the empty tomb. The disciple whom Jesus loved is the only evangelist to mention that the side of Jesus was opened by the spear of a soldier to attest His death, and that there flowed from it blood and water. This episode is quite in harmony with John's symbolism of the water which he associates with the Spirit, to reveal how we are born anew, born of God. In another reference to water in words attributed to Jesus Himself, "Streams of living water shall flow from Him", John remarks that by water Jesus was referring to the Spirit "which believers in Him would receive". John's Gospel is the Good News of our sharing in God's own life, of the deification of the believer. This is taken today, in the Church's prayer to Christ, she praises Him for the divinization of humankind.

> You have become the Head and the Firstborn of many brothers who shall rise to incorruptibility and Your divine body is a life-giving leaven which deifies our whole race that will not fall any more a prey to death and corruption.[13]

New Sunday and the Sundays after the Resurrection

The name of the first Sunday after the Resurrection of our Lord expresses very aptly the meaning of the Church's celebration, a mystery which will remain the core of the celebration of every Sunday of the year. Indeed the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord, as we have already said, "Is the feast of feasts...all other feasts flow from it as a river from its source." The newness of life that is celebrated, that is communicated to us, is the fruit of the Resurrection of the Firstborn from among the dead. The renewal of the Church is the renewal of the believers in faith, hope and love, and through them, the renewal of the whole creation.

> Grant us, Lord, to be renewed by the blood and water which flowed from Your side, and strengthen our faith in You.[14]

Saint Thomas is singled out today, as a vivid illustration of a faith renewal, painful yet glorious, as it restores the repentant apostle to the original orientation of his call. A gift of Christ's graciousness and goodness, it is experienced in peace and joy, here and now, but it is also a foretaste of the eternal peace and joy awaiting humankind when all will be gathered "In the harbour of life, in the dwellings filled with

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gladness." The gift of Christ to the believer, it is also a sharing with others; with all those who have been pleasing to God:

> While we celebrate this holy day of Your Resurrection, raise us from the fall of sin...And while we walk in newness of life, grant us a share in the joy of all those who have been pleasing to You...[15]

While Christ's goodness and graciousness are made active in the celebrations of the Church, it is her present need of renewal, and the need of the whole world that animate her assemblies:

> On this day again which is the Great and Glorious New Sunday, after Your Life-giving Resurrection, source of all blessedness, we adore You and praise You and beseech Your kindliness, make this sweet incense which we present before the glorious altar of Your Majesty to be acceptable to Your Sovereignty, that in Your goodness, You will mingle it with the incense of our poor prayers, and that it may be for the pardon of offences and the forgiveness of sins, for all Your flock redeemed by Your Cross, and for the help and the healing of all who are sick and afflicted, and for the response to all sincere requests of those who take refuge in Your Graciousness, and all who ask for prayers, and for the remembrance and rest of all the departed believers who have slept in Your hope and await the day of Your manifestation.[16]

The celebration of the Ascension of our Lord will only bring out the ultimate fulfilment with which the Resurrection of our Lord is already pregnant, as it is accounted in the Gospel according to Saint Luke, who makes it part of the day of the Resurrection. But it serves also as the immediate preparation for Pentecost.

> Glory to You, Jesus...who today were raised up to heaven, victorious, in the flesh, that You might draw us, creatures of flesh, and make us ascend with You to heaven...and prepare us for the coming of Your Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Comforter.[17]

At the same time the Church prays, "Grant also that we may always remain aware that You are with us on earth until the end of time",[18]

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as He Himself promised in His parting words, recorded by Saint Matthew.

The Great Sunday of Pentecost and the Seven Sundays of the Apostles

With Pentecost, the great theophany of the Holy Spirit, it is the Mystery of the Church, as it was experienced by the apostles, which becomes prominent. While the seven weeks of the Resurrection celebrated the Great Mystery of the new life for humankind obtained by the Firstborn from among the dead, Pentecost is the feast of the communication of this divine gift to the human family through the Church. It is the feast of the Church, or rather the feast of the Lord's Spirit coming to His Church to endow her with all the gifts she needs to carry out His Economy of Salvation. This gift comes by the descent of the Holy Spirit, promised by the Son and sent by the Father, while His mission is carried out by the apostles. The feast of Pentecost is the celebration of the experience of the work of the Holy Spirit made by the company of the apsotles. "The chosen apostles struck with divine wonder spoke in diverse tongues of the workings of the Holy Spirit. Some people could not believe it and said they had been drinking. But by them was declared the Holy Trinity, the Creator of all, the God of our fathers."[19]

> Today the Father sends from heaven to the little flock,
> innocent lambs, the Spirit who from ancient times,
> revealed to the prophets the hidden mysteries...Simple
> and illiterate people are endowed with wisdom, and announce
> to the Nations the Economy of the Uniquely Beloved Son
> who willed to humble Himself for our sake,
> and endured death to give life to our mortal race.[20]

The Church celebrates the mission of the Holy Spirit as the communication of the new life, life divine, to humankind. She prays accordingly:

> Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, Source of all life
> and of all energy, and Lover of all that lives...renew
> Your Churches that they may instil divine life into the
> hearts of all people, and build them up into one body, the
> Body of Christ, until God is truly all in all.[21]

The mission of the Holy Spirit carried out by the apostles is an enterprise both human and divine. But the human instruments are

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radically inadequate, "a little flock, simple fishermen, illiterate people, ignorant and weak", yet they are filled with the Holy Spirit. And they take up their mission with utter dedication.

> Like hard working farmers they went to the world,
> to plant in it the doctrine which the Lord had taught them
> through the Holy Spirit. They sowed the faith
> and planted Churches and erected the Cross,
> the sign of baptism, the baptism of the forgiveness of sins.
> They gave the body and blood of Christ, the food of the world.[22]

The Church praises their work, because through them the Lord restores our human nature to its original beauty.

> After Your incarnation in the flesh, You sent Your Holy Spirit which of old flew away and departed from humanity on account of the transgression of the commandment. You restored Him to our nature which had become corrupt, when He was seen and descended and rested on the apostles, Your disciples, in the form of tongues like flames of fire. By their hands You filled Your Holy Church with the assistance and the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit. They proclaimed Your Gospel throughout the world, everywhere planting Churches. They made them beautiful by the celebration of Your Mysteries, adorned them with the work of Your praise and the teaching of theology, and proclaimed the Wondrous and Divine Mysteries throughout the world. Therefore we beg You, Lord...all the time of our pilgrimage here below, let us not be estranged from Your deifying grace...do not allow anyone to make us strangers to Your holy and glorious illumination.[23]

The Church therefore honours them as "mediators for the proclamation of the truth". "They are lamps of a marvellous light, who brought forth the light of the Cross to the four quarters of the earth."[24]

The Seven Weeks of the Transfiguration of our Lord[25]

The Transfiguration does not belong to the central core of the Economy of Salvation, it is not an essential part of the kerygma, as the Resurrection or the Cross, yet it has a pivotal place among the

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Gospel events. Before setting out for Jerusalem where His passion and death were to take place, the Lord was strengthened by an overwhelming experience of His Divinity, while His disciples were given a glimpse of the glory which their Master was given to enjoy, even in the flesh, and to which they also were called. The Transfiguration is a prism in which are refracted all the Mysteries of the Economy of Salvation. It is a mirror in which the Christian Mystery is seen in its unity. Here we perceive that the old covenant and the new are inseparable, that the living and the dead are one in Christ, that the Cross and the glory are one, that the age to come is already here, that our human race has a common destiny of glory, and that it is on Christ that the salvific will of the Father rests, "In Him I am well pleased," He is the Uniquely Beloved Son. It is therefore not out of place to celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord as one of the seven great seasons of the year. Though it is an event which took place before His Passion and Death, Resurrection and Ascension, its celebration fits well in the latter part of the Year of Grace, as a revelation of both the end of time, and of the Cross through which it comes to us. In our age of unprecedented technological advances humankind must be led to the Christian faith, not as a panacea of progress nor as an other-wordly solution unrelated to history, but as a Gospel of Transfiguration. Such a Gospel speaks to the here-and-now, while pointing to the transcendent meaning of this life and of human history.

> Today on Mount Tabor there has mysteriously appeared a view of the future life and of the Kingdom of joy. Today in a wonderful manner, the ancient messengers of the old and new covenants are gathered around God on the mount, bearers of a deep mystery. Today on Mount Tabor is revealed the Mystery of the Cross which gives life through death.[26]

The place given to the Transfiguration in the liturgy of the Churches confronts us with a considerable divergence between Eastern and Western Christianity. The West, as a whole, dwells on justification and sanctification of human life with an all pervading moral concern. The East is drawn to a cosmic and mystical view of redemption. The Christian life cannot be seen apart from the process of the Cosmic Order. Man is part of nature and his future is bound up with the restoration of the whole order of nature to a new order of being. The East looks at the Christian life as a participation of the believer in

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God's life. With this goes the sense of solidarity of humankind, that is the whole human nature which was assumed by Christ, and that no one can obtain his own salvation apart from his brethren.

Though the Transfiguration is celebrated in the Churches both East and West, the feast belongs more distinctively to the mainstream of life of the Oriental Churches. They have honoured it almost instinctively, and both the Fathers in their writings and the Churches in their liturgies have pondered over its meaning with a special warmth and intensity. In its celebration the believers experience the power of the great events and of the truths that have moulded Eastern Christianity: the central place of the Resurrection and its complementarity with the Cross, the vivid realization of the communion of saints, the contemplative life as a life to which the heavens are opened, the insistence that nature is not left behind but is transformed by Christ in the new creation wherein all believers are drawn into sharing in God's life and glory.

Finally the celebration of the Transfiguration of our Lord by the Church is the proclamation of both the ultimate glory of His Resurrection and the potential glorification of all believers. Here is a son of man who, while being divinely transfigured in His body, prays to the Father to be strengthened for accepting the Cross and death that were waiting for him at Jerusalem. And He was conversing about this with two of His closest prophets who appeared at His side. Our prayer even recreates their pleading with Him to offer Himself to death for the salvation of the children of Adam.[26A]

> Praise to the Eternal Son who today made His brightness to shine on Mount Tabor, and made His disciples to share in the glorious vision of His divine face which is beyond compare and revealed to His servants that He came to abasement of His own will, for the sake of Adam, that He might restore him to his former glory... When we meditate on the Mystery of Your Economy full of wonder, O Word, God, we offer unceasing praises and thanksgivings to Your Sovereignty, continually, because in You we live and move and have our being, You who are truly our Maker and the Treasure-house whose gifts are never exhausted or diminished. On account of this we sing praise to Your Godhead and we offer honour and exaltation to Your Divinity, in that You are the never changing image of Your Father, in Your eternal being,

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and beyond all times and seasons, eternally, beyond conception, You shine forth from His own being. And at the end of time when You were pleased to descend to redeem Your Creation, You took flesh of the Holy Virgin Mary, and in the flesh in which You were clothed from her, You worked miracles and signs and wonders and mighty deeds. And when the time of Your life-giving passion in the flesh for our sake drew near, You were pleased to disclose to Your holy disciples the things concerning the renewal of the world to come, and the glory which is kept for those who do good...You were transfigured in their sight. Your face shone like the sun, showing us that at the end of time the dust will be changed from corruption and shine like the sun in full strength. On this festal and holy day the garments on Your body became white like snow, and by this You gave us a sign of the shining garments of immortality which are kept for those who do Your will...[27] Therefore we beseech You, O Bountiful Lord, shed on all men that radiance which on this day of Your Transfiguration brightens the countenance of Your Church. Make her truly the sign of unity of all humankind, the sacrament of Man's union and oneness with God, according to Your Economy of dignifying the human race with a participation in Your life.[28]

The Seven Sundays after the Exaltation of the Cross

The Mystery of the Cross has been present in the prayer of the Church in a very special manner from the Middle of the Great Fast, when the wooden cross, clothed in a red stole, was erected in the centre of the Church and constantly venerated by every one who entered or left the Church, and with adoration and incense during the Services. On the Great Friday of the Crucifixion it has become the exclusive centre of the Church's prayer, when clothed in a black stole it has been identified with Christ in His passion, and taken in procession as to Golgotha, and then buried under the altar, as if this were done to Christ Himself. Finally at the Night Vigil of Sunday, it was raised solemnly in the sanctuary, while the main celebratnt announced the Resurrection and the congregation responded with their triple acclamation: "We believe and confess that He is truly risen." The Cross has also been constantly evoked in the prayer of the Church during the following seasons of the Resurrection, of the Apostles and of the Transfiguration. When the Church now sets apart a whole season for

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its celebration it is because the Cross is also the mystery of the fulfilment of all festivals and of the consummation of all things.

> You redeemed the whole inhabited world by the humiliation of the Cross, and You cast down the Enemy and his powers... By the abasement of the Cross You made the earth heaven. You made the children of men mingle with the angels and You gave them the knowledge of the truth and established the Holy Church. By the Life-giving Cross You renew all the festivals of the Lord and You fulfil all the symbols and sacrifices. By its symbol You calmed the flood in the days of Noah, and its sign kept away the Destroyer from the firstborn of Israel, and its figure divided the sea before the Hebrew people. We also, our Lord, sign ourselves with it upon our faces and we find glory in You, Christ, Saviour of all.[29]

The Exaltation of the Cross is therefore a prophetic celebration, as the Cross is the sign of the final fulfilment, at the consummation of time, "When will appear in heaven the sign that heralds the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with great power and glory."[30] It is even this facet of the Mystery of the Cross that the Church brings into prominence on the day of the feast, as shown by the Gospel readings which deal exculsively with this mystery.

Nevertheless the Cross remains the all embracing mystery by which "The whole human race is saved, and the whole creation rejoices, as it is renewed. The Cross gives peace to all and brings life to all."[31]

> When You were raised on the wood of the Cross, and were nailed on it of Your own will, You bestowed salvation on humankind... By Your Cross the Churches have grown and by it their children are redeemed. In it the true believers make their boast, and the peoples are made radiant with joy. They sing psalms of victory. And we also with them cry out with joy and say, "Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which the malediction of Eve was removed... Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which the exiles return to their inheritance. Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which all the sacrifices and festivals of the Lord are consummated. Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which all joys are bestowed upon us."[32]

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The cosmic dimension of the Cross is proclaimed in the symbolism of the World Tree, "Praise...to the Saviour who accomplished our salvation by His Cross in the Centre of the Earth....."[33] This is an archaic but universally disseminated symbol in ancient world religions which has found its place in the biblical tradition. The Cross made of the wood of the Tree of Good and Evil is identified with the Cosmic Tree. This is the tree that rises from earth to heaven, an immortal plant that stands at the centre of heaven and earth, as the firm support of the universe, the Tree of Life planted on Calvary. It is known also as a ladder, a pillar, a mountain, always with the connotation of joining earth with heaven. It is through the Cross that communication between heaven and earth takes place. It is through the Cross that the universe is saved.

> When You were hung on the Cross like a criminal to become our justification, You revealed as blessed the Cross on which You were seen. You are the Tree of Life in the centre of the inhabited world. You are the height and the depth and the length and the breadth which we seek to apprehend with all the saints. It is You that we shall behold when You will appear with Your Cross in the East like a lightning on the last day.[34]

Finally the Cross is a living reality. It accompanies the Risen Christ to Sheol and to heaven. It is the revelation of His strength and power. It is mystically united with Him, it is identified with Him.

> The Cross of light we know by many names.
> It is the Door. It is the Ladder. It is the Way.
> It is the Food of Life. It is the Resurrection.
> It is Life. It is the Truth. It is Grace.
> It is Jesus. It is the Christ. It is the Word.[35]

The Fixed Feasts

The fixed feasts found in this volume include two feasts of our Lord, His Transfiguration and the Exaltation of the Cross. The meaning of these two feasts has been brought out when we dealt with the seasons to which they have given their name. The Mother of God has also two feasts, her Assumption and her Birth. The Feast of the Assumption of Mary Mother of God comes well after the feasts of the Resurrection, of the Ascension and of the Transfiguration of her Son. The mystery of her bodily assumption is indeed related to these three

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feasts. By a mysterious, yet very becoming dispensation of His love, God brought about the transfiguration of the whole person of His beloved mother, as an anticipation in time of the consummation of time. As the first flowering of the Church, Mary anticipates the transfiguration in glory which will be shared by the whole Church, at the general resurrection of the bodies.

Besides these feasts of our Lord and of His Mother we have first two feasts of John the Baptist: his birth and his beheading. The feasts of the apostles, four all together: John the Evangelist, Peter and Paul, the Twelve Apostles and Saint Thomas, illustrate well, during the season that bears their name, the apostolic charism and its central place in the life of the Church. However a special mention must be made of John the Evangelist on whose feast the Church concentrates onthe mystery of the preferential love of Jesus for the youngest son of Zebedee. This raises to our minds the question of the relationship of such preferential love to the universal love we owe to every human being. Moralists explain that such intimate friendship is like a focal centre of deep warmth which ultimately enriches the familial spirit. We feel that such a celebration of the love of Jesus for his disciple points also to a particular dimension of love, both divine and human, which lies beyond the categories of academic morality and must be described as mystical, a manifestation, *sui generis,* unique, of the mystery of love, of which in the case of Jesus we find other examples in the Gospel: Mary Magdalen and Mary, sister of Lazarus.

The charism of the martyrs is celebrated in the commemoration of George, the Glorious Martyr. This may be seen as a restoration, for George has suffered heavily in the reform of the Roman Calendar of Saints following Vatican II. Our restoration is due to the great popularity of the saint in the Oriental Churches and very specially in Kerala. However we had to upgrade considerably the prayers of the Penqitho and to make new compositions.

The monastic charism is illustrated by Apa Pachomios who is given, here, a full office for the first time. His central place, as fountain-head of Christian religious life, has come in a new light during the present century. On the other hand the celebrity he enjoyed among the Syrian monks is witnessed to by the Cycle of Mar Augen. This is a collection of life stories of some seventy monks who would

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have come from Egypt in the fourth century, under the leadership of Mar Augen, disciple of Apa Pachomios, to establish the cenobitic life in Mesopotamia and Persia. The truth behind this apocryphal, probably a ninth century writing, is that it witnesses to the authority and fame enjoyed by Pachomian monasticism to which the sponsors of the document must have had recourse to strengthen the cause of cenobitic life, often in tension with the strong eremitical charism of early Syrian monasticism. The eremitical life is illustrated in this part of the Crown of the Year by the feast of Saint Simeon the Pillar Saint, of the region of Antioch, of world fame, in the 5th century. Simeon was a more fearful charismatic personality than Pachomios, yet always remaining in full obedience to his bishop. Perched on his pillar on the top of a rocky mountain, he attracted large crowds from far and near. He prophesied, reprimanded and advised high officials, examined law-suits and performed innumerable cures.

To these ancient monastic figures we have added Francis of Assisi, the most Christ-like saint, universally venerated, and also a celebration of India, Thiru Onam, the great Festival of Kerala, the feast of the messianic king, Mahabeli, a true seed of the word.

By manner of conclusion, we may compare here our calendar of Fixed Feasts first with the festal celebrations of the Church in Kerala before the 17th century, or more precisely before the infamous Synod of Diamper, AD 1599, that is, before the East Syrian rite was latinized. We note that we have preserved all the ancient festal celebrations except three: St. Kuriakose, St. Hormisdas, and Sts. Sapor and Proth.

The comparison with the feasts of our Penqitho shows that some feasts have been left out. Among these we find two which had been taken over from Rome: All Saints which is a duplication of our Friday of the Confessors in the week of the Resurrection, and Corpus Christi which is unsuited to the Syrian liturgical ethos. Other feasts which are left out never found a place in the usage of our Churches, and besides this they lack significance for our time: Serkis with Bacchos, and Osio with Isaiah in October, All Angels in November, Barbara with Juliana, Nicholas, and Behnam with Sarah in December. The Finding of the Cross by Queen Helen, and Mar Addai in May,

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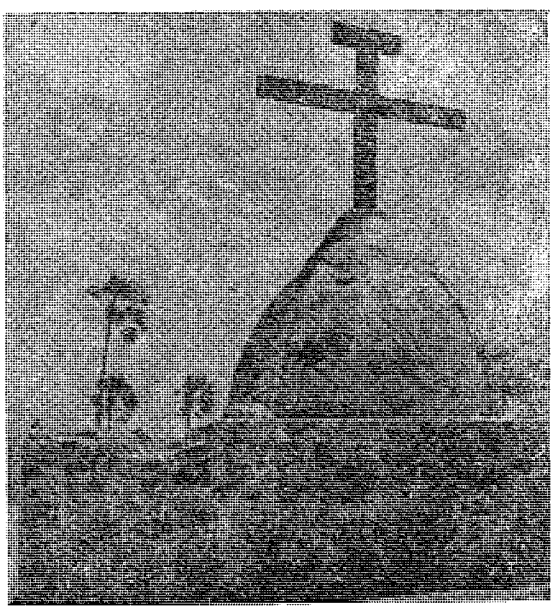
Mar Kuriakose with his mother Julitti, and Cosmas with Damien in July, and finally Shamouni with her seven sons in August.

On the other hand we have preserved two feasts that have come from Rome: The Entrance of Mary into the Temple and the Friday of the Sacred Heart.

We ourselves have introduced three new celebrations: Francis of Assisi in October, Francis Xavier in December and the Festival of Onam at the end of August or beginning of September.

Similarly, during the Great Fast, on the four Saturdays on which the Penqitho has a common feast of saints, we have substituted Ephrem with Isaac of Nineveh, the great teachers of prayer, and a feast of all monastic saints, besides celebrating the fixed feasts of the Fourty Martyrs and of Saint Joseph on the Saturday nearest to their date.

Francis Acharya



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The Common Prayers

When we come together for prayer, we stand with our face turned towards the east. Folding our hands on our breast and recollecting our thoughts, we make the sign of the cross saying the prayer of INVOCATION

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

Trisagion

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord, Mighty God.
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who has come and is to come
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The four lines that follow: "Holy are You"...are said three times, each time with the sign of the cross and a prostration, replaced on Sundays and Feastdays by a profound bow.

Holy are You, O God.
Holy are You the Strong.
Holy are You the Deathless who were crucified for us.
Have mercy on us.

Then standing upright we raise our hands while looking up and we say:

Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have pity and mercy on us.
Lord, receive our service and our prayers and have mercy on us.

Glory to You, O God. Glory to You, Creator.
Glory to You, Christ the King,
who have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless, Lord!

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Here we bow, make the sign of the cross, and raising our hands and looking up we say:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread we need. Forgive us our sins and offences as we forgive those who have offended against us. Do not let us enter into temptation and deliver us from the Evil One. For Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, our Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lady Mary, Virgin Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and always and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Doxology *After the initial Trisagion, before the Opening Prayer.*

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

And on us weak and sinful servants
mercy and compassion in both worlds for ever and ever. Amen.

Profession of Faith *At the end of the services, especially at the end of the Service of Prayer for Protection before the Night.*

We believe in one true God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, Only Son of God, who was born of the Father before all worlds; light of light, true God of true God, begotten not made and equal in essence to His Father, by whom all things were made. For us men and for our salvation He came down from heaven and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, Mother of God, and became man. He was crucified for us in the days of Pontius Pilate and suffered and died and was buried. He rose on the third day according to His will and ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of His Father and will come again in His great glory to judge the living and the dead. His kingdom has no end. We believe in one living Holy Spirit, who is the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the Prophets and Apostles and in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We confess that there is one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead and the new life in the world to come. Amen.

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The Common Evening Prayers

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp *Before the Service if convenient*

Joy-giving light of the holy glory of the
Heavenly and Immortal Father!

Response: *Holy and blessed Jesus Christ.*

We gather at the close of the day beholding the evening light.
We praise the Father through the Son, in the Holy Spirit of God.

Response: *Holy and blessed Jesus Christ.*

At all times, O Lord, You are worthy of praise, with holy songs.
Son of God, Giver of life, the world gives glory to You.

Response: *Holy and blessed Jesus Christ.*

Common Evening Psalms[1] 141, 142, 119: 105-112, 117

We call upon You, Lord, hear us.
Give heed to our words and answer us.

Let our prayer be like incense in Your sight
and the raising of our hands like the evening oblation.
Lord, set a guard before our mouths,
keep watch at the door of our lips,
that our hearts may not turn to evil words
and we may not indulge in deeds of wickedness.

We will not sit at the table of the wicked.
Let the just man teach us, let him reprove us.
But the oil of the wicked shall not anoint our heads.
Our prayer is against their evil doing...

We lift up our eyes to You, Lord.
We put our trust in You, do not reject us.
Keep us from the hand of the proud
who have laid snares for us...

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With all our voice we cry to You, Lord.
With all our voice we make supplication.
We pour out our affliction before You,
we lay bare our brokenness.
Our spirit is in the dark, but You know our paths.

On the way we have to walk
they have hidden snares for us.
We look to the right and see no one who knows us.
There is no way, and there is not one who cares for us.
We cry out to You, Lord, and we say: "You are our refuge.
You are our portion in the land of the living."

Hear our supplication, we are in distress.
Deliver us from our persecutors,
they are too strong for us.
Lead us forth from prison that we may praise Your name.
Your just ones are waiting for us
until You give us Your reward.

Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light upon our path.
We have sworn and have determined
to keep Your holy decrees.
We are greatly brought low, Lord,
give us life according to Your word.
Be pleased, Lord, with the words of our lips
and teach us Your decrees.

Our lives are always in your hands,
we do not forget Your law.
The wicked have set traps for us,
but we do not stray from Your commands.
We treasure up Your testimonies.
Truly they are the joy of our hearts.
Incline our hearts to keep Your commands, for ever, in truth.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise Him, all you peoples.
Great is His goodness for us.
Truly, the Lord's goodness is for ever.

To You belongs the praise, O God. Halleluia.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

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Eucharistic Prayers INITIAL ACCLAMATIONS AND RESPONSES

DEACON Let us lift up our hearts.

COMMUNITY We lift them up to the Lord.

LEADER Let us offer praise to the Lord and beg for the mercy of His grace.

COMMUNITY Compassionate Lord, we praise Your wonderful name, show us Your mercy.

LEADER Praise, thanksgiving, glory, honour and exaltation continually and without ceasing, at all times may we be worthy to offer...

Conclusion To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of...and at all times and seasons and hours and moments of the days of our life for ever. Amen.

Proclamation of the Gospel

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia...*according to the feast.*

Deacon In silence and awe and reverence let us listen to the proclamation of the living word of God which is read to us from the holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader Peace be with you all!

People May the Lord God make us worthy of it!

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, the message of life according to the Apostle Matthew *or* John *or* the Evangelist Mark *or* Luke, proclaiming life and salvation to the world.

People Blessed is He who has come and is to come in the name of the Lord. Glory to the Father who sent Him for our salvation. Adoration to the Spirit who leads us to the fulness of truth.

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Reader In the time of the Annunciation *or* Nativity *or* Baptism *or* Fast *or* Resurrection or Transfiguration of our Lord God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, the Word of life who was God and took flesh of the Holy Virgin Mary, these things came to pass.

People We believe and confess it.

Reader *After completing the reading:* Peace be with you all! *And he kisses the book*

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
do not close the door of Your mercy on our faces.
Lord, we confess that we are sinners, be gracious to all.

Your love made you descend from Your place to us.
Lord, by whose death our death was ended,
be gracious to the whole world.

Trisagion *In conclusion of the service*

Holy are You, O God. Holy are You, the Strong.
Holy are You the Deathless who were crucified for us.
Have mercy on us.

This is said three times, with prostration each time, replaced on Sundays and feastdays by a profound bow: Holy are you, O God...

Lord, have mercy on us. Lord, have pity and mercy on us.
Lord, receive our service and our prayers and have mercy on us.

Glory to You, O God. Glory to You, Creator.
Glory to You, Christ the King,
who have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless, Lord!

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your Kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today the bread we need. Forgive us our sins and offences as we forgive those who have offended against us. Do not let us enter into temptation and deliver us from the Evil One. For Yours is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace, our Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, our Lord Jesus Christ. O Lady Mary, Virgin Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and always and at the hour of our death. Amen.

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The Common Prayers for the Night Vigil

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer

Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep in the sloth of sin,
that we may praise Your watchfulness,
O Watcher who do not sleep.
Give life to our death in the sleep of death and corruption,
that we may adore Your compassion,
Living One who do not die.
And make us worthy to praise You and bless You in holiness,
with the glorious companies of the angels on high
that You may be praised and blessed on earth as in heaven,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Night Psalms 133, 119:169--176, 116

Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord.

Bless, Lord! You who stand in the house of the Lord
through the watches of the night.

Lift up your hands toward the sanctuary
and bless the Lord.

May the Lord bless you from His Holy Mountain,
he who made heaven and earth!

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Lord let our praise enter into Your presence
and give us life by Your word.
Let our supplication enter into Your sight, Lord,
and set us free by Your word.

May our lips pour forth Your word
on account of the holiness of all Your commands.

May our tongues repeat Your praise
because you taught us Your commands.
Let Your hand come to our help
because we take our delight in Your law.

We long for Your salvation
and we meditate on Your law.
Let us live that we may praise You
and Your decrees will give us help.

We have gone astray like the lost sheep,
come in search of Your servants
for we have not forgotten all Your commands.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise Him, all you peoples.
Great is His goodness for us.
Truly, the Lord's goodness is for ever.

To You belongs the praise, O God. Halleluia.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

Acclamations *Before the II and III watches*

Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place for ever.[2]
Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place for ever.
You are blessed, Lord, to You be glory from Your place for ever.

Holy and glorious Trinity, have mercy on us.
Holy and glorious Trinity, have mercy on us.
Holy and glorious Trinity, have compassion and mercy on us.

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You are holy and glorious for ever.
You are holy and glorious for ever.
You are holy and Your name is blessed for ever.

Glory to You, our Lord.
Glory to You, our Lord.
Glory to You, our hope for ever. Bless, Lord!

Our Father in heaven... Hail Mary, full of grace...

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord...as above, p.8.

A Service for the Resurrection

A Common Service on Sundays and Feastdays

Common Response

Give rest, Lord, to our departed in Your abode of light.
Give rest to them, Lord, and be gracious to all.
Forgive and pass over the faults of us and them.

Eucharistic Prayer - *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the God who raises the dead and gives life to them with a gesture of His power and shakes from their faces the dust which darkens their eyes that they may behold His glory. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord Jesus Christ, at that hour when You shall appear at the end of time, and the sign of Your victory shall be revealed, when the light of Your countenance shall shine upon the good and Your fear shall fall upon the wicked...do not remember our faults. We beseech You, Lord, make us and our departed, and all the people of the Holy Church worthy to exalt You with the Watchers, to praise You with the Fiery Ones to worship You with the saints and to be gladdened by the sight of Your Godhead, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn
With the sons of Your right hand, Lord,
may our fathers and brothers take their pleasure.
May they hear Your sweet voice which calls and says:
"Come, enter, inherit the Kingdom with the saints."

Isaiah cried to the Messiah, the Rising Sun, who awakens
the dead and makes them to rise from their graves,
"They will open their wings like doves and fly to meet You."
Blessed is He who has come and will come. Glory to His Name.

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

Praise to You by whose decree Death reigned
and by whose Resurrection the Serpent is defeated.
Praise ascends to You, Lord, from every mouth.
From every place You gather together the dust of Adam.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The dead who by Your death receive the pledge of life
will praise You, Lord, from within the grave.
They will shake off the dust and be clothed with glory.
On the day of the resurrection
they will return to the heights, their true dwelling place.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Renew, O Full of Mercy, Your creatures by the resurrection.

Your servants and Your worshippers who have slept in Your hope.

O Lord, give rest and pardon to the dead
who have slept in Your hope and await Your coming.

Give rest to those in the grave, O Heavenly King,
and multiply forgiveness for the departed believers.

At the side of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, O Lord,
make to rest Your servants who have slept in Your hope.

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Glory to Christ who calls the dead
and they rise without corruption and sing praise.

Body, soul and spirit will awake and cry together:
"Blessed is He who has come, and will come and raise the dead."

FOURTH WATCH

A Daily Morning Service. To mark the end of the Night Vigil. The sanctuary lamps are lighted and the curtain is drawn aside.

For the Communion of Saints

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia, glory to You, O God. (3 times)

Be compassionate towards us in Your mercy, O God of compassion.
In our sacrifices and our prayers
we make memory of our fathers who taught us,
while they were alive, to be children of God.
Son of God, raise them up in the Heavenly Kingdom,
with the just and the righteous,
in the world which does not pass away.

Mary's Song

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord.
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour.
He has looked on His servant in her nothingness.
Henceforth all generations will count me blessed.

The Mighty One has done great things for me.
His name is Holy and His graciousness
is from age to age on those who revere Him.

He has conquered by His mighty arm
and has scattered the proud-hearted.
He has brought down the mighty from their thrones
but He has lifted up the humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things
but sent the rich away empty.

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He has helped Israel His servant
remembering His graciousness,
as He had promised to our forefathers,
to Abraham and his seed for ever."

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

Psalm 133

How good and beautiful it is for brothers to live in unity.

It is like oil poured on the head and on the beard,
poured on the beard of Aaron, even to the edge of his robe.

It is like the dew of Mount Hermon which comes down
on Jerusalem, the Holy Mountain, for it is from there
that the Lord gives His blessings and life for ever.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE

Remember Mary, and may she help us by her prayers.

Remember all the saints and may they help us by their prayers.

Prophets, apostles and martyrs,
may your prayer always be with us.

Make us worthy, Lord, of the abode of Your martyrs
and the home where dwell Your friends.

O Compassionate One, full of graciousness,
on the day of Your judgement, be gracious to all.

Because there, Lord, You promised Your blessings and life for ever.

Blessed is He whose mercy is never withheld
from the sinner who calls upon Him.

Lord remember well the people of the Church of believers.

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And make them stand at Your right hand,
on the day when Your Majesty appears.

At all times and seasons, Virgin Mother of God,
may your prayer be a stronghold for us.

By the prayers of Your saints, keep from us the Evil One,
who at all times lays snares for us.

Jesus, our Lord and our God,
may Your Cross be our shelter and our stronghold.

Jesus, Word of God, by Your Cross protect the living,
and pardon the dead in Your mercy.

On all the days of our life,
let us give thanks, adoration and praise
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

All merciful God, on the great day when You come,
raise us up at Your right hand.

You who have made us worthy to praise You,
make us worthy to inherit Your Kingdom.

May Your mercy be upon us, Lord.
O Lord of life and death, be gracious to all.

Lord, be gracious to us and help us.

Awake, You that sleep, and rise to sing praise.

The Cosmic Praise Psalms 148, 149, 150, 116
Praise the Lord from the heavens.
Praise Him in the heights.
Praise Him, all His angels.
Praise Him, all His powers.

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Praise Him, sun and moon.
Praise Him, all stars of light.
Praise Him, highest heaven
and the waters above the heaven.
Let them praise the name of the Lord.

He said a word and they were made.
He commanded and they were created.
He set them for ever
and gave them a law which shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord, all the earth,
sea creatures and all oceans,
fire and hail, snow and mist,
stormy winds that obey His word.

All mountains and hills,
all fruit trees and cedars,
all beasts and cattle,
creeping things and birds that fly in the air.

All earth's kings and peoples,
princes and rulers of the world,
young men and maidens,
old men and children,
let them praise the name of the Lord.

For He alone is exalted,
His praise is on earth and in heaven.
He exalts the strength of His people.
He is the praise of all believers,
of the people who draw near to Him.

Praise the Lord with a new praise.
Praise Him in the assembly of believers.
Let His people rejoice in their Maker.
Let their children be glad with their King.

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Let them praise His name with tambourines and drums,
and sing to Him with their harps.
The Lord takes delight in His people.
He gives salvation to the poor.

The devotees find strength in the Glorious One.
They exalt Him and take their rest.
Let the praise of God be on their lips...
This is the glory of all believers.

Praise the Lord in His holy place.
Praise Him in His mighty heaven.
Praise Him for His powerful deeds.
Praise Him for His infinite greatness.
Praise Him with the sound of the horn.
Praise Him with the lute and the harp.

Praise Him with the tambourine and the drum.
Praise Him with sweet melodies.
Praise Him with the clashing of cymbals
Praise Him with the sound of the voice.
Let everything that breathes give praise to the Lord.

Praise the Lord, all you nations.
Praise Him, all you peoples.
Great is His goodness for us.
Truly, the Lord's goodness is for ever.

To You belongs the praise, O God. Halleluia.

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

Common Response
Praise to the Holy Trinity.
Praise to the Holy Trinity.
We praise the glorious Trinity,
eternal and everlasting.
To You belongs the praise, O God, at all times.

Supplication Song *As on each particular day.*

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Hymn of Saint Athanasius *On Sundays and Festivals.*
As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them we offer praise while we say at all times and in all seasons:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth
peace, tranquillity and good hope among men.

We praise You, we bless You, we adore You,
we sing a hymn of praise to You.

We give thanks to You because of Your great glory,
Lord, our Creator, King of heaven, God the Father Almighty.

Lord God, Only Son, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit.

Lord God, Lamb of God and Word of the Father,
who take away the sin of the world, be gracious to all.

You who take away the sin of the world
incline Your ear to us and receive our prayers.

You who sit in glory at the right hand of Your Father,
have compassion on us and be gracious to all.

Because You only are holy, You only, Lord Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of God the Father. Amen.

At all times and on all the days of our life
we bless You and we praise Your name,
holy and blessed for ever, who is and remains for ever and ever.

Blessed are You, Lord, Upholder of all, God of our fathers,
Your name is blessed and glorified with praises, for ever and ever.

To You belongs glory, to You belongs praise,
to You belongs honour, God of all, Father of truth,
with the Son, the Only One, and the Living Holy Spirit,
now and always and for ever and ever. Amen.

Concluding Prayer Lord Jesus Christ....p.6.

Trisagion Holy are You, O God...p 1.

MEDITATION

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White Monday[3]

And Mondays of the Seven Weeks of the Resurrection, if convenient

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, that with Your disciples Cleopas and Luke we may be joined in intimate company with Your Majesty, that like them we may be struck with wonder at the depth of Your Economy and filled with Your wondrous light, and we will praise You without ceasing, and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 117:1–24 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good...

Common Response

This truly is a festal and holy day,
the Day of the Resurrection,
the Feast of our Lord,
the fountain-head of all feasts
the spiritual festival above all festivals.
On it we sing praise to Christ, for ever and ever.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

Common Response

You who by Your Resurrection
rejoice heaven and earth,
give joy to Your Churches and keep them by Your Cross.
O God, be gracious to all.

Eucharistic Prayer - *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Word who in His goodness descended from the heights above to the lower depths, of His own will, that He might redeem Adam, the image of His Majesty. In His love for humankind

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He descended to Sheol and slew Death who slew us by His death, and made the angels and the sons of men marvel at His Resurrection. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God who by Your Resurrection from among the dead with the power of Your Godhead, raised up our nature which was cast down and corrupting in the lowest recesses of Sheol, today You are no more known by those who believe in You after a human manner, but as God and man, in two natures, not changed and not confused, One Person beyond all expression, though Your disciples touched You and recognized You and saw You truly in the flesh after Your Resurrection... So now, today, You were seen by Cleopas and his companion in loving intercourse on the road. And by the opening and the interpretation of the words of the prophets about You, and by the breaking of the bread the eyes of their minds were opened to recognize You as truly risen. And out of joy, at that hour, they returned and announced to the eleven apostles gathered in the upper room that they had seen You manifestly...The apostles in turn revealed the things which had happened to them, how You opened their minds to understand the Scriptures saying that the Christ was to suffer death and rise from among the dead on the third day, that in His Name repentance and the forgiveness of sins was to be preached to all nations.

Therefore we beseech You, Lord, open the eyes of our hearts that we may receive Your words of life to us and be zealous in our commitment to You and to Your Kingdom. Lead us boldly on the way to true discipleship. Enlighten us by Your divine knowledge that we may proclaim Your wonders and Your mighty deeds. And we will offer pure praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus joined His disciples on the road who were unwilling to accept His passion and His death. They looked sad, dejected and distressed. He said to them, "What are these words which I hear from you?" And they answered Him, "About Jesus the prophet, who we hoped, would deliver His people. Our rulers seized Him and crucified Him." And the Lord revealed to them that He was risen from the tomb.

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The Living One was in the tomb for three days, of His own will, and He did not suffer corruption. He rose with glory, casting terror among the guards who fled and announced the resurrection to the unbelievers saying, "The Crucified whom you put to death is risen. He went forth from the tomb." Glory to the Strong One, heaven and earth are full of His glory, but when He took a body a little place contained Him who is infinite in His being

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

As a gentle rain falling on dry stumps revives them, our Lord descended to the departed and announced to them the Resurrection. Death and Satan seeing the Living One taking away their treasures were terrified while the dead rose from perdition and worshipped Him who restored them to life, and together they cried out in Sheol, "O Death, where is your victory?" He did not leave the dead in Sheol, he Lion Cub who roared there, and its foundations quaked.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On Sunday the Church saw You and bowed to Your Cross in adoration, and she cried out, "Glory to You, Son of the Exalted One who came and delivered the Creation and gave us life by the Cross of light." The Son of the Hidden Father became man of His own will and died on the Cross to deliver us from death. He entered the tomb of His own will, raised the dead and made them ascend with Him.

O Lord, remember the dead and grant them repose,
who put You on at baptism and received You at the altar,
who ate Your body and drank Your blood, the chalice of salvation.
May they rejoice with Abraham in the Kingdom.
And may they stand at Your right hand and sing praise.
Glory to You, Lord, halleluia. Lord, grant repose to Your servants.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Slain Bridegroom, the fragrance of Your Resurrection has spread in the Creation and the Church breathed Your sweet scent and revived. You drove away from her sorrow and weeping and You clothed her in a garment of praise and glory fitting Your marriage feast.

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May all the Churches now rejoice in Your peace
with Simon who forgot mourning and weeping
and ran to see the truth of Your Resurrection,
with John who saw the linen cloth at the side and believed,
with Luke and Cleopas whose hearts were burning when You walked
with them on the road and revealed Yourself as the Suffering Servant,
until they recognized You at the breaking of the bread,
with Mary of Magdala who took You for the gardener,
but You called her Mary, and at once she offered her adorations,
and she was the first to receive Your gladdening peace.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The women disciples set out and hastened to the tomb.
They carried choice ointments and fragrant herbs.
When they entered the tomb they heard from an angel
that the Bridegroom had risen from His chamber. Praise to Him.

The women were told this by angels seated on either side.
And behold, there was the place where was laid
He whose glory fills the heavens, and who made Himself
a pilgrim to the house of the dead and He visited them.

The Lord rose from the tomb like Samson that mighty one.
He did not suffer the bars of Sheol to stand against Him.
Jacob in the dust saw Him and trembling with joy cried out:
"My son, the lion cub, you climb back from the kill!"

Grant us, Lord, to offer You fervent adorations like the women,
when You met them on the way and gave them Your greeting of peace.
Falling on their faces before You, they touched Your feet.
And they went in awe with great joy to tell the disciples.

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The Watchers on high praise You in their white garments, our Lord.
The women revere You with the fragrance of their sweet spices.
The Churches together magnify Your name with shouts of joy
whom You gladdened with Your Resurrection. To You be praise.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth.
Give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their children by the Cross of light.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord reigns, He is clothed in splendour.
The Lord clothes Himself with might.
He has girded Himself with power.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 24:13–35 The Risen Lord manifests Himself to two disciples.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation. "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who on the day of Your Resurrection manifested Yourself to Your dejected disciples and opened their minds to understand the Scriptures concerning Your death and Resurrection, give to Your people to experience the power of Your word in their daily life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who in the proclamation of the Gospel renew unceasingly the dialogue between God and man, which began at the creation and was resumed with power at Your Resurrection, make all believers experience the power of Your word to set them free from the entanglements of the old nature, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Concluding Prayer

In Your goodness, Lord, raise us up with You, and remove from our midst all traces of the old leaven: discrimination of race, colour and creed, and imprint in our hearts a sense of world loyalty and of appreciation of other traditions of life, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.
And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p...7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing:
"Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God."
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is the sign of Your Cross, Lord of the whole Creation.
By it the Evil One was overthrown and he fell.
And it became the salvation of the nations.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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It is good and fair to rise at night, every Sunday,
to keep vigil and offer praise and thanksgiving
to the Son who saved us by His Resurrection
and made us inherit His Kingdom. Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is Christ who gave birth to the Church
from His side on the Cross, and by His Resurrection
espoused her, and now she sings praise.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Glory to Him who is One in Three and the Three are One,
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him be praise. And on us His graciousness, at all times.
Amen. Amen.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 97 (96) The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice...

RESPONSE
The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice
A fire prepares His path.
Let all the coastlands be glad.
His lightnings light up the world.

Come, all you peoples, let us praise the Son of God
who rose from the house of the dead.
By His Passion and with His Cross He killed Death the killer.
And now all nations, races and tribes sing glory to Him

Eucharistic Prayer - *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Great Lover of Humankind who offered Himself to death, and entered the tomb, and lay down with the dead of His own will, and rose again with glory on the third day. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

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Christ our God, in Your graciousness You called Your Church from all peoples and You bought her by Your holy blood, and made her Your glorious bride and our mother, the mother of us Your brothers, whom You delivered and saved from enslavement to Death and Satan, and enlightened by the light of Your knowledge.

Grant us therefore to rejoice always in You, while proclaiming Your life-giving Gospel among the peoples and nations. Enlighten us by Your glorious light, and enrich us from the fountain of Your Spirit, that we may be filled with delight while drinking of the waters of life. Bestow peace upon Your Churches and tranquillity among all nations, and make them believe in Your Cross and confess Your Godhead. And we all, with them, will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Churches keep festival with their children.
They make a joyful noise and sing praise,
on this day of gladness that rejoices the Creation,
because God rose from the tomb and overthrew Death and Satan
and gives life to Adam and his children and saves them from untruth.

On Sunday when it was still dark Mary and her companions
set out to purchase sweet spices and fragrant herbs.
They came to the tomb and found it open
and an angel was sitting there who told them
to see the place, for He had risen, as He had said.

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

Blessed is He who rose from the house of the dead.
He put the guards to shame and by His Resurrection
exalted and rejoiced the house of Adam.
And to the Holy Church He made a promise that will never fail:
"I will be with You till the end of the age."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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On Sunday the heavenly ones rejoice
and the earthly ones make a joyful noise with their praises
when they see the Son, the Firstborn, risen from among the dead.
They assemble to announce His Resurrection, and now
they offer praise to Him, those who obtained life by His Cross.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 99 (98) The Lord reigns, the peoples tremble...

RESPONSE
The Lord reigns, the peoples tremble.
He is supreme over all the nations.
Let them praise His name, so terrible and great.
He is holy and full of power.

O the joyful Passover,
manifested today from the tomb!
O the Great Victim,
who treads Death underfoot victoriously!

Eucharistic Prayer - *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Good One who came in search of us who had gone away from Him, and who by suffering on the Cross, in His own person, tore up the account of our debts, and by His Resurrection gave immortality to our mortal race, and by His rising again filled with joy and gladness the heavenly ones and the earthly ones. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

God, Maker and Preserver of all, in Your love for Your Creation You came to suffering, death and the cross of Your own will. You bore insults and derision...And You, the Judge of judges, stood as a criminal before Pilate, the Roman Governor. You were delivered

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up to judgement as a mean and contemptible person, and condemned in the court as an evil-doer by a clod of earth. When You were fastened naked to the Cross and hung in the air the sun was darkened... and by Your loud cry You caused the veil of the temple to be torn. You made the earth to tremble and the rocks to split apart and the graves to burst open and by Your entrance into Sheol You slew Death and Satan, and You announced hope and joy in the place of Death, life without corruption. You bestowed new life on the whole creation and by entrusting to Your holy apostles the Gospel of life and salvation to be proclaimed by their hands, You spread in the whole world peace and tranquillity and love of humankind.

Therefore on this feast of Your saving and life-giving Resurrection we beseech Your Goodness,Gracious Lord, that on this day and on all the days of our life, we may live as those who have overcome the lust that is in this world, and come to share in the very being of God, in incorruptibility and immortality, and be worthy to meet You with joy at Your second coming. And we will offer praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Come, see the Living One, how for the sake of sinners
He endures an ignominious death and takes away
the crown and the power of Death, the tyrant of humankind.
With the cross He kills the Serpent that led us astray.
With the nails He pierces the belly of the dragon.
He breaks the bars of Sheol and pulls down its doors.
He loosens the prisoners' chains and leads them out.
And they enter Jerusalem to announce the Resurrection:
"Our Lord is risen with great power. Halleluia, to Him be glory."

God descended to the house of the dead,
and as Jonah son of Amittai was in the fish for three days,
He was for three days in the tomb.
As the son of Amittai overpowered the fish and the sea,
and came forth without suffering corruption,
our Lord overpowered Death and Satan
and came forth with glory from the tomb

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and saved the Church from deceit and untruth.
And now she sings praise to Him, halleluia,
and to the Father who sent Him.

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

God rose from the tomb with glory and great power.
The Watchers in white garments descended
and circled around Him with great marvel and shouts of joy.
Peter ran and John with Him, and the women disciples
with fragrant incense, announced the Good News
that He rose victoriously and ascended with glory to His Father.
Come, you people redeemed by His blood, sing praise to Him,
on the day of His Resurrection. Halleluia, to Him be glory.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Awake, awake, nations and sing praise to the Lord, Your Lord.
Invite the Son of Jesse to sing psalms to Him with you.
The Lord has awaked from sleep with power.
He has struck His enemies and brought them to His feet.
He has assembled the nations and led them into His fold.
And now they offer praise on this day of great joy
when they are initiated into the Sacred Mysteries.
Halleluia, to Him all glory.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Like a diver You plunged into Sheol in search of Your image
that was sunk there waiting helplessly.
You entered, and as You explored the abyss of the dead
You made Your graciousness rest on those who saw You,
on Adam whom You made to return to Your fold.

You were placed in a tomb like a grain of wheat,
like a light hidden at the bottom of a dry well.
A single grain of wheat, You came up with a multitude,
You offered a whole sheaf in thanksgiving.
Your light shining in the tomb illumined the whole Creation.

Silently You entered Sheol,
the city of the tyrant king.
A great revelation it was, Your astounding entrance.
And as You led the dead away openly,
You were opening for us the way to Your graciousness.

Glory to You for Your humiliation, Uniquely Beloved Son of God,
who enclosed Your graciousness in a tomb
for the sake of our earthly race.
Blessed be Your Father by whose will
You fulfilled the sayings of the prophets.
Shouts of joy to the Holy Spirit, the Consummator of all.
And on us graciousness and compassion, at all times. Amen. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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White Tuesday

And Tuesdays of the Seven Weeks of the Resurrection, if convenient.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to celebrate Your Glorious Resurrection from the dead with the joy of the women disciples when they received the news from the angel in the empty tomb filled with holy light. Adorn our lives with deeds of truth and love, and strengthen and expand our hearts that we may run the way of Your commandments, and praise You and revere You, in purity and holiness, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 9:1–15 I will praise You, Lord, with all my heart...

RESPONSE

You who were nailed on the Cross between two thieves,
and by Your passion and death exalted to great glory
our contemptible self,
You are blessed, God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation.

Christ who by Your death overthrew Death and brought her to nought,
and by You Glorious Resurrection
restored life to us mortal ones with great glory,
You are blessed, God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

You who are life by nature
and who bore death for our sake,
be gracious to all, O God.

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Your goodness, Lord, made You lean towards us
and You lowered Yourself to sinners.
In Your goodness have compassion on Your Church,
which was lifted up on the arms of Your Cross.

Eucharistic Prayer - *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them upto the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Glorious Light which shone upon the darkness, to the Sun of Righteousness who was found in Sheol, to the Splendour of the Hidden Father who was reckoned among the dead, and by His Resurrection brought joy to the apostles, and behold, heaven and earth are full of His glory, and all the ends of the earth carry His Good Tidings and all the peoples are gladdened by His peace, all mouths live by His body and all palates take delight in His blood. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Everlasting Light who established Your reign over the peoples by Your manifestation, Hidden and Secret Being who came in Your own person to give us life, Exalted One who inclined the height of Your Greatness, and descended and sounded the depths of Sheol, and raised up Adam the image of Your Greatness, Living One who gave life to our death by Your death, and who raised us from our burial by being buried Yourself, and renewed our image by Your Resurrection, and lifted us up from our fall by Your victory. Today You left Your burial clothing in the tomb as a pledge of Your Resurrection, and You wrapped Yourself in joy and glory, and the light itself was illumined. Today You make a sign to the Watchers and theydescend to the earth and give praise in it by their vibrations, and weave a garland of pure thanksgiving. Today the women disciples set out like adorned vessels carrying fragrant herbs to the tomb of the Uniquely Beloved Son, and they return bringing the Good Tidings, instead of the sweet spices, and thus give joy to the whole Creation. Today swift eagles fly on the wings of love to the tomb, truly a sea of graciousness, and they draw from it a cheering drink for the brood of their young ones. Today like a thief the Risen One spoils the city of Death and carries off its pearls and its plunder, taking captive its captives...Today the King Christ redeems His flock, and His peace, calm, friendship and

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love reign over it. Today the glorious bride, the Holy Church, receives her ornaments in beauty with the diverse gifts of the Holy Spirit. And she is filled with gladness by the light of the Resurrection full of joy .

Therefore we present to You, Joyous Light and Splendour of the Godhead, prayers and supplications on this holy day of exultation. We ask of You to make us worthy to delight in the truth of Your Resurrection, and to weave a garland of praises for Your manifestation, and to prepare resplendent garments of nobility for Your festival. And we and our departed will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

God rises from the tomb and illumines the whole Creation.
The companies of the angels make a joyful noise and the Fiery Ones clap their wings and the Winged Creatures sing with resounding voices, "Holy, Holy, Holy," to the Father who sent His Uniquely Beloved Son to renew His image in Adam. He who rules over the utmost bounds of the earth was held in the tomb, of His own will.
But He rose, bound Death and went forth, after pulling down Sheol. And He reigns on earth and in heaven.

By the Resurrection of the Uniquely Beloved Son the Creation
is set free, Death and Satan who prevailed over Adam are brought to nought and the heads of the apostles are raised
from the fear, that made them flee before the crucifiers.
The women announce His Resurrection. The angels honour His tomb.
And in the four quarters of the earth the Good Tidings
are proclaimed in every place, while He whom wicked people crucified is risen with glory and now sits at the right hand of the Father.

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

How beautiful the sound that ascends from earth to heaven!
How fair the companies of the children of the Church of believers!
How extended are their ranks and they sing praise like the angels,
as if King David were standing among them singing his psalms.

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while all peoples clap their hands to God who dwells in His Church.
And now she sings praise to Him on the day of His Resurrection.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The holy women who hastened to the tomb full of the medicine of life,
are comforted by His Resurrection, a wonderous miracle, as they see
angels in their white garments and the King who was slain, risen.
He put His enemies to shame and they are scattered. Glory to
the Life-giving One who descended and sounded the depths
of Sheol, and He rides in the heavenly heights,
and He bears Himself magnificently on the throne of His Godhead.

Give rest, Lord, to our fathers and brothers who fell asleep.
Remember them and give to Your worshippers
a place in the ranks and in the orders of Your saints.
And when You will sit on Your throne
to separate the good from the wicked,
may they experience Your compassion in the house of judgement
and stand at Your right hand, and rejoice and sing praise.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Grant, Lord, that with the fair garments of good works
and the beautiful ornaments of a blameless way of life,
we may come before You joyfully with thanksgivings,
like the women disciples who went to embalm Your holy body
with fragrant herbs and precious ointments.

Make us worthy like them of kissing with awe and wonder
the threshold of the courts of Your house,
as when they touched Your feet in adoration to You.
And we shall rejoice in the peace that comes from You
and offer thanksgiving for Your goodness
and sing praise for Your salvation.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

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Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity,
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

On Sunday Mary Magdalene set out and went to the sepulchre
of the Son of God who died on the Cross.
When she entered the tomb of the Bridegroom she did not find Him
and she returned crying and weeping, with great pain and lamentation.

"They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they put Him
He is not in the tomb and I cannot imagine who has removed Him."
O Blessed one, who would be able to conceal the light? or to cover
the sun with the palm of his hands and it would no more be seen?

The Mighty One rose with great power and glory
and spread fear among the whole company of the crucifiers.
"Go, you, and announce to the beloved company of the disciples
that their Master is risen. And they must shake off all anguish."

Glory to the Father who extolled His Son in the dwelling of Sheol.
Adoration to the Son who rose from the tomb with glory.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who sent Watchers to announce
the Resurrection to the women disciples. To Him be glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Sing to Him a new song.
Sing beautifully and acclaim Him.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 15:33–41 Death and Resurrection of Jesus.
16: 1–8

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

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Christ our God who revealed the wondrous mystery of Your Resurrection first to the women disciples when You manifested Yourself to Mary and her companions, and they offered their adorations to You, renew and keep alive in Your Churches such intense love that makes us seek You and recognize You and become like You, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who came to us from the Father who loved the world so much that He gave His only Son for the life of all that lives, make us realize that we give but little when we give our possessions and that it is when we give ourselves that we truly give, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

In Your goodness, Lord, raise us up truly with You, and put an end to our harbouring fear and suspicion, anger and greed, hatred and jealousy, and make us find our delight in good-will and kindliness, with an unabating desire of serving and helping others, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.
And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord from our sleep...p. 7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord....

RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God"
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today the lion about whom Jacob wrote roars in Sheol. Its foundations
are shaken, the dead rise and sing praise to His Godhead.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today the Mighty One rises from the house of the dead, as He willed.
As David foretold, He did not suffer corruption in the tomb.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Be gracious and remit the debts of our fathers and brothers
who fell asleep, and enter their names in the Book of Life,
in Your Kingdom, and make them stand at Your right side,
on the day of the manifestation of Your Sovereignty.

Praise to Him who is One in Three and the Three are One,
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him be praise. And on us His graciousness, at all times.
Amen. Amen.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 98 (97) Sing a new song to the Lord...

RESPONSE
All you ends of the earth
see the salvation of our God.
Sing joyfully to the Lord, all the earth,
praise Him with songs and shouts of joy.

All you peoples clap your hands and rejoice
on this day of joy and exultation
on which the King rose victoriously,
and put to shame those who crucified Him.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Mighty One who by His Resurrection overpowered the Adversary, and by His rising again confounded those who crucified Him. He gave joy to His disciples by His greeting of peace, and confirmed the faith of the apostles by His appearances, and sowed His teaching in the whole Creation. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

God, Word of Glory, in Your love for humankind You became man that we might become God by grace. God, Creator, Your power was not taken away when You descended of Your own will to humiliation, nor was Your Godhead changed when You became man for our sake, and the fulness of Your authority was not diminished when You assumed our human form. God, Saviour, who are not subject to passion and by Your passion the Evil One was overthrown, by Your death Death was slain, and by Your burial the dead awoke in their graves, and by Your Resurrection life was offered to all.

Therefore we beseech You, make the glorious rays of Your Resurrection shine upon us. Enlighten the eyes of our minds, at this hour of the night, that we may contemplate the wonders which Your Resurrection has accomplished. In the great abundance of Your compassion

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bestow on humankind a deeper awareness of its unity and oneness in You, with due respect for each other, and a fairer sharing of the goods of Your Creation. That all together we may be led to take our pleasure in the praise of the magnificence of Your grace, for You are good, You are the Great Lover of the Creation. To You we offer praise and thanksgiving, and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *Madrosho of Saint Ephrem*
Adam saw his Lord in the tomb and he exulted,
because he understood that the account of his debt was cancelled.
He was lying in Sheol, imprisoned and in chains, on account of his guilt.
Our Lord descended and paid his debt.
He wove Himself a body and put it on to renew Adam,
for He is King of the peoples and Father of the nations.

Our Lord in the tomb comforted Adam.
"Do not grieve Adam, image of your Creator,
for I left in heaven the legions of the spiritual beings
and descended in the tomb to visit you.
I will insert in your body the leaven of life,
that you may rise at the resurrection and sing praise."

Who has ever seen a King put in prison who did no wrong, who shut Himself up for His servants who dishonoured His kingdom?
As the guilty were imprisoned He bound Himself up with them.
It is thus that Your compassion takes care, Lord,
and You descended to visit Your image shut up in the tomb,
And the just and the good people who had been waiting saw You.

When our Lord descended and was laid in the tomb,
Adam woke up and rose and bowed to Him in adoration
and immediately confessed to Him, "The clay tells its Fashioner:
'Your voice fell on my ears and I was much perturbed, as at the time
You breathed the breath of life in my members.
Forgive me, for I cannot understantd how I sinned in Eden.'"

The voice which called, "Adam, where are you?"
cried out on the Cross, "Father, forgive them."
He mounted the Cross of His own will, to seek him who was lost.

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He descended to Sheol after him, to find him and called,
"Come to Me, who are made in My image and likeness,
for it is for you that I have come, to seek that which was lost."

"And now the Garden which you left is open and it waits for you.
Come, enter and make your dwelling there. What are you doing here?
It is I who called you in the Garden, 'Where are you, Adam?'
I have come down to make you ascend, to redeem you.
Yes and I have endured the passion, blows and death
and the crucifixion, to restore you to your inheritance."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Psalm 100 (99) Praise the Lord all the earth...

RESPONSE
Sing to the Lord, all the earth,
enter His presence with joyful songs.
Know that our Lord is God,
He Himself made us when we,
His people and the flock of His pasture, were nothing.

Today we celebrate the Glorious Resurrection
of the Firstborn of the buried and Giver of life to all nations,
who was wrapped in suffering and is now arrayed in glory.
As He humbled Himself, today He is exalted and glorified.
O the glorious feast that has not its like among all feasts.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Saviour who by the power of His Cross redeemed His Church, and by His glorious rising gladdened His disciples, and by His holy greeting of peace brought peace to His apostles, and by

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the touch of unbelieving Thomas took away all doubts from their hearts. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, True Light that illumines the Creation and enlightens the nations by Your revelation, Hidden One who came in Your own person to redeem us, and in order to give us life endured suffering and death of Your own will. You descended and You sounded the depths of Sheol, and You raised up Adam the image of Your Godhead. And now You renew our own image, putting straight our crookedness by Your law of love enshrined in the luminous pages of the Gospel of life.

Therefore with the voice of praise we beseech You, set us free from the snares of the Enemy and from all that harms us. Do not let us be dejected, but make all our trials and afflictions be profitable for our salvation. Crown us with true purity and genuine holiness, that we may offer praise and thanksgiving unceasingly, to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday, as it is written,
Moses set in order the Tent of Meeting.
On Sunday our Lord adorned the Holy Church of believers.
He set in her baptism and the body and the blood of forgiveness.

On Sunday the Scriptures are fulfilled,
the Psalm which David sang: "O gates, lift up your heads,
that the King of glory may enter," and the Fiery Ones
with the sound of their wings sing, "Holy, Holy," to Him.

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

On Sunday when the Church saw You she confessed Your Resurrection and adored You. And she said in a loud voice:
"Glory to You, Son of the Exalted One, who came
and set the Creation free from the tyranny of sin."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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The Firstborn lay in the heart of the earth for Adam's salvation.
On Sunday He took him on His shoulders and raised him up.
Blessed is the Shepherd who died for His flock
and gave it life and saved it by His blood.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our depar ed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us.
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On Sunday the dead in Sheol bow in adoration to God
and they make supplication to Him
to be taken to heaven with His people.

On Sunday the Son of God resurrects from the tomb.
The Watchers in heaven stir and descend
in their white garments to give Him honour.

On Sunday Mary saw Jesus in the form of a gardener.
She told Him: "They have taken my Lord away,
and I do not know where they have laid Him."

Praise to You from Your Church, Christ who died for us
Thanksgiving and adoration to Your Lordship,
from us who are saved by Your Resurrection.

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Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

White Wednesday

And Wednesdays of the Seven Weeks of the Resurrection, if convenient.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, in Your goodness and infinite graciousness, to praise Your Resurrection with a pure heart, and to celebrate Your victory over death with a resplendent mind, and to tell of the greatness of Your power with fluent tongues, and so praise You with the heavenly companies, and exalt, honour and adore Him who sent You, and praise Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 147 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Praise your God, holy city...

RESPONSE

Glory to You. Glory to You, O Jesus, the Light,
Uniquely Beloved Son of God,
who rose from the tomb with glory
and raised up our race from the fall
and with You magnify us in glory.

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Glory to You. Glory to You, O Jesus, the Light,
Uniquely Beloved Son of God,
who rose from the tomb with glory,
in the power of Your Godhead
and clothed our human nature with glory.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

Common Response

"Remember me, my Lord, at Your coming
in that Kingdom which does not pass away,"
cried the thief from the top of the cross.
"I entreat You, Lord of all,
that I may see Your compassion
and offer thanksgivings to You, halleluia,
for You are above all powers."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Living One and Giver of life who is known in one Godhead gloriously, and is believed to be in three persons marvellously, who has renewed His Creation in His compassion, and raised us up from our fall willingly. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

While we keep the Day of Your Resurrection in the newness of the Holy Spirit, O Word, God, and celebrate it with minds raised above the passions, O Lord and Lord of all, we are filled with awe and wonder, and we call to one another, "Sing to the Lord a song that is new because He has done wonders." Truly astounding was Your life-giving crucifixion and full of wonder Your marvellous resurrection. For indeed when You were lifted up on the height of Golgotha, the elements of the world were stirred. You surrendered Your spirit on the Cross between two thieves and the inanimate nature was perturbed: the sun paid the respect due to Your honour and withdrew its light, the hills moaned, the rocks split apart, faith was manifested through the mouth of the dead, as they arose and came forth and sang praise. The prophets standing in the lower parts of the earth

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took their harps and sounded them with joy to proclaim the Resurrection. The Watchers flew and carried the good news. The spiritual ones took flight and proclaimed the glad tidings. The Fiery Ones fluttered their wings and poured fourth cries of "Holy". They cleft the air and blowing upon their trumpets sent out flashes of fire raining upon the guards. Clothed in fire they came near the tomb and circled around it as around a bridal chamber, worshipping the Risen Bridegroom.

Therefore filled with joy and gladness, on this day of Your Resurrection from among the dead, Christ our Saviour, we present praise and thanksgiving to You, and we ask for graciousness and compassion from Your kindliness...Gather our minds together from the distractions of vain things. Fill them with the joy of the new life. Unite those who are scattered from among Your Churches, that they all may be one in You, as You are one with Your Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

At the Resurrection of the Son the Watchers sing praise
and the earthly ones make a joyful noise singing glory to the Lord
who reconciled the heavenly ones with the earthly ones.
And now all make a joyful noise with praises for His Resurrection.
Halleluia, halleluia, Lord of angels, forgive and be gracious to all.

From within Sheol the Sun dawns on earth and enlightens it,
and at His Resurrection the whole Creation exults.
God mighty for evermore descends and visits the dead in Sheol.
When He ascends He leaves it waste with its foundations pulled down,
halleluia, halleluia, and now the Church rejoices in His Glorious Resurrection.

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

The Lord of the heights was shut up in the tomb
because He clothed Himself with the flesh by which He saved us.
He reclined for three days among the dead and He rose.
The angels descended and praised Him with hosannas, halleluia,
halleluia, glory to Him who willed to give us life by His death.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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"Arise, be enlightened, from now on Your light has come",
says Isaiah to the Holy Church. "Kings will come to You
carrying gifts and they will offer adoration to Him
who comes to rest on Your altar, halleluia, halleluia."
Blessed is He who magnifies His Church in heaven and on earth.

Let us remember in our prayers the dead who died in the faith.
Let us not forget those who have departed from us.
Let us make remembrance of their names at the holy altar,
that they may be given rest at all times, halleluia, halleluia,
and offer praise to You who resurrect them.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Our Lord, You are the Sweet Scent which the dead lying in the dust
breathed and they went forth to meet You with praises.
You are the Immortal Light brought down into Sheol astonishingly,
which gave light to those who were imprisoned in its dark recesses.
You are the Dew of Life sprinkled on the bones of the dead
and they obtained life incorruptible.

We beseech You, Lord Christ, our God,
by this offering of fragrant incense
which we present before You today,
pardon Your flock redeemed by Your precious Cross.
Make a good memory of all who have slept in Your hope
with true faith, Christ our Saviour,
and we will praise You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

O you who listen, do not let your minds be distracted,
receive this teaching full of truth without doubting.
Our Lord came forth from the tomb leaving the seals unbroken.
The guards saw Him as He went forth and they were deeply perturbed.

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They were thrown into confusion when He left the tomb.
As they looked at the stone the seals were unbroken.
They saw the Resurrection and the tomb, and were confounded.
Winds of doubt blew through their minds.

Son of God, on this great day, give joy to Your Churches.
Mark their children with the seal of the Cross of light.
Make Your peace to dwell in their assemblies
and may the celebration of Your life-giving death bear fruit in them.

Glory to the Father who delivered the Uniquely Beloved Son unto death.
Adoration to the Son who conquered death by rising to life.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who sent angels to announce
that the Slain Bridegroom, alive, was sitting at the right hand.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Come sing praise to the Lord.
Sing praise to our God, the Saviour.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 23:39–49 Death and Resurrection of Jesus
24: 1-12

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who carried out Your ministry of forgiveness to the last, on the Cross where You were dying for us, make us to forgive each other from the heart, that we may be true witnesses to Your Kingdom, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who are the way to reconciliation and peace, come into the brokenness of our own lives, of our own people and of the

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whole world, and repair it by the healing power of Your love, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Raise us up, Lord, that while remaining always concerned with the well-being of all, our hearts may never turn away from the first and last concern, the ultimate meaning of our pilgrimage here below, life beyond death which You gained for the whole world, on the Cross, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
one true God to whom be glory.
And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p. 7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise.
Singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God."
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday God rises with glory from the house of the dead
and rejoices heaven and earth, and now they sing praise to Him.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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On Sunday God rises with glory from the tomb. He manifests Himself to His disciples and comforts them in their distress.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday the light of the Living One shines forth from the tomb.
It illumines the Creation plunged in the darkness of sin.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Let us sing praise to the Father,
and offer thanksgiving to the Son who proceeds from Him.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy,
one true God, glory to Him.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 93 (92) The Lord reigns, clothed in majesty...

RESPONSE
The Lord reigns, robed in majesty.
The Lord has robed Himself with might,
He has strengthened Himself...
Your enthronement was confirmed of old.
In Your temple the holy one will laud You,
Lord, for days without end.

How great and glorious is this day
on which the Lord of glory is raised to life.
By His Resurrection He rejoices and gladdens
heaven and earth and all that is in them.
And now they sing praise to Him,
the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord... Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Living One and Giver of Life who tasted death of His own will, the Immortal One who died in the flesh to give life to

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mortal man, who slept among the dead to awaken those who were lying in the grave. Raised up gloriously He gives joy to His disciples, taken up on high He makes those below ascend on high. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

God the Word, as we celebrate the Great Mystery of Your Resurrection from the dead in the newness of the Holy Spirit, we turn to You with minds raised above the passions. Our hearts, filled with awe and wonder at Your Economy in regard to us, cry out, "Praise the Lord with a new praise because He has done very wonderful things." Astounding indeed was Your life-giving crucifixion, awesome and full of wonder Your saving burial, and marvellous Your Resurrection. You were lifted up on the height of Golgotha between two thieves. You surrendered Your spirit to Your Father crying out, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Sheol was put to shame and confounded, seeing its treasures plundered. The dead rose and sang praise and came forth giving thanks.

Therefore filled with joy and gladness we also offer praise and thanksgiving, and we add supplications. Remove from this world all violence and exploitation, and the permissiveness of sensuality and all the works of Satan. Reconcile and reunite those of us who keep grudges against others. Give to our minds that recollection which comes to us with freedom from the passions, with the victory over selfishness and pride. Fill us with faith, hope and love, that we may offer praise and thanksgiving from our hearts to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

How glorious the day on which our Lord rises from the tomb
with immense power and infinite glory.
He gives life to His flock and gathers them
at His right hand, with power over the living and the dead.
Halleluia, glory to Him who rose from the tomb
and confounded all those who crucified Him.

Lord our Lord, in the tomb like a mighty hero You brought to nought
the victory of greedy Death and the power of Sheol,
but like a gardener You conferred humbly with Mary,

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telling her the beautiful story of Your Resurrection.
"Go to My brothers and the whole company of the disciples
and announce to them that I am risen from the tomb,
halleluia, to give life to Adam who was lying in Sheol,
wearing away with grief from generations on end."

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

Our Lord Jesus, You were exposed on the Cross
naked between two miscreants.
You were given vinegar to quench Your thirst.
And when You heard the voice of the thief at Your right:
"Remember me when You come into Your Kingdom!"
at once you answered: "You will inherit life and the Kingdom."
Be gracious to us sinners who confess Your Resurrection.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to You, Jesus, our victorious King,
who by Your Resurrection delivered us from deceit and untruth.
Praise to Your Father who gave You as a peace-offering
and in You was reconciled with our mortal race.
Adoration to the Holy Spirit by whom our death
will be revived from the dust, on the day of the Resurrection.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Psalm 95 (94) Come, let us praise the Lord, let us sing to God...

RESPONSE

Let us praise the Lord and make a joyful noise
to the Rock who saves us.
Let us enter into His presence with songs of praise
and offer Him our thanksgivings and our adorations.

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This is a day of great glory.
This is the day of our victory.
It is the day on which all mouths exult,
all tongues sing praise and make a joyful noise.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Living Word and Source of Life who died of His own will that He might give life to the dead, the Firstborn who was raised from death, and by His Resurrection reconciles all things in heaven and on earth, making peace by His death on the Cross. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

This is the night of the great victory in which our Lord through His Resurrection has vanquished Death, destroyed the tyrannical rule of the Devil and opened to us the way to salvation. He delivers us from slavery and leads us to full liberty, from darkness to light, from death to immortality. As He died for all we should no longer live for ourselves but for Him who died for us all and was raised to life for our sake. Through Him God changes us from enemies into friends, from servants into children, and calls us to join Him in His work of reconciliation. When anyone is in Christ he becomes a new being. The old nature gives way, the new creation comes into existence.

Therefore we beseech You, Christ our God, make to shine upon us the light of Your Resurrection. In the abundance of Your love for us, make us to be born anew unceasingly from Your word. Incline us to receive it gladly every day, and make us experience its life-giving and enduring power, that we may grow to the fulness of Him who fills all in all. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed is He who rose from the house of the dead
with glory, as the prophet foretold.
On the day of His Resurrection

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He rejoices those on high and those below.
He confounds those who hanged Him on the tree
and He gladdens the Church of believers. And now,
she sings praise from one end of the earth to the other.

The Pearl offered to foolish people
who went astray and lost themselves,
the Nations went out in search of it and found it
hanging on the summit of the Cross.
They were enriched by it and they ruled with it.
See, now it rests with glory in the Church,
the sanctuary, and it gives life to the dead.

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

On Sunday the light of our Lord shines forth
and awakens those who are lying in the tomb, in Sheol.
Set free, they say to one another:
"Today we see a truly great wonder.
Who is it that awakens us? Who is it that dethrones Death
and despoils Sheol and takes us away as booty?"
Blessed is He who gives us life by His Resurrection.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Praise to the Son of God who tasted death
that He might give life to the world.
He visited Adam in his wretchedness
and resurrected with glory.
On the day of His Resurrection
He rejoices the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.
And now they sing His praise, those on high and those below.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

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FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the Heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Today the radiance of the Son
illumines the house of the dead.
It awakens the just and they adore Him,
the Lord who descended to His servants.

Today the guards tremble.
Today the angels rejoice.
Today the disciples exult.
Today the Watchers make a joyful noise.

Today in the tomb,
King David rejoices,
that his prophecy is fulfilled:
"The Freeborn is in the house of the dead."

Praise, adoration and exaltation,
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
One true God, to Him be glory.
And on us His graciousness, at all times. Amen. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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White Thursday

And Thursdays of the Seven Weeks of the Resurrection, if convenient.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

We praise You, Living God, who by Your death, give life to us mortals, and by Your burial visit us in our sinfulness, and by Your appearances after Your Resurrection change our sorrow into gladness and thus summon us to new and immortal life. Quicken our faith as You rekindled the faith of Your apostle Thomas, that like him we may acknowledge You as our Lord and our God, and praise You gloriously, on this day of Your Resurrection, and on all the days of our life, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 81 (80) Give praise to God, our strength....

RESPONSE

Out of love You became man for the sake of man
who died and was lying in corruption,
and by Your Passion in the flesh
You calmed the passions of the human nature,
and You taught the nations which You redeemed
to praise You and to say, "Bless the Lord,
all you servants of the Lord, and offer thanks to Him
and exalt Him and give Him glory for ever and ever."

You were led as a lamb to the slaughter,
O Son of God, who died for us
and in the tribunal You remained silent,
like a sheep before the shearer You d'd not open Your mouth,
that You might open the mouth of Adam made dumb by sin
and make him say, "Bless the Lord,
all you servants of the Lord, and offer thanks to Him
and exalt Him and give Him glory for ever and ever."

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Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

Common Response

All you peoples and nations
redeemed by the blood of the Uniquely Beloved Son of God
who gives us life by His Resurrection
and raises us up from our humiliation,
let us sing praise to Him
who saves us from the straying of sin.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Awakened One who slept in Sheol like one dead, to the Giver of life who was laid in a tomb like one deceased, to the Mighty One who lay Himself low, staying with those who were buried like a feeble creature, to Him who was crucified and was slain and who bound Satan the strong one and slew the tyrant Death, and by His Resurrection scattered the crucifiers, and gathered together the disciples, and gave comfort and good hope of immortality and joy and gladness to the whole Creation, and now we give glory and honour and adoration to Him, at this time of evening...

When we remember Your Life-giving Resurrection, Christ our God and Lord of glory, and when we meditate on Your Gorious Rising which revives the mortal ones, O Bridegroom of truth and Spouse of the Holy Church, with the orders of the heavenly ones and the companies of the spiritual ones we present a new praise to Your Sovereignty. For this day was spoken of as a glorious day by the prophets, as David the divine harp of the Holy Spirit...who looking with the secret eye of prophecy pointed as with his finger to this day when he said, "This is the day which the Lord has made, come let us rejoice and be glad in it." For on this day the darkness of sin was dispelled from the face of the earth. On this day is explained the word of the prophet who seeing flowers appearing on earth gave joy to the Church by telling her that the time of singing had come...Today Isaiah the glorious prophet said with great joy, "Behold, the Light of the Bride has come, the Light of the Day, for the Lord makes her shine with great glory by His Resurrection"...His Kingdom is an everlasting

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Kingdom and His power is to all ages. He reigns over all peoples and weaves crowns for rulers and authorities. He has put Death to death and has slain sin. On this day the Great Sun of Righteousness has appeared, and by it the shadow of night and darkness is dispelled. By it life has come to mortals and by it they have been confirmed in the hope of the Resurrection. On this day there is sorrow in Jerusalem, but the Church, the Daughter of the nations, rejoices and is glad, as her children grow up by the waters of holy bapitsm.

And now we beseech You, Christ our Lord, increase our faith as You quickened and strengthened the faith of Your apostle Thomas, confounding his pride and compelling him to acknowledge You as Lord and God, that on the great day of the Resurrection of all flesh we may be given light by Your light, and rejoice at the sight of You. And as the rays of Your glorious coming shine on us, may we be delivered from all gloom and darkness. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

How fair and desirable is that word of our Saviour:
"Come, Thomas, and feel My wounds.
Put your finger in the holes of the nails,
and do not doubt any more but believe without hesitation.
It is I who have risen from the tomb, who came forth from Sheol.
Blessed is he who believes in Me without seeing Me with his eyes and without feeling the wounds in My hands."

When the apostles saw the Son of Man after He rose from the tomb,
they were filled with awe and believed in the Resurrection.
He came again to show them His scars
because of Thomas who did not believe.
When the doubting apostle felt the wounds with his hand
he rejoiced and confessed before many witnesses:
"I believe in You, my Saviour and my God, from the heart."

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

Here is truly a matter of wonder,
the Lord enters beside the disciples

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while the doors are closed and He says to them:
"Peace be with you, gentle lambs, persecuted by savage wolves.
I had told you that I would rise again, as I said,
and give you as pledge the Holy Spirit, the Comforter."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to You, Giver of all help, who in Your goodness confirmed
the holy apostle Thomas, and he went forth throughout the world
preaching Your Holy and Glorious Resurrection.
By the power of Your Godhead he planted the Church in India
and removing all doubts by the great sign of the Cross,
he spread the fragrance of the Gospel in the land of Bharata.

You are a fountain of life, O Son of God.
The mortal ones drink from it and do not fear death any more.
From You drank first Lazarus, and the daughter of Jairus,
and the son of the widow. These three declare to us the resurrection.
The dead will rise likewise and they will sing praise,
halleluia, to the Living One who raised them from death.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Make us worthy, Lord God,
to present unceasingly before You
sacrifices of praise with incense,
well chosen and fragrant,
and acceptable offerings.

And receive this incense
which we present to You in our sinfulness,
on the Day of Your Glorious Resurrection,
and give us the joy of the apostles
and the gladness of the women disciples
and the exultation of the angels
that we may give thanks sincerely,
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

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Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

When the Lord left the tomb He did not break the seals.
Only after He went did the angel roll away the stone.
Nor did He suffer from the narrowness when He came forth.
It was those who saw the tomb open who were distressed.

David His father saw Him as He came forth, and he ran to meet Him.
He played the harp and sang, as he had prophesied, "The Lord rose
from the dead with great power." He put His enemies to shame,
but gladdened His friends who had been mourning over Him.

The angel opened the tomb before the women disciples came
that their sadness might be relieved, and he showed them
how Jesus was placed, and he comforted them:
"He is risen, there is no reason for mourning over His death."

Glory to the Hidden One who manifested Himself for our sake
and who suffered and died in the flesh and rose with glory
from the tomb. The living and the dead give thanks to You,
Lord who gives them life. Thanksgiving also to the Father who sent
You and to the Holy Spirit. And on us Your graciousness.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He showed His wounds to Thomas and made him touch His side.
Blessed are those who believe though they have not seen,
whose hands have never touched the Lord's wounds.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 20:19–29 The Lord appears to the disciples and later to Thomas.

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Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who reawakened the faith of Your apostle Thomas when You made him touch with his hand the scars in Your hands and in Your side, and he cried out: "My Lord and my God!", confirm the faith of all believers in Your Resurrection in which we are all called to share, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who at Your Resurrection from the dead on the eighth day, the beginning of the new time, became the Firstborn of the new Creation, gather now all peoples and nations into one community of believers, until God is all in all, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Confirm, Lord, our faith in Your Resurrection and grant that we may be counted among those of whom You said: "Blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe." We beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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WHITE THURSDAY

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.
And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p. 7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God."
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the Watchers and the angels never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Holy Church of believers, sing praise to the Son of the King who by His rising from the tomb makes your children to turn away from deceit and untruth. Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Forgive and remit the debts of our fathers and brothers who slept, and write their names in the Book of Life, in Your Kingdom.
And may they stand at Your right on the day of the manifestation of Your Sovereignty. Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Glory to Him who is One in Three and the Three are One,
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, one true God.
to Him be praise, and on us His graciousness at all times.
Amen. Amen.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 137 I thank You, Lord, with all my heart...

RESPONSE
We thank You, Lord, with all our heart.
We thank You for Your goodness and Your faithfulness.
We adore You in the holy place and we praise Your Name.
We shall sing in the ways of the Lord.
How great is the glory of the Lord!

This is the day of great glory.
This day is the day of our victory,
the day on which all mouths rejoice
and all tongues give praise
and make a joyful noise.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Gracious Lord who descended and in His goodness became flesh and tasted death of His own will for the sake of the mortal ones, and rejoiced and gladdened His apostles and the women disciples by His Resurrection and revealed His salvation to all nations. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God who are the Word from everlasting, hidden in Your Being, You came from Your secret dwelling to visit Your Creation and You put on a human body and manifested Yourself to the world and went about with us according to the Divine Dispensation of Your love, enduring the passion and death on the cross and rising on the third day. Among those who brought spices and fragrant herbs to the tomb early morning, we celebrate the memory of Mary of Magdala who had been forgiven all her sins because of her great love and who stood at the foot of the cross with Mary Your Mother while the disciples had fled. And today she remained near the tomb to seek You when Peter and John had departed. Blessed are You, Lord Jesus, who appeared to her in the form of a gardener, and

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called her by her name Mary, and as she offered her adorations, You sent her who had seen You before all others, to announce the Good News of Your Resurrection to the company of the disciples. We offer praise and thanksgiving to You, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn of the Gardener *Madrosho of Saint Ephrem*

The Lord of Paradise came forth from the tomb.
Mary met Him but took Him for the gardener.
And truly gardener He was who planted Paradise and guarded it all around with the flaming spear and the Winged Creature!
How fair of you, Mary, to address Him as the gardener.

Mary said, "Come to your garden, O gardener, come!
I am seeking the lost fruit of your garden.
Is it you who have taken Him away from the tomb?
Then show me where you put him in your garden. It is not good that those who crucified him keep him. Let me take him.

O gardener, how beautiful is your Paradise!
In it is the tomb of Him who is the Lord of trees,
who is the Fruit of Life, the True Life. Day before yesterday
He was hung on the Tree. Now He is here.
Come, meet Him and take your delight in His taste.

O gardener, if you have seen Him,
if you have taken Him away, come.
Show me where you put Him, the Fair One.
Let me take Him from there, from your garden full of treasures.
Do not prevent me, O gardener. Give Him to me. It is good for me.

Our Lord was pleased to be likened to a gardener,
He who reopened the door of Paradise for Adam and his children
and broke the spear of the Winged Creature,
that he who had been driven away might enter into his inheritance.
Rightly He is likened to a gardener by His Resurrection.

He called, Mary! And by the clear sound of His voice
her mind that was in the dark was illumined.
And she longed to see Him who is the Day.

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Her pain vanished at the sight of the Luminous Sun.
Her face bitterly saddened on account of His death
suddenly was made to shine by His Resurrection.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Psalm 144:1–9 I will exalt You, my Lord King...

RESPONSE
We give You glory, our God and King.
We bless Your name for ever.
We will bless You day and after day and praise Your name.
You are great, Lord, and highly to be praised.
Your greatness is beyond all understanding.

Today light and salvation are manifested from the tomb.
Make a celebration, keep festival and sing hymns of joy.
Tell each other, "Our King who was killed is risen."
Rejoice and exult in Him. Offer presents to one another
and hasten to the tomb from where are brought the spices of life.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Mighty One who rose from the tomb with great power and raised with Him the dead who had slept and were wasting away. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God and Prince of Peace, when You entered the upper room where the apostles were assembled behind locked doors for fear of the people, You sowed peace in their hearts, showing them Your hands and Your side so that they believed in Your Resurrection and were filled with joy. And later You appeared again to them when Thomas was there, and You made him touch Your hands and feel the wounds in Your side and the apostle who had disbelieved bowed

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in adoration to His Master, confessing, "My Lord and my God!" And now the Church calls Thomas blessed, because by his wondrous confession he cast out the disbelief of those who have doubts concerning the Divinity of their Lord and at the same time earned for us all who believe without having seen Him the praise of the Lord. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
When the Blessed Apostle Thomas saw his Lord risen from the dead
and when he felt the place of the spear, his heart rejoiced
and he cried out, "I confess You, my Lord and my God.
I have seen the glory of Your Resurrection. Praise for Your goodness."

The prophets and the apostles made proclamations about the Sunday, the day on which our Lord rose from the tomb and saved the Creation. And He will come again and raise us at His right hand and make us inherit the Kingdom of heaven and life that does not pass away.

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

Blessed are you, Thomas beloved among the apostles, whose hand touched the great fountain from where life flows to the whole world, whose love emboldened you to lay hold of the treasure full of riches from which the world obtains salvation.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is your faith which teaches us that the dead come to life.
From you we learn that on the day of the resurrection the body will rise
and it is on account of this that the Lord lent Himself
to be touched by you, to heal the disbelief of those who doubt.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

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FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On Sunday Mary ran
to see her Lord among the dead
with the spices she had prepared to honour His body
and the fragrant herbs for His burial.

She reached the tomb in great distress
speaking to herself and lamenting Him:
"My Lord, was it not sheer wickedness that they killed You.
And how they shut You up in the tomb like in a prison!"

As You did not take away anything from the tree
what then brought You into Sheol?
As You did not eat from its fruit
what for did You suffer such a disgrace?

We offer praise to the Uniquely Beloved Son
who set us free from untruth by His blood.
To the Hidden Father thanksgiving.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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Friday of the Confessors

And Fridays of the Seven Weeks of the Resurrection, if convenient.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord, God of all, to keep festival to celebrate with purity of body, sincerity of mind and joy of heart this holy day, the remembrance of the just and holy people from everlasting: those who waited for the day of Your coming, the seers who searched for Your manifestation, the apostles who saw You and proclaimed Your whole economy of salvation, the martyrs and confessors who suffered and were killed for Your love while confessing their faith in You, and the saints who rose from their graves at the time of Your Passion and entered Jerusalem with You on the day of Your rising and announced Your Resurrection to many. Yes, Lord, grant us to be helped by their prayers that with them we may offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 85 (84) Lord, You once favoured Your land...

RESPONSE

Christ plundered greedy Death when He rose on the third day,
raising with irresistible power those who were decaying in the earth.
Bless Him, O revered priests, and you peoples and nations
and all tongues, exalt Him and thank Him, the Lord God.

The disciples exulted on this day of joy and gladness when they were told of the Resurrection of their Lord by the women disciples.
Bless Him, O revered priests, and you peoples and nations,
and all tongues, exalt Him and thank Him, the Lord God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

Common Response

In the beginning was the Word
and the Word was with God.
He entered by the ear of the Virgin,

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clothed Himself with a body and dwelt among us.
He was pleased to die for our sake
and on Sunday He resurrected.
Glory to Him who came to humiliation to give life to Adam.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord,
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Lord of the worlds who in His goodness came to us and in His love was clothed in the flesh of our humanity, and became a son of man like us, and endured sufferings and the crucifixion for our sake of His own will. While He was raised and exalted, in His compassion, He announced life and resurrection to Adam and his children, out of love for His human nature. And He rose in glory, and by the power of His arm raised up all our race which had fallen into the abyss of sin. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, Master and Saviour, who of Your own will lowered Yourself to our poverty, You who are rich by nature, You took upon Yourself all those things of which our nature was guilty, and in Your human nature You endured shame, disgrace, suffering and contempt together with the cross, death and burial. But You rose again on the third day, and by Your Resurrection, the Giver of Life, You changed the times of sorrow and pain on Friday which is passed to the unutterable joy and gladness of today.

On the Friday which is past You were led as a sheep to the slaughter, Good and True Shepherd who came to seek that which is lost. On the Friday which is today You rose as a mighty one, as a roaring lion and You gathered Your scattered flock into one.

On the Friday which is past You stood at the seat of judgement like a guilty man and received a blow like a servant, and on the Friday which is today You rose up from the tomb among the assembly of angels and You were seated on the throne of Him who is to judge the living and the dead.

On the Friday which is past You were stripped of Your garments and raised on the cross with wrongdoers, and on the Friday which

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is today You left behind in the tomb the linen garment in which You were wrapped, and You were clothed with ineffable splendour and glory.

On the Friday which is past those who crucified You offered You gall and vinegar, and on the Friday which is today Your disciples offered You a honeycomb with joy.

On the Friday which is past You offered Your body to blows and flogging at the hands of insolent men, and on the Friday which is today You offered Your hands and Your feet which were pierced by the nails to be examined by Your friends with joy.

On the Friday which is past Your side was pierced with a spear, and from it, O marvel, flowed blood and water, and on Friday which is today You offered Your side, which was pierced by the spear, to Thomas Your disciple that he might feel it with his finger.

On the Friday which is past darkness reigned over the earth for three hours, and on the Friday which is today the true light which does not set, reigned over the earth.

On the Friday which is past by the sound of the cry which You gave from the tree, the rocks split apart, the tombs burst wide open and the bodies of many of the saints arose, and on the Friday which is today those whom You raised up by Your Passion and those whom You led out of Sheol You made to enter with You the Holy City, and they announced Your Gospel, that is Your Resurrection, and then You made them ascend to the Kingdom.

On the Friday which is past the martyrs and confessors saw You on Golgotha between the thieves as You were hanging naked, and they were set on fire with Your love, they were devoured by love of You, and for Your sake they endured all afflictions cheerfully...and followed You to death.

On this Friday therefore we who believe and confess Your Name, and are redeemed by Your blood, and signed with Your Precious Cross, make memory of them and of all the holy people who from the beginning of the creation have been pleasing to You. We celebrate their sufferings together with Your manifold sufferings. We keep

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their memory together with the memory of Your Glorious Resurrection, that we may be worthy with them...to hear the sound of the voice by which You will confess us before Your Father and Your holy angels, and make us worthy of the entrance into Your bridal chamber. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

On Sunday the Firstborn of the Heavenly Father rose from the tomb.
He rejoiced the whole Creation and confounded those who crucified Him.
He cast terror among the guards who saw a stupendous sign,
flashes of light sent forth from the tomb
and angels and Watchers from on high singing praises.

The women who brought sweet smelling spices met at the tomb
to embalm the body of our Saviour, and they saw a great marvel:
angels clothed with fire who announced to them news of great joy,
"The Slain Bridegroom is risen and He pulled down Sheol,
and by His Resurrection, halleluia, He gives life to the mortal ones."

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

On the Great Day of the Resurrection angels descended from heaven
to see the tomb of their Lord who had resurrected
and they sang praises to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
the Great Mystery of the Trinity, God which cannot be comprehended,
who of His own will established the heights and the depths
and the whole creation.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Risen One who raises the dead met Mary and her companions,
and He comforted them saying, "Why are you weeping and in distress?
Why are you seeking the Living One among the dead when He rose
and resurrected? Go rather and announce to His apostles
that their Master is risen from the tomb as He promised."

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

All thanksgiving to You, Lord, unceasingly, on this Friday
on which You caused to set Your sun on wicked people
who in return for the good You did to them and for giving life
to Your Church, paid You back with evil deeds.

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All praise, with sweet incense, we offer to Your Sovereignty,
on this day on which we commemorate Your Blessed Mother
with the prophets, apostles, martyrs, confessors and virgins,
and all the just, men and women, who pleased You from the beginning.
By their prayers forgive the sins of Your servants,
and with them we will offer praise to You
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn

Who is able to praise fittingly the Uniquely Beloved Son of God,
who became man, taking a pure and holy body
from a daughter of David, subject to suffering and death?
He endured the shameful passion, crucifixion and burial,
but He did not suffer corruption and was raised to life
to give us life and the Kingdom.

The Watchers descend and encircle the tomb of our Lord,
and by their appearance they put to flight the guards,
who seeing the Watchers from on high, become like dead men.
Blessed is the Strong One, the Conqueror of all,
who died to give us life and salvation by His blood.
He gives His body, our food, and His blood, the cup of salvation.

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

Awake, awake, O Church bride of Christ, and put on strength
and splendour and be clothed with the robe of glory of the Kingdom.
and make a joyful noise with songs of praise to the Only Son
who rose from the tomb, and on the day of His Resurrection
gives joy to the heavenly ones and the earthly ones and gladdens
Adam and his children and sets them free from deceit and untruth.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today heaven and earth rejoice and all that is in them,
but the wicked who hanged God on the tree are put to shame.
When He rises with glory coming forth from the tomb,
on the day of His Resurrection He rejoices the heavenly ones
and the earthly ones, and liberates Adam and his children
from the hands of greedy Death.

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Praise to You who raise the children of Adam from death to life.
By Your voice rose Lazarus, the brother of Martha and Mary.
At Your word awoke the daughter of Jairus who had faith in You.
By that other voice with which You will cry out, may all the dead rise
and be clothed in glory and go forth to meet You when You come.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity,
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

He descended to the dead, the Liberator of the captives.
The captor who had bound the captives was terrified
when the bars and fetters of the captives were broken,
and a clamour of praise to the Saviour resounded.

Glorious garlands were offered to Him with adorations,
by those who were lost and were now found by the crucifixion.
Adam, head of the race, came out first to offer his adorations,
and Noah, and Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob and all the just.

Tha Father sent Jesus to the dead like a captor,
but He had to die on the Cross for their sake to save them.
Though loving His Son as a Father, He delivered Him up to death
that through Him Adam who was lost might be found.

Glory to the Father who sent His Son to liberate us.
Adoration to the Son who by His death atoned for our sins.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who reveals the truth to the Creation.
Blessed is He who taught us that there is but one Lord.
To Him be praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Praise Him you all His servants,

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you who love Him, small and great.
To You offerings must be made, O God who hear our prayers.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 27:45–54 Death and Resurrection of Jesus.
28: 1–10

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God, Word of the Father and Power of His wisdom, Creator and Maker of all, who became flesh and went about on earth with human beings that we may not remain carnal but become spiritual, and look for heavenly things rather than for earthly things, we call upon You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, who by entering the tomb broke the door of suffering and battered down the iron bars for all the souls of the just and righteous who were shut up there and had been pleasing to You from the beginning, and led them out, and took them with You and they were seen by many, reveal to Your people the Mystery of Your universal salvation, we bessech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Christ our God, that we may grow in all justice and righteousness and attain the goal of blessedness. With all the just, the seers and sages who were pleasing to You from the beginning may we be worthy to meet You at Your second coming in heaven, and with the wise and earnest virgins may we greet You with fair and shining lamps, O Christ the Bridegroom, and with them have a place at Your Feast of Gladness, Christ our true God, we beseech You and we cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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FRIDAY OF THE CONFESSORS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.
And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
We have come early before You to praise Your Watchfulness,
Lord God who awaken us to praise,
You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit.

We have come early before You to worship You,
Christ our God, on account of Your Glorious Resurrection
by which we rise from our fall.

Rejoice, O Church, and sing praise,
on this day of great joy when God rose from the tomb
and overthrew Satan and Death.

We have come early before You, remembering the departed believers,
all those who went to sleep and rest in Your hope.
We entreat You, grant them forgiveness of their sins.

Adoration and praise to You,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
three holy persons,
one true God.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 144:10–21 All Your works praise You, Lord, Your holy ones...

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RESPONSE

All Your works praise You, our Lord,
All Your saints give thanks to You.
They speak of the glory of Your Kingdom
and declare Your power to all the peoples.

Come, all You peoples, let us praise the Son of God
who rose from the house of the dead.
By His Passion and with His Cross He slew Death the killer,
and now all peoples and nations sing glory to Him.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Mystery who anointed us, the Paschal Mystery, the Mystery of the Lord who died and rose again from the dead to renew us by His Spirit and clothe us with the new manhood, and make us into a new creation, those who are begotten after God, the Good Modeller and Teacher, Christ, willingly both dying with Him and rising again with Him. We praise Him at this time of the night vigil...

Let us offer to Him who suffered and rose again for us, ourselves, the possession most precious to God and most fitting. Let us give back to the Image what is made after the Image. Let us recognise our dignity. Let us honour our Archetype. Let us know the power of the Mystery and for what Christ died. Let us become like Christ, since Christ became like us. Let us become God for His sake, since He for our sake became man. He assumed the worse that He might give us the better. He became poor that we through His poverty might be rich. He took upon Himself the form of a servant that we might receive back our liberty. He came down that we might be exalted. He was tempted that we might conquer. He was dishonoured that He might glorify us. He died that He might give us life. He ascended that He might draw to Himself us who were lying low in the abyss of sin into which we had fallen. Let us give all, offer all to Him who gave Himself a ransom and a reconciliation for us. One can give nothing better than oneself, understanding the Mystery and becoming for His sake all that He became for our sake. To Him we offer praise and thanks giving and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn *Madrosho*

The womb and the tomb rejoice today on account of Your Resurrection.
The womb because it conceived You and the seal remained.
The tomb because You went forth while the entrance remained closed.
Glory to Your Name, O Son of God, who have power over all.

God rose from the tomb with great glory and raised with Himself Adam who had fallen and delivered his children from deceit and untruth and rejoiced His Church on the day of His Resurrection with power. Blessed is He who sent Him.

On Sunday Adam and Abel sing praise, and Noah and Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the just who from the beginning of the creation have been pleasing to You and they say, "Glory to the Good One who comforts His servants in gloomy Sheol.'

Hear, you wise ones, the marvels which the Son of God did.
His graciousness made Him descend and become a son of man.
And He endured sufferings and the crucifixion, and He delivered our race from the hands of the Rebel when He joined battle with him.

The Church gives thanks to You, O Good One, who by Your Resurrection delivered her children from the captor and taught them to worship in spirit and in truth, and behold, in the four quarters of the earth she sings praise through the mouth of her children.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Psalm 145 Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise Him all my life.

RESPONSE

Praise the Lord, my whole being.
We will praise the Lord as long as we live.
We will sing praise to our God while we have being...
The Lord reigns for ever, our God, to all generaitons.

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How great and glorious is the day
on which the Lord has risen with glory,
and by His Resurrection rejoices and gladdens
heaven and earth and all that is in them.
The heavenly ones and the earthly ones sing glory to Him.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is the Mystery of the Passover, whose feast we are keeping today. Such is the Mystery of the Passover which is fulfilled by Christ, the Abolisher of the letter, the Perfecter of the spirit, who by His Passion taught us how to suffer, and by His Glorification grants us to be glorified with Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Praise to Him through whom we partake of a Passover which is still typical, in the sacrament, though it is plainer than the old one. It is for us to learn what is that drinking and that enjoyment, and for Him to teach and to communicate the word to His disciples. For teaching is food even to the Giver of Food. Come hither and let us partake of the Law, but in a Gospel manner not a literal one, perfectly not imperfectly, eternally not temporarily. Let us make our head, not the earthly Jerusalem, but the Heavenly City, not that which is trodden underfoot by armies, but that which is glorified by angels. Let us sacrifice not young calves or lambs which are destitute of divine feelings, but let us sacrifice to God the sacrifice of praise upon the heavenly altar with heavenly dances... Let us sacrifice ourselves to God, or let us go on sacrificing throughout every day and at every moment. Let us accept everything for the Word's sake in commemoration of the Feast of the Resurrection and offer praise and thanksgiving to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
On Sunday God rose and raised with Him all the just.
He manifested His Resurrection to them,
sprinkling the dew of life on their bones.
And now, they await the day of His return,
the hour when He will come.

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As the night holds in her power those who sleep,
Death holds all the departed.
But by the Resurrection Death's power comes to an end.
Blessed is He who broke the power of Death
and raised to life Adam and his children.

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

At that hour when God rose from the tomb
the guards were shaken and fell like dead,
at the sight of the Watchers from on high.
Praise to Him who came out of love
and saved Adam worn out by corruption.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On this day of the commemoration of Your Resurrection
the Church rejoices and sings praise with her children
in the four quarters of the earth.
When You, her Head, ascended the Cross she was filled with fear.
But now she worships You, because You are her God.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Our Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

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On Sunday the heavenly ones rejoice
and the earthly ones make a joyful noise with their praises,
for the Bridegroom is risen from the house of the dead
after effacing our debts with His blood.

On the Friday which is past
Simon the Rock denied his Master.
On this Friday Thomas confesses Him before his companions,
offering his adorations: "My Lord and my God!"

On this day the disciples
are told by the women disciples
that our Lord is risen from the tomb
and rejoices heaven and earth.

On the Friday which is past
wicked people reviled the Lord.
On this Friday the nations sing praises
and chant halleluias.

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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Saturday of Repose

And Saturdays of the Seven Weeks of the Resurrection, if convenient.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to exalt this Feast of Your Resurrection after three days with the heavenly powers, in sincerity and holiness, that while we radiate Your presence by a way of life truly spiritual, we may praise You unceasingly and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 16 (15) Preserve me, O God, I take refuge in You...

Common Response

Behold, the Holy Church exults on account of the Resurrection of Christ the King who dies and is alive and gives life to our race.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

Common Response

And now the Church rejoices for the Resu rection of the King Christ and she sings praise to the Uniquely Beloved Son
who died and came back to life and gives life to our race.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Living One and Giver of life to the worlds, who asted death of His own will and by His death removed the corruption of those lying in the graves, to the Word of the Father without beginning, who in His goodness became man and descended into Sheol that He might cleanse His image which was tarnished by corruption and make it anew as was pleasing to Him, that it might stand in glory without any more corruption. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

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We offer adoration and praise for Your Resurrection full of wonders by which we are raised from the fall...By Your living and life-giving body You bestowed on our race the actual resurrection, and You gained for us the imperishable hope of the renovation of our bodies and the reunion of our souls at the common resurrection of all humankind. And You have become the Head and the Firstborn of many brothers who shall rise to incorruptibility and Your divine body is a life-giving leaven which deifies our whole race that will not fall any more a prey to death and corruption.

Grant us therefore, Lord, that with the angels who announced Your Resurrection we may be clothed in bright white garments so that the destructive darkness of our evil deeds be removed, and make us shine with the rays of Your Resurrection today that we may bless You joyously, and guide us by Your spiritual word that we may go to meet You well prepared on the morning of the Resurrection of all humankind. And instead of "Go, teach all nations in the name of the Trinity", may we hear the words, "Come, blessed of My Father, enter the marriage chamber which is prepared for you, and inherit the Kingdom," where we will offer praise without ceasing to You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday Mary and her companions rose early.
They took fragrant herbs well chosen and went
to the tomb of the Son to embalm His life-giving body.
As John wrote for us, they saw a marvel, an angel
who called and said, "Our Lord has risen from the tomb,
putting to shame the crucifiers."

To You be glory, Word of God, Uniquely Beloved Son of the Father,
who of Your own will emptied Yourself,
and were conceived and born, and suffered the Passion and the Cross
and tasted death for us all, and slew Death by Your death,
and rose, You who are God and, raised to life,
You are clothed with glory and You reign in heaven and on earth.

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

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Blessed are you, O Church, for in you resounds the voice of the Son
and your foundations are not shaken, for the Lord is your keeper.
The stone rejected by the builders is your chief corner-stone.
Blessed is He who offered Himself in sacrifice for you,
giving you His body as food and His blood
the cup of salvation for the pardon of all your children.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The whole inhabited world, from one end to the other, rejoices when the Son of the King resurrects, rising with glory from the tomb, and delivers Adam and his children from the Evil One and from Death. And He promises to the Holy Church, "You will be with Me where I am, exalted in heaven at the right hand of Him who sent Me."

We heard Paul the holy apostle saying, "Brothers,
about those who died, I tell you not to grieve.
At the trumpet-call on high all the departed will rise.
That which is now corruptible shall be clothed with incorruptibility.
The body and the blood of Christ are the firstfruits of the new life."

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Blossom of Sweet Scent, You spread Your fragrance
in Sheol the devourer of the mighty ones,
and by the good odour of Your Resurrection You rejoiced
the departed who lay prostrate where Death held them,
and You remained there three days to bring low
our three enemies, the devil, sin and death

On this day of Your Resurrection
which is the resurrection from our own fall,
may this incense which we offer in Your presence
be received for Your delight.
May it be for the forgiveness of all Your flock
and for a good remembrance of all departed believers,
Christ the Son who are adored with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

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Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

When the Firstborn rose from among the dead with great power
the doors of Sheol did not stand against Him.
As He came, He cried out in the place of Death
and its fortress fell and He took the captives and led them out
and went forth in the power of the Resurrection.

The Son of the Virgin entered the city of those who were lost
He bound Death and set free all those who were bound,
making the resurrection to dawn upon the dead
who woke up and clapped hands in praise of Him.

When He went forth the angels met Him at the door of the tomb.
The messengers sent by the Father blessed Him and worshipped Him.
He rejoiced His disciples, the sons of light who had fled,
and His light gladdened the women who were mourning.

Glory to the Father who revealed His mysteries in prophecy.
Adoration to the Son who proclaimed them through His apostles.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit, Sea of Riches and Wisdom.
To Him who is of one essence be praise from all mouths.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Praise the Lord and bless His name.
Announce His salvation from day to day.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 19:28–37 Death and Resurrection of Jesus
20: 1– 9

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

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Christ our God who when You died on the Cross made the tombs of the just to burst open, as they were raised to life, and announced the new life in the Holy City after Your Resurrection, make Your people break away from the bondage of sin, and experience, even now, the life that does not pass away, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who when You conquered Death opened to the sons of Adam the gates of life, manifest Yourself to all those who do not recognize You in the lives of Your disciples, and give to all an urge to realize that unity and oneness in You, with the whole creation, which will make God to be truly all in all, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

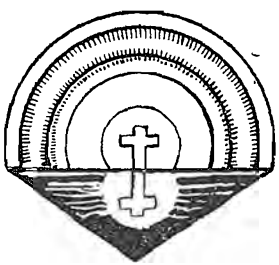
Concluding Prayer

In Your goodness, Lord, raise Your people from the death of their evil deeds and make to prevail all over the world true freedom, freedom from lust and greed, freedom from hatred and all forms of oppression, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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SATURDAY OF REPOSE

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord....

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God."
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also earthly ones, to praise You with them,
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

When the season of the Holy Resurrection comes,
our Saviour appears like the sun and illumines the whole creation.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The angel descended from on high to the tomb of the Mighty One.
He rolled away the stone from the entrance and sat upon it.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Glory to You who are adored by the angels and glorified
by the earthly ones. And now all together, angels and men,
sing praise to You. Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 146 How good to praise our God, how delightful...

RESPONSE
Praise the Lord for He is good.
Sing to our God for He is loving.
The Lord delights in those who revere Him,
in those who put their trust in His love.

The peoples rejoice and clap their hands,
on this day of joy and exultation
on which the King rose up victorious,
confounding those who crucified Him.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Mystery who anointed us, the Paschal Mystery, the Mystery of the Lord who died and rose again from the dead to renew us by His Spirit and clothe us with the new manhood, and make us into a new creation, those who are begotten after God, the Good Modeller and Teacher, Christ, willingly both dying with Him and rising again with Him. We praise Him at this time of the night vigil...

Let us offer to Him who suffered and rose again for us, ourselves, the possession most precious to God and most fitting. Yesterday the Lamb was slain and the door-posts were anointed and Egypt bewailed her firstborn, and the Destroyer passed us over, and the seal was dreaded and revered, and we were walled in with the Precious Blood. Today we have clean escaped from Egypt and from Pharaoh, and there is none to hinder us from keeping a Feast to the Lord our God, the Feast of our Departure or from celebrating that Feast, not in the old leaven of malice and wickedness, but in the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth, carrying with us nothing of ungodly, and nothing of the old leaven. Yesterday I was crucified with Him, today I am glorified with Him. Yesterday I died with Him, today I am quickened with Him, yesterday I was buried with Him, today I rise with Him. If you give yourself, if we come out of Egypt thus,

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I know well that we shall be guided by the pillar of fire and cloud, by night and day. The wilderness shall be tamed for us and the sea divided, Pharaoh shall be drowned, bread shall be rained down, the rock shall become a fountain, Amalek shall be conquered, and all the other events which are told in the history after these and with these shall be given you of God. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to Him, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Church and her children confess the Son,
the Firstborn who came to espouse her, and of His own will
He gave Himself up in the hands of faithless people.
They raised Him on the tree and crucified Him
who gives His holy body and His blood of forgiveness
to the peoples who believe in His Gospel.

Blessed is He who rose from among the dead with glory,
as the prophet announced, and on this day of His Resurrection
rejoices the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.
He confounds those who crucified Him
and makes the Church of believers exult.
And now she sings praise with her children for ever and ever.

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

Today the Son of the King raises His voice and He dethrones Death.
The Evil One and his powers fall
and all their associates are put to shame.
The brood of perdition tremble
when they hear the voice of the Living One
who calls the dead and resurrects victoriously.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Praise to the Son of God who tasted death
to give life to the world.
He came to Adam who was lying in utter wretchedness.
He rose with glory and on the day of His Resurrection
He gladdened the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.
And now they sing praises, those above and those below.

MEDITATION

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SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 147 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. Praise your God, Holy City...

RESPONSE
Praise the Lord, all you peoples
sing praise to your God.
He establishes peace in your land
and feeds you with finest wheat.

This is a day of great glory.
This is the day of our victory,
the day on which all mouths exult,
all tongues sing praises and shout for joy.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is the Mystery of the Passover, whose feast we are keeping today. Such is the Mystery of the Passover which is fulfilled by Christ, the Abolisher of the letter, the Perfecter of the spirit, who by His Passion taught us how to suffer, and by His Glorification grants us to be glorified with Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

By accepting suffering let us imitate His passion...for to suffer with Christ and for Christ is better than a life of ease with others. If you are a Simon of Cyrene, take up the Cross with Him and follow. If you are crucified with Him as a thief on the right side, acknowledge God, and though yet nailed upon the wood, you shall be with Him in Paradise...Enter with Jesus into Paradise, so that you may learn from where you have fallen. Contemplate the glories that are there, and if you are a Joseph of Arimathea, beg the body from him that crucified Him, make thine own that which cleanses the world. If you be a Nicodemus, the worshipper of God by night, bury Him with spices, if you be a Mary, or a Salome or a Joanna, weep in the early morning. Be first to see the stone taken away, and perhaps you will see the angels and Jesus Himself...hear His voice. If He say to you "Touch

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me not", stand afar off. Reverence the Word for He knoweth those to whom He appears first. Be among them. Keep with them the Feast of the Resurrection. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
Who can be compared to You, Heavenly Bridegroom?
who espoused Your Church at baptism
whom You saved by Your Cross
and by the blood from Your side You strengthen her foundations.
Halleluia, halleluia, praise to Him who sent You.

On Sunday the Watchers descend from on high to the tomb of our Lord.
They see that it is empty and announce to the women disciples:
"The Son of the King is risen!
Halleluia, halleluia, and He confounded the guards."

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

The Lord went to Sheol and saw Adam
lying there dejected, sunk in sorrow.
His beauty was lost, destroyed by the Evil One.
Halleluia, halleluia, and in His graciousness, He raised Him up.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

A good odour of life spreads from the body of our Lord
in the place of the dead and His voice resounds against the tombs.
The dead arise and sing praise, halleluia, halleluia,
to the Lord who raises them to life.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

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FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who give us the new life by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

O you who listen, incline your ears,
hearken with your hearts
to receive the message of Wisdom,
on the day of the Resurrection of the Uniquely Beloved Son.

Let us all gather flowers
from the gardens of the Holy Scriptures
and make a garland of praise
for Him who gives us life by His death.

Let us recall the utterances of the prophets
to soften the hearts that have hardened.
He who was killed in atonement for our sins rose again.
All the ends of the earth have seen His salvation.

Praise to You from those above. Praise to You from those below.
And now may Your rule spread and Your exaltation be illustrious.
Glory to You at all times and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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New Sunday Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to be renewed by the blood and the water which flowed from Your sacred side, and strengthen our faith in You, as You did to Thomas the Apostle, that we may be worthy of the blessedness which You have promised to those who believe without having seen You, our Lord and our God for ever. Amen.

Psalm 9:1–15 I will thank You, Lord, with all my heart...

RESPONSE

Our Saviour , You who entered while the doors remained closed
and bestowed the Holy Spirit on the disciples,
You are blessed for ever, God of our fathers,
Lord of the whole Creation.

Living One, You who showed to Thomas Your hands and Your wounds
and the place of the nails and of the spear-thrust,
You are blessed for ever, God of our fathers,
Lord of the whole Creation.

ANOTHER RESPONSE

You who rose with glory from among the dead
and who gave us also the hope of the resurrection,
be gracious to all, O God.

Heaven and earth rejoice on this day on which
the faith of Thomas was restored by the touching of the wounds,
be gracious to all, O God.

Christ our Lord, who strengthened the faith of Thomas,
strengthen also our faith in You,
and be gracious to all, O God.

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Blessed are you, our father apostle, saint Thomas,
and blessed is the Church which celebrates your commemoration.
May your prayer be a stronghold for us.

Glory to the Father who chose you, Saint Thomas.
Adoration to the Son who sent you to proclaim His Gospel.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Truly the Shephered entered the house of the poor sheep
and He gave them peace as He stood in their midst.
He sowed peace in their hearts and called the apostle Thomas
asking him to touch His side and to examine what he had asked to see.

O our father, from that side which shameless people opened
on the Cross for our salvation flowed an immense treasure,
full of the riches of heaven, and you taught
the true faith to the Holy Church and her children.

Thomas the Apostle who were confirmed by Christ's graciousness,
pray with us that we may be preserved from divisions and rivalries
and from all evil, and may His calm fill the Churches
and His peace reign in ashrams and monasteries till the end.

Give rest in the harbour of life and the dwellings filled with joy,
Christ the King, to Your servants who rest in Your hope.
And may they take their delight with You
when You shall come in glory to give their wages to Your workers.

Glory to the Father who created the worlds
and all creatures without anything.
Adoration to the Son who shone forth
from the virgin womb of the Daughter of David.
Adorable is the Holy Spirit
who bestowed wisdom on the apostles and confirmed their teachings.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Saviour who gave life to His Church by His Resurrection, and who brought joy to His flock by His rising, and who gladdened His apostles by His greeting of peace, and confirmed His disciple by the touch of His side. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Praise to You, God, Jesus Christ, Hidden Offspring of the Father, who at the end of time were born of the Holy Virgin, and of Your own will became the brother and firstborn of the baptized, that You might sanctify us perfectly by the second birth of holy baptism, and make us spiritually brothers and sons of Your inheritance. You are indeed also the firstborn from among the dead in that You died like any other man and were buried and resurrected, rising mightily from the tomb on Sunday which is the firstborn of all days on which the heaven and the earth were created.

On this day again which is the Great and Glorious New Sunday after Your Life-giving Resurrection which brings us all blessedness, we adore You and praise You and we beseech Your kindliness that this sweet incense which we present before the glorious altar of Your Majesty will be acceptable to Your Sovereignty and that, in Your goodness, You will mingle it with the incense of our poor prayers, that it may be for the pardon of offences and the forgiveness of sins, for all Your flock redeemed by Your Cross, and for the help and the healing of all who are sick and afflicted, and for the response to all sincere requests of those who take refuge in Your graciousness, and all who ask for prayers, and for the remembrance and rest of all the departed believers who have slept in Your hope and await the day of Your manifestation, that we and they may stand at Your right hand and experience Your compassion. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
From fear the disciples were remaining in the upper room
with all doors closed, when the Saviour entered and said to them:

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"Peace be with you." They were troubled and thought he was a spirit.
Then showing His wounds He permitted them to touch Him.
And He breathed on their faces that they might receive the Holy Spirit
and He gave them the power to heal diseases
and to remit all debts and sins.

Eight days after our Saviour was risen from the grave
He manifested Himself again to the disciples in the upper room
where they were gathered, and calling Thomas He said to him:
"Come, see My wounds and My pierced hands and do not doubt any more but believe." Thomas fell down and touched His feet and confessed, crying out: "In truth You are my Lord and my God."

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

The true disciple Thomas did not believe the apostles who said to him:
"The Lord is risen, He has come to us and we have seen Him."
But he said to them: "Unless I put my hand in His side
opened by the spear on Golgotha, I shall never believe."
Glory to the Uniquely Beloved Son who came to us of His own will
and said to Thomas, "See my wounds and do not doubt of My Resurrection."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

How beautiful is that word of our Saviour, when He said, "Come Thomas, feel My wounds, put your finger in the hole of the nails
and do not doubt any more, but believe without hesitation.
It is I who have arisen. Blessed is he who believes in Me without seeing Me with his eyes and whose hands have not felt My wounds."

O Death, do not pride yourself upon the departed.
They do not belong to You. They are not your own dominion.
Their Creator is powerful and He will settle their account with you.
They belong to His house, His blessed heirs and sons. He will deliver them from your hands and take them to His Kingdom on high.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Christ our Saviour, when all the doors were closed
You entered beside Your disciples in the upper room
and You established the faith of Your apostle Thomas
by making him touch Your life-giving side.

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Open, Lord, the door of Your graciousness to our requests
that the fragrance of our incense may penetrate
into the hidden place of Your Godhead.
And may help come to us from the abundant treasure of Your riches,
that on this New Day we may be renewed by it,
and on Your Great Day, be taken up on the clouds
to meet You with the assembly of the saints
and praise You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

Jesus entered and went out with all doors closed.
Then Thomas came and the disciples said to him:
"The Lord is risen. He has come to us and we have received Him."
Thomas replied: "As long as I have not seen and touched
the wounds which He had, I will not believe."

Some time later they were all gathered together,
the chosen apostles with Thomas who had doubted.
Our Lord entered the room and said to them:
"Peace be with you. It is I, your Master. Believe Me, truly."

It is I who have risen from the dead.
I have accomplished the word of the Prophet David
which he spoke by the Holy Spirit:
"God arises. His enemies disappear before His face."

Glory to the Father who chose Thomas to witness to the truth.
Adoration to the Son who confirmed Him and let Him touch His pure side. Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who gave wisdom to His servant and enlightened his understanding. And he went forth and came to this, our country of India, to preach the Trinity, one sole God.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Like an eagle who hovers over his nest
and flies above his young.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord enters the room when all doors are closed.
His disciples are filled with joy.
He shows them His hands and His side.
Blessed are those who believe though they have not seen.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 20:19–29 Jesus appears to the disciples and later to Thomas.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who entered into the upper room when all doors were closed, and stood in the midst of Your holy apostles and led Thomas Your unbelieving apostle to the true faith by making him feel Your side and the holes left in Your hands by the nails, open the door of Your mercy to our requests, and on this New Sunday may we be renewed in faith and hope and love, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who on this Sunday, eight days after Your Resurrection, confounded Your apostle Thomas when You ordered him to put his hand into Your wounded side and thus quickened his faith in Your Resurrection, confirm us all in humility and in the faith of those who believe in You though they have not seen You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archibishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan and the bishops and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole wor d.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India, and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Lord, that our minds and all our senses may be renewed by the gift of the Holy Spirit, that we may put off the old self which is corrupted through the deceitful passions and pride, and put on the new self in Your likeness, and obtain the new life which You earned for us by Your Resurrection, we beseech You and we will cry and say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p. 7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

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RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise, singing
the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God."
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Christ the True Peace, You sowed peace in Your disciples.
By the prayers of Your apostles establish peace in the Creation.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Do not separate us from the glorious company of the Twelve,
You who did not disown him who denied You,
and make us experience Your compassion, we entreat You.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

All you nations, clap your hands and sing praise
in commemoration of Saint Thomas the conqueror of the faith.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 98 (97) Sing a new praise to the Lord...

RESPONSE
All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth, ring out your joy.
Sing psalms to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and melodious songs.

Clap your hands and rejoice, you peoples,
on this day of joy and exultation
on which the King rose up victorious
and put to shame those who crucified Him.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Holy Father, the One Holy Son, the One Holy Spirit, the Father who is not begotten but begets, the Son who is begotten and does not beget, the Spirit who proceeds from the Father and receives from the Son. To Him belongs adoration and submission and subjection from the whole creation, the heavenly ones and the earthly ones, and all people offer thanksgiving, at this time of the night vigil...

We adore and confess Your Being, O our God, who made us in Your image. We exalt You, Only Son, who by Your glorious death reconciled us. We believe in You, vivifying fruit of the Hidden Father, who by Your life-giving death bestowed on us immortality. You, Light Incomprehensible, were buried in a human burial...By Your Resurrection You saved those who were lying in the dust. You made them to rise and You led them to life...The day before yesterday, King, You were crucified and sunk in sufferings, today You are triumphant in the victory of Your Glorious Resurrection. The day before yeasterday Your side was pierced with a spear, today from Your side flows baptism for the forgiveness of sins. The day before yesterday the insulting soldiery put on Your head a crown of thorns, but today the Church is adorned with incorruptibility. The day before yesterday her Lord was rejected by the people and their leaders, today the Church of believers is exalted as she assembles her children for the proclamation of the Resurrection. Today angels in their white garments move round the holy sepulchre. Today the women leap with joy when they announce to the disciples the good news of the Resurrection. Today Simon and John enter the sepulchre of the Son, their Master and Lord, and do not find there any thing except the shroud and the cloth for His head on one side...Today Adam, the head of our race, offers adorations and praises to You, because by the Resurrection of his Lord from the tomb he earns a new life and returns to His heavenly inheritance.

Therefore, we beseech You, Christ our God, in Your goodness and Your tender love, let our image which is worn out by sin be renewed.

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Let this image of You, which we are, be refashioned by You, Skilful Maker, and we will praise the bountiful sea of Your compassion, Lord of the two worlds, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
Blessed is He who made Thomas the holy apostle to change his mind
after he had said that he would not proclaim the Gospel
unless he had touched the wounded side of his Lord.
And now the Church celebrates his commemoration.

O Thomas, apostle and holy preacher of the truth
with the Cross you became glorious among the nations who believed,
be intercessor on behalf of us all with Jesus
the Lord of the whole earth.

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

Glory to the true Lord who enlightened the mind of His preacher
who was unwilling to believe his brothers when they said,
that their Lord had been raised to life. And on account of this
He appeared to him and removed the doubt from his mind.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Church rejoices with her children because she was found worthy to see Your Resurrection. Make Your peace dwell in her heart and Your tranquillity to be for her a wall of protection. Keep her people by Your Cross that they may offer praise for Your goodness.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Psalm 100 (99) Give praise to the Lord, all the earth...

RESPONSE
Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth.
Know that the Lord is God. He made us, we belong to Him.
Give thanks to Him and bless His name for He is good,
the Lord whose love endures for ever. He is faithful from age to age.

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Today we celebrate the glorious Resurrection
of the Firstborn of the dead and Saviour of all peoples
who was clothed in suffering, and today He is exalted.
O the Glorious Feast! Among al' other feasts there is none like it.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to You, Brightness of the Eternal Father, Power of the First Being, Word whose thought is inscrutable, who by Your humiliation exalt the humble, and by Your Passion give life to those who are subject to passion, and by Your Resurrection raise up the fallen. To You belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, who by Your Resurrection gave joy to those in heaven and those on earth, and by Your rising rejoiced the angels and the sons of men, on the first day, the beginning of days, when by the goodness of God, its Creator, that which did not exist came into existence, on that day, light was created and darkness was dispelled so that everything might come into existence and receive all fair form and comely adornment. On this Sunday also a renewal came to our creation, when by the second birth of baptism a new creature was created and the darkness of ignorance was dispelled and passed from us, as we were enlightened by the light of the Holy Trinity, by the Lord of life, the Lord of glory, by Him who died in the flesh and revived by the Spirit.

And now we beseech You, Christ our God, on this day of Your Resurrection which brings life and salvation, rejoice us with all Your spiritual gifts. Enlighten our minds with the glorious light which shone from Your tomb and make us bear for You the harvest of the Spirit: love, joy and peace, patience, goodness and truthfulness and self-restraint. And like the women disciples who brought fragrant herbs and ointments to embalm Your body, make us to shine in all good conduct. May we be to You pure and holy garments, and as Joseph wrapped You in the shroud may we wrap You in our souls and place You in the cave of our hearts as in a new tomb, to rise with

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You and offer thanksgiving to You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On this holy day the Church and her children sing praise
and offer thanksgiving in the four quarters of the earth to God
who clothed Himself in a body and suffered the Passion for us all
and from His side flows life for the race of mortals.

When the blessed apostle Thomas saw his Lord risen, and touched
the mark of the spear, he was filled with joy and exclaimed,
"My Lord and my God! I confess that I have seen Your Glory
and Your Resurrection. Praise for Your goodness."

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

On this day, Sunday, the Son, the Firstborn resurrected,
the doors of Sheol were opened and salvation was manifested
and on account of His Resurrection He promised to the Holy Church
and her children, "Now I am with you until the end of time"

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On this day, Sunday, on which our Lord resurrected from the tomb and gave life to the Creation, the prophets and the apostles said, "Again He will come and ressurrect us and make us stand at His right, and make us enter the Heavenly Kingdom and life that does not pass away.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, hal!eluia,...p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Glory to the Power from on high,
who descended from the heights to the depths,
and died and resurrected with glory,
and betrothed the Holy Church to Himself.

When all the apostles were gathered together
in the upper room out of fear,
our Lord entered and stood among them
and comforted them with His greeting of peace.

Christ, Prince of Peace,
who sowed peace in the Creation,
strengthen Your Holy Church
that she may sing praise for Your goodness.

Glory to the Father who in His love
chose the apostles for His Only Son.
Adoration to the Son, the Holy One,
who strengthened them by His Resurrection.
Honour and exaltation to the Spirit
by whom they were initiated into the mysteries.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p. 16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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The Second Sunday After the Resurrection Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Good One whose righteousness the heavens declare, and whose salvation the earth proclaims, whose Soveriegnty the peoples acknowledge, and You gave them joy by Your Resurrection, do You now, Lord, manifest Your righteousness to us and let Your salvation be proclaimed among us. May Your goodness rest upon us that Your Name may be praised by us and that of Your Father and of Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 85 (84) Lord, You were pleased with Your land...

RESPONSE

O Christ, Great Saviour of the Creation,
Your own people nailed You to the Cross.
And the people who were not instructed in Your Law
pierced with a spear Your side full of life.
By Your Cross You save the world from destruction.
And so we cry out "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole Creation."

They brought You to a tomb for the dead
and laid You like one dead, Christ our God.
Then You set Yourself to destroy the dominion of Death,
like a mighty hero of invincible strength.
By Your resurrection You bestowed the new life on us all.
And so we cry out, "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our Fathers, Lord of the whole Creation."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE

In Your graciousness, Lord,
receive the service and the fragrant incense
which is offered to You, like the evening oblation
to be offered to You at the consummation of time.

By Your Resurrection, O our Saviour, You have given joy
to the heaven and to the inhabited world in its entirety.
And now the Holy Church which You saved
sings praise for Your glorious Resurrection.

The apostles heard from the women disciples
that their Lord had risen from the tomb
and they ran, saw the linen clothes
and gave glory to their Lord who had risen.

The King, Lord of the whole Creation, is risen from the tomb,
let us bow down in adoration to Him
who has raised us up from the fall and made us ascend with Him
to mingle with the companies of the heavenly ones.

Christ who rose from the house of the dead
without breaking the seals of the tomb in Your going forth,
in Your graciousness, cut and break
the bonds of iniquity which fetter Your servants.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Holy Father from whom all holiness flows, to the One Holy Son who suffered and died in the flesh and was buried and rose from the tomb for the sake of the race of men, to the One Holy Spirit, the perfector and fulfiller of all the holiness of the saints. It is good to offer to Him praise, honour, exaltation and adorations, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, how many and great are the mighty deeds and astounding wonders which You performed for us. You were clothed in the manhood of Adam that You might make for him a perfect

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renewal and revivify the weakness of our poor race, fallen and guilty. You fought with Death for three days when You were buried and You sowed joy and hope among those who were in their graves comforting those who were ravaged by corruption. You were roused like a sleeper and You set the seal on the words which had been spoken about You. The powers of highest heaven met You at Your Resurrection with their shouts of joy and went round Your tomb singing praises. The angels of fire with their flames flashing on all sides exulted and passed on the Good News of the New Life and the Resurrection to the women disciples. New things were on all lips, praise in all mouths, thanksgiving on every tongue for Him who died, and by His death, with one cry, pulled down Sheol, laid waste its walls and plundered its treasures, so that the Apostle might say in all truth, "O Death, where is your sting? Sheol, where is your victory?"

Today let the people of the Aramaens and the whole Church with them give thanks, and ascend and stand upon the high walls. Today let the maidens exult and with their timbrels sing to the Mighty One who has risen with dread power. Today let prophecy uncover its head and with David cry aloud to the Lord, because His right hand has wrought salvation and His strong arm has sustained Him. Today we descend to the garden of spices to look if the fig tree has fruits and to see if the vine has budded and flowered and if it gives forth the scent of its flowers. Today we take a swift walk and we enter the spiritual vineyard of Engaddi, we suck life from the cluster of the cypress flower, and we take pleasure in the scent of the lily of Sharon, the lily of the valley, and in the oil that is poured out, and the precious gum. Today at dawn, very early we went to the field and plucked the fruits of life and satisfied our cruel hunger which came upon us after the taking of the first fruit. Today let us keep festival and exult in praise, with new and blessed garments which are fragrant with nard and saffron. Let us put forth our voices and cry aloud and not spare, and sound on our trumpets and not cease and proclaim peace to those who are far and to those who are near. And with the bands of the Winged Creatures we say: "Blessed is Your glory from Your place, King of the Ages" and we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You, now and at all times for ever and ever. Amen.

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Hymn

On Sunday the angels descend from heaven and encircle
the holy tomb in which was laid the Lord of the whole Creation.
They say to the holy women who were come to embalm His body:
"He is not here He is risen and went forth from the tomb.
Go, announce to His disciples that their Lord is risen from the tomb."

On Sunday Mary and her companions started early, carrying
precious spices and fragrant herbs to the tomb of the Son
to embalm His holy body, as John tells us.
And there they saw a marvel, an angel calling them and saying,
"Our Lord is risen from the tomb and has put fear in the guards".

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

On Sunday is accomplished the Great Mystery of the Resurrection.
When Mary goes to the tomb and sees the Son arisen,
and says to him: "Tell me, where have you taken His body"
He replies: "Fear not, it is I. I am risen.
Go, tell My disciples that I am risen , as I had told them."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Companies of Watchers descend to visit the tomb of our Lord.
The guards seeing them are filled with fright and fall like dead men,
because of the splendour of the Watchers from heaven.
Blessed is the Mighty One, victorious over all.
He was dead, He lives, He rises and is resurrected,
and He gives us His holy body and His blood, the cup of salvation.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Blessed are You, Firstborn of the Eternal Father
who became the Firstborn of Your Blessed Mother at the end of time
and were raised from the tomb on the firstborn of days
and were seen by many brethren as the Firstborn and the Firstfruits.

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Make us worthy, Lord, that we may be joined with the sons
of the Church of the Firstborn whose names are written in heaven,
on that day which is the firstborn day of the days of the new world,
that we may sing to You, the Firstborn, our Brother and Saviour
and God, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those in earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

Your catch, Simon, is the Church of the nations.
In the night you laboured in vain,
Christ came like the day of justice and straightway
you gathered the countless riches of His teaching.

With the harp of David, the divine king,
on his hundred and fifty psalms we meditate each day.
And we sing the three hallowings to the three divine persons,
Trinity whose sublime glory passes all that we can say.

When the disciples dragged their fishing net to the shore
it was full of big fish, one hundred and fifty three of them.
With the one hundred and fifty psalms of praise
each day the Churches worship the Holy Trinity.

Glory to the Father who honoured His Son with a solemn procession.
Adoration to the Son who by His Resurrection gives joy to the Creation.
And to the Holy Spirit who announced the Good News through
the angels, "The Bridegroom is risen from the tomb!" all glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The right hand of the Lord raised Me.
The right hand of the Lord does mighty deeds.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

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He did chasten Me
but did not surrender Me to death.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 21:1–14 Jesus appears on the shore of the Sea of Galilee.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world,"

Christ our God who manifested Yourself to Your disciples by the sea, and as a sign of Your Divinity made them make a great catch of fish, endow all those who labour for the growth of Your Kingdom with the power of Your Holy Spirit, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who when Your disciples had laboured in vain the whole night at sea showed Yourself to them on the beach and comforted them with a meal of bread and fish, teach Your Churches how they should stand at the side of the labourers who suffer from want or under oppression, and of all those whose rights to a fair livelihood and dignity of life are ignored by the powers of this world, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by Your Mighty Resurrection accomplished the work of our salvation giving us the hope of eternal life, make the Holy Spirit who raised You from the dead now dwell in our hearts, and at the general resurrection give new life to our bodies we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N..., pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N... our archbishop metropolitan and N... our metropolitan and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening

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of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our Saviour, grant that at every hour we may make mention of the good things You have done for us, that we may bring forth good fruit, the harvest of Your Spirit in us, love, joy, peace and all goodness, all to the honour of Your name, and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7.

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God."
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

O King Christ, Watchers and angels rejoice for Your Resurrection
and on earth the sons of men sing praise and offer thanksgivings.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday the Lion about whom Jacob prophesied roars in Sheol.
Its foundations quake. The dead rise and sing praise to the Godhead.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday, Holy Church, bow down in adoration with joy
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 145 Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord...

RESPONSE

We will praise the Lord our life long.
We will sing to God while we have being.
He made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them.
He defends the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry.
He sets prisoners free and gives sight to the blind.
He loves the just and protects the strangers.

While You were fastened with the nails to the Cross, O our Saviour,
clothed with a garment of derision, and with a crown of thorns
on Your head, the sting of the Evil One was removed
and the thorns of disobedience of our father Adam were uprooted.
Because of this we sing praise saying, "Blessed are You
who by Your Cross deliver and save the people who believe in You

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Unapproachable Light, the Ineffable Wisdom, the Greatness which never passes away, the Incomparable Beauty, the Blessedness Incomprehensible,who on the Festival of His Resurrection bestows on us the fulness of His gifts, and opens for us the way to the glory of His Father. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, Great King of Glory, You are the life and the resurrection of all those who believe in You. Good shepherd, You became a lamb and were sacrificed for the sake of Your flock, and by Your sacrifice You made atonement for the whole Creation. You had power to lay down Your life for Your spiritual sheep, and had power to take it up again, as You alone are equal to the Father and the Holy Spirit in everlastingness and creative power. For the sake of the salvation of us, children of men, You endured death on the Cross of Your own will, in the flesh. By Your blessed and life-giving death You put to death, Death which had ruled over us for a long time. You gave life to humankind which was dead and corrupted by sin and made us partakers of immortality and incorruption You brought to an end the malediction pronounced against Eve on account of the bitter tasting of the tree, against the commandment. By Your descent to Sheol You brought light to its hidden depths below, and You delivered the just who were imprisoned there. And when You ascended from it You broke in pieces its doors of brass and shattered its bars of iron, and by Your Resurrection on the third day You brought light to the whole Creation and rose, the Firstborn from the dead among many brothers.

Do You, therefore, Lord our God, while we celebrate this Holy Day of Your Resurrection, raise us from the fall of sin. And while we walk in newness of life, grant us a share in the joy of all those who have been pleasing to You, by Your goodness and graciousness and love for humankind, our Lord and our God and our Saviour Jesus Christ, and that of Your blessed Father and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn
Behold, the Slain is resurrected, the Son is risen from the tomb.
The impious are put to shame, their rulers bow down their heads.
The Church raises her voice and praises Him saying: "Lord,
You awake like one who sleeps, like one who shakes off his wine
and You rejoice heaven and earth by Your Resurrection."

On Sunday the Life-giving Lamb of God rises from among the dead
Corruption could not touch Him, for He conquered Satan and Death.
When David sees Him he acclaims Him:
"God goes up with glory with the sound of horn."
The heavenly ones and the earthly ones cry out:
"Blessed is the Righteous One who did not suffer corruption."

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

On the Resurrection of the Heavenly Bridegroom
heaven and earth who had been at enmity are reconciled.
They rejoice together because the Lion Cub
has risen from the grave like a mighty one. In his own person
He put enmity to death and through the Cross made peace
and reunited humankind into a single body to God.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Christ who by Your death on the Cross destroyed hatred
and proclaimed peace to those who were near to God
and those who were far away from Him,
build the whole of humankind into a temple of the Lord,
a house filled with God's presence through Your Holy Spirit,
one God, Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Psalm 147 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem...

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RESPONSE
Lord, You have established peace on our borders
and given us fine wheat in plenty.

Our Saviour, You rose from the tomb with glory
and by Your Resurrection You gave new life to the world.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Sole Nature of the Godhead, that is one and known as one, Being without time and Nature without passion, Knowledge without learning, Wisdom before the Creation, Essence which cannot be comprehended, Unity which cannot be divided, Order in which there is no first and no last, which being eternal is not measured by any unit of time. Perfection which suffers no want, Creator who never grows weary, who is King for ever, who received the power of His sovereignty from nowhere and gives not to any other the glory of His majesty. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Eternal Child who were born of the Eternal Father and by whom all creatures were made, who were born of a virgin mother and by whom the whole world was redeemed, whom baptism begot and You cleansed the stains of sin, whom Sheol brought forth and You emptied it of its treasures, Saviour who came by the way of those who are born of woman, from the side of Him who begot You, and returned by the way of death to Him who sent You, Beloved Son who went forth by the way of birth that Your coming might be seen, and returned by the resurrection that Your departure might be established, Heavenly King who became a servant and in Your goodness tasted death that You might remove the death which reigned by Your command, Strong One who by the Cross crucified the sin of our nature, and by Your death put to death Death which laid hands on us. Mighty One at the time of whose passion the Creation trembled, darkness fell over the land, the earth quaked, the rocks split, the tombs opened and the dead arose from sleep, while on the day of Your Resurrection was revealed the strength and might of Your all divine power. Thus

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while meditating on the beauty of this noble and sacred day we say: "This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad on it. This is the day of which there was none like it before and there will be no other afterwards like to it. This is the day which was made from the beginning for joy and by it the Lord manifested His salvation. This is the day on which the Light which was brought forth in the beginning was seen, and by which the creatures of fire give praise and offer thanksgiving with their threefold cry. This is the day on which the Holy City in which the Lord was crucified is laid waste, and the Holy Spirit departs from it and on which...the Holy Church is irradiated by the glorious rays of the light of the Resurrection.

Therefore we beseech You, Christ our God, bestow on our troubled world the innumerable blessings of this Festal and Holy Day. Cleanse and purify us from every stain of flesh and spirit, and fill us with love, that we may be ready to share all the good things which are Your gifts to us with those who are in need,that with them we may offer You praise and thanksgiving now and always and for ever. Amen."

Hymn

Today the prophet of wonder, the son of Jesse, rejoice and exults.
He sings praise and offers thanksgiving to the Son of God
who is risen and has scattered His enemies by His sole appearance.
And the nations who have come to love Him sing glory.

O Saviour who by Your Resurrection vanquished Death and Satan,
and raised the dead who had departed from olden time,
Your Church beseeches You, gather her children together nearest to Your heart, in the fellowship and sharing of the true faith.

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

Come, nations, sing praise today to the Son of the King,
for He has worked wonders. His right hand prevailed over all,
He has removed him who ruled over us with tyranny
and has manifested His salvation to the nations.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Fountain of Life opened for the race of Adam,
the dead drink from You and are raised to life.
When You rose from the tomb You raised the dead
and You put to shame the company of the crucifiers.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9.

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11.

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The disciples were fishing at night and they caught nothing.
In the morning a man was on the beach who cried to them:
"Cast your net on the right side and you will see."
And when they cast the net it was full of big fishes.
The disciple whom Jesus loved said: "It is the Lord!"

When they stepped ashore, O marvel! there was bread,
and a charcoal fire with fish roasting on it.
When the Lord invited them: "Friends, come and eat!"
none of them dared to speak though they knew it was Jesus.
But He took the bread and gave it to them, and also the fish.

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Glory to the Father who raised up His Uniquely Beloved Son. Adoration to the Son who by His Resurrection made the Creation exult and to the Holy Spirit who announced the Good News through the Watchers. Glory to the Bridegroom who rose from the grave.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

The Third Sunday after the Resurrection Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

We adore You, Lord of tenderness, and we give thanks for Your extreme graciousness, on this Holy Sunday which is the first and the greatest of all days, that on which You created heaven and earth. Create anew, Lord, the hearts of us all, making them white from the stains of our wrong-doing, that we may praise You unremittingly and unceasingly, all the days of our life, our Lord and our God, for ever. Amen.

Psalm 87 (86) Her foundations are on His Holy Mountain, Jerusalem, whose gates the Lord cherishes...

RESPONSE

God mighty for evermore ascended the Cross.
The Creation shook, the earth was horrified.
Its foundations quaked, the rocks split apart

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and the sealed tombs burst wide open,
at seeing the shame of their Lord,
the Lord of glory crucified for our sins...
Let us all bless and praise and thank Him,
Christ the Hight Priest Supreme, for ever and ever.

The Watchers spread the news of life,
they comfort the holy women saying to them:
"The Son of the King has risen,
and by His Glorious Resurrection from among the dead
He has raised up Adam also from within the lower regions.
Go, tell the apostles who are weeping and lamenting:
'Go with joy into Galilee to take your pleasure in the sight of Him'."
Let us all bless and praise and thank Him,
Christ the High Priest Supreme, for ever and ever.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, her us...

RESPONSE
Your goodness made You stoop and lower Yourself to sinners, Lord.
In Your goodness be compassionate to Your Church
who with You was fastened to the arms of the Cross.

Christ who rose from among the dead
with infinite power and glory,
in Your tender love, our Lord,
raise us up from the abyss of our disgrace.

Christ who by Your rising to life
rejoiced those in heaven and those on earth,
rejoice us all by Your Resurrection
and make us stand at Your right hand.

On Sunday our Saviour adorns His Church
in the four quarters of the earth.
And He gives her His body and His blood,
the Mystery of the supreme fulfilment of His love.

Let us offer thanks to the Father in His Uniquely Beloved Son
and adore the Son in Him who sent Him
and say all together, "Praise to the Holy Spirit."

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise....

Praise...to the Only One who alone is the true God, uncreated, not made and transcendent, to be praised and adored in unity and trinity, three persons in whom there is neither confusion nor mixture, whom we know as one sole Power and one sole Divinity, who is to be confessed, adored and praised in His unity and holy trinity, at this time of evening...

Christ, Eternal Power, Wisdom of the Father, Eternal Child who are in no way inferior to Your Father, with Your Father who anointed You with the oil of gladness and the Holy Spirit who sanctifies all. You complete the Trinity. You were seen as a man like us upon earth, that by Your body You might put an end to sin which, by man, had entered into the world, and You put Yourself under the law of death. You gave us the commandments of the Covenant of Salvation and You delivered us from deceit by making us to come to the knowledge of Yourself. You acquired a people ready, a kingdom to last, an obedient assembly, and You gave Yourself for its sake, descending with the Cross into Sheol in confirmation of the sayings of the prophets. Then You rose again on the third day, for it was not possible for corruption to touch Him who is the fountain-head of life, and You found Your glory where everyone else had found disgrace. You made to come forth from Sheol the spirits of the believers enlightened by You, those who had kept the natural law, and afterwards the written law given on the holy mountain. You sent the spirit of the thief to the place of joy and delight. You spoilt Sheol which felt secure and You emptied it of its treasures by making its captives to go forth. You kept in Your body the marks of the nails to prove Your Resurrection to Your disciples and You healed their doubts by letting them touch You. You established Your true love in their hearts by the peace which You gave them. You taught them the unity of Your power with that of Your Father when You said, "I ascend to Him who is My Father by nature and your Father by grace, My God according to the economy of grace and your God according to nature."

Therefore, we beseech You, Lord, be gracious to us and remove from us every trace of sin. Establish in our hearts a perfect love for

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You and for one another. Strengthen us to witness to Your Resurrection and to reveal in our daily life the good news of Your forgiveness and of the reconciliation with You, in whom is the fulfilment of all what the world seeks and hungers for. And we will praise You and give thanks to You, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday morning Mary came to place spices in the tomb of our Lord,
as it is written, and she saw an angel at the side of the tomb,
who full of joy opened his mouth and said to her:
"Why do you seek the Living One among the dead?
Why do you seek the Light amid the darkness?
He is risen as He promised and He has saved the Creation."

The Life-giving One descended to the abode of the dead and announced
the resurrection, the new life and the forgiveness of sins to all.
He broke the bars of Sheol and pulled down its gates.
He took away the power of Death, putting an end to her rule.
Blessed are You, Living One, Giver of life to our death.
Blessed are You, Watcher who awake us from our sluggishness.
Blessed is the Lord who delivers us by His blood.
and forgives and is gracious to all.

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

On Sunday our Lord is raised to life and rises from the tomb in glory.
He ascends to His Father and the heavenly companies
make a joyful noise with their praises when He sits at the right hand
and the Fiery Ones offer their adorations.
A Watcher descends, breaks the seals of the tomb
and rolls away the stone and announces the Resurrection
and the new life for the earthly ones.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Lord comes forth from the tomb without breaking the seals
as He was born of Mary while preserving her virginity.
Legions of angels surround the tomb and carry the news of life.
The Son of the King is risen. Glory to Him who scatters those
who crucified Him. Glory to Him who gathers together His worshippers
Glory to Him who gives joy to His Church and now she sings praise.

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O you who died in Christ do not be sad,
the resurrection comes and the day of retribution.
You will rise without corruption from your graves.
You will go with haste to meet the Son of the King
and be clothed with garments of glory
and you will sing praise in His presence.
Christ who are the resurrection of the chidren of Adam,
pardon us and be gracious to all.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
We adore You, All-gracious One, our God Jesus Christ
who by Your Divine Resurrection
breathed the sweet scent of immortality on us
who offer adorations and praise for Your Rising to life.

Accept also now from our weakness, O Lord, this incense
which we offer in memory of Your Resurrection full of love
and by it give us the pardon of all our transgressions and
an open face, that we may celebrate Your Resurrection in sincerity.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Resurrection appears and a sign is made to the heavenly powers.
They set out and descend to the earth in their white garments.
From His dwelling-place the Slain Bridegroom calls His servants
who hasten to Him to see the tomb, the new bridal chamber.
A light appears encircling the tomb and the guards are shaken.
Astounded and stupefied they tremble with fright.

In the middle of the night the day reigns,
as at the crucifixion the night reigned in the middle of the day.
The hours stolen by the night are restored to the day
as it now shines in the middle of the night.
The night reigned in the middle of the day when He died
and when He rose in the middle of the night the day appeared.

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Darkened by the crucifixion the day did not give its light.
The night of the Resurrection was illumined by a great marvel.
He who speaks of this let him speak with sincerity,
with a simple heart filled with the truth.
And he who listens let him have a heart filled with faith,
then will he hear the words of the Son with love.

The heights and the depths praise You, our Lord,
because You filled them with Your joy.
The two camps sing Your glory because You have reconciled them.
The Churches offer praise with hymns of the Holy Spirit,
to You, our Lord, and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit,

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Praise God all the earth.
Sing praise to the honour of His Name.
Sing praise to the honour of His glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

John 6: 16–29 Work for the food that lasts, the food of eternal life.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who appeared to Your disciples walking on the water to calm their fears, and later gave them the bread from heaven to eat, make Your Churches to be renewed and united in the celebration of Your Eucharistic Meal, we beeseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by Your death bound the strong one who had bound us, Satan, and by Your Resurrection laid aside, with Your garments, the weakness of the race of Adam, clothe us with the garment of Divinity, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Christ our God who by Your Mighty Resurrection accomplished the work of our salvation, giving us the hope of eternal life, make the Holy Spirit who raised You from the dead now dwell in our hearts, and give new life to our bodies at the general resurrection, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N..., pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N..., our archbishop metropolitan and and...our metropolitan and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries, for their services to the people and for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our Saviour, grant that at every hour we may acknowledge the good things You have done for us, and make us bring forth good fruits, the harvest of the Spirit in us: love, joy, peace and all goodness, all to the honour of Your Name, and we will cry and say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord , have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p. 7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Awake, sinners, while there is time for conversion.
With tears of compunction and sighs of repentance
let us cleanse and remove all the stains of our sins.

We who have sinned cannot turn away from repentance.
Our Lord turns with love to those who repent,
and now He forgives us our transgressions.

On the night of Sunday,
the day on which our Saviour rose from the tomb,
let us all awake from sleep to sing praise to Him.

Our Lord, when You will come forth for Your manifestation,
on the day when You will appear, may we meet You,
like the holy women who went to embalm Your body.

Burst forth into song, O Church of believers,
sing praise to your Betrothed who rose from the tomb.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 73 (72) How good God is to those who are pure of heart...

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RESPONSE
How good God is to those who are pure of heart!
Yet my feet almost stumbled when I saw how the wicked prosper.
To accept this was too difficult for me, until I remembered
how unsearchable are God's judgements, how inscrutable His ways,
and what may be the final destiny of the wicked.

On the Resurrection of the Son of God,
a song of praise resounds inside the tomb
from the mouths of the angels who sing glory
to the Son of God, Christ, who has come forth from the tomb
and by His Resurrection rejoices heaven and earth.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Unapproachable Light, the Ineffable Wisdom...
As on the 2nd Sunday after the Resurrection, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p. 110

Hymn

Rejoice all you peoples and take your delight
in singing praise to the Uniquely Beloved Son of God
who rose from the tomb and entered the upper room.
He strengthened His apostles, and Thomas bowing to Him in adoration
touched His feet and exclaimed, "My Lord and my God!"

Offer thanks, O Church of believers, on this great feast,
to the Life-giving one who rose from the tomb.
And He gives a pledge to the children of Adam,
His holy body and His blood, by which He invites them
to come and meet Him on the day of the resurrection.

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

Leap for joy and exult, O Holy Church,
for in You resound hymns of praise from the nations.
They seek the graciousness of the Lord of truth
who suffered for you, and entrusted to you
His body and His blood for the forgiveness of sins.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Leap for joy and exult, O Holy Church,
and sing praise to the Life-giving One
who lowered Himself and saved us by His blood.
He built in you a holy altar and on it He places His body
and His blood in propitiation for all your people.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Psalm 75 (74) We give thanks to You, O God...

RESPONSE
We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks.
We invoke Your Name and we recount Your wonderful deeds...
We rejoice for ever and we sing praise to You
who break the power of the Evil One
and exalt the strength of the just.

On the Cross Jesus cried aloud: "My God, My God,"
and at the sound of His voice the ark of the Covenant trembled,
the veil of the temple was rent in two and the Spirit departed.
And Jesus went from Golgotha to the place
that had devoured all generations.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Sole Nature of the Godhead...
As on the 2nd Sunday after the Resurrection, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p. 112

Hymn
On this Sunday the angels descend from the highest heaven
to see the tomb of their Lord who had resurrected and there
to sing glory to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
the deepest mystery, the Trinity, God Infinite,
who of His own will creates and sets in order
the heights and the depths. It is He whom we praise.

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The Giver of Life to the dead who is risen
appears to Mary and her companions and comforts them: "Why
are you weeping? Why do you seek the Living One among the dead?
He is risen. Go now and announce to the apostles,
Your Master has risen from the grave as He had promised."

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

On Sunday the Firstborn of the Father rose victoriously,
He scattered the crucifiers and rejoiced the whole creation.
He filled the guards with fear when they saw the great wonders,
lightings flashing from the tomb, and on high
angels singing praise to the Lord who is risen.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today, Sunday, Peter and John run to see the tomb of their Lord who is risen. They are bitterly mourning our Saviour who was crucified like a criminal between two thieves, and they are weeping for His death. But by His Resurrection He makes them glad and cheerful, while He puts to shame and scatters those who crucified Him.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

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Our Lord Jesus Christ after remaining three days in the tomb,
in the very early morning, awoke like one who had been sleeping
He whom the Creation cannot contain, a little tomb sufficed for Him.
Heaven and earth are filled with Him and He is praised by the 3 Amen.
You who are full of faith, may your faith still increase.
Be filled with it and make it flow, for there is nothing like it.
Have full faith in Him, a faith never satiated
for He Himself loved us beyond all measure.
He was put to death for our sake, that he might put Death to death.
He was buried that He might bury all the forces of evil.
He came to life and rose and raised us up, putting Death to death by His death, and at once, victorious and alive ascended to Him who sent Him. He left the house of Joseph and went forth from Ephrem
He chose the nations, and from them praise is offered to Him.

He loves the Church and calls her, My Mountain, the mountain
of the true Sion, not that on which He was crucified, the Church
He gathered, in which He made His dwelling on the mountain.
She is in heaven by His will and on earth is her foundation for ever.
In the Church is the altar with all the spiritual gifts
which He distributes to us, the Compassionate One.
On Sunday, the day on which He resurrected
they descend and flow as from live springs, as is befitting His Glory.
You His worshippers, celebrate Sunday, the firstborn of days,
on which His Mysteries are multiplied. Worship Him who gave us the true Sabbath, making Sunday the firstborn, like Jacob who obtained the right of the firstborn from Esau and became the firstborn and the first, and like Ephrem who became the first, before Manasseh who was the eldest, and received the blessing of the firstborn rather than him who was the first by birth. To Sunday also belong henceforth the blessings and the right of the firstborn.

Glory to You, Exalted One,
who are extolled by the heavenly ones.
Thanksgiving to the Earthly One,
who ascended and made the earthly ones to ascend.
And on us graciousness and compassion,
at all times. Amen. Amen.

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Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

The Fourth Sunday after the Resurrection Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to present to You sacrifices of praise and sincere offerings, on this holy day of Your Life-giving Resurrection, and keep away from us and from the whole world enemity and war, exploitation and domination, that we may celebrate You in sincerity and holiness. And we will, praise You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 47 (46) All peoples, clap your hands...

RESPONSE

We shout joyfully to God with a loud voice.
We sing to God with the harp, we sing praise.
God is King over all the earth, He is King of the nations.
We sing to Him with the harp, we play with all our skill.

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A new people from among the nations who were living in darkness, under the cloud of death, rejoices wonderfully in Your splendour which gives light to all. And now, they offer praise to You.
You are blessed, Lord, God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Christ, we fulfil the evening service
and we offer this spiritual sacrifice to You
who in Your tenderness willed to have compassion on us, and who showed us Your love in Your Resurrection so great and glorious.

Lord our Lord, we ask You, do not reject us from Your presence
do not cast us away, You who are good.
In Your tenderness, have compassion on us,
as in Your Resurrection, great and glorious You showed us Your love.

Rejoice exceedingly, Holy Jerusalem, Mother of all Churches,
you are the dwelling place of the glory of God,
for you were the first to receive the gift of the pardon of sins,
by the power of the Resurrection of Christ.

Make to cease divisions and rivalries in Your Churches,
O Lord, and increase in them peace and tranquillity.
Guard them by Your Cross that their assemblies may cry out:
"Glory to You, Lord, and to Him who sent You."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Splendour of the Eternal Father, the Power of the First Being, Right Hand of the Imperishable Goodness, Intelligence of the Supreme Mind, Word of the Unfathomable Thought. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ, the Invincible Power, the Unconquerable Strength, Inaccessible Height, who sits upon a throne in glory and are carried by the chariot with four faces, the womb contained You and a manger

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sufficed for You to lie in. A cave was Your resting place, while the whole earth is in the palm of Your hand, and the sea is in Your grasp yet a tomb contained You. The Fiery Ones hide their faces before Your splendour yet You are carefully looked after by Joseph and his family. Magnificent is Your dignity. And who can fathom the depth of Your love? Who will dare to handle coals of fire, or who will be found to number the drops of rain? Who will there be to bestride the sea, and to measure all the dry land? Or who will wrap up the waters in a cloth and who will enclose the rays of the sun in his arms? You came forth from the Father's heart to manifest Yourself to the house of Adam, that You might bring Your flock back to the pastures of divine life. You appeared like the sun on the plains, and You drove away the gloomy darkness of death. Your coming was like the month of April that revives the earth by its first showers. You were like the rain of life. The dead breathed You and stirred with life and became green like young shoots and shot up like fair plants. You stretched out Your hand towards the deceitful serpent and snatched from his teeth the image of Your likeness which was bitten by him. By the pain on the Cross, You bore the sin of the sons of Adam and remained three days in Sheol and You sealed the images of the servants of Your Father. You walked over the abysmal depths which devour the generations of men. You sprinkled life on them, sowing in them the resurrection. By Your nails You tore up the deed which Eve had written when she was deceived. You plunged into Sheol like a skifull diver and raised up from it the pearl, Adam, Your image. You lay down among the dead and Your sleep awakened them. The dwellers in the grave gave You thanks in their place, and You raised up from it the pearl which is the form of Adam, bearing the divine image.

Therefore while we rejoice and exult in Your Resurrection and are filled with joy and gladness at Your mighty rising, we offer the praise which is due to Your Majesty and beseech You with supplications from the heart. You who are the Prince of life and the Father of the world to come, incline Your compassion towards us, who are signed with Your holy name, and we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

With joy the Church recognizes the Son, the Firstborn,
who comes to take her for His bride.
Of His own will He delivers Himself to the people
who rise up against Him and who fasten Him to the Cross,
while He gives to those who believe in the Good News
His holy body and His blood of forgiveness.

On Sunday He who gives life to all things rises
from the depth of Sheol, the devourer of all life.
He gives joy to the dry bones and raises up with Himself
the just who were at rest, who gave testimony to the truth.
He is the Saviour who by His sacrifice delivers the Creation.

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

In the evening when Sunday begins Mary goes to the tomb
with the women disciples, all overwhelmed with deep sorrow,
to embalm the body of Jesus with precious ointments.
They see a great light and two angels standing who say:
"He is risen, He who is the resurrection of the dead."

From age to age and for ever. Amen..

Glory to the Eldest Son who tasted death to give life to the world.
He entered among the dead without being seen and rose in glory,
and manifested Himself with power to His disciples.
On the day of His Resurrection He reunites heaven and earth.
The earthly ones join the heavenly ones to give glory to Him.

In Your bounty and Your love, Lord our Lord, make memory
of the dead who have eaten Your body and drank Your blood,
and who now rest and sleep in the hope of Your Name.
When You shall come to judge the peoples and the tribes
raise them up, Lord, and place them at Your right side.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

In Your grace, Christ our God, accept this evening incense.
Give us Your light through the keeping of the commandments,
that the sun may never go down on our faults.
With all our hearts, we call upon You, O Great Lover of Humankind.

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Christ who loved us so much that You gave Your life for us
as a fragrant offering, a sacrifice well pleasing to God,
strengthen Your Churches that they may witness to Your Gospel
and praise You on this day of the Resurrection, and on all days.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver the Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Son of God is risen from the grave by His own power.
When He died Death could not reign over Him. In His own person
He united in a mysterious fashion our mortal nature
with the immortal one: without body He could not die,
and without the immortal nature the body could not be raised.

The Living One in the human body which He put on at the incarnation
tasted all things without change: disgrace, the passion and death.
To this body which He took from the Daughter of David, God gave
the fair glory of the Divinity, the glory that does not fade away.
In this body He engaged a great combat and was struck by the Captor
and suffered blows until He slept.

In the tomb, divesting Himself of the weakness of the flesh,
He clothed Himself in the strength of His Father.
Glory to You, Lord, who as man accepted death
and as God were raised from the grave with great power.
As You gave joy to the companies of the beings of fire
and gladdened Your apostles on the day of Your Resurrection
give joy to us also, on the last day, with Your saints.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth.
Give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Praise the Lord and bless His name.
Make known His salvation from day to day.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Luke 5:27–39 The Feast of the tax collector. Old and New.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who taught Your disciples that the new wine of the Gospel cannot be poured into old skins, give to Your Churches true discernment, like the householder who brings out from his store-room things both new and old we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by Your death bound the strong one who had bound us, Satan, and by Your Resurrection laid aside with Your garments the weakness of the race of Adam, clothe us with the Garment of Divinity, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by Your Mighty Resurrection accomplished the work of our salvation giving us the hope of eternal life, make the Holy Spirit who raised You from the dead now dwell in our hearts and at the general resurrection give new life to our bodies, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, for the fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Christ our God, for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ, God our Saviour, grant that at every hour we may make mention of the good things You have done for us and bring forth good fruits, the harvest of Your Spirit in us, love, joy, peace and all goodness, to the honour of Your name, our Lord and our God, for ever. Amen.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all You who serve the Lord....

RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God!"
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As we awake from our sleep let us worship and praise Christ
who rose from the grave and saves the whole world.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday, forgive us all, O Christ who died for all
and grant us and our departed to stand at Your right hand.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today God rose from the tomb with great power
and by His Resurrection from the dead He reunites heaven and earth.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 73 (72) O Shepherd of Israel, hear us...

RESPONSE
O Lord, rouse Your victorious power from slumber,
shine forth from Your throne of glory.
Let Your face shine on us whom You saved by Your Resurrection
and reveal Yourself to the world, our Saviour and Redeemer.

On the Resurrection of the Son all creatures rejoice,
they sing praise with triumphant voices.
Be gracious to all, our Saviour and Redeemer.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Unapproachable Light, the Ineffable Wisdom...

As on the 2nd Sunday after the Resurrection, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p...

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Hymn

Great is this day, Sunday,
on which our Lord rose from within the tomb
and the earthly ones are reconciled with the heavenly ones.
Death and Satan are defeated, darkness is dispelled, light shines.
The nations turn to the truth and walk on the way of life.
Behold, on this day of joy, they offer praise to the Firstborn,
who delivered all by His Resurrection. Halleluia, to Him be praise.

God descended to the house of the dead
and as Jonah, Son of Mathai, was in the fish for three days
He was for three days in the tomb.
As the son of Mathai freed himself from the fish and the sea
and came out of them without suffering corruption, our Lord
conquered death and Satan and came forth with glory from the tomb.
Behold, He sits at the right hand, and angels and men
sing glory to Him, halleluia, on the day of His Resurrection.

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

The Freeborn entered the tomb and dwelt in it for three days.
Sheol was stirred, Death wailed, the whole place quaked,
the tombs burst open and the dark recesses were illumined.
Light entered and rejoiced all those who had fallen asleep,
when the Living One by His death raised them from the dust
and promised them the general resurrection.
Halleluia, to Him be praise.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Come, see the Living One tasting shame and death for the mortals.
He removes the power and rule of Death, the tyrant, for ever.
By the Cross He kills the Serpent who had led us astray,
and by the nails He pierces the womb of the Devourer.
The doors and bars of Sheol are shattered,
the prisoners are set free, they set out and enter Jerusalem
and announce that Christ has risen from the tomb
with great power. Halleluia, to Him be praise.

MEDITATION

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SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 82 (81) God stands in the assembly of the angels...

RESPONSE

God stands in the divine assembly to give judgement...
Do justice for the weak and the poor,
set them free from the hand of the wicked.
Arise, O God, judge the earth, for You rule all nations.

Rejoice, O Church, on the resurrection of the King
who adorns Your assemblies with leaders and teachers.
Exult and leap for joy, O race of Adam, you are saved by Jesus
who is risen and has conquered death by His Resurrection.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Being beyond time, Wisdom beyond all creation...

As on the 2nd Sunday after the Resurrection, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.

Hymn

The Living Lamb of God descended from the heights
and lowered Himself for our salvation,
and with His gentle voice He cried out, saying:
"He who believes in Me shall not remain in the dark."
The apostles proclaimed His glory among the nations,
and behold, those who are saved by His Cross sing praise.

Come, beloved, see the Church, the elect, servant of the poor:
She offers baptism for the forgiveness of sins,
the Holy Spirit dwells in her and sanctifies her children;
in her is the table of the Kingdom to give life to mortals.
Blessed is he who has spread her dominion in heaven and on earth.

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

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Blessed are You, Church of believers, bride of the Son,
for in You are accomplished the symbols and hidden mysteries.
Noah the Righteous represented You by the ark.
Jacob the just signified You near the mountain of Bethel.
The blessed Moses perceived You on Mount Sinai,
and Isaiah by the eye of the Spirit.
Christ fulfilled Your mystery in His own person by His blood.

From age to age and for ever . Amen.

Today is the day of joy, the day of good tidings
which spread in heaven and up to the ends of the earth.
Today many voices of praise resound in Sheol.
It is the Day of the Resurrection of the Living One
who raised up Adam and his children from the fall of sin.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia,...p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

The women disciples hastened to the bridal chamber of the Beloved
Lord carrying sweet spices to embalm the body of the Only Son,
the Sun of Righteousness who, willed to become mortal,
The noble ones came to see him with great sorrow.

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The Slain calls his servants to come and see the bridal chamber.
Suddenly the spiritual ones encircle it with glory and holiness.
He was pleased to see that the women who had served Him
had come to honour Him.
As He had no use of garments He left them in the tomb.

As the women came near the tomb they saw an angel at the door
who said to them with great love: "Why are you weeping?
The Slain is risen from the grave, full of glory.
Go, announce the resurrection to the disciples. Do not be sad,
your Master is risen from the tomb, go and see Him in Galilee."

To You be glory from all mouths and praise from every tongue.
In the name of all Your creatures we say glory to You,
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.
On this Great Feast be gracious to us, Lord,
and on the Day of Your coming be compassionate to Your Church.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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The Fifth Sunday after the Resurrection
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Holy Light who shone forth of Your own will from the Holy Father, and by Your shining gave light to all those who were sitting in darkness, and by Your rising from among the dead raised up with You those who were dead and made them enter with You into Jerusalem and announce the Resurrection, grant us, Lord, to celebrate Your Glorious Resurrection as is fitting, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 100 (99) Praise the Lord, all the earth...

RESPONSE

Praise the Lord, all the earth, serve the Lord with joy.
It is He who made us and we belong to Him.
Give thanks to Him and bless His name.
The Lord is good. He is everlasting goodness.

You alone are blessed, O God,
who by Your Cross have torn up and cancelled
the sentence which was written against us.
Your honour is great, Your glory supreme.

You alone are blessed, O God, who of Your own will
endured the Passion and were buried,
and rose from the tomb after three days and resurrected.
Your honour is great, Your glory supreme.

Glory to You who by Your Resurrection
rejoice the Church which You espoused.
And behold, she sings praise to You
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE

Lord, we call upon You, answer us.
Hear our words and listen to our prayers.

Blessed are You who in Your love tasted death,
and by Your Resurrection liberated our race.

On the day of Your Resurrection, O Saviour of the world,
raise us up from our mortal state.

The nations and the children of the bridal feast
sing the praise of the Saviour of all.

We offer praise to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who by entering into Sheol broke down its gates and pulled down its strong walls by His Resurrection, and loosed the prisoners and set them free, and cast down the captor who had made our race captive, and put an end to his rule overu s. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Praise to You, Christ, Power and Wisdom of the Father, Splendour of His Glory and Image of His Being, who were clothed in human flesh according to Your good pleasure and descended to humiliation and endured suffering of Your own will, and ascended the Cross, and by Your crucifixion conquered the Adversary, and descended into Sheol and dwelt among the dead for three days, as Jonah the prophet signified by a mysterious sign and rose wondrously from the grave and thereby accomplished a new marvel in the world, and filled with wonder those in heaven and those on earth, the living and the dead. Mary ran with joy. Salome hastened to tell the news. Joanna announced it with gladdness. They said to the apostles, "We have seen an angel by the tomb." Simon heard and, together with John, ran to the tomb. The younger reached before the elder, but gave the place of honour to him. He looked in but did not enter first, that the chief of the apostles might first realize the Mystery. For the Mystery which was revealed

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to Simon at the supper gave him the right to teach the Mystery of the Resurrection. On account of this the Church celebrates this Glorious Day with the voice of praise and cries with fitting songs to God and says, "Blessed is the Feast of Your Resurrection which gives joy to the dejected. Blessed is Your victory, King of the redeemed."

Therefore, our Lord, give joy to Your Church with the peace that comes from You. Increase peace in her and true love. May Your Cross be a staff of strength to her shepherds. May Your Day be a day of joy for the lambs and the sheep. May Your compassion be pardon for the departed who slept in Your hope, in true faith, that we may offer praise and thanksgiving together for Your Resurrection, Christ, the good hope of the living and the expectation of those who followed You in Your Passover, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On this day all creatures are filled with joy
because of Your Resurrection, O Son of God.
On this day when appears the sign of Your rising from the tomb
the companies of heavenly beings praise You with shouts of joy,
Good Master, who of Your own will descended to earth
and endured the Passion and the Cross and were struck with a blow
in the tribunal, and by Your shame delivered the Creation.

The Creation is full of gladness because the Firstborn
is risen from the grave and has conquered Death and Satan,
inflicting a defeat on them in the sight of all.
He wrought the purification of the sins of Adam's children
in His own person and opened to them the Heavenly Kingdom.
Building with them the Church on earth, He completes His course
according to His will, and ascends to Him who sent Him.

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

The Glorious Bridegroom is raised to life from among the dead.
He removes all sorrow and sadness from the Creation.
To the pit which had devoured the mighty ones He announces
the Resurrection and the Life. Blessed is the Messenger of Peace
who reconciles the Creation with its Creator and casts out
Death and Satan who were ruling over the human race.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

They laid in the tomb the Wondrous Living One who is ineffable.
They placed the stone against the door and set seals on it.
The guards surrounded Him whose Divinity is hidden,
but He stood up in glory and arose.
He sat down at the right hand of the Father
and gave as a pledge to His Church
His body and His blood which give life to all.

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Holy Victim, Incense full of reconciliation,
You gave Yourself in sacrifice on the height of Golgotha.
You offered Yourself on the summit of the Cross
and by the good odour of Your sacrifice
You made atonement for the iniquity of the world.

May the perfume of our incense
spread in Your presence in Your holy temple
and be pleasing to Your will,
that we may always offer praise and glory
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The angels descend to the tomb of the Son singing praise.
The dead arise and join the choirs of the heavenly beings.
The heights and the depths mingle in a single song,
and offer praise to the One Mediator who reconciles them.

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The heavens send the Fiery Ones in whirling flames,
and the earth sees men clothed in the light of the Resurrection.
The watchers descend and with those below sing praise
to the all adorable Son who reconciles them through His sacrifice.

The tomb is a harbour where all the afflicted come to rest.
The tomb of the Son removes all pain from the Creation.
The tears of Eve and the sufferings of Adam are assuaged by Him.
The world is full of joy because of the new hope it is given.

Glory to the Father
who fashioned Adam of His own will.
Adoration to the Son
who restored him to his glory by His Resurrection.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit
who gave joy to the Watchers by His return.
Blessed is He who reconciles the heights and the depths.
To Him be praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is risen, He is risen indeed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Sing praise to God our strength.
Acclaim the God of Jacob.
Take your tambourines and your lyres with your harps.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

John 14:1–15 Jesus the Way to the Father.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who when the apostles were perturbed at the announcement of Your departure revealed Yourself to them as the way, the truth and the life, make the world receive You as the way to the true life, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Christ our God who by Your death bound the strong one who had bound us, Satan, and by Your Resurrection laid aside with Your garments the weakness of the race of Adam, clothe us with the garment of Divinity, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by Your Mighty Resurrection accomplished the work of our salvation giving us the hope of eternal life, make the Holy Spirit who raised You from the dead now dwell in our hearts and at the general resurrection give new life to our bodies, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole Creation, we beseech You:

Hear us Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Christ, God our Saviour, grant that at every hour we may make mention of the good things You have done for us and bring forth good fruits, the harvest of Your Spirit in us, love, joy, peace, and all goodness, all to the honour of Your name, our Lord and our God, for ever. Amen.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Why do you love sleep more than praise, my soul?
How long will you indulge in pleasures which do not profit?
Awake now, rise and sing praise.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

On Sunday, the Great Day, our Lord rose from the house of the dead,
and now He is exalted in the heights at the right hand
of Him who sent Him. Watchers and men acclaim Him.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Sunday is also a day of victory for the apostles.
On Friday they bore mockeries for the crucifixion,
but at the Resurrection of the Son they acclaim Him.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

The women disciples set out to embalm the holy body of the Saviour,
but they found the tomb empty and an angel clothed in fire
who announces to them the resurrection.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

Church of the nations, praise the Son who betrothed you by His Cross.
He founded His crucifiers and strengthened you
and established Your foundation on the rock of faith.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 83 (82) O God, who is like You! Do not be still...

RESPONSE
O God, who is like You? Do not be still.
Do not keep silent, O God, when Your enemies raise up a tumult.
Let them know that Your name is the Lord,
the Most High over all the earth.

On Sunday our Lord raised us from our fall
and made humankind enter heaven with Him.
On the day of Your Resurrection, Christ our Saviour,
raise us from the fall of our offences.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Unapproachable Light, the Ineffable Wisdom...
As on the 2nd Sunday after the Resurrection, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p...

Hymn
On this day, Sunday, the bones of the just and devotees of old
thrilled with joy in their graves.
On the day of the coming of Christ,
they will go and meet Him clothed in their vestures of glory.

Blessed is the Living One who by His Resurrection
gives life to the dead.
Blessed is the Good One who tasted death to sweeten our death.
Blessed is He who by His death atoned for us
and makes us ascend with Him to heaven to Him who sent Him.

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

On this day, Sunday, the Watchers descend from the heights,
company by company, in their white garments.
They sing praise near the tomb of the Son, and they sing
halleluia to the Slain who rose victoriously.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Holy Church of believers rise and sing praise to the Only Son
who suffered for your sake and saved you by His blood.
He descended into Sheol to announce the Resurrection.
He rose from the tomb with glory and gave life to your children.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.

Psalm 90 (89) O Lord, You have been our refuge...

RESPONSE
O Lord at night fill us with Your love,
and we shall exult and rejoice all our days,
show forth Your works to Your servants,
let Your glory shine on Your devotees.

You who slumbered and slept like a son of man,
and You rose and were raised up to life,
and gave life to the race of mortals,
be gracious to all, O God.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Being beyond time, Wisdom before all creation
As on the 2nd Sunday after the Resurrection, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p...

Hymn
On this day, Sunday, the angels descend from the heights
to see the tomb of their Lord who has been raised to life.
They sing praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
the Trinity, the Ineffable Mystery, God incomprehensible,
who made the heights and the depths of His own will. Him we praise.

He who gives life to the dead by His Resurrection met Mary with
her companions and comforted her saying: "Why are you weeping?
And why do you seek the Living One among the dead?
He rose and was raised to life. Go and tell the apostles
that their Master is risen from the tomb, as He had promised."

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

On Sunday the Firstborn of the Hidden Father
rose from the tomb and rejoiced the whole Creation.
He scattered the executioners and filled the guards with fright,
as flashes of light were coming forth from the tomb
and Watchers in the heights sang praise to their risen Lord.
From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On this day, Sunday, Peter and John ran to the tomb
to see their Lord who had resurrected.
They were grieving and sorrowing for our Saviour
crucified by wicked men and they were mourning over His death.
But they rejoiced when they believed in His Resurrection.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of the Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
We beseech You, Our Lord, be gracious to us.

Christ who saved us by Your Resurrection, be gracious to all.

On Sunday Mary hastened to see the Lord among the dead.
She carried incense to honour Him and fragrant herbs for His burial.
She reached the tomb in great sorrow, saying in her grief,
"My Lord, how were You put to death by the wicked?
Why were You put in Sheol, You who had not eaten of the fruit?
You had not broken the command given at the beginning,
why were You put in the grave, O Lover of Humankind?"

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As she was weeping bitterly near the tomb,
she saw an angel at the door, and going near him
she asked, in a voice broken by grief,
"What are you doing here at the tomb of my Beloved?
Wicked men were filled with hatred for Him.
They condemned Him with evil-doers.
They pierced His hands with nails and His side with a spear.
But today He is no more found among the dead,
no more remembered in the house of the departed."

Having said this the blessed one remained silent
and listened to the angel's account of the wonders.
How He was tortured on the Cross. The passion He endured.
How when lifted up on the tree He descended into Sheol.
His exhaustion in the house where judgement is executed,
the misery of those who lie there,
the darkness all over the house of perdition,
the sufferings and all the pain He bore.
And now by His Resurrection He broke down wretched Sheol,
overthrowing Death and her power and doing away with her sting.

Praise to the Only Son who redeemed us from error by His blood
and by His Resurrection gives us life and sets us free from bondage.
Thanksgiving to His hidden Father who sent Him for our salvation.
To the Holy Spirit a shout of joy and on us His love and compassion.
Blessed be the mystery that cannot be spoken of by inquirers.
To Him be praise at all times. Amen. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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The Feast of the Ascension of our Lord
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to celebrate this glorious day of Your Wondrous Ascension to heaven with divine praises and holy songs and psalms inspired by the Holy Spirit. And grant also that we may always remain aware that You are with us on earth until the end of time, that on the day of Your manifestation we may be together with the Watchers in heaven, and with them and among them, celebrate You and praise You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalms 24 (23) The earth is the Lord's in its fulness...

RESPONSE

You are God in the heights and also on earth, O Christ.
The Winged Creatures knew it and they lowered their wings
and You sat upon them and You ascended and were raised in glory.

The disciples were distressed at Your departure.
In their suffering they besought You with great sorrow,
"Christ, do not leave Your servants orphans."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Today Christ God ascends to His Father
from the Mount of Olives with glory.
The disciples marvel when He is taken up.
Let all nations bow down in adoration to Him.

Today the angels make known to the apostles
the Great Mystery of the second coming.
He will manifest Himself to us in the body which He received from us.
And all those who believe in Him will rejoice and sing praise.

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Christ who promised in Your words of life,
"When I am lifted up from the earth,
I shall draw everyone to Myself and everyone will come to Me."
Lift us up then, Lord, with You to heaven, that we may
take our pleasure with You, for You are the source of all joy.

With the Watchers of heaven we cry with gladness:
"Behold the Great King of glory who ascends to highest heaven.
He leads away the captives and ascends with them
and brings them into the glory of heaven."

Today the Holy Church thrills with joy
at the Ascension of the Son of God, her Bridegroom.
The angels praise Him and the Fiery Ones hallow Him
and the sons of men on earth offer adorations to His Majesty.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Good Lord who loved us when we did not love Him...to the Exalted One who descended to us that He might raise us to Himself, and ascended to heaven in glory to make us ascend with Him and make us to sit at His right hand. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

God who were spoken of by the prophets and openly proclaimed by the apostles...You gave joy to those on earth by Your descent and gladness to those in heaven by Your Ascension. Today the wisdom of God which was hidden before, is finally revealed to the Holy Church. Today the doors of heaven lift up their heads that they may receive the King of glory, who is the Lord of glory and the God of strength. Today by the Ascension of our Lord and Saviour the way to our former inheritance is trodden for us. Today Christ is raised in the flesh to heaven, marked by the scars and wounds of the Enemy, and His clothes stained with His own blood, and His hands and His feet pierced and His side opened by the spear. Today the oracles of the prophets are fulfilled, the oracle of Moses the divine prophet who said: "I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne and beneath Him there was as it were a paved work of sapphire". And David, the king and

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prophet and harp of the Lord who cried out in the Spirit: "You have gone up on high. You have led away captives. You have given gifts to men." And again: "God has gone up in glory and the Lord with the sound of the horn." Today the angels in white clothing are seen by the holy disciples and they say to them, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking sad with your eyes raised to heaven? This is truly Jesus, the Messiah, who today has been taken up to heaven to His Father. And behold, He is to come again at His second coming to judge the living and the dead." Today Zechariah stands up to ask the Lord Christ, "Why are Your hands and Your feet pierced and Your side opened?" And Isaiah, "Why is your garment stained with blood, spattered with your own blood?" And He answers them, "These wounds which you see are those with which I was struck by My own house, My Beloved. I trod the winepress alone for there was not one with Me. I sowed peace in Sheol and I changed death into sleep, and I made the nations to return to My Father. Enter now, O children of Adam, and rejoice in the inheritance which you had lost."

And we also with the heavenly powers say, "The Lord is strong and mighty, the Lord is mighty and valiant" and we praise You, Christ our God, on this Festal and Holy Day of Your Ascension into heaven. And with the companies of the prophets and of the apostles we say, You are indeed the Living One since by You we are given life from the death of sin. You are the Light since by You we are given the light we who of old were sitting in the darkness and the shadow of death. You are the Way and the Door, since by You we are instructed and we enter into the blissful habitation of Your Heavenly Father. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Our Saviour rose and ascended. He sat at the right of His Father.
The heavenly companies marvel when they see Him with His body,
and they ask each other, "Who is He who comes from Edom?
And why are His clothes stained red
like those of one who has trodden a winepress?"
By His Ascension He gives joy to angels and men,
and each order, according as it can, gives praise to Him
for His humiliation by which it is exalted.

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The Son of God became flesh, clothing Himself in a human body.
He brought Himself low, humbling Himself
to renew our race which had become corrupt. He endured
the torture of the Cross to restore Adam to his inheritance.
He died and was buried like a son of man but rose with power
and ascended to heaven. And on the day of His Ascension
He sat at the right hand of His Father and rejoiced the Watchers
in the highest heaven, and the sons of men on earth.

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

The Light which makes the Winged Creatures tremble
and the Fiery ones shudder, lowered itself to us.
He became man, endured the torture of the Cross and tasted death.
He gave life to sinners when He arose with glory.
He ascended to His Father, and by His Ascension
He gave joy to the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.
And now the Holy Church offers praise to Him
from one end of the earth to the other.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Son of the King made known to His disciples
that He was going to ascend to the dwelling of His Father
and gave them courage by words full of life. He endowed them
with the power to bind and to loose in heaven and on earth,
and to heal the diseases and wounds of the world brought low by sin.
He ascended on high and now He sits at the right hand.
He will come again and raise up the children of Adam
worn away and eaten by corruption.

Remember Lord, the dead and grant repose
to those who were clothed with You at baptism
and received You at the altar and ate Your holy body
and drank Your blood, the chalice of salvation.
May they rejoice with Abraham in the Kingdom
and may they stand at Your right hand and sing:
"Glory to You, Lord."
Halleluia, grant repose, Lord, to Your servants.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Sublime and Exalted, Strong and Mighty Lord,
You redeemed those on earth by Your descent,
and You gave joy to those in heaven by Your Ascension
and raised up our race to the glorious height of Your Father.

Make our minds ascend to the place of Your dwelling
and our hearts to the meeting-place of Your Majesty
and our thoughts to the contemplation of Your Glory.
And grant us that we may honour with fitting praises
this Illustrious Day of Your Ascension
and give glory to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
On this festival on which heaven and earth rejoice in You,
rejoice Your Church and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

On the Mount of Olives He gathers His Church for which He died
that she might see Him ascend to the dwelling of His Father.
He completes His course and His work, a magnificent redemption,
and He departs to send His riches to His bride.

They assemble, the disciples, apostles, friends and all those
who partook of His Mystery, that by appearing in person
He might show them that He was ascending.
They saw Him risen from the tomb and believed in His Resurrection.
He took them with Him that they might also believe in His Ascension.

He stretched out His hands, waved them in blessing to the gathering,
and with them the earth was blessed that had been cursed at the fall.
While they were looking, He rose from their midst, and the Watchers,
at their frontiers, welcomed Him, bowing to Him in adoration.

Glory to the Father who made a solemn procession for His Beloved Son.
Adoration to the Son who ascended to heaven with glory.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who by the angels comforted the Church.
One essence in Three, to You be praise.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He rises on the Winged Creatures and He flies.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He walks on the wings of the wind.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

To Him who is great, mighty, glorious and incomparably high,
praise, honour and exaltation,
for the salvation and victory earned for His people.

As Miriam danced to the tambourine and sang to God, the Lord.

Sing, sing, sing, sing and sing to Him,
God, the Strong, who has ascended into heaven.

Praise, praise, praise, praise and praise Him,
God, the Mighty, who has ascended into heaven.

Chant, chant, chant, chant and chant to Him,
God, the Powerful, who has ascended into heaven.

Because He is glorious.

Luke 24:36–53 Jesus ascends to heaven from the Mount of Olives.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with earnestness and reverence to God, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who after Your Glorious Resurrection ascended to heaven to reveal to the children of men the things that are unseen and do not pass away, strengthen the faith of Your Churches that they may bear witness to Your Kingdom with power, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by ascending to heaven opened to us the gates of Your Kingdom, bestow even now on Your people and on the whole world the good things of the Kingdom and the Holy Spirit we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Christ our God, for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Glory to You, Jesus Christ our Lord, who today were raised up to heaven, victorious, in the flesh that You might draw us, creatures of flesh, and make us ascend with You to heaven. Make to ascend also this spiritual service which we present to You, and prepare us for the coming of Your Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Comforter, and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Light of Light who enlighten the whole Creation,
Christ our God, You made Your light to shine upon us.
Come, all you peoples, let us sing praise to Him.

Christ our God, Sun of Righteousness and Radiance of the Father of the lights of heaven. You shone forth from the Virgin Mary.
We praise You, we adore You and we give glory to You.

"Stay in Jerusalem", said our Lord to His disciples,
"Until I send you the Holy Spirit, the Comforter."
Come, all you peoples, let us sing praise to Him.

Our Saviour stretched out the right hand that had fashioned Adam and blessed the disciples and ascended to Him who sent Him.
Come, all you peoples, let us sing praise to Him.

Glory to the Father.
Thanksgiving to the Son who comes from Him.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.
The Mystery of the Trinity, one God to be adored and praised.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 47 (46) All you peoples clap your hands...

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RESPONSE
All you peoples clap your hands.
Cry to our God with shouts of joy.
God goes up with shouts of joy.
The Lord goes up at the sound of the horn.
Sing praise for God sing praise.

You ascended and went to heaven from where You descended.
You would not leave us bereft like orphans, Lord of all.
The Holy Spirt would come and give us peace by His descent
and He would teach and make manifest to the sons of men
the wonderful works of Your greatness, O Lover of Humankind.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who went up with thousands of the heavenly powers, and ascended to heaven in glory at the sound of the horn, and sat upon His holy throne at the right of His Glorious Father. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord God, who alone are strong and powerful, mighty and valiant and unconquerable, for our sake You descended from Your Father's habitation to bring new life to our race which had become corrupt after the fall. And when we were outcast and rejected You brought us near and established us in Your friendship according to Your love for humankind. And when we were not even worthy of the earth You made us the inheritors of Your Kingdom and made us to sit with You in glory at the right hand of the Father on high, when after Your Divine Economy for our sake You were taken up to heaven in glory. Then the heavenly companies stood in fear, trembling with wonder, and uttered the song of gladness of Isaiah: "Who is this coming from Edom, from Bosra, in garments stained red, so richly clothed, so full of strength?" You are the Lord of Glory who became a teacher to them. Alone You trod the spiritual winepress of the peoples and not one from among them was with You. Thus You were seen and revealed most clearly as God to the principalities and powers of heaven by the depth of Your wisdom quite extraordinary.

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Therefore we beg of You, Lord, on this Day of Your Ascension into heaven that You will raise up our hearts from worldly vanity towards You who are the true life. Enlighten our minds by the rays of Your divine glory, that we may be taken up in spirit among the incorporeal powers, and sing praise to You without ceasing and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The earth and the heavens rejoice on this Holy Day
for the Bridegroom ascends into heaven
and sits at the right hand of His Father.
And now the heavenly ones and the earthly ones sing praise to Him.

On this feast and on all feasts, from all mouths,
praise ascends to the Father who sent You.
And to You who ascended into heaven, and to the Holy Spirit,
the Comforter, thanksgiving at all times.

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

Glory to You, Uniquely Beloved Son, holy and like Your Father,
who saved Your Church by Your Cross and rejoiced her
by Your Ascension, and now she sings praise
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The cloud approaches and carries away the Firstborn
who came forth from Mary. The Watchers rend the heavens asunder
and descend to comfort His apostles, and they sing praise
to God who sits on the throne of His Glory.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place....p. 8

Psalm 97 (96) The Lord reigns, let the earth be glad....

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RESPONSE

You indeed, Lord, are the Most High.
You are above all the earth, exalted far above all spirits.
You rescue Your devotees from the hands of the wicked.
You peoples, rejoice in the Lord and give thanks to His Holy Name.

You ascended and You entered into heaven
and You sat at the right hand of Your Father.
You are to come again with glory, Lord of all.
We have come into Your presence, be gracious to all.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Eternal Being, veiled and hidden who surpasses all human thought and conception and understanding, who exists of Himself and knows Himself and suffices for Himself, Maker, Creator, Fashioner of things visible and invisible, one God, adorable and true, worshipped in three holy persons, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We exalt You, Christ our God, exalted and sublime, who descended and You elevated us, who humbled Yourself and You exalted us, who became poor and You made us rich, You were conceived and we were blessed, You became flesh and You honoured us, You became a human being and You deified us. You were born and You caused us to be born, You were baptized and You were making atonement for us. You suffered hunger and You gave us our fill. You were tempted and You made us obtain in victory. You were harassed and You gave us strength. While You sat on the foal of an ass, You carried us on high...You were condemned as a criminal, and You made us to be acquitted...You remained silent as an innocent lamb, and You gave us wisdom. You were flogged as an evil-doer, and You ennobled us. You were struck like a slave and You delivered us. You were beaten with a reed and You set us free. You were bound on the Cross and You loosened for us the bonds of death and sin. You were stripped of Your garment and You clothed us in the garment of Divinity. You were crucified and You redeemed us...You died and You gave us life. You were placed in a tomb and You awakened the dead to life.

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You were raised up in glory and You gave us joy...And today as You were carried up on high You lifted us up. You sat down in heaven in glory and You exalted us and You sent us Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all the truth, until we are filled with the fulness of God.

What shall we return to You for these things, O Lord? Who is able to thank You, O Good One? Who will be found to glorify You as is fitting, O Glorious One? Who could laud You, O Lord of Lords? As Your goodness excels by far our weakness, let the pure womb which conceived You praise You in our name, the Virgin Mother who bore You and the pure breasts who gave You suck. Let the stream of Jordan which longed for You, laud You, and the fair children who praised You with their palm branches, Your graciousness which led You to the house of judgement for our sake, the insults and the holes in Your hands and feet which You endured for our salvation... the Cross and the shame which You bore for us...the new tomb in which You lay, the saints who were raised by Your Resurrection the angels who came to honour Your tomb in their white garments, and the women disciples who hastened with their fragrant herbs to embalm Your glorious body.

And we also, Lord, entreat You now, from the heart, that on account of all these, You will enlighten our minds to understand the Mysteries of Your Economy for our sake, and that You will deal with us in graciousness rather than in justice. Help us in all things and at all times and in all places to do Your will and to please You, and we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On the day of Your Holy Ascension, O Son of God,
heaven and earth rejoice in You, with the whole Creation.
And the Church also rejoices and sings praise to You,
O Good One, who saved her by Your Cross.
The Watchers in heaven cry out to You, on the day of Your Ascension:
"You are holy, King Christ, Saviour of the world,
halleluia, who descended and ascended."

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He descended in order to ascend, as Paul has written.
He who was wrapped in strips of cloth dwells in highest heaven.
He who rested on Mary's lap is carried on the angels' chariot. Him about whom the wrong-doers shouted, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" the heavenly ones acclaim, "Glory to You, Lord, halleluia."
Adoration to You and to Your Father!

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

We offer You thanksgiving , adoration and praise for Your Ascension, You, the Word, Uniquely Beloved Son, God, Saviour of the World, who ascended the throne of Your Majesty in the flesh
making the race of Adam to ascend with You.
On the day of Your Ascension those above and those below cry to You, "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, halleluia, in heaven and on earth."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On the day of the Ascension of the King, the words of David, Son of Jesse by whom He let Himself to be seen, resound in my ears, "Lift up, O gates, lift up your heads!" The gates of the Eternal, the Strong, went up, that the Glorious King might enter with glory, He descended and saved us and was exalted to His Father with glory. Halleluia, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of The Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia,...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise to the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us on this Holy Feast.

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And on that Feast which shall not pass away,
raise us up at Your right hand.

On the day of the Resurrection of our Saviour,
heaven and earth rejoice because He restored peace
between the two camps and then ascended to His Father.

Our Saviour set out to ascend to His Father
and He was taken up from the Mount of Olives,
as the Scriptures tell us.

Simon and with him Thomas and John
saw our Saviour when He was taken up,
and in their mind they followed Him as long as they could.

Glory to You, Lord, from Your Church
whom You exalted by Your Ascension.
Keep Your true promise to her and save her from all evil.

Our Lord, be gracious to us on this Holy Feast.

And on that Feast which shall not pass away,
raise us up at Your right hand.

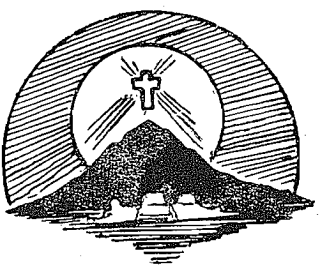
Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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The Days after the Ascension of our Lord

The celebration of these Services is left to the decision of the presiding priest. They are not celebrated on a Sunday.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to celebrate this Glorious Day of Your Wondrous Ascension to heaven with divine praises and holy songs and psalms inspired by the Holy Spirit. And grant also that we may always remain aware that You are with us on earth until the end of time, that on the day of Your manifestation we may be together with the Watchers in heaven, and with them and among them, celebrate You and praise You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 24 (23) The earth is the Lord's in its fulness.

RESPONSE

Lift up your heads, O gates!
Be lifted up, O gates of the Eternal,
for the King of glory to come in,
the Lord, the Mighty, the Valiant.

We were dead but we have been brought to life with Him and in Him,
He the head of every sovereignty and power and of the human family
which finds its fulfilment in Him, head of the Church also,
His body, and thus the fulness of Him who fills all in all.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

You who were born of the Father before all ages,
You ascended today into heaven with glory.
Be gracious to the whole world, O God.

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You who are with Your Father from all eternity,
You ascended to Him today with Your body.
Be gracious to the whole world, O God.

You who ascended from the depths of the abyss to heaven
and made the race of the earthly ones to ascend with You,
be gracious to the whole world, O God.

You who descended and touched the lowest depths,
You ascended, treading the path to the highest heaven.
Be gracious to the whole world, O God.

Glory to You, Exalted One, who humbled Yourself
and gave life to Your Church and ascended to heaven.
Be gracious to the whole world, O God.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise:...

Praise...to the High God who with His Father and His Holy Spirit is the Most High and descended from heaven for the salvation of our human race and accomplished His Saving Economy, and on the same day returned to the dwelling of His Father in His Ascension which surpasses all speech and transcends all description. Him we celebrate at this time of evening...

Praise to You, Christ our God, raised high in glory and magnificence, who willed to lower Yourself to voluntary shame and abject suffering. After having accomplished the course of Your Helping and Saving Economy and having fulfilled Your plan of salvation by which You obtained our salvation, You went and returned to where You were before, that is to the place which You had not left when You descended to us. You penetrated into the interior of the holy of holies and You took possession of the dwelling not made by the hands of men. When You thus ascended to heaven, You opened the gates which Adam, our first father, had closed in our face by his disobedience...You made us return to our ancient inheritance and You made us sit at the right hand of Your Father, offering Him a present which He could not refuse, the human body which You took from our nature. When the heavenly spirits saw You ascend to heaven with a

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true body they were filled with awe and wonder. They began to ask one another, "Who is this King of glory who comes from Edom, that is from the earth, His garments stained with blood, the blood of the body which He put on?" They replied one to another: "It is the Lord, the mighty hero. It is the Lord of armies who is fearful in battle..." Then they began to command the gates to be raised and cried: "Lift up your heads, you gates. Be lifted up, you everlasting gates, that the King of glory may enter, the King of splendour and majesty into the bridal chamber of His Kingdom." And then they began to chant: "Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord Great and Powerful."

Therefore it is right, Lord, that we Your servants redeemed by Your precious blood should sing with the heavenly companies: "Blessed is Your glory in Your eternal dwelling. Blessed is He who lowered Himself and raised us up from our abasement. Blessed is He who descended to us and lifted us up to His heavenly dwelling. In fulfilment of Your Marvellous Ascension, Christ our God and Saviour, help us to celebrate this glorious day and magnify it and exalt it and rejoice exceedingly, that we may await Your second coming from the heights with gladness. Strengthen us that we may avoid all that is displeasing to You and live a holy life well pleasing to You. We trust in Your generosity to obtain all that is necessary for salvation. And we will praise You in our life and in our death, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On this day our Saviour ascends into heaven He who from eternity
was hidden in the cave of the heart of His Father.
He is taken up in a brilliant cloud
and the disciples remain behind filled with wonder.
They see the angels who say to them: "This Jesus who has ascended
will return in the same way in the great glory of His Kingdom."

Word, Uniquely Beloved Son of the Father, on the day of Your
Ascension and of Your holy exaltation from this earth to Your Father,
the Watchers and the heads of the angels cry to You: "Holy, Holy."
And the Church of believers sings praise and offers thanksgiving,
rejoicing for Your Holy Ascension by which
You have acquired for her the Kingdom on high.

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

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God has ascended in glory at the sound of the horn. He penetrates the highest heaven, into the interior of the Holy of Holies which is not the work of creatures, not made by the hand of man. He appears before the hidden person of His Father who begot Him and makes Himself our intercessor to draw us from the depths.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Christ King, our Saviour, on the day of Your Ascension,
the heavens and the earth worship You, angels and men cry to You:
"Holy, Holy, Holy are You", Lord God, who descended to save Adam
who is Your own image and likeness.
You ascended and You sat at the right hand of Him who sent You.

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Praise to You, Christ our God, who descended from heaven
to clothe Yourself with our human body,
and You endured for us suffering and death.
You were raised from the tomb after three days
and You ascended to heaven girded with the glory of victory.

Grant us then even now to offer You unceasing praise
and prepare us for the coming of Your Holy Spirit.
the Comforter, whom You sent to Your apostles
the Spirit of truth to guide them into all the truth,
that in Him and with Him we may bear much fruit,
giving glory to You and to Your Eternal Father.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
On this feast on which heaven and earth rejoice in You,
rejoice Your Church and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

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On the Mount of Olives Jesus gathers His Church for which He died
that she might see Him ascend to the dwelling of His Father.
He completes His course and His work, a magnificent redemption.
And departs to send His riches to His bride.

They assemble, the disciples, apostles, friends and all those
who partook of His Mystery, that He might show them
by appearing in person that He was ascending.
They saw Him risen from the tomb and believed in His Resurrection.
He took them with Him that they might also believe in His Ascension.

Glory to the Father who made a solemn procession for His Beloved Son.
Adoration to the Son who ascended to heaven with glory.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who by the angels comforted the Church.
One essence in Three, to You be praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He rises on the Winged Creatures and flies.
He flies on the wings of the wind.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Sing to the Lord on the harp.
Sing to the beat of the timbrel.
Praise the Lord who is King.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Gospels are provided for every week-day in case the Ascension is celebrated during the ten days. If so the Eucharistic Prayers of the Feast can be alternated. It is also possible to celebrate the Ascension on Friday and Saturday only and so preserve the Sixth Week of Resurrection.

GOSPELS

Friday	*Saturday*	*Monday*	*Tuesday*
John 13:33–14:7	John 14:8–21	John 14:22–31	John 15:1–17

Wednesday	*Thursday*	*Second Friday*	*Second Saturday*
John 15:18–27	John 16:1–15	John 16:16–24	John 16:25–33

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Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with earnestness and reverence to God: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who by Your Ascension into heaven made the children of men sit in the glory of Your Father, fill our hearts with unshakeable hope that even the trials of the human family will be turned into that tremendous and eternal glory of which Your Apostle wrote, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by Your Ascension into heaven prepared a dwelling-place for Your disciples, grant that we also, as You promised, may be where You are, we beseech You,

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

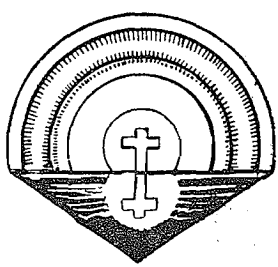
Concluding Prayer

Christ our Saviour, may this spiritual service presented to You by Your little flock gathered here in Your name prepare us for the coming of the Holy Spirit and make the whole world worthy of the gifts of the Comforter: peace, patience, goodness, truthfulness and self-restraint, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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THE DAYS AFTER THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord,all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

We have risen early to give glory to You, Christ our God,
to keep vigil with the angels in their unceasing praise,
and with the Watchers on high to offer thanksgivings
for Your Glorious Ascension into heaven.

You ascended and were raised to heaven from where You descended. Lord, do not forsake us. Do not leave us orphans. Send Your Holy Spirit to reconcile Your people, and to teach and show to the children of men the works of wonder of Your Greatness O Lover of Humankind.

When He was with them Jesus said to the disciples,
"Do not leave Jerusalem but wait there for the gift
promised by the Father. John baptized you with water.
Within a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and you will be filled with power and you will bear witness for Me to the ends of the earth."
After this Jesus was taken up to heaven while they were watching Him.
And a cloud hid Him from their sight.

Glory to You, Father.
And thanksgiving to the Son who is from You.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.
The Mystery of the Trinity, one God to be adored and praised.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 68 (67): 1–20 When God arises all His foes scatter...

RESPONSE

You have gone up on high, our God.
You have gone to Your lofty dwelling-place, our Lord.
We bless You, Lord, at night.
We revere You in Your holy place.

You were raised on the Cross and You suffered the passion and death.
But You came forth from the tomb and took away the power of Death.
You were taken up to heaven to the Father who sent You,
to send to all those who believe in You the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who went up with thousands of heavenly powers...
As on the Feast of the Ascension, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p. 158

Hymn

Our Lord assembled His disciples and went to the Mount of Olives.
He raised His pure hands and blessed His apostles.
He was taken on a cloud and went up to sit at the right of His Father.
And now the Fiery Ones minister to Him and they cry out:
"Holy, Holy, Holy are You." Blessed is Your Ascension.

Today wonder fills the apostles on the Mount of Olives,
as they behold the Son of God ascending in glory.
They are comforted by the angels who say to them with joy:
"Jesus who has just ascended will come again
with the honour and glory of the angels."

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

Our Lord went up on a cloud and the Watchers in heaven rejoiced.
The angels sang for Him the Psalm of David, son of Jesse,
"Lift up your heads, you doors. Lift up your heads for all eternity,
that the King of glory may enter for He is the Lord
of the heavenly ones and the good hope of the earthly ones."

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When David saw the Lord ascending to heaven he cried out,
"God goes up with glory. The Lord goes up at the sound of the horn.
He flies on the wings of the wind. He rides on the Winged Creatures."
And the angels and the children of men praise Him saying,
"Blessed is Your Glorious Ascension."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 97 (96) God reigns, let the earth rejoice...

RESPONSE
The angels address the apostles with words of wonder,
"Why do you stand there looking up to heaven, earthly ones?
Jesus Christ who was taken up as you have seen Him ascend
will come with glory, He who is the King of kings."

With the Watchers on high let us cry with joy and great exultation,
"This is the King of glory who ascended to sit on high with myriads of strong and fearful ones. The Winged Creatures bless Him saying,
"Blessed be Your glory in Your holy place, Great King of the ages."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Eternal Being veiled and hidden...
As on the Feast of the Ascension Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p. 160

Hymn
The Lord went up to Bethany to the Mount of Olives,
and He took with Him His apostles to witness His Ascension.
He extended His hands and blessed them and told them
that they would receive the new life and the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses. And He ordered them to make disciples of the nations, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and to build for Him the Beloved Church whom He espoused on the Cross.

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He ascended to Him who sent Him, with whom He was at the beginning and will remain for ever. A cloud of light descended from on high to honour Him, and carried Him with great glory and He ascended to His Father. Glory to Him who by His passion and His death gave to His Church honour and exaltation and opened in her a fountain of life for all humankind.

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

Today the Son of God is taken up with glory at the sound of the horn,
as David prophesied. The companies of the heavenly ones give glory.
The doors raise their heads that the Son of the King may enter,
He who is the King of glory. All creatures adore Him.
Glory to Him who saved His Church. And now she sings praise.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

With the body which He took from our race the Word of the Father
ascended to heaven, to the place of Him who sent Him.
With it He will come again on the day of the resurrection
to be manifested to those who crucified Him and to all nations.
With it He will judge the whole creation, with it He will call
the just and the righteous to make them enter
and inherit the Kingdom and the life which does not pass away.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
On this feast on which heaven and earth rejoice,
gladden Your Church and protect her children by the Cross of light.

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Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

You rose with glory and You rode with power and strength.
The heights and the depths rejoiced as You brought them peace.
You who were in Sheol as a guilty one, when You return
You ascend gloriously, an awesome rainbow, glorious as the Saviour.

All the heavenly powers come forth to honour You
but You leave them behind to ascend to the highest heaven.
You reach the throne but You do not sit on the throne on high
You by whom the highest heights are raised.

Three heavenly companies welcome You in a procession
when You ascend to Your Father, You the Uniquely Beloved Son.
And on earth the Church to its utmost bounds rejoices in Your feast.
She sings praise to You, our Lord, and to Your Father and to
the Holy Spirit.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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The Sixth Sunday after the Resurrection
Sunday after the Ascension
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to celebrate this Glorious Day of Your Wondrous Ascension to heaven with divine praises and holy songs and psalms inspired by the Holy Spirit. And grant also that we may always remain aware that You are with us on earth until the end of time, that on the day of Your manifestation we may be together with the Watchers in heaven, and with them and among them, celebrate You and praise You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 47 (46) All you peoples clap your hands...

RESPONSE

Clap your hands, all you peoples, and sing joyfully to the Lord.
The Lord is King over all the earth.
He is King over the nations, sing to Him with the harp.
Sing to Him with the harp played skilfully.

You who raised the wood of the Cross
as the standard of victory over the Enemy,
and raised up our race which had fallen,
You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our Fathers.

You came forth victoriously from the tomb.
O Saviour and Giver of life, You saved and delivered our race
which had grown old on account of corruption.
You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our fathers.

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To You be glory, Christ , Lord of the whole creation,
who by Your Resurrection rejoice heaven and earth.
The Church which exults on the days of Your Resurrection, rejoice
her by Your coming that she may be worthy of Your Kingdom.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

To Your house belongs holiness, Lord of the whole creation.
You have established its foundation on the rock of faith
and You made it a harbour for all those who put their trust in You.

May Your peace, Lord, by which You reconciled the two sides,
the heavenly ones and the earthly ones, by the humiliation of the Cross
endured for our sake, remain with us until the consummation.

On this glorious day our Saviour is risen from the tomb
and by His Resurrection He brings joy to His disciples.
He comforts them and bestows on them authority
over the heights and the depths in the four quarters of the earth.

On this day, Sunday, the firstborn of days,
the Firstborn of the Godhead rises without corruption,
and by His Resurrection from the tomb,
He becomes the Firstborn from among the dead.

Come, brothers, let us bow down in adoration,
with devotion and joy and reverence,
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
the God of all to whom is due adoration from all creatures.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Lord, who descended and in His goodness became incarnate and tasted death on behalf of mortal beings of His own will, and went down and broke the bars of Sheol in His might, and by His Resurrection gave joy and gladness to His disciples and to the women

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who accompanied Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Praise and thanksgiving to You, Jesus Christ, Word who came from the Father, and true God, who by Your Resurrection from among the dead gave joy and gladness to those in heaven and those on earth, and brought peace and unity to those above and those below. The angels descended from on high, company by company, and the spiritual ones assembled together with the creatures of flesh and the two sides were united one with the other. And therefore while we meditate on the glorious mysteries and the wondrous signs which were revealed on this holy day, Sunday, the day of Your Holy and Glorious Resurrection we say: "Blessed day, Sunday, on which salvation came to the world. Blessed day, Sunday, on which heaven and earth were gladdened and the whole world was filled with light. Blessed day, Sunday, on which the gate of Paradise was reopened, that Adam and all the exiles might enter without fear."

To You, therefore, Gladdening Light and Holy Splendour, we offer prayers and intercessions, that in Your goodness You make us worthy of the pardon of offences and the forgiveness of sin. In Your graciousness, bestow the abundance of peace and tranquillity on the whole inhabited world, and we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Our Saviour ascends and is lifted up. He enters the heavens
and sits at the right hand of the Father on the eternal seat,
He who had never left it, yet suffered upon the Cross.
And He promised to His disciples to send them the Holy Spirit
to teach them all things and to endow their minds with discernment.

The heavenly ones are astounded to see the Son of the King ascend
and they chant in chorus, "O gates, lift high your heads,
that the King of Glory may come in". Victorious, He ascends
and all the heavenly beings hasten to praise Him with reverence.
All desire to see Him, but they dare not look upon Him.

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

Heaven and earth, the two camps, are reconciled, the earth rejoicing
for His descent and the heavens exulting for His ascent.
The angels and all earthly beings who were at war make peace.
Glory to Him who suffered such humiliation without His Greatness
being altered, and who rejoices heaven and earth
and all that they contain, on the day of His Ascension.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

He who in highest heaven is the Mysterious Word, became flesh,
as it is written, and visited the earth with His gifts.
He endured the crucifixion, gave life to the race of mortals
and rose in glory to the throne of His Divinity.
Those on high and those below sing praise to Him in two choirs.

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Exalted One, You came down to us and of Your own will.
You put on our human nature and suffered in our body out of love,
and died with us and raised us up with You
and You ascended into heaven to reign with magnificence
and You made us to sit in glory at the right of Him who sent You.

Receive then this incense, our Lord, and make us worthy
to offer praise to You unceasingly for Your humiliation,
reverence for Your birth, thanksgiving for Your baptism,
exaltation for Your crucifixion and adoration for Your death,
honour for Your being buried, glory and a shout of joy
for Your ascension, and to Your Father hymns of praise
and to Your Holy Spirit the greatest honour.

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Bridegroom Christ, rises to heaven beside His Father.
The company of the sons of light are amazed at His sacrifice
and the Church who saw the Bridegroom being reviled
is comforted to behold His glory when He goes up.

I saw Him, and behold clouds and mist were running before Him.
He left behind all the sufferings He endured on Golgotha.
"Draw me after You," I said, "That I may be where You are going.
I am Yours. Make me ascend with You beside Your Father."

Daughters of Jerusalem, didn't you see my Beloved, the King?
Has He ascended to His habitation?
I sought Him everywhere but I have not found Him.
I am sick with love for the Bridegroom and I cry out to Him.
I burn with love for Him who is so fair, beyond compare.

When He speaks graciousness drips from His lips
He is more beautiful than all the children of men.
His garments give forth a delightful scent of sweetness.
He is white and ruddy. From Him flow blood and water.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth.

Give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Sing to the Lord on the harp.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

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Sing to the beat of the timbrel.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
With sound of the trumpet
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Praise the Lord who is King.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 17:1–12 Father, the hour has come, glorify Thy Son...

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and reverence to God, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God who by Your Resurrection have defeated all the enemies of our salvation, send Your Spirit into the brokenness of our lives and bind us together in that unity which You share with the Father and the Holy Spirit, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who by Your Glorious Ascension into heaven completed the work of our salvation, send now Your Spirit on all human beings and let Him pour into the hearts of all people the healing power of God's love, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, for the fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole Creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Word of life who were seen here on earth by Your disciples with their eyes of flesh and who today when ascending to heaven blessed their company and made them to wait for the Power from on high, send also Your Holy Spirit to Your Churches all over the world and make all experience Your love, and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

FESTIVE TRISAGION

Holy God,
the hallowing of those who proclaim You holy
is not able to attain Your holiness.

Strong God,
all the armies of Your enemies
are utterly powerless, compared with Your strength.

Immortal God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God,
be gracious to all.

Holy are You, O God.
Holy are You, the Strong.
Holy are You the Deathless who were crucified for us,
have mercy on us. (3 times)

Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have pity and mercy on us.
Lord, receive our service and our prayers and have mercy on us.

Glory to You, O God. Glory to You, Creator.
Glory to You Christ the King,
who have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless, Lord!

Our Father in heaven..... Hail Mary.....

MEDITATION

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THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE RESURRECTION

SUNDAY AFTER THE ASCENSION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

As we have risen early we praise You,
O Christ our God, keeping vigil with the angels.
And with the Watchers on high we offer thanksgiving.

As it is in Your Cross, that we find our glory
and as we seek protection under its wings, deliver Your servants
and save them from falling a prey to evil spirits.

As we have risen early we praise You, Christ Saviour of all,
because when You rose with power from among dead
You illumined the world from one end to the other.

When the water of life flowed from Your side
the Church, the chosen one became Your glorious bride,
and with You the Bridegroom she rose with glory.

As we have risen early we praise You,
O Glorious Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 93 (92) The Lord is King, with majesty enrobed...

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RESPONSE
At the tomb of the Lord a wonder was seen,
a light more brilliant than the sun.
Angels in their white garments stood by
and cried out, "The Son of the King is risen."

Glory to You, O Christ our Lord,
whom the prophets announced in symbols,
and their prophecies were fulfilled
when You came forth from the Virgin Daughter of David.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who went up with thousands of the heavenly powers...
As on the Feast of the Ascension, Night Vigil, First Watch, p. 158

Hymn
Son of God who became flesh and put on the body of our humanity,
You humbled Yourself and renewed our race that had become corrupt.
You endured the crucifixion to make Adam to return to his inheritance.
You died and were buried as a son of man but as God You resurrected
and ascended to heaven, and now You sit at the right hand.
And on this day of Your Glorious Ascension. You give joy
to the Watchers in heaven and to the children of men on earth."

Today the heavenly ones rejoice and the whole Creation exults
when the Word, the Uniquely Beloved Son of God ascends into heaven.
The companies of the flaming ones ask one another and say:
"Who is this coming from Edom, His garments stained red?"
Those to whom the Mystery of His Economy is revealed
will say: "He is the Lord, the Great King of Glory."

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

On this day all creatures are glad and the Church exults,
the companies of Winged Creatures rejoice and the ranks of fiery ones
and myriads of angels on high cry, Holy to the Word,

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who ascends from the earth to Him who sent Him
giving joy to heaven and earth, as David prophesied,
"O gates, lift high your heads, grow higher ancient doors,
that the King, Christ, the Lord of Glory may enter."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

In His goodness the Lord who sustains the Creation lowered the heavens
and became man of His own will to give life to the race of Adam
and He died in the flesh, as He willed, but He rose and resurrected.
He ascended into heaven and now He sits at the right of Him
who fills the heavens. Glory to His goodness whose revelation
is unsearchable. The heavenly ones and the earthly ones
sing glory to Him and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 95 (94) Come, ring out our joy to the Lord...

RESPONSE
Let us offer a joyful song to the Lord,
a shout of triumph to the Rock of salvation.
Let us raise our voice in thanksgiving,
and sing psalms for His victory over death.

Today the Lion-cub roars in Sheol
and its foundations shake at the sound.
He goes forth from the tomb leaving behind cloth and shroud.
You peoples, praise Him and exalt Him for ever and ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Eternal Being, veiled and hidden,...
As on the Feast of the Ascension, Night Vigil, Second Watch, p. 160

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Hymn

Today God goes up in glory as the prophet saw Him in the Spirit.
At the sound of the horn the Uniquely Beloved Son of God is taken up
to Him who sent Him, and behold hymns of praise resound
from the heavenly ones and from the earthly ones.
Blessed is He who by His Ascension rejoices heaven and earth.

All you peoples, clap your hands and sing songs of praise
without ceasing, to the Lord, the Most High,
who put on our flesh and ascended into heaven.
And behold, the heavenly ones make a joyful noise to Him
and the Fiery Ones cry out, Holy, Holy...in His presence.
Blessed is He who by His Ascension rejoices heaven and earth.

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

Blessed is He who came from on high to visit Adam,
and to liberate him He went forth to seek the lost sheep,
His own image which had been spoiled and distorted.
The Good Physician full of love endured death for his sake
and raised him up to heaven at the right hand of Him who sent Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On the day of the Ascension of the Son, heaven and earth rejoice
and all that is in them, for He promises to the apostles
the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, and He tells them,
"He will teach you and make known to you all the things to come.
You shall have knowledge and you shall overcome all fears."

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

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The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us, and help us.
Our Lord be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save by Your Resurrection
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On this day of Your Resurrection, Christ the Bridegroom,
we sing praise to You and take delight in You.
On the day of the Commemoration of Your Ascension,
may our mouths be to You sweet sounding harps.

We sing praise, we will not keep silent,
on this day of great rejoicing.
We take delight in the psalms,
as David in the heart of God.

You made the ascent from the tomb
to make men ascend to heaven,
and You trod the way for the dead
from the grave into Paradise.

Make us sing sincere praises to You,
on this day of great rejoicing,
and with David make us cry out and say,
"Glorify God with praises."

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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The Great Sunday of Pentecost
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to receive the guidance of Your Holy Spirit in whom is truly found life and salvation for those who love Him. And grant us to add unceasingly to the exaltation of Your glories, that Your holy love may grow in us at all times, and we may worship You in spirit and in truth, and Your Beloved Son and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 *As here below.*

Be gracious to us, O God, because of Your goodness.
Because of Your infinite graciousness blot out our sins.

Again and again wash us of our guilt,
make us clean of our sins. We acknowledge our faults,
we are always aware of our sins.

We have sinned against You, against You truly.
We have done what is evil in Your sight.
Your judgements are right. Your sentence is justified.
We have been evil from the time we were born,
from the time of our birth we have been in sin.

But You take Your delight in the truth.
Make, then, known to us the secrets of Your wisdom.
Sprinkle us with Your hyssop and we shall be clean.
Wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Fill us with joy and gladness
and our bones which are crushed shall rejoice.
Turn away Your face from our sins
and wipe out all our faults.

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Create in us a pure heart, O God,
and put a new and resolute spirit within us.
Do not cast us away from Your presence
nor deprive us of Your Holy Spirit.

Restore to us the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen us with Your Glorious Spirit,
that we may show the wicked Your way
and sinners may return to You.

Spare our life, O God, God of our salvation
and our tongues shall praise Your righteousness.
Lord, open our lips and our mouths shall sing Your praises.

You do not take pleasure in sacrifices.
You are not appeased by burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice that pleases You is a humble spirit,
a broken heart, O God, You will not spurn.

In Your goodness deal well with Your people
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then You will be well pleased with fair sacrifices
and whole burnt-offerings...

Glory be to the Father.... From age to age....

RESPONSE

When the chosen apostles struck by the Divine Wonder
spoke in diverse tongues of the workings of the Holy Spirit,
some who could not believe said they had been drinking, but by them
the Trinity was declared, the Creator of all, the God of our fathers.

When the chosen apostles were gathered in the upper room
to receive the Holy Spirit, He descended and rested on them
in the form of tongues of fire, and they broke out into song,
"You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our fathers."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE

All believers, celebrate Pentecost, the coming of the Comforter, due day of the promise fulfilling the hopes of the apostles.
Great is this Mystery, exceedingly glorious and good, rich and full of salvation. We therefore cry out to You, "Great is Your goodness, truly boundless." Lord of all, to You be glory.

Today in the upper room the Comforter descends and enlightens the disciples and makes them speak different tongues and rests on each one of them and they go forth to proclaim to the world the Glorious Mystery. We therefore cry out to You, "Great is Your goodness, truly boundless." Lord of all, to You be glory.

Today the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, imparts wisdom to the apostles in the upper room and enlightens the fishermen and clothes them with power from on high. Great is this Mystery, exceedingly glorious and good, full of salvation. We therefore cry out to You, "Great is Your goodness, truly boundless." Lord of all, to You be glory.

The coming of the Holy Spirit brings all good things.
He is the fountain-head of prophecy. He confers the priesthood. He gives wisdom to the illiterate and the simple, and power to teach to fishermen, always at the side of the Holy Church to help her, equal in essence to the Father, seated with Him and the Son in heaven. Spirit Comforter, Most Holy, to You be glory.

When the Holy Spirit, Giver of life and full of all beauty
dwells in the holy spostles in a manner proper to God alone,
He honours them with a divine knowledge of the diversity of languages and teaches children of men to believe, on one hand, in one God who, on the other hand, is three persons, but these are one in nature and in essence." Lord of all, to You be glory.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One True God who is known to be One and is believed to be Three, Exalted Being who is known as three persons and

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is praised as one sole Lordship, the Father, the Good One, who sent His Only Son for our salvation without Himself being diminished, the Son the Beloved, who came and took our nature and redeemed us without being lessened, the Spirit, the Comforter, who descended to divide His gifts and helps without being Himself affected by the distribution, three Holy Persons, One True God who surpasses all understanding and is raised above all things that are made and created. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, Sun of Righteousness and Splendour Inaccessible, after Your ascent to heaven, when Your holy disciples were remaining in the upper room, in the city of Jerusalem, and awaiting the fulfilment of Your promise to them, on this Feast of Pentecost, suddenly the Holy Spirit descended on them and imparted to them tongues of fire. Today the holy disciples are adorned with divine wisdom and illumined by wondrous teachings and given knowledge of the speech of all peoples... Those who were known as simple men are seen to be wise and fully initiated in the Mysteries. Today the holy apostles drink of the divine wine by the gift of the Spirit, the Giver of life... Today Simon the Rock exults, and Andrew and the sons of Zebedee and the rest of the apostles are filled with joy and gladness, when they consider how everything which had been promised them by the Uniquely Beloved Son is fulfilled for them. Today by the coming of the Spirit, the Comforter, the upper room becomes another Babel, not as in that first Babel when tongues were divided by way of punishment, but by the power of the Holy Spirit the room is filled with the light of grace and the holy apostles are given understanding to proclaim the truth.

And now we beseech You, O Word, God, on this Holy Feast of Pentecost, pour out upon us Your Holy Spirit from the heights above, and may He be to us a fire which burns up all the thorns of sin. And while we are illumined by the Holy Spirit may we be worthy to offer spiritual fruits of praise well pleasing to You. Guard Your Holy Church from all dangers. Give to her pastors and priests heroic virtues, and sanctity to her deacons, and quicken the faith of all people. Support the old, give to the young a sense of chastity, teach the children, be a mother to the little ones, a father to all those who are abandoned and grant the forgiveness of sins to all those who have followed You

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in Your Passover with faith, that we with them may offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

First Hymn

On the Sunday of Pentecost, the Father sends from on high
the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, on the disciples.
He bestows on them tongues in the form of fire as He had promised
which give them a secret power and the true faith.
They proclaim the Good News to the four quarters of the earth,
preaching to the nations and announcing to them
that Christ is risen, the hope of mortal human beings.

The Father sends from on high on the disciples,
seated in the upper room, as they had been told,
the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. In the form of tongues of fire
He descends and rests upon each one of them. Truly
they are strengthened by Him, as they learned from our Saviour.
And they went throughout the world preaching among the nations:
"Christ is risen from the tomb and He confounded
those who did not believe in Him and who nailed Him to the Cross."

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

The tongues of the apostles were eloquent instruments
of the Holy Spirit. They received His gifts
and power in the heights and in the depths.
They went forth proclaiming the Good News among the nations,
the three persons, one being, and they made them His disciples.
Glory to the Mighty One who illumines the whole world,
and by whose teaching the nations receive understanding.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today the Father sends from heaven to the little flock,
innocent lambs, the Spirit who from ancient times
revealed to the prophets the hidden mysteries,
and through Him the seers could unveil the future. Simple
and illiterate people are endowed with wisdom and announce
to the nations the Economy of the Uniquely Beloved Son
who willed to humble Himself for our sake
and to endure death to give life to our mortal race.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Lord, Holy and Hallower of all,
You hallowed Your holy apostles
by the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
who today rested on them in the form of tongues of fire
and manifested in them effectual powers and ineffable gifts.

Do You, Lord, now hallow this incense which we present before You.
By it bestow full pardon on Your entire flock,
purify our hearts from the thorns and tares of sin
and make us holy temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn

After the Son of God had been raised to glory
and all power had been given Him in heaven and on earth,
He sent to His apostles the Holy Spirit the Comforter.
And He entered and was seen by them in the upper room
in the form of tongues of fire and He rested on each one of them.
And they went and proclaimed the Good News among the nations.

How lovely and beautiful is the word of life spoken by God
to the apostles, "Arise, receive the Holy Spirit
whom I send to You from the side of the Father of truth.
Go and make disciples of the nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.
And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

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

The Light whose brightness makes the disc of the sun fade away
shines on the earth of darkness and illumines it and purifies it.
It rises with glory and splendour by the side of Him who sent Him,
and bestows the Spirit the Comforter to give wisdom to the twelve
and to invest them with authority
over all that is in the heights and in the depths.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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The Lord reigns and is clothed in the power of the truth.
He sends the Spirit Comforter to the little company of the disciples.
He descends today as He has promised and rests on each one of them.
Blessed is the Treasury of gifts who shares His riches with the needy.
And by His teaching the world which was worn out by sin is renewed.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and shall not be destroyed.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
On this Feast when heaven and earth rejoice,
rejoice Your Church and keep her children from all harm.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The disciples were gathered in the upper room, waiting
for the gift which should be sent to them, as had been promised.
And behold, all of a sudden, the sound of a roaring wind
thundered over the company of the apostles.

The Spirit with sound and fire mingled in a vision
to forge an armour for the disciples and clothe them in it.
From the Father came forth tongues of living fire
and they rested on the apostles and illumined them all to speak.

The Spirit that searches all things was suddenly heard,
the Teacher, He taught them all tongues.
As He was aglow with the fire of the Father,
He illumined them and they began to speak all tongues.

The Power from on high descended on the disciples and the house
where they were gathered was shaken on account of the wonder.
May the Holy Spirit who then parted the tongues
come now and rest on us and sanctify us.

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Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth.

Give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their children by the Cross of light.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Send forth Your Spirit, Lord,
that the world may be renewed.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Spirit who gives life to the Creation.
The Spirit who teaches us to worship in spirit and in truth.
The good Spirit who directs us on the path of life,
halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 14:15–31 Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, Source of all life and of all energy, and the Lover of all that lives, You who descended in the form of tongues of fire and rested on the apostles and marvellously warmed and inflamed their hearts, their minds and their tongues to proclaim the Good News, like them make us to reveal in our lives the power of Christ's Resurrection, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, Source of all life and of all energy, and the Lover of all that lives, You who form the prophets, and put Your words into their mouths to pull down and to uproot, to build and to plant, renew Your Churches that they may instill divine life into the hearts of all people, and build them up into one Body, the Body of Christ until God is truly all in all, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, Source of all life and of all energy, and the Lover of all that lives, we pray for our fathers in the

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faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan, and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, Source of all life and of all energy, and the Lover of all that lives, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, Source of all life and of all energy, and the Lover of all that lives, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations, and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of all Life, and Lover of all that lives, pour out Your love into our hearts, and strengthen us to work unwearingly with You for the removal of evil from our midst. Help us to make Your peace and joy, love and truth, patience and all goodness, and that of the Father and of the One Beloved Son, reign all over the world, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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THE GREAT SUNDAY OF PENTECOST

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

With those on high, the heads of the angelic powers,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You as we say,
"Glory to You, Creator of the universe."

With the Winged Creatures we bless You, O Lover of Humankind.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, and with the angels
we bow to You in adoration. Glory to You, Creator of the universe.

Today the disciples receive the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
as the Uniquely Beloved Son had promised.
Glory to Him, the Creator of the universe.

Today the Firstborn Son, as He had promised, sends the Holy Spirit
to the little flock of the chosen disciples.
Glory to Him, the Creator of the universe.

Heavenly King who sent Your Holy Spirit
to the sons initiated into Your Mysteries
send us also from the treasury of Your love
compassion and graciousness
that we may offer thanksgiving for Your goodness.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 33 (32) Praise the Lord, you just...

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RESPONSE
The Lord fills the earth with His love...
who fashioned man from the dust of the ground
and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.

Today the Holy Spirit is sent to the company of the disciples.
By Him they are endowed with the power to speak all tongues
and they go to proclaim the Mystery of the Trinity to the nations.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise:...

Praise...to the One and Holy Nature of the Eternal Godhead who is One and acknowledged as One, Being beyond time, Nature beyond passions, Knowledge which has not been taught, Wisdom that precedes all creatures, Being unfathomable, Eternity which cannot be grasped, Order kept without any first or last, yesterday or today, who while He is, is beyond reckoning, and not confined by any limit, Perfection which lacks nothing, tireless Worker, King from all eternity who has not received His sovereignty from any other place, nor does He hand over the power of His sovereignty to another, who is far and is near, who knows His own and His own know Him, to Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

God the Father, the abyss of whose being is far above the comprehension and the searching of the spiritual beings without flesh, You revealed in a Mystery Your Word which comes from You and is equal to You in essence and eternity, before His saving coming upon earth, by Your descent on mount Sinai, when Moses, Your servant, ascended to receive the tablets inscribed out of Your goodness towards the people of Israel. In the abundance of Your essential and overflowing graciousness, You sent Your Only Son, the Image of Your Being into the world for the salvation of that image which had fallen from its kingly glory. Though He is and was invisible and inscrutable and was existing from the beginning with You and with Your Holy Spirit, He descended to human conditions that He might turn us from deceit to the worship of the Holy Trinity in spirit and in truth. When He had fulfilled the words of those who were seers of the Word of God and who prophesied concerning Him, and when He was about

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to ascend the high heavens to the throne on which He is equal to You, His Hidden and Exalted Father, He made His disciples ascend the mount of Olives and blessed and hallowed them and said to them: "Though I am taken from you in the flesh yet I shall be with you in the spirit, in mighty works of power. I ascend that I may send you the Comforter, who will not come to you unless I go, who when He comes will teach you and confirm you in the teaching of the truth and fill you with holy and divine gifts."

Therefore, as promised, in His goodness He fulfilled and accomplished His word, and the Holy Spirit descended and rested upon His apostles in the upper room of Mysteries and filled them with the great light of His knowledge and enlightened their minds by lofty understanding. While we celebrate this Festal and Holy Day of Pentecost, a Feast of the Lord, we contemplate the promises of God the Word and we confess the descent and resting of the Holy Spirit, descending from You, the Hidden Father, upon the holy apostles in the form of tongues of fire today. We consider how He proceeds from You, Father, and receives from Your Son, while we believe that He is equal in essence and nature and power and godhead. Today when we celebrate the spiritual and evangelical feast of the gifts of the Comforter we recall also the Feast of Weeks, its foreshadowing, established by Moses. Today we contemplate not the tower of Babel - symbol of confusion - which disappeared, but the Holy Church, built and established by the descent of the Power of the Spirit Comforter. For today the holy apostles are filled with the gifts of the Holy Spirit and in the Spirit they speak all the tongues of the peoples.

Therefore, we sinners, with the voice of supplication beseech You, Lord God, who are known in the Trinity of persons and properties, and are confessed in the unity of principle and sovereignty, bestow on Your Church, on this holy festival, Your divine indwelling, and renew the understanding of our minds in reverence and holiness, and grant us to praise You with sincerity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today the Holy Spirit descends in the upper room
to instruct the little flock of the disciples.
He endows them with authority over the heights and over the depths.
And they go to proclaim the Trinity among the nations.

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Today the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, descends in the upper room upon the disciples and upon Mary who is with them.
Come, brothers, let us prepare ourselves in purity of heart, that He may also descend on us and sanctify us by His gifts.

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

One of the Persons of the Godhead
descends in the upper room and rests on the disciples.
They see Him in the form of tongues of fire.
Their simplicity becomes wisdom as they are illumined.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

In the upper room the Comforter makes to resound
a roaring wind for the apostles.
They see tongues of fire descending on them
and their minds are illumined.

Second Hymn *Madrosho*

Blessed is He who sent the Holy Spirit
and imparted wisdom to the apostles in the upper room.

Today the Firstborn sent the Comforter to the Twelve, as they were gathered in the upper room. They were given strength, a great armour, and went forth to wage battle against deceit and untruth.

The Spirit taught fishermen to proclaim the mysteries. He endowed them with the gift of speaking foreign tongues. He sent Thomas to India and Simon Peter the Rock to Rome, the Great City.

On that day the apostles were purified like gold
in the fire of the Spirit and their beauty shone in the four quarters as they proclaimed the name of Jesus all over the world.

How beautiful the armour which the Holy Spirit forged for the apostles!
How fair the words which the Firstborn taught them.
In His words is hidden strength for the children of men.

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Fishermen skilled in catching fish suddenly set out as fisher of men to lead them to the new life and to invite them to the feast of the Holy Church, whom they prepared and adorned with all beauty.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Psalm 104 (103) Bless the Lord, my spirit...

RESPONSE
All look to You to be filled with good things, O Lord.
If You hide Your face all living creatures are dismayed.
If You take back Your Spirit, they return to the dust.
When You send forth Your Spirit they are created
and You renew the face of the earth.

We adore You, Holy and Adorable Trinity, we believers,
who in You are baptised, saved and liberated from deceit.
We hallow You with the Fiery Ones as we say:
"Holy Holy, Holy are You, Trinity, from everlasting
self-existent and exalted above the whole creation."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the one God known in three persons, Great power with no limitation, Sublime Knowledge which cannot be grasped, Eternal Greatness which cannot be measured, Father source of all beings, from Him are the Son and the Spirit, begotten and proceeding from Him but of the same substance, and eternal like Him, one nature simple and without division, known in Three Adorable Persons, Exalted Trinity confessed to be one and three as mystically revealed by the divine chant of the Fiery Ones singing the threefold "Holy" to the One Sole Adorable Lordship. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

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Christ our God, Strength and Wisdom of God the Father who are carried on the backs of the Winged Creatures and praised by the spiritual companies in a manner worthy of You only, when You had accomplished Your Saving Economy on earth You led Your disciples to the Mount of Olives and You lifted up Your hands over them and blessed them and commanded them to await the promise of the Father which You revealed today in truth by the coming of the Spirit, the Comforter. Today when He descended in the form of tongues of fire on Your holy apostles, He filled them with all wondrous and divine gifts, by the sound of the wind, by the sight of the fire and by the tongues of flame which were divided upon each one of them. What sublime wonders happened there! The nations were gathered. The disciples were enlightened. The illiterate learned the Scriptures. The rude and lowly gained nobility by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We also while we receive wisdom from His instruction are filled with wonder and admiration, and we cry out with joy: "Truly, God has been seen upon earth, and by His Spirit has given wisdom to His holy apostles and adorned them with His gifts. Today the decree of the Father: "My Spirit will not abide in man for ever," (Gen. 6:3) has come to an end, it has been cancelled. Today the Holy Church has been planted instead of the vine which gave only husks. Today the world which had fallen into ruin is restored with the twelve pillars who set forth from the upper room.

Therefore we beseech You that You will enrich Your Holy Church with the lofty gifts of the Holy Spirit and confirm Your people in orthodox faith and gird them with Your unconquerable strength. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On this holy day the Holy Spirit descends from heaven to mingle
with the sons of men that they may become sons of the Kingdom,
Blessed is He who sends His promise and comforts the apostles,
imparting tongues to them that they may proclaim
the Exalted Trinity among the peoples and nations.

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The Holy Spirit in the form of tongues rests on the apostles
who set forth to proclaim to the Creation the three Holy Names.
Glory to Him who in two feasts offers presents to His apostles.
In one feast His body and blood, and in the other the Comforter.
Glory to Him and to Him who sent Him.

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

The Holy Spirit, the True Comforter, stirs and descends
and rests on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire.
Instructed and illumined they set forth among the nations
to proclaim the undivided Trinity, one true God.
Those who scrutinize the mystery will be confounded.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When the holy apostles receive the Comforter from on high
they proclaim the true faith to the four corners of the earth.
By order of their Master they make disciples of many nations,
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Glorious Trinity, blessed is the Eternal, the Ineffable.

Second Hymn Madrosho of Saint Ephrem
Blessed is He who today gladdened His apostles.

Blessed are you, Upper room, for the hidden mysteries celebrated in you.
In you were accomplished all the mysteries prefigured by the prophets.
In you the holy apostles received the Holy Spirit
and they went forth to the four quarters of the earth
to proclaim the Gospel, in the power of the Trinity.

Today they heard a hidden voice from on high that said, "Arise,
receive the Holy Spirit and power and the gift of speaking tongues."
The Holy Spirit tried them like gold with tongues of fire
and they became teachers, able to declare new things
and to reveal that which was hidden of old.

Today the voice of the Spirit came to the upper room in the form of fire
and purified the disciples of the Uniquely Beloved Son like gold
and by His teaching He removed the ignorance in which they were held
and gave them the understanding of hidden mysteries
and the knowledge of the things to come.

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Today the Firstborn fulfilled His promise to His disciples.
He strengthened them with the Comforter and perfected them
with the armour of the Spirit, and by a miracle made them to be learned.
In the world they spoke for Him, they were His witnesses.
They cast out demons and healed the sick in the name of the Trinity.

Twelve streams full of life flowed from the upper room and came to us.
They are those who received words of life from that Ocean of Wisdom
who instructed the illiterate and made the simple wise,
and they trod death underfoot and made little of tortures
out of love for Christ.

Today the disciples saw the Comforter who was sent to them.
He rested on them in the form of tongues of fire and enlightened them.
In His strength they utterly did away with deceit and untruth
and in His love they planted Churches wherever they went.
Blessed is He who sent them His Spirit to equip them for their mission

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us on this holy feast.

And on that feast which shall not pass away
give us a place at Your right hand.

On this Holy Day the Father sends from the heights above
the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who rests on the disciples.
On this day the Trinity is revealed in the upper room when the
Spirit makes the simple wise by imparting His gifts to them.

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On the fiftieth day the apostles receive tongues
which come from above and rejoice the simple.
They hear holy and sublime voices,
the three holy voices of the Trinity of God.

Blessed is He who exalts them in the four quarters of the Creation,
and endows simple fishermen with the wisdom from on high.
He makes the Holy Spirit to dwell in them. They are like pillars,
stewards to whom is entrusted the guardianship of the Church.

Glory to the Holy Orient whose light shines all over the earth.
As He promised, in truth He sent His Spirit to His disciples.
He is adored with His Father and the Holy Spirit.
Three persons, one will, one being, to Him be praise at all times.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

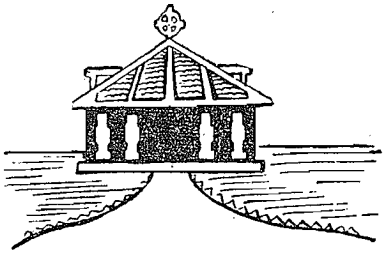
As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p. 16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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Monday of Pentecost
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to receive the guidance of Your Holy Spirit in whom is truly found life and salvation for those who love Him. And grant us to add unceasingly to the exaltation of Your glories, that Your holy love may grow in us at all times, and we may worship You in spirit and in truth, and Your Beloved Son and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 *As on Pentecost*

RESPONSE

You who sent today to the chosen apostles
the Great Promise You had made to them,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who today sent tongues of fire
to rest on the little flock of the chosen disciples,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who entrusted to the holy apostles the mission
to make the nations to turn away from deceit and untruth,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who instructed Your apostles by Your Spirit,
enlighten us all by Him, our Lord,
and be gracious to all, O God.

You who by the power of Your Holy Spirit
led Your apostles to perfection for the proclamation of Your Gospel,
be gracious to all, O God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE
You who said to Your apostles,
"I will send the Holy Spirit to you
who will teach you and give you all wisdom,"
be gracious to all, O God.

While the disciples were sitting
in the upper room, as they had been told,
tongues like flames of fire descended on them.
Be gracious to all, O God.

The Spirit, the Comforter, equal in power
to the Father and to the Son descended
and rested on the apostles in the upper room.
Be gracious to all, O God.

The Spirit who spoke through the prophets
and revealed hidden mysteries from of old,
came and rested on the apostles in the upper room.
Be gracious to all, O God.

Blessed is He who chose the apostles
and filled them with the Holy Spirit
and invested them with power in the heights and in the depths.
Be gracious to all, O God.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Gracious Lord and Good Giver, who does not keep His gifts from those who ask Him. To Him who is true and rich in gifts, and who fulfilled His promise to His apostles in the upper room, sending to them the Holy Spirit and enriching them with His heavenly gifts, to Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Glory to You Heavenly Father who are magnificently glorified in Your being and eminently exalted in Your greatness infinitely rich in Your goodness. You are the Fountain-head of all good and the Source

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of all joy, the Treasury of blessings and the Storehouse of benefits, the Giver to those who give and the Strength of those who receive, the Perfecter of the perfect and the Sanctifier of the holy, the Light of those who give light and the Life of those endowed with reason, the Beauty of all that is beautiful, the Goodness of all that is good, the Spirit of those who are spiritual and the Giver of life to the worlds, the King of the heavenly ones and the Lord of the earthly ones, Father of all true fatherhood which is named in heaven and on earth.

O God, to tell of whose glory worthily surpasses the mind and understanding of all things that are made, and to give thanks to whom as is due is beyond the mouth and tongue of creatures, we beseech You and we ask of You that You will send us Your Spirit, the Comforter, who possesses of His own nature all those things which belong to Your Being and Godhead, and who is equal on the throne of glory and in the honour of the Kingdom to You and to Your Only Begotten Son, who is eternally with You, and is worshipped in the same essence with Your Son. He proceeds from You without alteration and receives from Your Only Son without diminution. He is worshipped with You as God and glorified with Your Son as Lord, the Spirit whose coming was with a mighty sound, whose visitation was with an eloquent speech, whose silence was a dazzling light, whose truth is a noble confession, who distributes His gifts to those who love Him and bestows abundant and lofty graces on those who yearn for Him: and who fills all in a divine manner, and hallows all in perfection, who spoke of old with the prophets in visions, and descended afterwards on the apostles in tongues. And now in His goodness may He descend also upon us all and fill us with ther iches of His bounty, and perfect and make holy all of us, that one and all we may worship You in spirit and in truth and Your Only Son and the Spirit, the Comforter, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday of Holy Pentecost, in the upper room, the Spirit
descended and rested on the disciples in the form of tongues of fire.
They began to proclaim in the tongues of all peoples
the Gospel of our Saviour, and they went forth to announce
the new life to the Creation. Behold, all the peoples
saved by the Cross of life give glory to Him.
Halleluia, praise to His Name.

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Today the Spirit, the Comforter, descends from the Father
on the little flock of the holy disciples in the upper room.
He rests on each one of them and they begin
to proclaim in new tongues the Gospel of the Son.
They make disciples, baptize and teach salvation to the Creation
and the new life which never decays.
Behold, all the nations sing praise unceasingly,
halleluia, to the Saviour of the world.

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

As the Master had told the disciples were gathered in the upper room
waiting for the promise which He had made to them:
"Go and wait for Me in the upper room
until you are clothed with the Power from on high."
The Spirit descended and rested on each one of them
and they went forth to proclaim the Gospel of the Son
in the tongues of all peoples, making disciples
and baptizing them, halleluia, in the name of the Trinity.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today the Spirit, holy and equal to the Father, comes down
in the upper room as the blessed disciples are there.
He descends on them, resting on each one of them
in the form of tongues of flaming fire and the house is filled
with wonder and marvel. They hear a voice telling them
to go forth into the world to make disciples and baptize
and teach all nations, halleluia, one God.

Come, Ezekiel, son of Buzi, man of great visions, reveal and tell us
how the dead will be raised to life on the day of the resurrection.
"The Lord carried me away and took me to the middle of a valley
full of dry bones, and he told me, 'Prophesy'.
And as I prophesied suddenly the Spirit came and entered the bones.
And they came to life and began to praise Him
who raises the dead to life". Halleluia, glory to Him.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord, Holy One and Hallower of all, You hallowed Your holy apostles
by the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
who today rested on them in the form of tongues of fire
and manifested in them wondrous powers and ineffable gifts.

Hallow now this incense which we present before You.
By it bestow perfect pardon upon Your whole flock,
cleanse our hearts from the thorns and tares of sin
and make us holy temples for the dwelling of Your Holy Spirit

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us on this Holy Feast.

And on that Feast which shall not pass away
give us a place at Your right hand.

Today according to the Lord's promise,
the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
descends and rests on the apostles
gathered together in the upper room.

Tongues like fire descend
upon these simple, illiterate men.
Their minds are enlightened by wisdom
and they set out to preach to the Creation.

Today people from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem
assemble and they are amazed and filled with wonder
when they hear these simple men
speaking to them in their own tongues.

Glory to You from the simple who became wise by Your teaching.
Glory to You from the illiterate who conquered the shrewd and the wise.
Glory to You and to Your Father who sent You.
And to the Holy Spirit exaltation.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Spirit of God, Source of all being,

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Spirit of God, Fountain of life,
halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Good Spirit, pour God's love into our hearts
and direct us on the path of life.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 11:9–13 The Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with exultation, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Holy Spirit, Healer of all diseases, sent by the Father and the Son to alleviate the ills of the human family, make us hear the call of suffering resounding in our broken world, and prompt us to be at the side of those who suffer, groaning as they are for liberation, dignity of life and true freedom, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Great God, who made to flow prophecy and established priesthood for the growth of Your people, prompt in Your Churches true prophets who speak Your word with all boldness, and priests who share the burdens of their people, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, pour out God's love into our hearts, and strengthen us to work unwearingly with You for the removal of evil from our midst and from the whole Creation. And make Your peace, joy, love, patience and all goodness reign all over the world, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Great Sunday of Pentecost, p. 196

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Tuesday of Pentecost[4]
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to receive the guidance of Your Holy Spirit in whom is truly found life and salvation for those who love Him. And grant us to add unceasingly to the exaltation of Your glories, that Your holy love may grow in us at all times, and we may worship You in spirit and in truth, and Your Beloved Son and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 51 *As on Pentecost*

RESPONSE

Make us hear the sound of joy and gladness.
Make the bones dance which You have broken.
Turn away your face from our sins and blot out all our guilt.

You who today sent forth tongues of fire
to rest on the little flock of the chosen disciples,
be gracious to all, O Lord, in Your true love.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Today in the upper room the Comforter descends and enlightens the disciples and makes them speak different tongues and rests on each one of them and they go forth to proclaim to the world the Glorious Mystery. We therefore cry out to You, "Great is Your goodness, truly boundless." Lord of all, to You be glory.

All who are moved by the Spirit are sons of God. We did not receive the spirit of slavery leading us into a life of fear,
but the Spirit that makes us sons, and we cry, "Abba, Father!"
In that cry the Spirit of God joins with our spirit
to make us aware that we are children of God.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Hidden and Secret Nature, known as Trinity and confessed in Unity, One Father known in the Son, One Son glorified in the Father, One Holy Spirit believed to be in the Father and the Son, Hidden Being, whose names cannot be interpreted with any division, and whose persons cannot be spoken of with any image. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Glory to You and thanksgiving to You, Comforter, Perfecter of all, who are one of the Holy Trinity, and equal in essence, having dominion over those above and those below, who with the Father are adored and with the Son are glorified. You proceed from the Father and receive from the Son and bestow on all Your heavenly gifts. You were spoken of by the prophets and descended upon the apostles and taught them diverse tongues and gave them power and might. You bestowed gifts of perfection upon the Holy Church and they proclaimed the Mystery of the Trinity to the world.

Therefore while adoring You as God in truth, we ask of You to dwell among us and to reign over us. We beg of You that You will rest upon us, as when You descended upon the holy apostles in the upper room. Distribute among us Your spiritual gifts, fill us with the wisdom of your teachings and make us temples for Your dwelling. Quench our thirst with the water of Your grace and enrich us with the knowledge of Your mysteries. Adorn us with the riches of Your bounty and enlighten us with the splendour of Your light. Make us worthy of a resting place with Your saints, that with them and among them we may offer praise and thanksgiving to You, and to the Father from whom You proceed, and to the Son from whom You receive, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today the apostles are clothed with the power from on high
by the Holy Spirit who comes down from heaven.
They receive the gift in the form of tongues of fire,
and they set out to proclaim the Gospel to the world.

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"Do not leave Jerusalem, "said our Lord to his disciples,
"until you receive the power from on high.
Then go to the four quarters of the earth,
baptize all nations, and make disciples of them
and teach them to keep the commandments."

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

Blessed is the Father who by His Son sent the Spirit,
the Comforter, who came and rested on the blessed apostles.
They were instructed by Him and they set out in the world
to proclaim to humankind the Gospel full of life.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

In the upper room the disciples prayed and made supplications,
and suddenly a voice resounded from on high.
Our Lord sent forth to His disciples tongues of fire.
The people saw it and were seized with amazement and wonder.

Lord, our Lord, in Your goodness, remember our dead
who ate Your body and drank Your blood, who died and now rest
in the hope of Your Name. When You come to judge
the peoples and the nations, give them a place at Your right hand.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord, Holy and Hallower of all,
You hallowed Your holy apostles
by the descent of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
who today rested on them in the form of tongues of fire
and manifested in them effectual powers and ineffable gifts.

Do You, Lord, now hallow this incense which we present before You.
By it bestow full pardon on Your entire flock,
purify our hearts from the thorns and tares of sin
and make us holy temples for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us on this Holy Feast.

And on that Feast which shall not pass away
give us a place at Your right hand.

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Today, according to the Lord's promise,
the Holy Spirit, the Comforter,
comes and rests on the apostles,
gathered together in the upper room.

Tongues, like fire, come down
upon these simple, illiterate men.
Their minds are enlightened by wisdom,
and they set out to preach to the Creation.

Today people from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem
assemble and they are amazed and filled with wonder
when they hear these simple men
speaking to them in their own tongues.

Glory to You from the simple who became wise by Your teaching.
Glory to You from the illiterate who conquered the shrewd and the wise.
Glory to You and to Your Father who sent You.
And to the Holy Spirit exaltation.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Spirit of God, source of all being.
Spirit of God, fountain of life,
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Good Spirit, pour God's love into our hearts
and direct us on the path of life.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 7:37-39 The stream of living water flowing from the heart of Jesus.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on Monday, p. 210

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Great Sunday of Pentecost p. 196

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Friday after Pentecost

Called Golden Friday, because on it is commemorated the first miracle of the Apostles Peter and John.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to receive the abundant riches of Your gifts more precious than the whole world and pour on us gloriously Your favours and divine graces, that we may carry Your burden lightly and proclaim Your Name in every place and suffer persecution joyfully for Your sake, like Simon and John and Your other holy apostles, that with them we may rejoice in Your Kingdom which does not pass away. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 19 (18) The heavens proclaim the glory of God...

RESPONSE

Apostles of the truth you are called blessed,
because you sowed the Gospel of Christ all over the earth.
May your prayer be a wall of protection for us.

The chosen apostles Simon and John
restored the cripple to good health.
May their prayer be a wall of protection for us.

They said to him, "We have no silver or gold,
but in the Name of Jesus our Master, rise and walk."
May their prayer be a wall of protection for us.

He who made Himself so close to His apostles
gave them power to overcome the Evil One.
O God, be gracious to the whole world.

Glory to the Good One who made His apostles illustrious,
and gave them the power to heal all diseases.
O God, be gracious to the whole world.

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Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Blessed is Christ who chose and set apart simple apostles,
and by them made all peoples turn to the Gospel.

The apostles had neither gold nor silver,
yet peoples, kings and rulers wanted to worship them.

Simon Peter and John gave health to the criple
and he gave thanks to the Lord.

Deliver us, Lord, from all our afflictions,
and forgive our offences by the prayer of Your apostles.

Blessed is Christ who endowed His apostles with power
to heal afflictions and to remit debts and offences.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Strength and Wisdom of the Father who fulfilled His fair promise to His disciples and sent His Holy Spirit upon them to fill them for perfection, He who said to them beforehand, "After being clothed with strength from on high, go and preach the Gospel of salvation to all, and whatever You ask My Father in My name, He will give you. And through this promise, Simon Peter and John healed the man who had been lame from his mother's womb. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Lord Jesus Christ who are fair and good, loving, gentle and kind, who were pleased to be called Jesus, and to be named and known as such, and who hid the name of Your Godhead from the proud, when You were walking with Your disciples on earth after Your glorious Resurrection from among the dead, You commanded them and said, "Go into all the world and preach My Gospel to all peoples and perform all wonders and mighty works by faith in My name." ...Straightway Simon Peter and John the son of thunder, on this Friday when they had gone to pray, at the time of the ninth hour, by an impulse of the Holy Spirit, You caused to meet them a man who had

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been a cripple from birth. He, when he saw them enter the Beautiful Gate of the Temple, hoped that they would give him alms. They then, who until this had done no mighty work in Your name, said to him: "We have no silver or gold to give you, but we will give you of the spiritual and heavenly riches which we possess." And Peter cried with the voice of faith, that every man might hear, "In the name of Jesus of Nazareth who was crucified and rose on the third day, stand now on your feet, that the people may see a new sign and believe." O the great wonder, the first to be performed by the holy apostles in Your name, Jesus. O the mighty work which gave back movement to paralysed limbs and they were moved to run and leap. O deed of the Lord, O act of God! After this the apostles were rejoicing and being praised by all men, while they taught them that it was not in their own strength that they did this, but in the name and the strength of Jesus, our Lord and our God. The cripple was leaping and bounding and giving praise, the people wondered when they saw him running, and a great multitude believed in the name of the Trinity and confessed and were baptized.

We therefore, Lord, who celebrate today the memory of this new and first of wonders beg of You and beseech You that You will confirm us all in Your hope and faith, and kindle in our hearts Your love and friendship, by the prayers of Your exalted apostles, and direct our footsteps in Your paths of light. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed is the Heavenly King who sought workers for His Kingdom
and chose simple, illiterate men to proclaim His Gospel.
He instructed them in spirit and in truth, gave them wisdom
and power over the heights and the depths and all that is in them.
They preached the true faith to the nations, made them turn away
from deceit and untruth, and taught them the mystery of the Trinity.

Simon Peter and John, the apostles of wonder,
went to the temple to pray at the ninth hour.
And instead of money which they had not
they restored the cripple to health,

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and he, leaping to his feet walked off praising the Lord,
and all who saw him were amazed and gave glory to God.

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

The apostles of the Son made disciples in the four quarters
and purified the peoples' worship by teaching the true faith.
Persecuted by the nations they endured joyfully trials and abuse.
Glory to Him who strengthened them and enlightened them
by His Spirit. As they taught the truth they illumined the earth
by their teachings, like bright lamps.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is Christ who chose the twelve apostles for His Gospel
and clothed them with the Holy Spirit and put into their hands
power over the heights and the depths and all that is in them
to proclaim His Good Tidings among the nations.
And now Churches and monasteries celebrate their memory for,
by their teaching the whole world turned away from deceit and untruth.

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed on the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and shall not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Good One in whose adorable and holy Name,
Peter and John, today at the gate of the Temple called Beautiful,
healed the man who was cripple from his mother's womb,
receive this service, our sacrifice of praise
as a fragrant offering well pleasing to God.

And grant us, O Jesus, by the memory of Your fair Name,
that our lame thoughts and our crooked ways may be healed,
that like the cripple we may leap and exult and spring before You
in Your spiritual temple in the company of Your apostles, and for ever
exalt Your Name and that of Your Father and of Your Holy Spirit.

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayers be with us, blessed apostles,
may the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to us.

By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil
from those who take refuge in you with faith.

The Son of God gave the Spirit with power to His apostles.
He made them the salt of a world that had gone corrupt.
Peter and John had no gold,
but they had the power to heal all those who are sick.

Simon Peter and John went to the temple to pray,
at the ninth hour, and a man, a cripple from his mother's womb,
met them on their way. Simon gave him his hand and the cripple
sprang up, stood on his feet and started to walk praising God.

He who was lame from the womb started to walk and he called
all the sick people that they might come and be healed.
And when it was known in whose name his limbs had been cured,
the whole creation came to him to be healed.

Glory to the Father who gave to the apostles to heal diseases.
Adoration to the Son in whose name all diseases are healed.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit by whom mighty deeds are performed.
O Trinity, by their prayers be gracious to all.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Their good tidings filled every land,
their message reached the ends of the world.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
By the entrance of the temple called Beautiful Gate,
in the name of Jesus they made the cripple to stand and walk.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 6:12–16 Jesus chooses His apostles.
6:20–23 He proclaims the Beatitudes.

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Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation"

Christ our God who through Your apostles drew those who were living in darkness to the light of Your knowledge, and gave them joy by the power of the Holy Spirit now at work in Your Churches, manifest Yourself in them as the light of the nations, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God who made the preaching of salvation by Your holy apostles to spread among the nations, make the light of the Gospel to shine in Your Churches, that they may be a sign of hope for the whole inhabited world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole universe, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Christ our God, that by the firm and unshakable intercession of Your Apostles Peter and John, we may experience in our lives the power of Your Adorable and Holy Name, Jesus, our Lord

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and our Saviour, and continue in the confession of the faith till our last breath, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
one true God to whom be glory.
And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise, singing
the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also earthly ones to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Seeing the servants of the Lord, the cripple extended his hand
as for begging, not knowing that they had the power of healing.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

"We have no silver or gold," said Simon to the cripple,
"In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, stand on your feet and be healed."
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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Glory to the Good One who through His apostles
showed us the way of truth.
Praise to Him and to the Father who sent Him.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 34 (33) I will bless the Lord at all times...

RESPONSE

We will bless the Lord at all times.
His praise will ever be in our mouths.
The poor man called and the Lord heard him.
They who seek the Lord lack no blessing.
Look up to Him and be radiant with joy.

Simon Peter and John, and you all, chosen apostles,
temples of the Holy Spirit and abodes of holiness,
offer prayers to the Lord on behalf of the Churches,
that He may bestow peace and tranquillity upon their children
who celebrate your commemoration with faith and joy.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who after spending a night in prayer to God called His disciples and from among them chose twelve whom He made apostles of His Majesty, and sent His Spirit on them to proclaim His Gospel. And behold, the Churches honour the day of their remembrance, when Peter and John experienced the power of His Name by healing a cripple beggar. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Praise to You, True Physician, Lord Jesus Christ, who sent medicines by the hands of Your holy apostles to heal all the diseases of man. When Simon Peter and John met, near the gate of the temple, a beggar who had been a cripple from birth, they fixed their eyes on him and

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said: "We have no silver or gold, but what we have, we give you, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, walk. Blessed are you, chosen apostles who were the first to make a healing miracle in the sacred name of our Saviour, and the people who saw it gave glory to God. Truly it was the power of the name of Jesus that strengthened the cripple by awakening his faith, and made him completely well. Blessed are you, apostles of wonder, who by your word put the learned to shame and conquered mighty rulers by showing them that this beggar who stood before them fit and well had been healed in the name of Jesus.

Therefore, Lord, we beseech You by the intercession of Your holy apostles, grant us to be filled, like them, with Your Holy Spirit, and to be confirmed in the faith in Your Holy Name. Make us worthy to imitate them by being fearless in the face of evil, but full of compassion for the sufferings of humankind, that we may always offer praise with joy to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

As Simon Peter and John were going to the temple to pray,
near the gate, they saw a lame man holding out his hand to beg.
Simon said to him: "Look at us, we have no silver, no purse.
But we offer you the gift which our Master gave us.
In the name of Jesus, stand on your feet!"

Simon called on the name of Jesus and the cripple stood up and walked.
He entered the temple with them exulting and leaping for joy.
Faithless people were amazed and asked how this happened.
"It is not through our merit" said Peter, "but by God's grace,
God whom you crucified, and who rose again.
This man believed in Him and he was healed"

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

The cripple healed by Simon and John
represents this world crippled, with deceit and untruth.
As he was lame from his mother's womb and had never walked,
so the Creation was crippled until the Lord appeared.
He chose apostles to loose the bonds of sin,
and by the word they cured the lame and converted the world.
Blessed is He who confirmed their words by such signs.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The disciples entered the temple on Friday at the ninth hour.
A lame man was lying near the gate called the Beautiful.
He looked up to them as to any other men for a charity.
But Simon said: "We have no gold or silver to give you.
But, in the name of Jesus Christ, rise and stand on your feet."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 47 (46) All you peoples clap your hands...

RESPONSE
The Lord, the Most High, we revere,
great Sovereign over all the earth.
He made the nations prostrate before us in His name.
He brought the peoples to our feet that they might turn to Him.

Like brilliant stars made by God to shine, Christ our God
sent His apostles to enlighten the Creation in his name.
Young and old, you all His children, confess Him and exalt Him!
Priests, peoples and tribes, exalt His Holy Name for ever!

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Holy and Divine Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, which the apostles proclaimed and taught to us who received from them the message of salvation, to the Trinity to whom belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We keep the memory of the apostles Peter and John who were a thundering voice of flesh which thundered in the Creation the message of the Gospel. Spiritual gardeners who grafted on to the tree of humankind the sucker of the Cross, and made fair fruits of praise grow from it instead of thorns. Strong labourers who uprooted from the

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earth which was cursed the tares and thorns of sin, and sowed in it a field of souls for the clean harvest of the knowledge of the truth. Leaders of the troops of battles who fell upon the camp of Satan and recovered from it the captives. Marvellous fishermen who cast into the sea of the world the net of faith and filled it with abundance of souls. Shining lamps which drove the darkness of the night from the house of God. Skilled physicians who healed without natural remedies the sick bodies and diseased souls.

We ask of You, Christ our God, who exalt Your apostles and crown Your labourers, that You will make us imitators of Your apostles Peter and John in fair conduct and good behaviour, as we keep their memory today. They left all things and took up their cross and went after You. May we also be worthy to see the crown which You have prepared for them in joy and gladness. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The cripple was sitting begging near the temple gate,
the gate rightly called the Beautiful Gate,
for, truly, near it was manifested the beauty of the apostles
when Simon, quite divinely, performed his first miracle.

With this door Simon began to open
the door of the powers of the Son and of His miracles.
As the Gospel opened the door of love,
the cripple entered and carried away its blessings.

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

The cripple did not expect what Simon said,
the great power to heal his disease.
Simon gave him what he did not ask. Blessed are You
who through the cripple gave a victory to Your apostles.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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The head of the disciples opened the Gospel,
the great door full of beauty,
that he who was a cripple might walk and run.
And as he made him to stand, he confirmed the resurrection of the Son.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord, from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us by the prayers of Your apostles.

By the prayers of those who loved You so much
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

The apostles like innocent lambs
were gathered together in the upper room,
to receive that promise
which our Saviour had made to them.

You entered in me and you enlightened me,
says the Church to the apostles,
and you raised me like the daughter of the king,
that I might be honoured by the rulers.

Glory to Him who on two feasts
imparted gifts to His apostles.
At one feast he gave His body and His blood,
at the other He gave the Spirit with power.

Our Lord, be gracious to us by the prayers of Your apostles.

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By the prayers of those who loved You so much,
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

First Sunday of the Apostles[5]

1st after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to come to You always with fervent and upright adorations, and to celebrate You with noble and holy praises, and to offer You sincere and solemn thanksgivings, and to make to ascend to You divine acclamations and hymns, and thus worship You as befits Christians, in spirit and in truth, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 8 Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your Name in all the earth...

RESPONSE

How glorious Your Name through all the earth, our Lord!
Our mouths are too small to offer fitting adorations to Your Majesty.
When we contemplate the heavens, the work of Your hands,
what are we, mortal creatures, that You should care for us!

Christ when You were crucified at the centre of the universe,
the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom,
and the earth trembled in horror at seeing You pierced by the nails.
You are blessed,O God of our fathers!

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Arise and be illumined, New Jerusalem, for Christ your light shines with glory from the tomb and enlightens the world to its utmost bounds and delivers our race from corruption. You are blessed, Lord, God of our fathers.

We adore the Holy Spirit and we are enlightened by His light, the light by which He taught the chosen apostles, He who comes forth from the Father of the lights of heaven, and receives from the Son, essentially, and is Sovereign over all, the God of our fathers.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
God rises with glory from the tomb.
He rejoices and gladdens heaven and earth.
And the angels and the sons of men sing glory for His Resurrection.

He who by the passion and death which He suffered defeated the Evil One who had brought death on the head of our race, by His Resurrection makes earthly Adam return to his former place, his inheritance.

On Sunday the women announce to the company of the apostles the Mystery of the Resurrection. Their Lord is risen with glory. They rejoice and exult. They offer praise and give glory.

Rejoice exceedingly and be glad, Holy Church.
Make a joyful noise, sing loudly, and praise the Son, Christ, who by His Resurrection delivers your people from deceit and untruth.

We adore You, Jesus our God, who suffered death for our salvation. We offer praise to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit at all times.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Nature, glorious and adorable, eternal, ever living, without limit, existing from everlasting, and enduring to eternity without change, who creates all things and rules and orders all ...and manifests itself in three holy persons, Trinity which cannot be numbered but which is believed and confessed to be Father, Son and

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Holy Spirit, One Sole Nature, ever to be adored, exalted, glorified, magnified, blessed and praised in heaven and on earth, especially at this time of evening...

We adore and give thanks, and with accents of joy and happiness we offer You praises, as is right and fitting to the majesty of Your Glory, Glorious Lord and God, worshipped above all, who are known as one sole nature and confessed in three persons. It is You who created this world when You made it come into existence out of nothing. In the wisdom of Your providence and the might of Your power, You have perfected it and set it in order. You have established it for the praise of Your Holy Name. We offer adoration and praise at all times such as is befitting Your Majesty, O Worshipful One, who at all times receive adorations from those above and those below. The heavens with their angels and flaming archangels offer You praises with fear and trembling....The earth worships and praises You because You have clothed it and arrayed it in every kind of beauty striking the eye with its many colours: mountains and plains, seas and streams, springs and fountains, trees and plants, animals wild and tame. Man worships You, he whom You formed in Your image and likeness, and whom You have made king of all that is on earth. Peoples and nations worship You because by You they were led to worship in spirit and in truth. The Church and her people worship You and You receive adorations from all men within her. We also who belong to You and are Your heirs worship You in spirit and in truth. We also offer our humble and fervent adorations to Your Majesty, before the lofty and worshipful nature of the Most High Trinity, equal in being, before whom bends every knee in heaven and on earth, in spirit and in truth, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Who can understand the Mystery of the Trinity?
The heights and the depths are filled with it, yet man's study cannot pierce it. The Father begets the Uniquely Beloved Son.
The Son, the Firstborn, becomes a son of man.
The Holy Spirit, the Comforter, gives wisdom to the apostles. Glory to the Hidden One who revealed to human beings the three persons to be adored as one sole being. Let the whole Creation praise Him.

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The apostles received the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.
They were confirmed by Him and took courage to teach the nations,
and made them leave error and confess the Holy Trinity.
The Churches they planted multiplied like lilies on earth. They, thus,
reached out to all nations, healed evil, worked miracles and prodigies,
and illumined the world by their teaching of the way of truth.

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

He who from all eternity is with the Father and His only Son, the Holy
Spirit, the Comforter, the third Person of the Godhead is given
in the upper room to the twelve in the form of tongues of fire.
He enlightens their minds and endows their simplicity with wisdom.
He gives them power over the heights and the depths
and makes them ministers of the treasures of the Sublime Godhead.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is He who magnifies in the four quarters the fishermen
whom He filled with wisdom by the gift of the Holy Spirit.
He set them as pillars of the new world and as foundations
of the Holy Church and made them also her guardians. Glory to Him
who imparted wisdom to the simple and sent them to lead men from
among all nations to the obedience of faith for the sake of His Name.

Lord, in that Jerusalem which is in heaven,
remember the dead who have received Your body
and have been purified by Your living blood.
When You sit on Your seat of judgement
to separate the good from the wicked,
make them stand at Your right had with faces unveiled.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Holy Trinity who are exalted above the world and above all sovereignty,
Unique Godhead far above all ways and measures,
one sole Being, one Substance, one Nature in three Persons
having as properties paternity, filiation and the coming forth,
to be worshipped as one, and the only one to be worshipped,
for there is no other to be adored except You,

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Receive from us this fragrant incense
and raise our minds to the throne of Your Majesty
where the Sublime Mysteries appear unveiled.
Draw our hearts to the place of Your Mystical Light, that
we may give You thanks and offer our adorations to You without end.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
On this Feast when heaven and earth rejoice in You,
give joy to Your Church and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

Blessed are you, O Church in whom is placed the Cross of the Son of God. Whoever rises to do away with you, will meet with a fall.
In you resound hymns of blessing like those of the Winged Creatures.
In you is celebrated the mystic hallowing of the Fiery Ones.
In you dwells the Sun of Righteousness in His glorious light
from whose presence darkness flees in fear.

Join with understanding in the hymns of praise which Divine Wisdom has taught the sons of men to chant in a wondrous manner.
Give heed to the prophets, flutes of pure gold, who with God's words pour life from their mouths into the ears of the believers.
Listen to the apostles, these living watercourses flowing through the Garden of the King to water it through their streams of truth.

Turn your ear towards the throne of the Godhead
and receive from it precious pearls, words of life.
Learn the Testaments of Light and put your faith in them.
By these two you will obtain life that does not come to an end.
Give heed to the New but listen also to the Old. Keep them together for it is the same truth that they speak to you.

Glory to the Father who revealed His Mysteries through the prophets.
Adoration to the Son who made them known through the apostles.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit, Ocean of riches and wisdom, who distributes gifts among the sons of men. O Holy Spirit, Mother of the poor, visit those who are in want, heal the sick, have compassion on sinners and pardon the dead who rest in Your hope. To You be praise.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Spirit hovered over the primeval waters.
By the Word of the Lord the heavens were made.
By the breath of His mouth all the Powers.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The love of God is poured into our hearts
by the Holy Spirit which is given to us.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 28:16–20 The Mission of the apostles to the world.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Lover of all that lives, who descended and rested on the apostles and marvellously warmed their hearts for the proclamation of the Gospel, make the light of the Gospel to shine in our thoughts, words and deeds, all the days of our life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Lover of all that lives, who form the prophets and put God's words into their mouths to pull down and to plant, renew Your Churches and make their people live the Gospel, and build them into one body, the body of Christ, until God is all in all, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Lover of all that lives, pour Your life on our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Lover of all that lives, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their

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services to the people, and for the fostering of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Lover of all that lives, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and harmony be restored among all nations, and strengthened among our people of Kerala and in this our country of India and in the whole world, we beseech You:

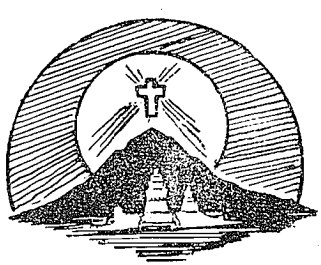
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Lover of all that lives, who on the day of Pentecost descended on the disciples with the wind from heaven, in the form of tongues of fire, and filled them with joy and power to proclaim the Gospel of life, guide us unwearingly into all the truth, and make the whole world to experience Your love, and we will cry three times.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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FIRST SUNDAY OF THE APOSTLES

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...

RESPONSE
Awaken us, Lord, to sing praise to You,
O Watcher who keep watch over us,
and who deliver us from the snares of the Enemy.

On this day the Firstborn rises from the tomb
with great glory and He raises with Him
Adam who was consumed by corruption.

On Sunday the darkness that had gathered during the night
of deceit and untruth is illumined when the Mighty One
rises from the tomb and overthrows Death and Satan.

On Sunday Peter and John
ran with great haste to the tomb when they heard
that their Master had risen from the grave.

On Sunday, O Holy Church, bless and offer adorations and praise
to Him who was lifted up on the Cross
and rose from among the dead to give life to the world.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 108 (107) My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready...

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RESPONSE

The Holy Church rejoices at the Resurrection of the Bridegroom Christ
and behold, she sings praise to the Uniquely Beloved Son
who died and who lives and who gives life to our race.

Glory to You, who in Your graciousness inclined Yourself
to save Adam from Sheol where he was consumed by corruption,
and to clothe him with his former glory.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the all glorious Trinity, all high, all pure and all worshipful, who is of one Nature, one God, Creator and Maker of all, One and Three, known in identity of nature and distinction of persons. To Him bends every knee of those in heaven and those on earth, and every tongue confesses and exalts and honours and praises, adores and glorifies, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, at this time of the night vigil...

When we consider the munificence of Your graciousness and the beauty of the gifts which You have bestowed on our race, O Eternal Father, we offer songs of thanksgiving for Your graciousness. You are one who deals peaceably and gently with us. At all times You pour Your goodness on us. Turn now unto us, Lord, and in the abundance of Your compassion send the Holy Spirit, the Purifier of sins, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of praise with fortitude, the Spirit of knowledge with devoutness, the Spirit of serenity and of gentleness, the Spirit of graciousness and of piety and of true love for You and for one another. And while all the impulses of our passions and the movements of our thoughts are elevated and beautified by Him, may we be ready to be a holy dwelling for You. Acknowledge us as the gentle sheep of Your flock. Kindle faith and hope and the love of You at all times in us, and we will offer fitting adorations to You, Father, who guard those who revere You, to Your only Son who is the hope of those who adore Him, and to the Holy Spirit who crowns His servants, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

Ascend the high mountains, O Church of believers,
and sing praise to Him who has magnified you.
He came and saved your people from their bondage to sin
and taught them to sing praise,
halleluia, halleluia. Glory to Him by night and by day.

The Fisherman seeing men in search of food to eat
broke His own body and gave it to them.
And as they were thirsting He opened His side
and made to flow waters of life which will never dry up,
halleluia, halleluia, in atonement for the sins of the world.

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

God is the Fisherman, baptism is the net, Adam was caught in it.
As man was hungry God gave him His own body.
As man was thirsty God opened His side,
halleluia, halleluia. Glory to God, the Word.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Christ called His Church, "Come and take your delight
at the table of life. You saw Me in the court before Pilate.
You saw Me on Golgotha. Come and see Me now upon the altar,
halleluia, halleluia, and have eternal life."

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 135 Praise the Lord for He is good...

RESPONSE

He gave a twofold power of renewal to His apostles,
the breaking of soul and body in repentance.

Praise Him in holiness and with songs of devotion
who for the sake of His flock became a lamb for sacrifice.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts... We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the one Holy Father, the one Holy Son, the one Holy Spirit, the Father incomprehensible, the Son unsearchable and the Spirit inscrutable, the Father who is not begotten but begets, and the Son who is begotten and does not beget, and the Spirit who proceeds from the Father and receives from the Son, Being, and Consubstantial, and proceeding from Being, in whom there is no name which is not of a person, and no person who is not equal in honour. They are one in three and the three are one. In them is the Godhead, or rather they are the Godhead, and to the Godhead the whole Creation is subject and offers worship in heaven and on earth, and every tongue confesses it, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord Jesus Christ , hope that does not deceive of Your Church, after Your Incarnation in the flesh You sent Your Holy Spirit which of old flew away and departed from humanity on account of the transgression of the commandment. You restored Him to our nature which had become corrupt, when He was seen to descend and to rest on the apostles, Your disciples, in the form of tongues of fire. By their hands You filled Your Holy Church with the assistance and the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit. They proclaimed Your Gospel throughout the world, everywhere planting Churches. They made them beautiful by the celebration of Your Mysteries. They adorned them with the work of Your praise and the teaching of theology and proclaimed the Wondrous and DivineMysteries throughout the world.

Therefore we beg and beseech You, Lord, bestow on us by Your Holy Spirit the pardon of faults and the forgiveness of sins. And all the time of our pilgrimage here below, let us not be estranged from Your deifying grace. Make us resplendent at all times with the riches of Your divine gifts. Do not allow any one to make us strangers to Your holy and glorious illumination. Do not keep Your goodness from Your worshippers, worshippers in spirit and in truth. Turn us towards You, Lord, and make to shine on us the transfiguring splendour of Your Holy Spirit. Set in our hearts the recollection of Your glory and on our lips the utterance of Your praises, that while we bend to

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You the necks of body and soul we may worship You in spirit and in truth. And we and our faithful departed will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Through a woman we had the fall, at the beginning in Paradise.
But through women came to us the joy of the Resurrection
of the Son of God, when women announced to the apostles,
"Behold Your Master is risen and raised to life." And they told them
to go and see Him in Galilee and to sing praise to Him
who sent Him for the salvation of the Creation.

From one end of the Creation to the other
spread the Good News of the Resurrection.
It has assembled all its inhabitants in the Churches to offer praise.
And behold, the crucifiers are put to shame
while the Church sings praise to her Bridegroom
who sacrificed Himself and gave Himself as food.

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

O apostles, you were mediators for the proclamation of the truth.
Our Lord entrusted it to you and you spread it abroad
in the creation, that by it sinners might be saved
from the pathless desert and find the way of life.
Beg and beseech your Lord that peace with love may reign
in the Churches who take pride in You.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When the apostles received the Holy Spirit from on high
they proclaimed the Christian faith to the four quarters of the earth.
As commanded by their Lord they baptized nations and peoples,
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
the Trinity worthy of praise, One Ineffable Being.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

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Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us on this Holy Feast.

And on that Feast which shall not pass away,
give us a place at Your right hand.

We offer our adorations, bowing to You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Trinity worthy of praise, One God, Incomprehensible.
Father the Source, a distinct person who begets.
From Him the Word is begotten.
From Him the Holy Spirit comes forth.

The Son, a divine person, Word and Radiance of the first one,
from whom He is begotten and who is the Source of the Spirit.
The Spirit is the third. He does not beget and is not begotten.
He proceeds from the Father and receives from the Son.
They are equal in Godhead but distinct in properties,
three in one nature and each one a distinct personality.

We adore the Hidden Father.
We confess the Son who is from Him.
We exalt the Holy Spirit.
Three holy persons, equal in being and power,
one true God whose majesty cannot be grasped by reason.
He who searches it with curiosity cannot comprehend it.

We adore the Holy Spirit and we are enlightened by His light,
the light by which He taught the chosen apostles, who comes forth
from the Father of the lights of heaven and receives from the Son,
essentially, God who rules over all. To Him be praise
and to Him thanksgiving, and to Him adoration at all times.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise...p.16

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Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Second Sunday of the Apostles[6]

2nd after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Help us, Lord, King of the ages and Creator of all things, to thank You for all the gifts You showered upon us, and above all for the Life-giving Mysteries which You have entrusted to Your apostles, and grant us to celebrate Your Saving Resurrection with a holy joy, and to partake of Your Holy Mysteries with pure hearts, You to whom belongs glory, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 111 (110) I will thank the Lord with all my heart...

RESPONSE

We thank the Lord with all our heart in the assembly of believers. Great are the works of our God to be pondered by all who enjoy them. Splendour and majesty are His work and His love endures for ever. He calls us to sing His wonders, the Compassionate and Gracious Lord.

The earth quaked. The sun became dark as it veiled itself withholding its rays, and darkness was again on the face of the earth. The rocks split in fear when Christ our God was lifted up on the cross, who is extolled above all, the Compassionate and Gracious Lord.

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Mighty One, You willed to be like one without strength for our sake. You lay among the dead like one smitten and slain, You who are high above all exaltation, and with Your mighty hand You raised up our fallen race, Christ our God, Compassionate and Gracious Lord.

Glory to the Father who created us.
Adoration to the Son who redeemed us by His Cross.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who raises us from the dust,
the three who are the All Compassionate and Gracious God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Today all the prophecies are fulfilled
and the Creation praises Christ who is risen.
Come, let us bow down in adoration to Him.

Today the companies of the Watchers on high descend
to the tomb of the Saviour and announce that Christ is risen.
Come, let us bow down in adoration to Him.

The women disciples hasten to the tomb of the Saviour
with their fragrant herbs to embalm His body,
But the angel says to them, "Christ is risen from the tomb"

The people sing praise to the Son of God
who by His glorious Resurrection from the tomb fills all things
with His glory and with the splendour of the Divinity.

Today the people sing praise to the Son of God
who by His Resurrection accomplished our salvation.
Come, let us bow down in adoration to Him.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Christ our Lord who of His own will gives His holy body as food to those who believe in Him, and who willed us to eat Him that He might enter into the fabric of our body and be mingled with us, that the thorns of our sins and transgressions might be burnt

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up and that our hearts might become pure. To Him belongs glory honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Praise to You, Christ Jesus, our Lord and our God, Source of Life and Treasury of Inexhaustible Goodness. It is You who at the end of time, out of Your boundless compassion and graciousness clothed Yourself in our body, were crucified, offering Yourself in sacrifice for us, and by the shedding of Your blood renewed our race wounded by sin. Incline Yourself, then, towards us, Lord, and take away from us the heavy burden of sin, for You are the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, that we may celebrate Your Sacred and Divine Mysteries with the joy of a clear conscience...Yes, Lord Jesus, make to die in us the carnal passions which corrupt the soul and kill the spirit, You who by Your burial for three days have overthrown the rule of Sheol and despoiled all its dark recesses. Bury then Your holy body in our hearts that we may be set free from the power of evil spirits and defeat their plots. And as You opened the eyes of the two disciples on the way to Emmaus and made them recognize You in the breaking of the bread, open also the spiritual eyes of our hearts when we receive this divine bread offered at the hands of Your ministers, the priests, whenever Your Church is assembled for the celebration of the Holy Qurbana.

And now that by Your Glorious Resurrection You have divinised the body which You took from us, and by Your Ascension have honoured it by setting it at the right hand of the Father, and by the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, have made Your holy apostles vessels of honour, send Him also to us that we may become His dwelling place...And we will give You thanks, Christ our God, because You have exalted us by making us Your brothers, sons of Your Father and partakers of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday, the first of days, appeared the light, in the beginning.
On this same day the Resurrection illumines the whole creation.
The darkness of deceit has fled. The nations turn to the truth.
They believe and receive baptism and are pardoned in the name
of the Trinity. Glory to that Epiphany wherein the light shines
on the Creation, while the Church becomes His bride
and He gives her His body as the pledge of the new life.

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The heavens rejoice in the Resurrection of the Uniquely Beloved Son
and peace prevails on the earth which the Divinity has trod.
Fear is dispelled. Death and Hell flee. Those who crucified Him
are put to shame and dispersed, scattered among the nations.
Christ builds His Church and entrusts to her His body and His blood.
He ascends and sits in the heavens at the right hand of the Father,
and the Watchers on high praise Him together with the angels.

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

On the mountains and the high places and in the 4 quarters of the earth
the apostles hasten to announce the Good News and to invite the
nations to come to the feast and to take their delight in the sanctuary
with the body and the blood of Christ our King, immolated on Golgotha,
nailed on the Cross, by wicked people. Let us offer praise with
the Fiery Ones and hallow Him with His Father with whom He is one.
without division, and the Holy Spirit who comes forth from the Father.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today the whole Creation rejoices, exults and sings praise,
for the Son of God is risen and has left the tomb with great glory.
Behold how He shines in the highest heaven above all powers.
The Holy Church of believers contemplates Him on the altar on which
He is sacrificed and gives Himself as food, and His blood
is for the pardon of sins. Each day she takes her delight with Him
that she may rejoice with Him in the Heavenly Kingdom.

May the Dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon,
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and shall not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord Jesus, Bridegroom of pure souls, Precious Rose,
by the perfume of Your exquisite and chosen aroma
You draw unceasingly to Your love Your bride the Holy Church.

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Delight us now, Lord, with the sweetness of Your virgin body
and make us drunk with Your sweet and wondrous blood,
that our hearts may be on fire with Your divine love.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God who by Your immolation delivered the Creation, deliver us
from our passions and heal all diseases by Your life-giving sacrifice.

O Good One who willed that Your side should be pierced on Golgotha,
quench our thirst by the blood and water that flow from it.

On Sunday when it was still night our Lord rose and raised with Him
the just who had died and awaited Him. And by His Resurrection
He rejoices His Church and her children, giving them His body
and His life-giving blood that they may take their delight in them.

The Living Lamb whom the wicked immolated is risen and He liberates
His Church from untruth and from the fear of demons. He sets up
in her the table of life for all people that they may eat and have their fill
and take their delight in it and be sanctified.

Who can understand You, O death from which springs up life?
Who can understand You, O Lamb crucified on Golgotha?
In the heavens the companies of the angels tremble before You
and here on earth the children of men carry You in their hands!

Glory to the Father who fulfilled the Mysteries of the seers.
Adoration to the Son who broke His body for the twelve apostles
and mixed His blood, the cup of life and gave it to them to drink.
To the Holy Spirit our thanksgivings and our adoration,
without any doubt.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Confess the Lord and call upon His Name.
Make His works known among the nations.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He remembers His covenant for ever.
He gives His body, the food of those who believe in Him.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 14:15–24A The Parable of the Great Supper.

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Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God who share Your virgin body broken for Your people and make all those who believe in You find life in it, help us all to be the leaven of the new creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God who fed the hungry crowd in the desert make us always share our daily bread with those who are in want and may we never deny it to them, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the fostering of universal brotherhood among all peoples beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations, and strengthened in this our country of India and in the whole inhabited world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Make us worthy, Christ our God, to celebrate unceasingly the Wondrous Mysteries of Your body and holy blood with reverence and sincerity. And may we at all times give thanks to You for Your great

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love for us, revealed to the whole Creation in Your Passion, Death and Resurrection for the whole world, You are indeed our God in truth, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve...

RESPONSE

With those from on high, the heads of the angelic powers,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You.
Glory to You Creator of the Universe.

With the Winged Creatures we bless You, O Lover of Humankind.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, and with the angels
we bow to You in adoration. Glory to You, Creator of the Universe.

The women hasten to the glorious tomb with fragrant herbs.
They are weeping. But they see an angels sitting there
who says to them, "Christ is risen from the grave"

The Firstborn of the Father has become the Firstborn of the dead.
He rose with glory, rejoiced the earth and gladdened the heaven.
And now the heavenly ones offer praise to Him with the earthly ones.

It is good to offer praise, glory, adoration and the highest honour to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God. To Him be praise.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 139:1—9 and 13 Rescue me, Lord, from evil men...

RESPONSE

We have said to the Lord: "You are our God"
Lord our God, our Mighty Help,
You shield our heads in the battle.

Today the Light shines in the whole world. On this day,
Sunday, the Light gladdens the faces and the hearts
of all those to whom it has been given to believe.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Lord of all joy, the Delight which never fails, never comes to an end. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Praise to You, Word of Life, who said to Your apostles, "This is My body which is given up for you." We receive Your word in faith. We believe and ponder over it in our hearts, for You did not give us something perceptible without meaning. What You have given us, You gave us equally in a perceptible and intelligible form, as for example Holy Baptism. In it water is the perceptible form and by it a spiritual gift is bestowed on us. Its intelligible meaning is shown in being born again by a spiritual renewal. What is born of the flesh is flesh, but he who is born of the water of baptism is born of the Spirit and becomes a spiritual dwelling for God. If we were without a body, You would have given us purely spiritual, imperceptible gifts. But because soul and spirit are incorporated in our body You give us spiritual gifts in a corporeal form. Yet in Your Mysteries You do not wish us to look at Your face or to touch Your feet. You offer us Your body and Your blood that by eating and drinking we come to share Your life, Your divine nature, and grow in You, and as members of Your body, reach full spiritual stature. To You, to whose goodness there is no end, be glory and worship from all creatures, and to Your Father and to Your Holy, Spirit now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

On this day, Sunday, the head of all feasts,
a crowd of people surround our Saviour and He cries to them:
"Whoever is thirsty let him come to Me and drink,
for with Me is the fountain of life, halleluia."
Blessed is He who renews His Church with His blood
and who gives her His living body full of delight.

On this day, Sunday, the angels descend from the heights
to see the tomb of the Heavenly King and they all cry out:
"Blessed is Christ who was raised to life from the tomb,
with infinite glory. Halleluia, glory to Him and to Him who sent Him
to save the Church by the blood from His side."

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

Lord our Lord, by Your Resurrection full of wonder
You rejoice Your Church which You redeemed by Your blood.
She takes pride in You. She lifts up her head on account
of Your crucifixion and she finds a place of refuge in Your Cross.
Be to her a high wall of protection and keep her from all harm
of the Evil One, the Adversary, who fights against her.
Halleluia, make her worthy, our Lord to take her delight
in Your living body and Your pure blood.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

By Christ the Creation is illumined and the Church rises. By Him the heavenly ones and the earthly ones are reconciled. By Him Adam inherits Paradise and returns to his former state, and he sings praise. As through the fruit of the tree Death ruled over him, by the Cross, the Tree of Life, Christ saves him and makes him like to Himself. Halleluia, glory to Him at all times.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 143 Blessed be the Lord who trains my hands for battle...

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RESPONSE
To You, Lord Jesus, we sing a new song.
To You we give thanks for Your victory over evil and death,
Son of man who shared our weakness and our struggles.

Early morning on Sunday the Watchers in their white garments
descended and brought joy to the women
who were carrying the sweet spices and fragrant herbs.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Christ the Lord and Redeemer and Giver of Life, who came to us that we might have life and have it in full. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

To You be praise and thanksgiving, Wisdom of the Father who became for us the bread of life, so that anyone who eats this bread will live for ever, and the bread that You give is Your flesh for the life of the world. Praise and thanksgiving to You, Lamb of God, who were immolated to take away the sins of the world, and to give life to those who believe in You. Praise and thanksgiving to You, Giver of Life, for whoever eats Your flesh and drinks Your blood lives in You and You in him. As the Living Father sent You, and as You draw life from the Father, he who eats You will draw life from You, so that the life of the Father which is in the Son becomes the life of all those who believe in Him and take His body and drink His cup. Such is the richness of the gifts You have lavished on us, Jesus Christ our Lord, such is the mystery hidden from the beginning, that we would all be brought together in You, in one body with You, the head, everything in the heavens and everything on earth.

Therefore we beseech You, Lord, give us Your Spirit according to Your promise, the Spirit of wisdom and of perception of what is given to those who believe in You. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts that we may know the wealth and glory You share with Your people, the Church, which is Your body and the fulness of Him who Himself receives the entire fulness of God, that we may offer praise unceasingly and worship in spirit and in truth, to You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn
We adore You, our Saviour, on the day of Your Resurrection,
You who saved us by Your living sacrifice
and set us free from the clutches of Death.

With great love and devotion the Church prays to Christ,
"Let me kiss Your wounds, let me get drunk
with the flow of water and blood from Your side."

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

Today Eve worships You because she has found consolation when with Your living body and precious blood You sweeten the bitter lot that fell upon her and her children, on account of the Serpent.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Let us offer praise to the One Beloved Son
who came forth from the tomb with glory
to raise us up with Him from our fall.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us on this Holy Feast.

And on that Feast which shall not pass away,
give us a place at Your right hand.

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Adam ate the fruit and incurred death and corruption.
Come, let us eat the body of the Son,
the Living Fruit and Giver of Life to all.
In gladness, with the angels, we sing halleluia.

Behold the priest stands in reverence
and he offers the Living Victim.
An invisible fire encompasses him and grace guards him.
In gladness, with the angels, we sing halleluia.

Behold, the Salt of Life descends. Mortals receive it
and they are seasoned by it, that they may not be like the salt
that has lost its saltness and is thrown away.
In gladness, with the angels, we sing halleluia.

The body and the blood are a furnace and the Holy Spirit
is the fire in it. Whoever wants to be purified, let him come near.
But he who is negligent let him keep away from it.
In gladness, with the angels we sing halleluia.

Glory to the Eternal Father who sent us His Uniquely Beloved Son
who made Himself food and drink for us.
Thanksgiving to Him and to the Holy Spirit.
And in gladness, with the angels we sing halleluia.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise...p. 16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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Friday of the Sacred Heart of Jesus[7]

3rd Friday after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Christ Jesus our Lord, impress Your wounds in our hearts and pour into them the blood and water which flowed from Your Sacred Heart, that our hearts may always be on fire with Your love, to serve our fellow men with whole-hearted love, and offer praise with single-minded devotion to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 23 (22) The Lord is my Shepherd I shall not want...

RESPONSE

The Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not be in want.
He leads us into luscious pastures
and makes us rest near tranquil waters.
Even though we should walk in utter darkness
we shall fear no danger since He is with us.

He has truly taken upon Himself our sufferings.
He has borne our ills and has been slain for our sins.
His sacred side has been opened by a spear. It is by His wounds that we are healed. His heart is a fountain-head from where flows to the whole world the fulness of life.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Bridegroom whose body was opened by the spear and the nails,
suffer us to take shelter in Your heart,
and to seek refuge in Your wounds and to lose ourselves in them.

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The Church cries out; "By these wounds my children are saved,
by them all are healed. Those who listen to me
take their delight in them every day".

We have nothing in which to glory but the Bridegroom
who died out of love for us. He shelters us all in His side
and satisfies us with the sweetness of His love.

Grant us, Lord, always to approach You with faith
when we receive Your body in which is hidden the source of life,
that by it we may receive light and strength.

Trembling with joy we celebrate the heart of our Lord
in which are hidden the deepest Mysteries.
We adore Him and His Father and the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Heavenly Lamb who carried in His body all our diseases and sicknesses, and who offered Himself in sacrifice, whose flesh was pierced by the nails and the spear, that by this there may be a fountain from which flow to all, with His blood, life and salvation. It is He who heals us by His stripes, and by His wounds obtains for us strength and wholeness, whose pure body is our food indeed and His blood the life-giving drink. It is Him that we praise and thank, at this time of evening...

Terrible was the day when in the Creation He who in His power hung the earth over the water, was hung on the Wood. A crown of thorns was placed on His head, to dishonour Him to whom the evening star sings with joy and the angels in chorus chant praise...He was clothed in purple, in mockery, He who is the mystic head of humankind. They struck Him on the cheek and spat on His face, who saved Adam from slavery at the river Jordan and who restored in him the divine image and likeness. Christ our God, we adore Your suffering which You endured for us, You who were led as a lamb to the slaughter and were nailed to the Cross like a sheep without blemish for our transgressions and for the sin of the world.

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Therefore we beseech You, Christ our Lord, make us to know the riches of the grace which You shower on us in Your compassion. Reveal to us the Mystery of Your Father's love, who willed to be reconciled through You, when You made peace by Your death on the Cross. Impress on our hearts the seal of Your Holy Spirit. And give us the strength to bear all sufferings joyfully. And we will offer You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit unceasing praise and uninterrupted thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Shepherd ascended and hung on high on the Cross.
He suffered affliction for the sheep that were scattered.
And resting on the Wood He called them with a loud voice,
to gather them into the sheepfold where they eat His holy body
and take their pleasure in His holy blood and they cry out to Him
with faith: "Glory to You, O Lord, in You is our salvation."

On the summit of the wood of the Cross the Church contemplates the Sun of Righteousness who enlightens the world. She is much grieved to see His wounds, the nails in His hands, the spear in His side. She approaches Him in tears and says to Him: "I adore You, Bridegroom of my heart, who have opened Your heart, halleluia, that I may enter and take my pleasure in it."

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

The Church declares, "Behold, with Paul I proclaim:
'I do not glory in anything except in the Passion of my Lord.'
I kiss the wounds of the nails and of the spear.
I kiss away the spittle on His face and put on me the crown of thorns
which wounded His head and I receive His body and His blood.
I chant His glory, halleluia, and I adore His sacred heart.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The stream which flowed from the side of Christ
signifies that th death of the Word of God is a source of life.
The water reveals that the Son of God truly died
and the blood proclaims that His is a life-giving death.
The Church is purified by the blood and water from Christ's side
and with Him she becomes the giver of life, halleluia, halleluia.

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Lord, remember our dead and grant them rest, those who were clothed
in the waters of baptism and received You at the altar,
who ate Your body and drank Your blood, the cup of immortality.
May they rest in Your Kingdom with Abraham, Your friend,
and at Your right hand may they cry out and say,
Glory to You, Lord. Halleluia, grant rest, Lord, to Your servants.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Divine Incense who of Your own will
and on fire with Your heavenly love
were thrown into the furnace of suffering and of the Cross,
and by Your pure scent which spread all over the world
healed its creatures from the infection of sin.

Accept this service, and incense our hearts with Your love
that they may become like Your heart
so full of love for humankind,
and be worthy to be an acceptable sacrifice to Your Majesty.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your sacrifice saved the Creation, drive away all suffering
by Your life-giving oblation and heal all the diseases of the world.

O Good One who willed that Your side should be opened on Golgotha,
quench our thirst by the blood and water that flow from it.

Our Lord, Your Cross makes fire fall on the earth and it spreads
among the peoples to set them free from the Evil One.
And that the smoke of this world may not make us blind,
kindle Your love in us that we may be set on fire with it.

O Lord, we live by You as we take You for food,
You who were given vinegar to quench Your thirst on the Cross.
All life without You is only death, our Lord,
do not let the fire of Your love be extinguished in us.
You who came to cast it on earth, kindle it in our hearts.

Son of God, we sigh after Your sweet scent which smothers
this world's odour which takes by the throat those who breathe it.
We thirst for the waters of life which spring up from You.
The waters of the world bring death to those who drink them,
but by Your Resurrection You raise humankind with You...

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Glory to the Father who saved us by His Son who died for us. Thanksgiving to the Son. Adoration and praise to the Holy Spirit. On this feast which is a Mystery of suffering and of sweetness, may Your graciousness be upon us, poor sinners, at all times.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is all tenderness and compassion,
He makes us remember the wonders of His love.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,
for I am gentle and humble of heart,
and your souls will find rest.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

John 19:31–37 The flow of blood and water from the heart of Christ.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation."

Christ Jesus who when Your heart was pierced by the spear made to flow from it blood and water so that the Church might be born as Your bride, give her truly a heart like Yours full of compassion for sinners, and for the poor and those who suffer, and for all that has life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Christ Jesus who said: "Come to Me all who labour and are heavily laden and you will find rest," help us to take upon us the rule of Your Gospel of life, and to learn from You how to be gentle and humble of heart, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Concluding Prayer

May Your Mysteries, Lord Jesus, kindle in us a divine fervour, that having tasted the strength and the sweetness of Your most divine

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heart we may learn to give up all that draws us away from Your love and that we may become like You, servants and lovers of all, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
Awake and stand, O sons of light,
and praise the Lord who out of love
came to suffer for our salvation.

Offer thanks and praise, O sons of light,
to the King Christ our Saviour, who out of love
came to suffer for our salvation.

Awake, brothers, and stand and light your lamps,
for behold, it is the time of the Bridegroom's coming,
let us go forth to meet Him.

How loving and sweet You are,
O Glorious and Beloved Bridegroom,
who suffered for our sake and opened Your heart to us.

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To You be glory, O our Saviour,
and to the Father who sent You, all honour,
and to the Holy Spirit adoration and exaltation.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 2 Why this tumult among the nations?...

RESPONSE
The Church, the glorious bride,
whom the Bridegroom betrothed to Himself by His blood,
bows down before Him and adores Him on the Cross.
She gives glory to Him who came to save her.

O Child who sang in the garden
and all were charmed by Your voice,
make us hear Your sweet song
and gladden us by the vision of Your beauty.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Heavenly Bridegroom who espouses the devotee whom He has chosen as His beloved bride, and joins with Him in a divine alliance and feeds him with His holy body and gives him to drink of His pure blood. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Christ, Lord of all, when we bow down to the earth before the Mystery of Your redeeming love through the Precious Cross with its shameful sufferings, we are lifted up to Your lofty height which is without passion, O God who are not subject to passion. And because You, by it became subject to passion in the flesh, it delivers us from vain and temporal cares, and it brings us the blessed hope of the resurrection and of the life to come. It is the sign of victory over the evil powers, for You are the Lord of glory who were crucified upon it. You are He who overcame the enemy who held the power of death over us.

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Therefore be gracious to us, have pity on us and we will offer praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Judge of judges is condemned as a criminal and they nail Him on the Cross, He who sustains the whole creation.
"I cannot endure the shame of my Creator!"
says the Sun, and it hides itself.

The rocks split when they see a man with a heart of stone piercing their Master's heart. The earth quakes and the graves open and the dead are raised and all proclaim
"He who is raised on the Cross is the Lord of the whole Creation."

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

On Golgotha the prophecies are fulfilled.
He was counted among the sinners.
In His thirst they gave Him gall and vinegar.
By His wounds our wounds are healed.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

He from whose splendour the Fiery Ones veil their faces is stripped by the mocking soldiery who put on Him a scarlet robe, and a crown of thorns on His head. He is struck on the cheek and spat on the face. Praise and glory to You, Lord, who reconciled us with Your Father.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 38 (37) Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger...

RESPONSE

O Lord, do not rebuke us in Your anger,
do not reprove us in the heat of Your indignation.
Because of our sins there is no health in our limbs, in Your love give us life that we may love You and the whole Creation.

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At all times, O Church, look at His side
which was thrust open for You.
In it is your salvation and from it
gush forth all good things for you.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who said, "I am the Living Water. Whoever drinks of Me shall not thirst for ever." To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God who are extolled by the orders of fire, with them we offer praise as we ponder over Your graciousness and Your compassion for our race. For when You were lifted up from the earth and raised on the Cross, You drew all men and all things to Yourself. And as Your heart was pierced by the spear of the soldier and there came out blood and water, the Lamb of God was truly sacrificed for the salvation of the world. And now the Spirit is given to those who believing in You are born again of water and the Spirit. We thank You for these gifts which are always renewed for us in Your Sacred Mysteries: the water of baptism, the baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire, the fire which purifies the hearts of the sons of God and refines them like gold and silver, so that they can render to Him the true worship, in spirit and in truth. We offer praise and thanksgiving to You for these Mysteries of light and for the true Memorial of Your redemptive work, the ornaments of Your bride, the Holy Church.

Therefore with confidence we ask You to make Your Spirit always descend on us in the partaking of the sacrament of love. May His coming bear fruit in our lives, that we may be transformed through patience and love, joy and peace, His choice gifts to His devotees. And we will praise You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

My love called me and made me stay in His house.
I saw Baptism and the Cross, the Sanctuary and the Altar.
I saw Christ on the Holy Altar where He is sacrificed
and makes Himself food for mortals.
I saw the priests carrying Him in their hands
and the people worshipping with reverence and devotion,
halleluia, and offering prayers for the pardon of their sins.

"Why are Your garments red? Why is Your body stained with blood?"
cried the Prophet to the Lord of the Creation. "These
are blows and wounds I received from My household, the beloved.
When I rose from the tomb the house of My beloved broke down,
by whom I had suffered the Passion, halleluia, and I built the Church.

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

How great the Mystery of the fire descending upon the sacrifice!
Moses prayed for it and it hovered over his offering.
Elijah prayed for it and it set his offering on fire.
In each generation true worshippers pray for it,
and today, behold, it hovers over our altar,
halleluia, halleluia, in the form of a dove.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Come, let us offer earnest praises to the Son of God
who called us to the house of His Father
to make us enter it and take our pleasure in it.
Let us take our delight in sincerity and love,
that we may partake of the gracious body and precious blood.
Let us carry lighted lamps and wear garments of glory,
that we may rejoice at the marriage feast, halleluia, halleluia.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

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Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your sacrifice saved the Creation, drive away all suffering
by Your life-giving oblation and heal all the diseases of the world.

O Good One who willed that Your side should be opened on Golgotha,
quench our thirst by the blood and water that flow from it.

Crucified, our Lord bears the sins of the whole Creation.
Sin is nailed on Him that it may no more rule over us.
Sin brought death to Adam through the tree at the beginning.
On account of this the Son of God put an end to sin through the Tree.

The Tree of Life did away with the tree of knowledge.
In its place its fruits are given to mortals to raise them to life.
The Lord fell the tree of knowledge that bore sour fruits
by the Tree of Life which He made to grow on Golgotha.

He stretched out His arms like branches of the Cross
and let its fruits fall on the earth for the mortals.
He joined battle with the terrible Serpent, and on Golgotha
crushed him by His sufferings on the Wood.

By the nails in His hands He did away with our debts
and undid the deceitful works of the Adversary.
O Shepherd who saved Your flock by Your blood, to You be glory,
and to Your Father who sent You and to the Holy Spirit, at all times.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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Third Sunday of the Apostles[8]

3rd after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to offer You continually sincere and fervent adorations, to make a joyful noise to You with holy and glorious praises, to offer to You a sacrifice of pure and solemn thanksgiving and to chant hymns of divine elevation, that like true Christians we may worship You in spirit and in truth, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 83 (82) O God who can be compared to You...

RESPONSE

You who by Your Resurrection rejoice heaven and earth
gladden Your Church and protect her children by Your Cross.
O God, be gracious to all.

Those who crucified You were put to shame and the nations who believe in You rejoice, and the Church whom You made Your bride, behold, she sings praise to You. O God, be gracious to all.

When they met, the women disciples rejoiced
and the apostles exulted at the Good News of the Resurrection.
O God, be gracious to all.

You who when Your side was opened by the spear blunted the spear of the Winged Creature and opened Paradise to Adam and his children, O God, be gracious to all.

Glory to the Father who created us,
and to the Son who redeemed us by His Cross
and to the Holy Spirit who renews us from the dust.
O God, be gracious to all.

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Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

This truly is a festal and holy day,
this day, Sunday, the Feast of the Lord,
the greatest of all feasts,
the mystical solemnity above all solemnities.
On it we offer praise to Christ unceasingly.

On Sunday like a sleeper the Lord rouses Himself
with mighty and infinite power from the house of the dead,
He puts fear into the guards and says to the women,
"Go, tell the disciples, 'Your Lord is risen,
He goes before you into Galilee. It is there that you will see Him.' "

On Sunday the women disciples take spices and fragrant herbs.
They go to the tomb and find it open
and an angel sitting there turns to them saying,
"Why do you look for the Living One among the mortals,
He who has life in His own person for ever and ever?"

On Sunday all what the prophets had written is fulfilled. The Lord awakes as from sleep and rises from the tomb with great power. He descends into Sheol and rejoices Adam and his children and gladdens His dejected disciples, He who has life in His own person for ever and ever.

This is truly the Hidden Mystery kept secret from ages and generations. Our Lord reveals it to the Twelve and instructs them that they might break His holy body and drink His blood and distribute them to the whole Creation, the new life for ever and ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Gracious Lord and Good Giver who does not keep away His grace from those who ask for it, to the True Lord rich in gifts, who fulfilled His promise to His holy disciples, in the upper room,

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and sent them His Holy Spirit and led them to perfection with His heavenly gifts. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Glory to You, Heavenly Father, who are magnificently glorified in Your Being and exalted on high in Your Majesty and are rich beyond limit in Your Goodness. You are the Cause of all good and the Source of all joy, the Treasury of blessings and the Storehouse of all help, the Giver of those who give and the Comfort of those who receive, the Perfecter of the perfect and the Hallower of the holy, the Light of the enlightened and the Life of all rational beings, the Beauty of the fair and the Goodness of the blessed, the Breath of spirits and the Giver of life to the world, the Father of all fatherhood which is named in heaven and on earth. To You, O God who surpasses the understanding of the mind of every creature, we offer a discourse of praise as is fitting to You, and we render the thanksgiving due to You, far beyond the words and tongues of nations.

Therefore we beseech You by this fragrant incense, and we ask of the great wealth of Your Goodness, that You will send us Your Holy Spirit, the Comforter, who possesses by nature all those things that belong to You by essence and by Godhead, and is equal on the Throne of Glory and in the Kingdom to You and Your Only Son, who is in You eternally and is praised in Your Son essentially, who proceeds from You immutably and receives from Your Only Son without end, who with You is worshipped as God and with Your Son is praised as Lord, the Spirit whose coming is with a mighty sound, and His visitation with powerful eloquence, and whose silence is a shining light. He distributes His riches readily to those who love Him, and bestows abundant and lofty gifts on those who are dear to Him. He fills everything divinely and hallows everything perfectly. From the beginning He spoke to the prophets and the seers, and later descended on the apostles in the form of tongues. And now also in His goodness may He descend on us all, and fill us all with the riches of His gifts, and perfect and hallow us all, that we may all in all worship You in spirit and in truth, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

Blessed is He who by His Resurrection fulfils all the prophecies and builds His Church and strengthens its foundations.
Hell crumbles and Death is vanquished. The dead live.
Those in the grave are raised. Glory to the Father who made Him an offering, a victim for us all. Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit.

Blessed are you, O Church wherein is set the table of the Kingdom. It is laden with the bread of life, the body broken for us, and the life-giving blood shed for our sake. Each day we receive it with faith. Our sins are pardoned and we sing glory, halleluia, as we are enlighten d by the Holy Mysteries.

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

Holy Church, contemplate this Saviour which is offered for you.
He who did not turn away from trials will not leave you for long.
It is for you that He bowed His head on the Cross.
By His trials He prepared a crown for you.
Sing then to Him a hymn of praise, halleluia, for He loves you.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Holy Church, fix your eyes on this love and see how much He loves you the Bridegroom who has espoused you. Unless He loved you in truth He would not have ascended the Cross of shame. To show you the measure of His love and endured the passion and death for you, and wore a crown of thorns that He might crown you with glory.

The apostles are lamps of a marvellous light who brought the light of the Cross to the four quarters of the earth. They up rooted error sown by Satan, and sowed the Good News of Christ. Out of love for their Saviour they gave up their bodies to torture. By their prayers, halleluia, may God's graciousness rest upon us.

In Your bounty and Your love, Lord, our Lord, make memory of the dead who have eaten Your body and drunk Your blood and who now rest and sleep in the hope of Your Name.
When You shall come to judge the peoples and the tribes, raise them up, Lord, at Your right side.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
We give thanks to You, O God, for Your great love for us
You who made us the celebrants of Your great deeds of wonder
and zealous worshippers of Your Majesty, in love and truth.
Let us never fall away from Your love,
but bring to completion the work of Your grace in us.

By the spiritual drink of the new wine of Your gifts
give joy and gladness to our hearts that while we are drunk with them
we may sing sincere praises with pure and holy tongues
to Your adorable and Holy Name which is praised and hallowed
by the threefold hallowing of the holy spirits of fire.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth
grant her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Church sees the King Christ risen.
He lifts up his head which he had lowered before the executioners.
She sees Him clothed with glory and power and strength
which make her forget the mockeries He endured on Golgotha.

She sees Christ and the angels who honour Him.
Her heart which had been oppressed for Him is now in joy:
"Draw me to You that I may be with You, where You are.
I am Yours and with You I will go to the house of Your Father."

You have betrothed me in Your love. You have
redeemed me by Your Passion. You have saved me by Your blood.
As You are now glorified I will go with You to Your Father's house.
I went in the tribunal with You, see Your condemnation.
For Your sake I have borne the insults of the executioners.

Glory to the Father who keeps the Church in His love.
Adoration to the Son who suffered for her and saved her by His blood.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who sanctifies her at all times.
All praise to Him who spreads peace in her ranks.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Praise the Lord, all the earth,
serve the Lord with joy,
enter into His presence with gladness.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Praise Him with your whole heart,
offer Him your songs of praise,
halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt. 9:35–38 The mission of the Twelve.
10: 1–13A

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer
As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, p. 232

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

At the Resurrection, of the King Christ, Watchers and angels rejoice,
and on earth the sons of men sing praise and offer thanksgiving.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday the Lion about whom Jacob prophesied roars in Sheol.
Its foundations quake. The dead rise and sing praise to the Godhead.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday, O Holy Church, bow down in adoration with joy
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 146 It is good to sing praise to our God, the Gentle One...

RESPONSE
We sing praise to our God, the Good One.
We sing to Him for He is loving.
To Him our praise is due.
His delight is not in horses.
His pleasure is not in the warriors' strength.
The Lord delights in those who revere Him,
in those who wait for Him and who put their trust in His love.

By Your Cross, O Christ, our race that had fallen is exalted.
By Your life-giving Passion our death-bearing passions
are brought into subjection and by Your hands pierced by the nails
our hands which indulge in wrongdoing are made to do good.
By Your side opened by the spear, the Winged Creature
which guarded the Garden is removed.
Filled with wonder at Your humility we sing praise to You.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the all glorious Trinity, all high, all pure...
As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, First Watch, p.235

Hymn

The women carrying sweet spices and fragrant herbs met at the tomb
to embalm the body of our Saviour, and they saw a wonder,
angels clothed with light who announced the glad tidings:
"The Slain Bridegroom is risen. He has pulled down Sheol
and by His Resurrection, halleluia, He gives life to mortals."

The heavens rejoice, the earth and the peoples exult,
mountains and high places offer praise, for Death is struck
by the victory and Resurrection of Him who descended on earth
and made peace reign all over the world.
God rose with glory from the tomb without suffering corruption.
He slew Death, defeated Satan and liberated their captives
to make them ascend with Him into heaven, halleluia,
to the Father who sent Him.

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

At the Resurrection of the King Christ we cry out with joy:
"The Bridegroom is risen with honour and glory.
The Son who had no beginning willed to have a beginning.
He put on our mortal flesh. He descended into Sheol valiantly.
The sound of His voice made it shake to its foundations.
He broke in its stronghold and ascended victoriously."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Receive our service, our Lord, and in Your graciousness,
grant our requests from Your treasure-house so full of riches.
Remove from us all harm and the dangers that threaten us,
and make Your peace reign in the four quarters of the earth.
Keep Your Churches from all evil from divisions and rivalries,

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that by night and by day they may confess, adore and praise, halleluia, Your Adorable and Holy Name.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 147 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem...

RESPONSE
We praise the Lord, we praise our God.
He has strengthened the bars of our gates.
He has established peace on our borders.
He feeds us with finest wheat.

Our Saviour rose with glory from the tomb
and by His Resurrection He gives salvation to the world.
Blessed is He who rose with glory from among the dead,
and by His Resurrection rejoices the whole creation.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Holy Father, the One Holy Son...
As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, Second Watch, p.237

Hymn
On Sunday the Firstborn Son rose from the tomb.
He put the wicked people to shame but exalted the believers.
He ascended to sit at the right hand of Him who sent Him.
Behold, all over the world the Churches offer praise to Him.

On Sunday Martha and Mary went to the tomb of our Lord
to embalm the body of the Son with fragrant spices.
They saw a wonder, the angels who called them and said:
"Christ is risen from the tomb. He put to shame the crucifiers."

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

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Good Shepherd who out of love laid down Your life for us all and by the blood that flowed from Your side saved us from deceit, bless the crown of the year that Your peace may reign in the Creation and tranquillity be established in the Churches lastingly.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to the Son of God who came to give us the new life and espoused the Holy Church by the blood from His side. And now she sings praise in the place of those who nailed Him on the Cross, and she takes her delight in His body at the Memorial of His death and resurrection.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Lord of all who descended to become as one dead among the dead, we cast our sins in Your grave to be raised by Your righteousness. Let us rejoice in You, O Bridegroom Christ, on this day of Your Resurrection on which our mouths chant hymns to You and praise You unceasingly who invite us to share in Your joy.

On this day the dead are delivered from the enslavement to Death. Deliver us, O Lord, from the enslavement to the Enemy, the Destroyer. On this day on which the just awake from the dust and praise You, awaken us from our dejection that we may praise You in all earnestness.

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On this day on which hope dawns upon the dead, raise us up,
O Lord, we who have fallen a prey to death by our sins,
that we may confess Your name. On this day on which You rejoice
the dead in their graves, rejoice us by the pardon of our sins,
that we may give thanks for the graciousness of Your goodness.

Secretly and openly the bride of the King is enlightened by You,
Our Lord, by whose death she was espoused.
You gladden her by Your Resurrection and the prophet cries out:
"Arise and be enlightened, for your light has come."
Lord, may Your death be for our rejoicing,
may Your Resurrection be for our blessing,
and Your being raised to life for our healing,
and the celebration of Your feast for our exaltation, that we may all
offer thanks to Your Lordship for the salvation You brought us.

Glory to the Immortal Father who sent His Son for our salvation.
Adoration to the Son, nearest to His heart who rose with glory
from the tomb. Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who sent the Watchers
to the tomb. And on us graciousness and compassion at all times.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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Fourth Sunday of the Apostles[9]

4th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Lord, give to Your Churches true fellowship, in deep communion with You and with each other, by truly glorying in Your Passion, by taking pride in Your Crucifixion, by rejoicing in Your burial and by giving thanks for Your Resurrection and sharing Your life in the Eucharist. By fair conduct and a life reflecting the Gospel, may they reveal Your love to the world, that all may be found worthy of the joyous feast of Your Kingdom on the day of Your manifestation from heaven, and with one accord we all will thank You and offer our adorations, and praise You with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 84 (83) How lovely Your dwelling place, Lord...

RESPONSE

Under the arms of Your Cross, Lord,
protect Your Beloved Church,
that she may sing praise to You
at all times with peace and joy.

Our Lord, keep Your Church
from all harm and evil,
the Church which You acquired
by Your precious blood, O our Saviour.

By Your Cross, O our Saviour, the race of the mortal ones
is renewed, and by Your Resurrection
the whole Creation is set free.
Glory to Your Sovereignty.

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On Sunday the Church rises
and sings praise to You who espoused her
and entrusted to her Your holy body for the pardon of sins
and Your precious blood, the cup of immortality.

Let us offer praise to You
with the beloved company of Your disciples
and by their prayer
may Your flock be kept from all harm.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
We offer You the praise of the evening service,
O our Saviour, with incense of sweet fragrance.
Let our whole being sing glory, and praise
with spiritual praises, the Lord who saves us.

Great and glorious is the noble power of Your Cross, Lord Jesus,
on which You were fastened on Golgotha. It made wonders in the
world, it saved and delivered the people who had been led into deceit
to make them companions of the angels
and revealed to the sons of men what is to be done on earth.

O Christ, by Your Cross You put an end to the power of Death
and You did away with the deceit of the rebellious enemy
and delivered the human race from his tyranny.
We offer praises to You at all times.

Where is that refuge to which resort all those who are afflicted?
And is there any other place where safety can be gained
except near you, O Virgin Mother of God?
To You we entrust our supplications for the good of all.

We sing praise to the great and adorable power
of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
We confess and praise that power which is infinite
and the Godhead which cannot be comprehended,
the Trinity, one Being, whose power reigns for ever and ever.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is the Renewal of the whole Creation and the Giver of life to all that lives on earth, who put Death to death in her innermost recess, and by the great consolation of the Resurrection gave joy to those who were sorrowing, and cast down Death who had been keeping us prostrate, and delivered us from her dominion. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Lord of life and death we offer praise and thanksgiving to You because, as You are the Living One by nature, by Your rising from among the dead You became for us the resurrection to the new life. You are truly life to the hearts of those who believe in You. You are salvation to the lips that confess You. The remembrance of You is stronger than death and the confession of Your Name is mightier than Sheol. You were pleased, in Your holiness, to taste death truly and to enter Sheol with great glory, that with Your own body You might renew the human bodies, and with Your Spirit enlighten the spirits of all rational beings. You are one of the Exalted Trinity and the Creator of the worlds who in Your burial for three days brought salvation to our race, as You broke down the hold of the three enemies of Your Kingdom, the Devil, sin and death.

And as we make our requests, we entrust them into the hands of the Virgin Mary, the Mother who bore You, the Joyous and Blessed One who is the Root of the Resurrection and the Fountain of Immortality, and with her to Your saints, those who from the beginning have lived for You. Through them we ask from You to treat our requests not according to strict justice, as You did for the unforgiving servant and also as we deserve, but according to Your great love. And from henceforth deal gently with us in the fervour of Your infinite graciousness towards us. Renew Your salvation in us mystically. Make our ways straight by the strength of Your arm. Raise us up again with You in glory. Comfort us that we may serve You by a new life, and keep festival before You in spirit and in truth, and shine in Your presence in garments of immortality. Make us to embrace one another with love while we give and receive the peace which comes from You,

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in purity. And let us remain in the contemplation of Your tomb as in the Holy of Holies, recalling Your Passion, Death and Resurrection. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday the executioners are confounded.
Death and the Evil One are defeated.
But the Creation is full of joy because
the light of the Resurrection is shining upon it.

On this day the nations rejoice
whom You made to turn away from deceit and untruth.
Those who crucified You are cast down and in gloom
while the believers are filled with the joy of the new life.

By the prayer of Your apostles, Lord, remove from Your Churches the scandal of rivalries and disunity, that Your prayer to the Father be fulfilled, "May they all be one as You are in Me and I in You, that the world may believe that You did send Me".

O King and Giver of life, when You appear in glory on high
to raise the dead to life and to resurrect those who lie buried,
the dead will rise together from their graves and offer praise
to You the Living One who raise them up.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

We give thanks to You, Eternal Child,
whose compassion brought You to a second birth,
and Your graciousness inclined You to a human baptism,
and Your love sent You to the passion and the cross,
and Your goodness made You join with Death,
and Your power raised You up from the tomb with glory.

Make us therefore worthy, Lord,
that with minds raised above all worldliness
we may contemplate the Mystery of Your Saving Economy,
and always confess Your willing abasement
with thoughts far removed from questioning,
and we will offer You praise and thanksgiving.

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Living One stayed three days in the belly of Death
and at His Resurrection burst it and went forth mightily.
The Food of Life comes forth untouched by the devourer,
as it is written, "Out of the bitter comes forth sweetness."

Here is revealed the riddle of our Samson of old.
Death is bitter. Christ is sweetness for those who taste Him.
Death is the devourer which devours all the peoples.
Christ is the food of the nations, who satisfies their hunger.

Those who guarded the tomb became the target of mockeries.
How could straw in its weakness withstand the impetuous Spirit?
A Mysterious Force threw them into fear and terror, they trembled.
The guards became like men out of their senses.

Glory be to the Father.
Adoration to the Son.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit.
One God, one Being, one Lord.
one Power, one Will, one Essence, one Nature,
to be praised and adored.
To Him be glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Give to the Lord, peoples and nations,
give to the Lord honour and glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

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The speech of the apostles has spread through all the earth.
Their words have gone to the ends of the world.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 6:7–13 Jesus sends out the Twelve.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, p.232

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
Awake, sinners, while there is time for conversion.
With tears of compunction and signs of repentance
let us cleanse and remove all the stains of our offences.

We who have sinned cannot turn away from repentance.
Our Lord turns with love to those who repent,
and now He forgives us our transgressions.

On the night of Sunday,
the day on which our Saviour rose from the tomb,
let us all awake from sleep to sing praise to Him.

Our Lord, when You will come forth for Your manifestation,
on the day when You will appear may we meet You,
like the holy women who went to embalm Your body.

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Burst forth into song, O Church of believers,
sing praise to your Betrothed who rose from the tomb.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 73 (72) How good God is to...those who are pure of heart...

RESPONSE
With You, I shall lack nothing in heaven and I want nothing on earth.
What can I desire on earth when You hold me with Your right hand?
My flesh and my heart may waste away, O Mountain,
my heart and my body O God, will be eternal.

O Holy Church, bow down in adoration with great joy
to Him who espoused you and rose from the tomb.
And He gives you His body and His life-giving blood.
Eat and drink and take your delight and be holy in Him.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Lord of all joy, the Delight that never fails...
As on the Second Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p. 247

Hymn

By Your Cross, O Son of God, Your Church is saved.
By Your Cross her foundations are strengthened in the four quarters.
Behold, she glories in Your Cross full of love,
singing praise for Your Resurrection to the Father who sent You.

Our Lord descended and stood in the middle of Sheol, a true Conqueror.
He cried aloud, and its foundations shook and Death lamented.
As He called Adam and raised him up and led him out,
the hope of the Resurrection went round all those who lay buried.

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

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Blessed is the Firstborn who rose with glory from the tomb.
The guards themselves became preachers of the Resurrection.
Those who did not believe in Him, He scattered
and He chose the nations who celebrate His body and His blood.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Apostles who for the sake of your Lord
made little of the life of the body but loved the life of the Spirit,
receive the humble requests of those who turn to you
and ask for graciousness from your Lord who hears you.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 75 (74) We give thanks to You, O God, we give thanks...

RESPONSE
We give thanks to You, O God,
we give thanks and we call upon Your Name.
We recount Your wonderful deeds. We rejoice and sing psalms to You
who break the power of the wicked
while You exalt the strength of the just.

You give strength and victory to our human nature,
the power to tread Satan underfoot
and to subdue the passions of the flesh.
We cry out therefore with clear voices,
"Glory to the Strong One, who makes us gain the victory."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Christ the Lord and Redeemer and Giver of Life...
As on the Second Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.240

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Hymn *Madrosho*
The Cross shines forth on the earth.
It does away with the power of deceit and untruth,
and the family of Adam obtains the new life.
Glory to Him who made the nations turn to His Church.

Brothers, who has ever seen a sight like this?
The Living One fastened upon a cross
and He illumines the whole Creation. In His light
they see the light, those who live in darkness.

On Sunday the Holy Spirit descends,
and sanctifies those who are keeping vigil in prayer,
and He imparts His gifts
to those who have been anointed at baptism.

Thanksgiving to Jesus who willed to be a son of man,
and suffered and was crucified in the flesh
and He went into the tomb
and rose with glory on the third day.

Your garden is for our delight and Your garment is to clothe us,
You whose death was for the sake of all.
Adoration to You from us all, O Lord who give us life,
and glory to Your goodness...

Adam sinned and left the Garden of Eden.
His Lord descended and behold,
in the presence of the Church of heaven
the Beloved Bridegroom breaks His body and gives it to us.

He makes a feast of joy of His slaughter
and He gives us a pledge,
the table of His body and His blood.
Those from above rejoice and those from below exult...

Blessed is He who rules the kings and calls all people
and brings them to the Church of believers His Beloved Bride, that they may become friends of the Heavenly Bridegroom who descends to espouse by His blood the Church on which He took compassion.

MEDITATION

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THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On Sunday the Lord of all creatures rose again.
On Sunday He rose and put to shame those who crucified Him.
On Sunday the heavenly ones rejoice and the earthly ones
make a joyful noise with their songs of praise.

On Sunday all the talk of the unbelievers comes to nothing.
The light of Christ is kindled in the tomb.
The faces of the guards reveal their confusion.
Wonder seizes them, for He whom they guarded is resurrected.

Whose mouth, O Lord, is able to speak of Sunday?
The angels rejoice and the Watchers on high are in glory.
Blessed is He who by His Resurrection rejoices
the heavenly ones and the earthly ones.

Glory to Him who by His Resurrection puts an end to the rule of Death.
Glory to Him who by His love gives joy to heaven and earth.
Glory to Him and to Him who sent Him.
And on us graciousness and compassion.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p. 16

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Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Fifth Sunday of the Apostles[10]

5th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Incense of Pardon breathed in the centre of the habitable earth who by the mission of the apostles made fragrant the four quarters of the world, receive the incense which Your Church offers to Your Majesty and make our lives fragrant with the good odour of the Gospel, that filled like them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit we may spread its scent in the world today, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 85 (84) Lord, You took delight in Your land...

RESPONSE

We will hear what God says. He wishes peace to His people,
to His devotees, those who turn to Him whole-heartedly.
Goodness and truth have met, justice and love have embraced.

You who rose with glory from the house of the dead
and gave us also the hope of the resurrection,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who on the day of Your Resurrection
filled with joy the Church which You espoused,
be gracious to all, O God.

You who descended and broke all bonds in Sheol,
and on the third day rose and redeemed the worlds,
be gracious to all, O God.

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Our Lord, the heavens rejoice in Your victory
and the earth exults, on the day of Your Resurrection,
be gracious to all, O God.

Glory to the Father. Thanksgiving to the Son.
And to the Holy Spirit honour and adoration.
One true God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Christ Jesus, we celebrate the service of the evening.
We offer You a spiritual service beacause in Your graciousness
You willed to have compassion and mercy upon us
by Your Resurrection truly worthy of God.

Death and Satan trembled at the rising of God mighty for evermore
who brought them low by His Resurrection from the tomb
and overthrew their empire and brought it to nothing.
As Hell is despoiled by His tremendous power,
the peoples rejoice and praise His Resurrection.

All peoples and nations redeemed by the blood of the One Beloved Son,
you who were raised from the abyss of the fall
and were brought to life by His Resurrection,
chant glory to Him who by His rising
has saved you from deceit and untruth.

Rejoice you peoples, sons of the day,
and chant glory and offer thanksgiving
to Him who by His holy manifestation delivered you
from the deceit of sin and from Satan,
by His Resurrection truly worthy of God.

Glory and adoration and all honour, and a new praise and exaltation
are offered by the Church and her children, to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God.
Glory to Him at all times.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Word who honoured the nature of Man formed out of the earth when He Himself was made flesh, to the Gracious One who by His Saving Economy restored to its former liberty our race enslaved to sin. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

God who are without beginning and abide without end, when You saw Adam whom You had created in Your image fallen from his dignity and beauty by reason of the transgression of the commandment... and helpless and unable to achieve salvation, You did not suffer him to perish utterly. You sent prophets and messengers to his help. And when they did not find healing for him and were not able to restore him to the way which leads to You, You sent Your Beloved Son who was clothed in the flesh of Man from Mary the Virgin and was born in a manner beyond the nature of His race. Yet He was placed in a cattle manger and wrapped up in strips of cloth and He grew up to human stature, a true son of man...He grew up and played with the children of Nazareth, while with You and the Holy Spirit, as God, He rules the earth and the heaven. At the end of His Economy His graciousness led Him to the court of judgement and He stood like a culprit and was condemned by guilty men and crucified on the Cross after He had accomplished all the mysteries which were spoken of Him. When He descended in the house of the dead the divine word was fulfilled which says: "God rested on the seventh day from all the work which He had accomplished." That is to say He accomplished His Economy on the sixth day on the Cross, and rested on the seventh day among the dead when He redeemed His image, the spirit of man which the Evil One had enslaved. On this day, Sunday, which is the first and the eighth day on which the light was created at the beginning, He rose again from the tomb in glory. Lord, our Lord, how glorious is Your Name and how great are Your deeds to those who take their delight in them, in that today You raised up Your Son from the house of the dead with great power and glory, and He was seen openly by the women and the disciples. We then, though we are weak and sinful, give thanks to You and say: "Today with Christ we are raised to the new life because the day before yesterday we suffered with Him."

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And now we beseech You, Christ our God, Uniquely Beloved Son, who rose from the tomb and raised us up with You, we beg of You with the cry of a broken heart and with fervour of the spirit, gather Your Churches from the four quarters of the earth. Do not suffer Your work of salvation to be held in check and Your Economy to be wrecked. Send Your Spirit with power. Lead us by His unconquerable might, and shed on all men that radiance which comes from Him so that He may bring all men to reconciliation with God. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed is this day, Sunday, which has given us the earnest of life. On it our Saviour was raised from the tomb and conquered Satan. On it He showed Himself to His disciples and rejoiced them by His Resurrection. And they went to proclaim among the nations the Good News of the Resurrection of glory.

Heaven and earth clap their hands with joy and the Church of believers rejoices and offers hymns of praise, for God is risen with glory from among the dead, bringing back the prisoners whom Death and Satan held from the beginning. On the Great Day of the Resurrection He brings joy to those who were sorrowing.

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

Glory to the Son of God who came for our salvation
and with the blood from His side made the Holy Church His bride.
She now sings praise and proclaims salvation for the whole Creation,
even for those who condemned Him and put Him to death. Every day
she commemorates His death and takes her delight
in His body and His blood.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Our Lord Jesus sent twelve physicians to the four corners of the earth, and He directed them in this way: "Cast out demons from human beings, heal the sick and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God has come to you. Freely you have received the gifts, give also freely.' "

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We make memory of our fathers who in their life time
taught us to be children of God in this world which passes away.
Son of God, give them rest in the Kingdom of Heaven with the just
and the righteous, in that world which does not pass away.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Rain of Life and of Salvation, by the streams of the Gospels You
quench the thirst of those who have followed You in Your Passover,
and by the dew of Your Resurrection from among the dead
You raise up the mortal seeds to immortality.

By the fragrance of this incense offering, Lord,
raise up Your servants from the sleep of death and sin.
Quench the thirst of the souls of Your devotees
from the fountain of Your tenderness and compassion,
that our inner self may grow and thrive through You.
And we will offer garlands of praise and fruits of thanksgiving
to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

Who has ever seen One Dead who pierces the walls of Sheol?
Or rather One Buried who makes the dead to rise from the abyss?
Who has ever seen a Corpse from which springs life?
Or rather the Perfume of the Resurrection exhaling from it
bringing back to life those who breathe it?
Who then is this Crucified who shakes the earth to its foundations,
who darkens the sun and puts commotion in the whole Creation?

Who is this Dead-Alive who so purifies us?
At His word Sheol quakes and casts forth its dead.
Who then is He who is dead and alive and full of wonder, who
by His death breaks the fetters of the dead and makes them go forth?
Who then is He who makes His bed among the dead yet before whom
the Watchers on high veil their faces with their dazzling garments?

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Who is He whose hands are pierced by the nails, yet He upholds
fallen Adam and Eve and raises them from their fall?
Who is He at whose cry the rocks split, the tombs burst open
and when the dead hear His voice they go forth to meet Him?
He is Jesus born in the flesh from a daughter of David,
God made man, who by His death gives life to the whole Creation.

Glory to the Father who honoured the Son even in Sheol.
Adoration to the Son who rose from the tomb with glory.
Thanks to the Spirit who did not let the Holy One suffer corruption.
One nature and they are Three.
To Him be praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Sing a new song to the Lord,
for He has done marvellous deeds.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
His right hand and His holy arm have won Him victory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 10:1–11 The sending of seventy disciples.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, p.232

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE APOSTLES

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p. 7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O God."
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As He awakens us from our sleep let us adore and praise Christ
who rose from the tomb for the salvation of the world.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday forgive us all, O Christ who died for all
and rose from the tomb for the salvation of the world.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today God rises from the tomb with great power
and by His Resurrection from among the dead rejoices heaven and earth.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 81 (80) Ring out your joy to God our strength...

RESPONSE
A voice I did not know said to me: "I freed you from the burden.
Your hands were freed from the load.
You called in your distress and I saved you."

An angel of light said to the women disciples,
"He is risen from the tomb, He who gives life to the dead."
Be gracious to all, O Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the all glorious Trinity, all high, all pure...
As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.235

Hymn
On the summit of the Wood the wicked crucified the Son,
the Firstborn, the Radiance of Him WHO IS.
They placed Him in a tomb as one who is dead.
But He rose from the tomb on the third day,
putting to shame His executioners.

Blessed is He who by His Resurrection uprooted error,
He built up the Church and strengthened her foundations.
He broke down Sheol and overpowered Death
to give life to the dead and to raise up those who lay buried.
Glory to the Father who gave His Son, a sacrifice for us,
and thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit.

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

On this day Adam rejoices for his Lord descends
and visits him in the house of the dead.
He draws him out, raises him up from the gulf
and promises him eternal life. Blessed is He,
the Son of the Living One, who bore the passion for our race
and by His death gives us eternal life.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad.
Let the sea exult and the mountains leap for joy.
For the Lord reigns and He is clothed with power.
He has taken possession of the Land and rejoices its inhabitants.
Blessed is He who lowered Himself, filled with tenderness
for the dust of Adam, and in His compassion
showed him His infinite graciousness.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 82 (81) God stands in the divine assembly...

RESPONSE
God stands in the divine assembly to give judgement...
Entreat him: "Do justice for the weak and the poor.
Set them free from the hand of the wicked.
Arise, O God, judge the earth for You rule all nations."

Today the Church sings praise with joy to her Spouse
who rose from the tomb and overpowered His enemies.
Christ defeated them. He has confounded them.
And He rejoices the whole Creation by His glorious Resurrection.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...
Praise...to One Holy Father, the One Holy Son...
As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.237

Hymn
On Sunday God rose from within the tomb
while the stone remained rolled before the entrance.
and the seals were untouched
The Saviour rose and was not there.
Glory to Him who filled us with awe
on the day of His birth and on the day of His Resurrection.

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On this day of Your Resurrection we offer You,
Lord, the incense of reconciliation.
Make it ascend before Your Majesty, like the sweet scent
of the fragrant herbs of the women disciples.
May it be for the good pleasure of Your compassion
and for the forgiveness of all our sins.

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

On Sunday when it was still dark
the priests gave orders to the guards,
a secret thing not to be revealed to any one:
"Say that His disciples stole Him away
and replaced the stone as they wished,
in order to conceal their secret action from the people."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The good odour of the Son of God
spread like a fragrant incense.
His fragrance reached the dead
and they regained life from it.
The just resurrected by it and entered Jerusalem
and announced the Resurrection.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service for the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

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Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On Sunday the Creation rejoices
and the Watchers make a joyful noise singing glory
to the Bridegroom who has risen from among the dead,
and with His blood has blotted out our offences.

Make Your peace reign, O Lord,
in the Holy Church of believers,
and make Your tranquillity be a protection
against all harm from the Evil One.

You who restored Adam to Eden
and by his return rejoiced the Watchers,
make us turn away from evil and give us a new mind,
that the Watchers may rejoice over our conversion.

Glory to the Exalted One
who descended from His lofty dwelling,
and tasted death of His own will
to save Adam and his children.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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The Sixth Sunday of the Apostles

6th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Lord, give to the Church of believers that she may celebrate the Festival of Your Resurrection by glorying continually in Your Passion, by taking pride in Your Crucifixion, by rejoicing in Your Burial, and by offering thanksgiving for Your Resurrection, that adorned with the fair conduct of her people she may be found worthy to enter the bridal chamber of joy, in Your Kingdom, on the day of Your manifestation. Then with one heart all will thank you, and offer adorations and praise to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 87 (86) Her foundations are on His holy mountain...

RESPONSE

The Lord loves Jerusalem more than all other dwelling places.
He laid her foundations on His Holy Mountain and made her His home.
Glorious things are said in You, O City of God.

By Your infinite graciousness, our Lord,
that led You to be nailed on the summit of the Cross,
forgive our faults and be gracious to all.

By Your precious Cross
and by the blood that flowed from Your side,
forgive our faults and be gracious to all.

By Your honourable burial
which made You to enter the tomb,
forgive our faults and be gracious to all.

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May the sufferings which You endured for us
intercede on our behalf, our Lord, and by them
may we be delivered from the outer darkness.

Glory to You who by Your Resurrection rejoice Your Church
whom You betrothed, and now she sings praise
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
O our Saviour who hear those who call upon You
from the depth of their heart, receive this evening prayer
which we offer to You. Incline Your ear to us and hear us
and give us life, for You are good and the Lover of Humankind.

Our Lord, receive the prayer and supplication
which Your servants offer in Your presence, and in Your compassion
be reconciled with us and receive our service. Do not turn away
Your face from us, for You are good and the Lover of Humankind.

The just call on You with passion and You hear them, in Your goodness.
You who have compassion on all, do not reject Your servants
gathered in Your name, who knock with passion at Your door,
for You are compassionate and the Lover of Humankind.

With Your Precious Cross You broke the bars and fetters of Sheol
and You wrested from there the whole human race
and gave us the new life from Your side opened by the spear.

Today there is joy and exultation for the whole world, all over,
for Christ is risen with glory from among the dead,
and by His Resurrection He gives joy to the whole Creation,
the Lover of Humankind.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Holy Father, the One Holy Son, the One Holy Spirit, the Father incomprehensible, the Son unsearchable, the Spirit

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inscrutable, the Father not begotten and begetting, the Son begotten and not begetting, the Spirit coming forth from the Father and receiving from the Son; Godhead, and Consubstantial to the Godhead, and from the Godhead. In them is no name which is not of a person, and no person who is not equal to the others in honour. They are one in three and the three are one. In them is the Godhead, or rather they are the Godhead. And to the Godhead the whole Creation is subject and offers adoration, those in heaven and those on earth, and every tongue confesses the Godhead, at this time of evening...

Who is worthy to praise the unfathomable sea of Your compassion, O Lord? Or what voice is sufficient to bless and magnify You who are beyond all praise? Therefore with the sacred hymns of David we cry out and say, "This is the day which the Lord has made. Come, let us be glad and rejoice in it." Today the wheel of the Passion has gone round and You have raised up all things from below to set them on high. Today the disciples who were scattered on Friday on account of the crucifixion are gathered together in joy...Today the way to the tomb resounds with the Good Tidings...Today Bartholomew and Mathew rejoice and James and Andrew exult at the Resurrection. Today the apostles uncover their heads and the disciples come forth from their hiding places...for the Lord has shown His salvation and revealed His righteousness among the nations. Today the Watchers come to the tomb singing praises. They roll away the stone and sit upon it. Today the Risen Lord in the form of a gardener speaks to Mary and she carries the Good News and the joyous greeting to the apostles, and Martha exults. Today Peter and John run to the tomb and find nothing but strips of cloth and they wonder at the Great Mystery. Today Thomas professes his disbelief but the Lord, in His compassion, shows him His wounds, takes his hand and makes him feel the hole in His side pierced by the spear. Today the Cross is exalted and its worshippers are elated and exultant. Today with Paul who speaks divine things let us rejoice and say, "Yesterday I died with Christ and was buried with Him. Today I rise with Him and live with Him and share His glory." And now we also are raised with Him because in our baptism we were buried with Him. With Him also we shall be glorified because we share His glorious body at the Eucharistic table.

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Therefore we beseech You, Christ our God in truth, we who have become sons of Your Father by grace, God's offspring, Your brothers, as we come to share in the very being of God, though quite unworthy of this gift on account of the foulness of our deeds, make us to turn to You with our whole being. Send anew the Holy Spirit on us with His gifts, the peace that comes from You and love and joy, that we may worship You in spirit and in truth, offering praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today, Sunday, the bones of the just and devotees of old
thrill with joy within their graves, and on that day
of the coming of Christ they will be clothed
with vestures of glory and they will go forth to meet Him.

Today, Sunday, the Watchers descend from the heights in companies,
clothed in their robes, and they sing praise at the tomb of the Son,
"Blessed is the Holy One who did not suffer corruption
when He descended into the dwelling-places of Sheol."

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

On this day the beloved company of the dejected disciples
are comforted because their Master is risen from the tomb with glory.
On the day of His Resurrection He gives joy on earth and in heaven.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed apostles, farmers who sowed on earth the seeds of the teachings of your Master, zealous merchants who carried life to the sons of men, you proclaimed the Kingdom of God and the Trinity of persons to the world, and you made the nations to turn to the way of truth.

O our Saviour, the dead who received Your body at the table of life and who drank Your precious blood from the chalice of salvation, raise them up from the grave without corruption
and clothe them in glory those who have hoped in You.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Incense of pardon breathed on the summit of the Cross, Your scent reached to Death and burst her breast open and emptied her treasures.
You rose from the house of the dead clothed in immortal glory
and You raised up with You all those who were lying in darkness.

Delight us now by the sweet scent of Your Resurrection.
With the women make us worthy to announce Your salvation
and the victory of Your right hand.
And with the apostles grant us to run to the tomb
to be told the Mystery of Your Resurrection full of joy.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

On this day the Lion Cub sets Himself up against Death.
He tramples her in her lair and brings forth
the spoils which she had accumulated.
On this day the light shines on the realm of darkness.
The Resurrection stands up and carries away
the firstfruits of the new world.

Today the Life begins to trample on the realm of Death.
He puts guards along the perilous way
that the great manifestation may not be interrupted
by which the walls of Sheol are being demolished.
In truth the King who was slain has entered Sheol.
He has pierced its walls and crushed Death.

This is the first of days, when the Firstborn
rises from the tomb to raise the race of His Mother
to the dwelling place of His Father.
Today the executioners who guard the tomb
are put out of countenance because the Strong One has risen
and the gates of hell could not stand before Him.

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On this first of days we offer to the Firstborn a new song of praise
on account of His death and His sacrifice and also His Resurrection.
To His hidden Father and to His Holy Spirit our adorations.
To Him who is the Festival and the Lord of festivals, all glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Bless the Lord, my whole being.
Lord, my God, how great You are,
clothed in majesty and glory!
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Jesus, Apostle of the Father to the world
sent the Holy Spirit on His apostles and they went forth
and their words have gone to the ends of the earth.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

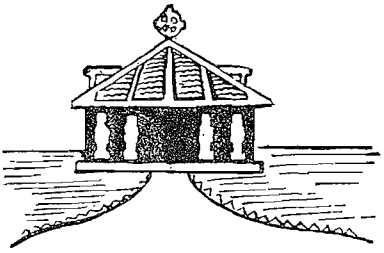
Mk 9:30–37 Announcement of the Passion. Who is the greatest?

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, p.232

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE APOSTLES

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.
And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p. 7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Why do you love sleep more than praise, my soul?
How long will you indulge in pleasures which do not profit?
Awake now and rise to sing praise!
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

On Sunday, the Great Day, our Lord rose from among the dead,
and now He is exalted in heaven at the right of Him who sent Him,
and Watchers and men cry out to Him,
"O Lord of all, to You be praise."

Sunday is the day of victory for the apostles.
On Friday they bore mockeries for the crucifixion,
but on the Resurrection of the Son they acclaim Him,
"O Lord of all, to You be praise."

The women disciples set out to embalm the holy body of the Saviour.
They found the tomb empty and saw an angel clothed in fire
who announced to them the Resurrection.
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

Church of the nations, give thanks to the Son who betrothed you
on the Cross and confounded the crucifiers while He strengthened you
and established your foundations on the rock of faith.
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 94 (93) The God of vindication, the Lord...shone forth...

RESPONSE
Surely, Lord, You will not abandon Your people,
Your own possession You will not desert!
When I said, "My foot is sinking,"
Your love, Lord, lifted me up.

When Adam tempted by Satan had gone astray,
the Lord went in search of him in all places: in the womb of Mary,
and in the Jordan at baptism, and on the cross on Golgotha.
He found him cast in Sheol and took him up to Paradise.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the all glorious Trinity, all high, all pure...
As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, First Watch, p.235

Hymn
Today the Lord awakes from the house of the dead
like a mighty hero who shakes off his wine.
He pulls down Sheol and puts Death to death, that all ages
and all generations to come may trample her underfoot.

Today God rises from the house of the dead
And He puts fright among the guards
who enter Jerusalem crying out, "The Slain is risen,
and the seals of the tomb are not broken."

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

On the day of Your Resurrection, O Son of God, rejoice Your Churches.
By Your Cross strengthen their children against the Adversary.
Give them Your power to overcome all evil scheming
and set them free from the bondage to wrongful actions.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Today Simon ran with John to the tomb with great joy
and as they entered one after the other, they saw
the linen wrappings lying on the ground and on the side
the napkin which had been laid over His head.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 95 (94) Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord...

RESPONSE

Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord,
let us hail the Rock who saves us.
Let us stand in His presence giving thanks
and sing psalms for His victory over death.

O heaven, worship the Father!
O earth, sing praise to the Uniquely Beloved Son!
Angels and sons of men offer thanks to the Holy Spirit!
Let us join with their halleluias and sing praise with them.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Holy Father, the One Only Son...
*As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, Second Watch, p.*237

Hymn

Who would not rejoice in Your Cross, O Lord,
who bore the passion for our sake?
Who would not take refuge in it,
the stronghold that protects its worshippers?
We adore You, O our Saviour,
for You have given us an armour to overcome sin.

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On Sunday God rises and with Him
He raises up the company of the saints.
He manifests His Resurrection to them
and sprinkles the dew of life on their faces.
And now they are longing for the day of His manifestation
and for the hour at which He is to come.

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

On Sunday God rose from the tomb
and the seals remained unbroken.
The stone which was closing the entrance destroyed
the house of the dead that will not continue to exist.
Glory to Him who put the seals to confusion
on the day of His birth and on the day of His Resurrection.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When God rose from within the tomb
the guards trembled and fell like dead
at the sight of the Watchers from on high.
Glory to Him who in His love
came to save Adam who was consumed by corruption.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

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Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On this Day of Your Resurrection
the Holy Church rejoices
because You have risen from the tomb with glory
and You gladdened the earth and the heaven.

Wicked men shut Him up in the tomb,
the Hero who bears the farthest bounds of the earth
He came forth from it with seals unbroken,
like a lightning flashing from the tomb.

Great is the Day of Your Resurrection!
Glorious is the Feast of Your Rising to life
which carries joy and brings it to us,
the herald of our resurrection!

Glory to the King Christ who tasted death of His own will
and rose from among the dead and ascended with glory to His Father.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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The Seventh Sunday of the Apostles

7th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Christ our God, You rose victoriously from the tomb, with great power, and by Your Resurrection You gave joy to the holy women and to the company of the apostles. You made peace for us with Your Father who had been provoked to anger by the human race, and You taught us to offer Him prayers at all times, and to forgive our brothers, that we may receive forgiveness of our faults and obtain mercy on the day of judgement, when all that is hidden shall be revealed, our Lord and our God, for ever. Amen.

Psalm 88 (87) Lord God,...by day and by night I cry out to You...

RESPONSE

Lord, will You make marvels for the dead?
Will the dead rise up to praise You?

Our offences and our sins we confess in Your presence,
and we entreat You, be gracious to all, our Lord.

The Church exults on the day of Your Resurrection, gladden
her at Your Coming, Lord, and make her worthy of Your Kingdom.

We entreat You, who have compassion on sinners,
forgive our faults in Your graciousness.

We seek refuge in You, Harbour of the weary.
In Your compassion quench the fire of our passions.

Glory to You, Christ, Lord of the whole Creation,
who by Your Resurrection rejoice the heaven and the earth.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE
Christ our God, when we look at Your Cross we are filled with hope.
We tremble with joy at Your exaltation, O God,
who lay low the arrogant and lift up the humble who turn to You,
our Lord and our God in truth, the Great Lover of Humankind.

Christ our God, by Your Cross You raised Adam the defaulter.
You redeemed and delivered the whole creation and with Your strength
You put to shame the Adversary, took away the power of Death, and
renewed and restored the human race, O Great Lover of Humankind.

Christ our God, remove from us the shame brought upon us.
For behold, our enemy says to us: "Where is your God?"
You who by Your Cross cast down and overthrew Satan, Death and Sin.
You are our Lord and our God in truth, O Great Lover of Humankind.

In Your graciousness O Christ, You raised Adam by Your Resurrection
and by Your humiliation for our sake You brought low the Rebel.
Do not allow those who wage war against us to defeat us,
our Lord and our God in truth, O Great Lover of Humankind.

Christ our God, build up Your Church in Your name and strengthen
her and while You protect her by Your Cross, put an end to all dissensions within her, and by Your strength remove from her all rivalries,
our Lord and our God in truth, O Great Lover of Humankind.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Living One who though immortal in His divine nature died in the flesh with us, that He might give us life with Him. He was buried like us that we might rise like Him and was raised up and promised us life by His Resurrection, and was clothed in splendour that He might clothe us in glory, and ascended to heaven and raised us with Him, and sat in glory at the right hand of Him who sent Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Life of the living and Saviour of all, true God, Jesus Christ, high and exalted, and glorious with the Father and the Holy Spirit, You are

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an abyss of tenderness and a fountain of compassion. You are the door and the way, You are the truth, and You renew the old creation of our race. When we now contemplate with the eyes of the spirit Your condescension to us and consider the fullness of Your Economy for our sake, especially Your death and Your burial full of wonders, and Your resurrection and Your rising from the grave, straightway... we present gifts of praise and fruits of thanksgiving, and voices of honour to Your Majesty and we say: "Praise to You, God the Word, High Priest of our confession, who hallowed our race by Your sacrifice and saved and delivered us from the shadows of the carnal law. Praise to You, Firstborn of Eternity who descended from the heights above after the work of Your hands, that it might not be drowned in sin, and became for us the Firstborn from among the dead. Praise to You, Light of the Creation, who appeared to us from the depths of the earth and made to shine on us life without corruption...Praise to You, Pure and Holy One, Giver of all Holiness, who made earthly tongues worthy to sing the Trisagion of the ranks on high: 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. Praise to You who are worthy of all glory, all honour, all power. Thanksgiving to You from Your Church redeemed by Your Cross."

And now this assembly which You have rejoiced with Your festival presents a crown of praise to You, while honouring and adoring Your Godhead. We offer prayers and supplications, Lord, that You will be gracious to us and have compassion on all, by the glory of Your Resurrection so befitting God. And may we rejoice and be glad with the youth in white immortal garments, and with the women disciples offer spices of sweet scent to You. And with all of them we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday the dead receive back their life,
because their Resurrection has descended into the grave.
They recognize and praise the Most High
who has drawn them from the depths of Sheol.

On Sunday astonishment reigns
because the Watchers announce to the earth,
in all its countries, the Resurrection of the Son.
They bring peace and hope to all peoples.

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

On Sunday peace reigns
between those in the heights and those in the depths.
Blessed is He who by His Resurrection has brought peace
to heaven and earth and all that they contain.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On Sunday the apostles who had been dispersed
assemble together and exult, offering glory
to the Most High who by His Resurrection
has filled their hearts with joy and gladness.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Praise to You, Source of Sweet Perfumes,
to whose grave the women carried chosen fragrant herbs
and went to embalm Your holy tomb and Your life-giving body.
O Lord, give the sweet scent of Your beauty
and the perfume of life to all living beings.

Grant us also like the maidens pure and fair
to run continually after the scent of Your joyous beauty,
and with the wise virgins, at the general resurrection,
to enter the marriage chamber of Your Heavenly Kingdom,
and with them offer praise and thanksgiving for ever,
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Hymn

On Sunday the Lord awakens with great glory,
like a sleeper at the bottom of the grave,
like a man who rises from drunkenness,
halleluia, and He scatters His executioners.

On Sunday the Watchers intone and chant praises
at the tomb of Him who gives life to the dead.
The just feel the Resurrection of the Son of God
who in His love raises them up, halleluia.
Glory to Him who loves them.

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

Today is the first of days and also the last,
or rather the beginning of the world to come,
when the Sun of Righteousness will appear, halleluia,
and enlighten all creatures who live in darkness.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

May Simon the chief of the apostles, and Paul the chosen one,
and John the baptizer of his Lord, intercede for the sheep
whom they have made to feed in the pastures of the faith,
halleluia, and whom they have guided.

With the blessed martyrs who have loved You
and with the saints who pleased You with their way of life,
make memory of our dead, and make them worthy to stand
at Your right side, halleluia, and grant them their reward.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their children by the Cross of light.

Son of God, on Your great day, rejoice Your Churches
and mark their children with Your sign,
the Cross of Light to which they are fastened with You.
May Your peace reign in their great assemblies.
May their festivals multiply by Your great death that saves them.

May Your children quench their thirst from the waters of life,
the words which You have spoken, which are spirit and life:
Your Mysteries, the bread of life and the cup of immortality.
May Your day be a feast which casts off all fear
pouring perfect love into our hearts through Your Holy Spirit.

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By the intercession of Your glorious apostles, O Lord Jesus,
remove from Your Churches the scandal of disunity,
that Your prayer to the Father may not be in vain:
"Father, may they all be one, as You are in Me and I in You,
that the world may believe that You did send me".

Glory to the Father who exalts His Church all over the world.
Adoration to the Son who died for her and saved her by His blood.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who gathers all peoples in her.
To the one in three, all praise, all glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The heavens tell out Your great works, O Lord,
and Your steadfast love in the Church of the saints.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Jesus, Apostle of His Father to the world
sent the Holy Spirit on His apostles.
They went and their word has gone to the ends of the earth.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 17:1–10 On leading others astray...faith...humble service.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, p.232

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF THE APOSTLES

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
As we have risen early, we praise You,
O Christ our God, keeping vigil with the angels,
and with the Watchers on high we offer thanksgiving.

As we glory in Your Cross and seek protection
under its wings, deliver and save Your servants
from falling a prey to evil spirits.

As we have risen early, we praise You, Christ Saviour of all,
because when You rose from among the dead
You enlightened the world from one end to the other.

When a stream of living water flowed from Your side
the Church which You chose became Your glorious bride,
and with You, the Bridegroom, rose in glory.

As we have risen early we praise You, O Glorious Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 97 (96) The Lord is King, let earth rejoice...

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RESPONSE
The Lord reings, let the earth be glad
let all the coastlands rejoice.
Clouds and storm clouds surround Him,
justice and right are the foundation of His throne.

The Living One humbled Himself of His own will.
He descended into the house of the dead
and announced the Resurrection to those who lay buried
and gave hope to the mortal ones.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the all glorious Trinity, all high, all pure...
As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.235

Hymn
On the summit of the Cross the wicked pressed the grape.
They trampled the glorious cluster of grapes,
they pressed out the wine but did not taste it.
The Holy Church received it, halleluia,
and everyday she takes her delight in it.
Glory to Him who suffered on the Cross to save Adam.

On Sunday Mary and her companions went to the tomb.
As they were weeping, suddenly the Risen Lord said to them:
"Peace be with you, it is I. Do not fear.
Halleluia, go and announce to the apostles
that I am risen from among the dead".

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

On Sunday the news of the life was heard,
that Christ was risen from the tomb.
The guards were put to fright.
Trembling they entered Jerusalem crying out:
"Jesus the Saviour of the world is resurrected,
He is risen from the tomb".

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On Sunday the angels descend from on high
and announce the Resurrection to the women disciples,
"The King, Christ, rose from the tomb with glory
and He rejoiced heaven and earth, halleluia".
Glory to Him who by His Resurrection
enlightens the whole world.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 98 (97) Sing a new song to the Lord...

RESPONSE
Sing to the Lord with joy, all the earth,
burst into joyous song and make music.
Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and melodious voice.

All peoples and nations and tongues, sing praise
to Him who by His Resurrection enlightens the whole world.
Cry out and say, "You are the true light and by You
are enlightened all who live in the dark.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Holy Father, the One Holy Son...
As on the First Sunday of the Apostles, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.237

Hymn
The Son of the Free-born descended,
and visited Adam in his dust.
Death saw Him and fell from her glory.
The dead eagerly awaited His coming with joy.
The Living One visited them in their tombs.

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The women disciples who on Friday were in great sorrow
today, Sunday, bring the Good News.
Their grief and sorrow is changed into gladness
when they announce the Resurrection to the apostles.

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

Today the women disciples carry the Good News.
Instead of Eve, Mary sows blessings in the house of Adam
proclaiming by her announcement,
that God's malediction has come to an end.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is He who gives to our race His true love,
and by His resurrection raises up our fall.
The Cross does away with the tree of our offences.
By His death He gives life to our death.
Praise for His abasement by which He exalts us.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia....p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who set us free by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

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Rejoice, leap for joy, O Holy Church.
On the day of the Resurrection of the Uniquely Beloved Son,
invite your children to rejoice with you
at the wedding feast of the Son, the Lord of all.
Behold this is a feast full of distinction,
heaven and earth rejoice in it.

The heavenly ones rejoice at the Resurrection of their Lord
and they descend to honour Him.
See the joy of the earth in the blossoms and flowers,
and the children of men in their white garments.
Behold, this is the feast full of glory
that makes peace between the two camps.

Come, let us be reconciled with one another
on this feast of reconciliation.
Come, let our voices in one accord
proclaim peace, a peace full of love,
for the feast demands this,
that peace and love may increase by it.

To You be glory on this day of Your feast,
from Your Churches redeemed by Your blood.
Glory to You, Lord of all feasts
who went in search of those who were lost.
Glory to You, our Lord. Glory to You
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p. 16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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The First Sunday of the Seven Weeks of the Transfiguration of our Lord[12]
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to offer You sacrifices of praise and to present to You sincere offerings on this Holy Day of Your Resurrection which is the beginning of the New Creation. And as You restored Adam's nature to its original splendour when You drew him out of Sheol, make Your Churches reflect as in a mirror the splendour of Your Resurrection and let the whole Creation share in the revelation of the glorious freedom which God's children enjoy, even now through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Psalm 90 (89) Lord, You have been for us a home for generations...

RESPONSE

Men are swept away like a dream,
like grass that springs up in the morning,
to fade and wither in the midday sun.
But You are from age to age, everlasting, O God.
You are our refuge from one generation to the next.

As You humbled us in the years when we suffered, gladden us now.
Show forth Your works to Your servants, our Lord.
Let Your glory shine on them and on their children.
May Your loveliness be on them, O God,
that they may walk in the Spirit and bear fruit.

You who on the wood of the Cross broke
the goad of death and sin, and by the spear in Your side
cancelled the bitter account against Adam, the head of our race,
You are blessed, God of our fathers, Lord of the whole Creation.

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You who rose with glory from the tomb and are from all time,
gave life by Your Resurrection, snatching away with power
the prey of the tyrant, and making him an object of mockery,
to be trampled underfoot by the peoples and the generations to come.
You are blessed, God of our fathers, Lord of the whole Creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
When the Risen One appears He illumines the whole Creation.
Death and Satan fly away, but the Church rejoices who comes to life
by the glorious Resurrection of Christ who is risen from the tomb,
while Sheol, now plundered, is covered with gloom.

On Friday, the day of the Passion,
the disciples were struck with bewilderment.
Sunday gladdens them and gives them courage
on account of the glorious Resurrection.

Our Lord, we worship Your Cross by which the new life comes to us
and our inheritance is restored which had been lost,
following the counsel of the Evil One.
Glory to You from all mouths, Good Shepherd who came in search of us.

On Friday they crucified You on the tree.
On Saturday they kept You with honour.
On Sunday You rose and resurrected, and put to shame the crucifiers,
You who alone are the Great King of Glory.

O Church ascend the high mountain and sing.
Sing glory to Christ who rose from the tomb
and He rejoices heaven and earth,
He who alone is the Great King of Glory.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Beloved Son, the Effulgence of the Father and the Seal of His Being, who sustains the universe by the power of His Word. In former times He revealed Himself to the patriarchs and

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spoke through the prophets, but in our times, the final age, He came to dwell among us and we have seen His glory. And when He had destroyed sin, He took His seat at the right hand of the Majesty on high. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Praise to You, Christ our God, Great Sun of Righteousness. It is You that the just loved from the beginning. It is You that they pleased by their way of life. Abel offered You faltings and the firstling of his flock and You accepted it, and his blood was shed in sacrifice. Enoch to whom the name was revealed taught the people of his generation to praise You with understanding. Enoch was clothed with divine beauty and he was raised by You to heaven. Noah the Just walked in righteousness and holiness. And when he was saved he offered a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and through him the rest of the world found salvation. Melchizedek was clothed in the glory of the priesthood, he offeed You bread and wine and blessed You, God Most High. Abraham left his country for his Lord, and walked with faith and bound his son beneath the knife, who thus became the blessing of all humankind. Jacob the head of the twelve tribes had all Your blessings conferred on him as he shared the land among his sons. Joseph walked by the way of righteousness. While imprisoned for his Lord he suffered with joy, and at the height of all power he remained in humility. Job the Righteous fought against Satan and conquered. Moses despised the treasures of Egypt and placed his desire on You alone...Joshua, his servant who bears Your name, led the people into the land of promise...Gideon and Barak were full of faith. Samuel, dedicated to You from his mother's womb, lived as a Nazirite. Prophet, judge and priest, he anointed the king. Elijah and Elisha lived not for themselves but for You always. The glorious prophet Isaiah You enriched with divine revelations. Jeremiah, while he passed his days in solitude, was made to receive Your word and to proclaim it to the people. Ezekiel had wonderful visions in exile. All three, though ill-treated, never ceased to proclaim Your word. Daniel sealed the mouth of lions. Hananiah, Hazariah and Mishael stood in the heart of the fire offering praise and blessings to You. Many endured persecutions, one excelled in fasting, another offered prayer, another still chose virginity. One was tormented, another died by the sword of the enemy, one wandered in the desert,

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another remained in destitution. How the world wonders at these men because of their love for You which made them endure all things. And while it is astounded at them and those like them, Your love and that of Your Father gushes forth. And far greater wonder seizes the mind when it considers the love of Your Father and of Yourself and of the Holy Spirit, for they loved You while receiving grace after grace, but You loved us after we had rebelled against You, and in Your graciousness and compassion paid for all the debts of Adam.

Therefore we sing praise with joy, on this Great Day of Your Resurrection...We celebrate this day on which You have risen from the tomb with power and glory. We ask pardon and forgiveness of sins, and we pray that in Your goodness You may bless the Crown of the Year. Impress Your mysteries on our hearts and make them bear fruit in our lives. Make justice and truth always prevail among Your people. In Your graciousness spread Your peace all over the world that all men may live as brothers and sisters of the Uniquely Beloved Son, and as children of the Father, born to God of the Holy Spirit...Gladden with open faces those who have followed You in Your Passover with faith and have slept in Your hope, that we and they may offer You praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Heaven and earth clap their hands in exultation.
The Church of believers makes a joyful noise with songs of praise
for God is risen with glory from the house of the dead.
He brings back the captives who were there from the beginning,
captured by Death and Satan, and He gives joy to them
who were covered with gloom, by opening to them the gate of Paradise.

Blessed is Christ who offered Himself in sacrifice
of His own will and became food for His flock.
And His blood is the cup of salvation.
They eat and drink of Him as in luxuriant pastures.
From His side flows a stream which is the source of the new life.
At all times we take and drink of this cup which gives us life.

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

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The whole Creation exulted to its utmost bounds when the King's Son resurrected and rose from the tomb with glory. He set free Adam and his children from the hands of Satan and Death, and He promised to the Holy Church: "You shall be with Me where I am." And He exalted her and set her in heaven,
at the right hand of Him who sent Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

In Your goodness, Lord, bless the Crown of the Year.
Give the whole earth months of joy and years of abundance.
By the power of Your Cross drive away from this world the forces of evil and remove from among us all exploitation and oppression.
Strengthen those who feel crushed under trials
and in the end make all worthy of the resurrection of life.

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Jesus, Sea of Tenderness and Compassion which cannot be fathomed,
Ocean of Graciousness vaster than the whole Creation,
when Your tenderness was moved over Adam, Your image and likeness,
You lowered Your height and descended to the house of the dead.
You took him and carried him on Your shoulders
to give him a place at Your marriage feast of joy.

You who loved us and gave Yourself for us
as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God,
show us Your graciousness as You did to him
that we also may rejoice and sing praise like him,
our Lord, Christ, Giver of life to the Creation.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Transfiguration on the High Mountain
gloriously prefigured the Mystery of Your Resurrection,
keep Your Churches and strengthen them by the Cross of light.

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Prince of Peace who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God which passes all understanding,
give peace to Your Churches and to the whole Creation.

The Son of God remained three days in the tomb.
He pulled down and dismantled the high ramparts of Sheol.
The Strong One destroyed the fortress of Death, and unbound
the prisoners who were shut up there, and discharged them.

Like a diver he descended with all gallantry
into the lake of the dead and drew from it their bodies.
He gave them life and made them return to His own dwelling.
He descended into the abyss, found Adam there, loosed him and
from the place of perdition made him ascend gloriously to Paradise.

In the depths of the earth He saw Eve altogether fallen.
He took her and placed her in the dwelling of His Father.
He threw Himself into the immense gulf filled with dead bodies
and proclaimed there: "You who are dead, have life
and return to My dwelling, the dwelling of My Father."

Glory to the Father who raised up His Son victoriously.
Adoration to the Son who died of His own will and rose again.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who raised up with Him all the saints
who entered into Jerusalem and they announced the Resurrection.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is king, the nations tremble.
He is throned on the Winged Creatures, the earth quakes.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In the past He spoke through the prophets.
But in this age He spoke through His Son,
the Radiance of His Splendour and Glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 12:14–21 Jesus the All-compassionate.

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Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation; "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God who by Your mighty Resurrection completed the work of our salvation, giving us the hope of sharing in Your glory, the glory that befits the Father's Only Son full of grace and truth, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God who by Your Resurrection made Your people citizens of heaven, transfigure the body of our present humble state and give it a form like Your own resplendent body, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, and for the fostering of universal brotherhood among all, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and strengthened among our people, in this our country of India and in the whole world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God who on the Holy Mountain revealed to Your disciples the glory of Your divine sonship which You share with us,

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even now through Your Holy Spirit, make us always bear in our lives the fruits of His work in us, that freed from the shackles of sin we may enter upon the liberty and glory of the children of God, and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God, to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion, for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.8

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

We have awakened to sing to You,
to the honour and glory of Your graciousness.
Glory to You, Lord of the whole Creation.

In Your graciousness, Lord, You visited Adam in the grave
and You rose and You raised Him up with glory.
Glory to You, Lord of the whole Creation.

In Your graciousness, Lord, You suffered on the Cross on Golgotha,
and You purified the atmosphere which was polluted.
Glory to You, Lord of the whole Creation.

On the great day of Your manifestation, in Your graciousness,
Lord, make us stand at Your right hand.
Glory to You, Lord of the whole Creation.

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The Churches and their children entreat Your Graciousness,
answer our requests, You who are our refuge.
Glory to You, Lord of the whole Creation.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 97 (96) The Lord reigns, let the earth rejoice....

RESPONSE
His lightnings light up the world.
The earth trembles at His sight.
All peoples see His glory.
Light shines forth for the just
and joy for the upright of heart.

The Living One humbled Himself of His own will.
He descended to the house of the dead.
He announced the resurrection
to those who were lying in the grave
and hope to the mortal ones.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise....

Praise...to the Fair Form of incorruptible beauty, Trinity inscrutable to the learned, Godhead impenetrable to the wise, Nature beyond the understanding of the children of men, Being before whose Being all minds tremble, Lord with whose glory heaven and earth are filled, to You alone belongs worship from those above and those below, all created by Your right hand. To You be glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Glory and thanksgiving to You, God the Word, Most High, by whose descent we are elevated, by whose humiliation we are exalted, by whose incarnation we are honoured, by whose poverty we are enriched, by whose conception we are blessed, by whose taking flesh we are sanctified, by whose becoming man we are deified, by whose being born we are saved, by whose growing we are made to grow, by whose baptism we are cleansed, by whose fasting we are purified, by whose contest we are ennobled, by whose transfiguration we are given

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a foretaste of our ultimate destiny, by whose victory we are put right, by whose passion our sins are washed away, by whose wounds we are healed, by whose infirmity we recover health, by whose enduring mockeries we obtain wisdom, by whose disgrace we are given honour, by whose becoming a servant we are liberated, by whose being flogged for our sake we are made whole, by whose blows received for us we are strengthened, by whose crucifixion for our sake we are given life, by whose burial and resurrection we are raised up, by whose sending down the Holy Spirit we are made to share in God's life. Therefore we offer praise for Your descent, thanksgiving for Your incarnation and blessing for Your birth. We weave a garland of prayer for Your baptism. We sing hosannah for Your humility, and we cry glory for Your passion. We shout exaltation for Your death and we give honour to You for Your burial. We sing a psalm in honour of Your resurrection and we chant a hymn of joy for Your ascension. We render worship for Your enthronement and we cry Holy to the Spirit who leads all to perfection.

Therefore we ask of Your graciousness and we beg of Your bountiful love, that You will bestow on all humankind freedom and true liberation through the forgiveness of sins. Make to dwell in Your people the wisdom of Your knowledge and pour on them the gifts of Your goodness. Strengthen in all true faith and establish in them Your gentle love. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today there is a message of joy for the redeemed.
Death is slain and the Adversary is brought down.
With the Tree of Life on the summit of Golgotha
salvation has come to us, a bridge to cross over to Paradise.
It gives us the fruit that sweetens the bitterness to the palate,
caused by eating the fruit for which we were driven out of Paradise.
Blessed is Christ who rose from the house of the dead and rejoices
heaven and earth, halleluia, on the day of His Resurrection.

On Sunday, the Resurrection is manifested to the dead
who lay buried in Sheol in darkness, crushed by suffering.
On this day distress passes away from the race of Adam
who were shut up in the depths of the abyss.

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On this day light enters the world and grace is proclaimed.
On this day the fallen rise and the offenders are routed,
the heights and the depths are reconciled, halleluia,
the heavenly ones and the earthly ones, and they sing glory.

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

On Sunday at dawn when it is still dark
Mary goes to the tomb with spices and fragrant herbs
to embalm the body of the Uniquely Beloved Son.
She looks into the tomb and sees that He is not there, the Living One,
in the grave, and as she bursts into laments out of grief and distress
the Lord Himself in the form of a gardener speaks to her and says,
"What is there with you, woman, to show such grief, such distress?
Truly, it is I who was slain, halleluia, who rose with glory."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Mary stood weeping and sorrowing and looked into the tomb with tears,
thinking that He who raises the dead had been taken away.
Her head was down. She was moaning, weeping, beating her breast.
Like a dove that has lost her little one, she sighed and lamented:
"Why have you taken away the Only Son, the Beloved of His Father?
How is it that you have taken Him away? What a torment for me!
Good One, why did you take away the Mighty One who with a simple
gesture fashioned the heaven and the earth and the whole universe?"

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 98 (97) Sing to the Lord, a new praise...

RESPONSE
In the beginning God said:
"Let there be light." And there was light.
And it drove away darkness from the earth.
He made light to dawn from one end of the earth to the other.
Angels and men offer praise, saying: "Glory to You."

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All nations, tribes and tongues offer praise to Him
who enlightens us by His Resurrection.
They cry out and say: "You are the true light.
All who were in the dark are enlightened by You".
Angels and men offer praise, saying: "Glory to You."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Good Shepherd who in His goodness went in search of us, and in His great concern gathered us who were scattered, and in His graciousness made us return from our banishment, and in His compassion made to pass away our adversities, and by His good hope changed our sorrow into gladness, to Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our Lord, Eternal Son and Word of God, who were in the beginning with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, in the fulness of time You came to dwell with us, and in Your love for us You endured the redeeming Cross. By Your life-giving burial You put an end to the corruption of the grave. When You entered into Sheol You cast down its walls. And when You rose from among the dead You raised up the race of Adam, and You became the First-fruit of the new life and of the world to come. Our nature which was grown old and corrupt You cleansed and renewed by the fountain of life that flows from Your side, and You made us sons and daughters of Your Father, Your brothers and sisters, sharing in Your inheritance and in Your divine nature through the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Grant us therefore, Lord, that at all times we may honour this spiritual fountain which brings life to the world. Make us worthy to offer praise to You who give us cleansing from our sins. And while we run to the Tree of Life with the strength which comes from You, may we control all movements of the senses. We pray You, eradicate from our hearts the evil of envy. Extinguish the fire of jealousy and remove all ill feelings. Take away the harshness from our words and the bitterness that leads to destruction. Give us holiness of life and single-mindedness, that we may fulfil the mystery of our return to the world above, and with all those who have confessed Your Resurrection

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may we be worthy of the blessed happiness of that place, by Your graciousness and goodness and that of Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today the whole Creation rejoices, exults and sings praise
to the Son of God who rose from the tomb
and resurrected with great power.
He is taken in triumph on a chariot with great glory.

On this day, Sunday, our Lord rises from within the tomb.
The Creation bows to Him in adoration
with the Orders of Spirit and Fire. And behold,
He sits at the right hand and the angels serve Him.

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

On Sunday let us offer thanks and adoration
to the Son who gave us life by His Cross.
He put to shame those who crucified Him
but He betrothed the Holy Church and completed her edifice
and made her beautiful like the heavenly Jerusalem.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On Sunday our Lord rises from the tomb
and the seals remain intact. He slays Death
and Satan who had slain Adam and his children.
He ascends and sits in heaven
at the right hand of Him who sent Him.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9.

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

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The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On Sunday the four quarters cry to You,
"Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O Son of God,
who give us life by Your Resurrection."

On Sunday let us sing praise to the Firstborn of the Godhead
who descended to the earth of His own will
and saved Adam and his children.

On Sunday Adam exults who had left Paradise with great sorrow.
He returns with the companies of his children
and they all enter to inherit the Kingdom.

On Sunday Your bride whom You delivered from deception
sings praise to You, O Lord,
and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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The Second Sunday of the Transfiguration of our Lord on the Mountain

9th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to offer You holy praises, on this glorious day of Your Saving Resurrection on which Your Church is exalted, to whom You promised that she should remain always, everywhere on earth, that she may praise and adore You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 92 (91) It is good to give thanks to the Lord...

RESPONSE

God rose with glory from the tomb.
He rejoiced and gladdened heaven and earth.
The angels and the sons of men sing praise for His Resurrection.

By the passion and death He endured He defeated the Evil One who had slain the head of our race. And by His Resurrection He made Adam to return to his former place, his inheritance.

On Sunday, the Mystery of the Resurrection, the women announce to the company of the apostles that their Master is risen with glory and they rejoice and exult and sing praise.

Rejoice exceedingly and exult, O Holy Church.
Make a joyful noise with songs of praise to the Son Christ
who by His Resurrection sets your children free from untruth.

We adore You, Jesus our God, who endured death to give us life, and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit praise at all times.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE
Lord our Saviour, we cry to You with a broken heart.
Open to us the door of Your graciousness and hear us.
And may the offering of our lips be received in Your presence
as the evening offering. And on Your Great Day may we be worthy
to enter into the glorious bridal chamber where songs of praise
and thanksgiving are sung to You who are the Lover of Humankind.

Though it was of Your own will that You stood in the court of justice
and it was with Your consent that You were judged by Pilate, You
did not leave Your throne on high, Your dwelling with Your Father.
By Your Resurrection from among the dead You set the whole world
free from its enslavement to Death and Satan
and You saved and delivered us all.

Lord, You gave us Your precious Cross as a secret power
to overcome the cruel enemy who makes us tremble and terrifies us,
and makes us turn away our eyes from the ineffable power by which
You broke and put and end to the power of Death and raised the dead.
It is on account of this that we all offer adorations
for Your Cross and for Your Glorious Resurrection.

Though You were brought to the tomb and laid in it as one dead, Lord,
the guards guarded You with great fear as a king in his sleep. In truth
it was the Source of Life that they brought through the entrance
and laid into the tomb, for You rose with great glory
and in Your graciousness You bestowed immortality on us all.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Glorious and Perfect Nature, the Hidden and Inaccessible Light, the Magnificent Shining Forth which cannot be explained, the Godhead Ineffable, remote from all and close to all, the Lordship simple and enclosing all, from whom comes every good thing and perfect gift. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Praise to You, Word Exalted and Gracious God, who exalted us when You were humbled for our sake. You raised us up when You

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descended to us. You blessed us when You were conceived in the womb and You hallowed us when You were clothed in our body. You purified us when You were baptized in the river Jordan and You strengthened us when You joined battle with the tempter in the desert. You gave us a glimpse of Your divine nature when You revealed Your glory on the Mountain. You removed the malediction which was upon us when You were fastened with nails and You loosed us from the bonds of sin when You were tied with bonds by sinners. You redeemed us when You were beaten with whips and You sweetened our bitterness when You tasted the gall. You crowned us with glory when You were crowned with thorns and You gave us life by Your death when You were numbered among the dead. You renewed us from corruption when You were shut in the grave and You raised us from our fall when You arose in glory. You lifted us up to the heights of heaven when You ascended in majesty. You exalted us when You sat at the right hand of Your hidden Father and enriched us with the gifts and charisms of the Holy Spirit.

Thus, Lord, now also, while You establish in us the remembrance of Your graces, fix in our minds the memory of Your gifts to us and impress it deeply in our hearts, and grant us that we may always bear in abundance fruits worthy of Your Majesty and offer presents becoming to Your Glory. Lord, deign to take away from us the foul garments of darkness, and clothe us in the new and chosen garments of liberty. Perfect us in all the ways of holiness. Adorn us with the fair ornaments of true reverence for God, with piety, and deepen in us the right faith and true love. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On this day, Sunday, the Son of the King
rises from the grave with great power
and throws His crucifiers into confusion.
He slays Death which had slain man and bestows life on Adam.
By the hope of the resurrection He brings consolation to the dead.
Blessed is He who on the day of His Resurrection
gives joy to the whole Creation.

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Today the dead in their graves perceive a great light.
It is the Eldest Son who descends
to visit them in their dwellings.
He calls Adam and makes him rise from the dust.
He takes him and makes him return to his inheritance,
his first dwelling, and promises to him and his children
the resurrection of the body on the last day.

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

An angel descends from the heights to the tomb of the Son.
He rolls away the stone from the entrance
and sits upon it, as it is written.
And with great joy he announces the Good News to the women:
"Go, tell His disciples that He is risen from the tomb
and that He goes before them in Galilee, as He promised."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today the women announce the Great Mystery of the Resurrection
to the disciples. Simon Peter and John, the two great eagles,
run to the tomb, and together, at the entrance,
they see things that fill them with wonder:
the stone is rolled away and the shroud is set on the side.
Christ the King is risen. And He sowed confusion among the guards.

Son of the King, call the dead who have been waiting
for You to come and to raise up their bodies.
Your voice will give joy to those who are gloomy.
In Your compassion relieve their sufferings,
and as You joined them to You in holy baptism to be Your brothers,
bring that love to fulfilment for them who loved Your Holy Name,
making them to enter with You the bridal feast of joy.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

We give thanks to You, Incense of Pardon for us.
We adore You, Lamb sacrificed for our sake
and who draw us to Yourself.
You enriched us by Your birth
and You pardoned us by Your baptism.

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You sanctified us by Your fast
and You set us free by Your passion and Your death
and You raised us up by Your resurrection
and exalted us by Your ascension
and enriched us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, Lord our God,
may this incense of Your worshippers
be well pleasing to Your Godhead
and make the sweet scent of holy love rise from us
at all times, love for You and for one another,
and our tongues will multiply Your praises
and offer thanksgivings to You, the Uniquely Beloved Son,
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Transfiguration on the High Mountain
gloriously prefigured the Mystery of Your Resurrection,
keep Your Churches and strengthen them by Your Cross of light.

Prince of Peace who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God that passes all understanding,
give peace to Your Churches and to the whole Creation.

By Your Resurrection make Your graciousness shine on Your worshippers and by Your Cross forgive the faults of those who believe in You, Lord, who confess Your adorable and life-giving Passion. Acknowledge us also before Your Father and give us life though we have not done anything to please You and have wasted many years of our life. Lord, by Your Resurrection may the mouths which sang praise to Your Godhead, sing praise with Your saints in the Kingdom. And may the eyes which kept vigil before Your Majesty on this day of Your Resurrection, keep vigil there also in Your glorious light and be given the vision of Your face.

May the hands which lifted up Your life-giving body above the altar be raised in praise in Your dwelling-place to bless You.
May the feet which did not fail to go to the Night Service dance in procession with Your saints in the Kingdom.
Gladden with the vision of Your face the eyes which have kept vigil

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and delight with Your blessings the tongues which sang Your praises. May Your Resurrection be a shield which keeps away all evil, violence and war and terrorism, all flood and drought and famine from this earth. May Your Resurrection spread peace and tranquillity and all joy and sow among us and on our planet earth every grace and blessing.

Lord, send us from Your treasure-house Your choicest gifts
and in the world to come keep for us the pardon of offences.
May Your peace be for us a high wall of protection
and make Your joyful Passover shed Your graciousness on us.
May Your Resurrection turn our sorrow into joy of the heart
and Your Crucifixion sow peace here on our planet earth.
By Your death forgive all, and by Your burial give life to all,
and by Your Resurrection rejoice and gladden all hearts.

Adoration and praise to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Now and from all generations, glory to You, our Lord. May the day of Your Resurrection be an advocate that pleads for us. And on the day of Your judgement may we experience Your graciousness when we stand before Your Majesty. And may Your Resurrection which raised us from our fall be for our pardon and for the forgiveness of our dead in Your Kingdom. Blessing to You from all and to the Father who sent You and to the Holy Spirit a garland of praise. And on us graciousness at all times.

Prince of peace who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God that passes all understanding.

Give peace to Your Churches and to the whole Creation.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
How we love Your word, O God.
We meditate on it unceasingly.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In the past You spoke through the prophets and the sages,
but in this age You speak through Your Son
who is the radiance of Your splendour and glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 4:1–20 What the sower is sowing is the word...

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Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on the First Sunday of the Transfiguration, p.323

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Awaken us, Lord, to sing praise to You,
O Watcher who keep watch over us.
And deliver us from the snares of the Enemy.

On this day the Firstborn rises from the tomb
with great glory and raises up with Him
Adam who was being consumed by corruption.

On Sunday the darkness that gathered during the night
of deceit and untruth is illumined when the Mighty One
rises from the tomb and overthrows Satan and Death.

On Sunday Simon Peter and John run to the tomb
when the Good News is brought
that their Master is risen from the tomb.

On Sunday the Holy Church bows down in adoration
and offers praise to Him who was lifted up on the Cross
and rose from among the dead to give life to the world.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 134 Praise the Name of the Lord...

RESPONSE
Praise the Name of the Lord.
Praise Him, servants of the Lord.
Praise the Lord for He is good.
Sing a psalm to His Name for He is loving.

Behold, the Holy Church rejoices
on the Resurrection of the Bridegroom Christ,
and sings praise to the One Beloved Son
who died and is alive, and gives life to our race.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Fair Form of incorruptible beauty...
As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.325

Hymn
Friday was filled with grief. The Shepherd was struck
and the sheep were scattered, even John the Beloved kept afar off.
Simon Peter denied the Son and the wicked crowd cried out,
"Crucify Him! Crucify Him! And they bound the Son of the Father.

The day before yesterday, Friday, Hannah and Caiaphas
were sneering, "Ha, ha, ha! Here he is crucified." But today
they have to bribe the guards to make the people believe
that it is His disciples who have taken away the body.

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

The Mighty One rises from the tomb with great glory.
He gathers together the disciples who had been scattered. Simon
and John rejoice. Mary and her companions exult. The disciples
pass on to one another the good news of the peace that has been made.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Who is this Bridegroom who died for the bride? It is our Lord.
Who is that bride who went after the One who had been slain?
It is the Church, the Betrothed of the Crucified who by His death
wrote and ratified the dowry of the Daughter of light.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 135 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good...

RESPONSE

O give thanks to the Lord for He is good,
His love endures for ever...
He snatches us away from our foes,
His love endures for ever.

Nations and all peoples and all races
sing praise and offer thanksgiving
to God who saved us by His Resurrection.
Cry out and say, "Glory to You, O God."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Good Shepherd who in His goodness...

*As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.*328

Hymn

In the ninety third psalm king David prophesied:
"Our Saviour reigns in truth, enrobed with joy and power."
Clothed with strength, He strengthens us.
The whole world is under His rule, undisturbed.
He protects His people by the Cross.
He ascends and sits in heaven at the right hand of Him who sent Him.

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Glory to You, Word, God who descended to become man
and suffered in the flesh for our salvation
and tasted death of Your own will.
You rose from the tomb with glory, rejoicing heaven and earth,
and You gladdened the Church by Your Resurrection.
Behold, she sings praise to You and confesses Him who sent You.

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

Glory to You, Heavenly Bridegroom
who rose from the tomb with glory
and put Your enemies to shame and scattered them.
Behold, on the day of Your Resurrection
the Church Your bride resounds with songs and fitting praises
for You gave her life by the blood from Your side.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

O Compassionate One who at all times keep Your door open
to the good and the wicked, open Your door to our prayer.
In Your graciousness hear our petitions and answer our supplications.
And may Your sacrifice, the perfect offering for the pardon of sins
be for the rest of those who followed You in Your Passover and
loved You. And may they always be remembered in Your presence.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

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Christ who save us by Your Resurrection
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On this great day, Sunday,
there is a wondrous thing in Sheol.
Silence falls upon Death and the creatures of dust rejoice.
On earth it is known as the day of the Lord
and in heaven it is the greatest of all feasts.

A clamour of the Watchers and of the sons of men
is heard by the tomb of the Uniquely Beloved Son.
Angels descend from the highest heaven
and the One Beloved Son ascends from the earth.
The unbelievers are put to shame who denied the truth.

Come and listen, all you peoples.
The Exalted One has done a great wonder for the earthly Adam.
He sent to him His own Son who humbled Himself
to restore him to the place he had lost,
from where the Evil One had driven him away, out of jealousy.

Let the heavens declare Your praise and the earth give thanks.
Let the living confess Your resurrection
and the dead glory in Your rising from Sheol.
Let our tongues tell out Your praise
that we may rejoice with You in Your Kingdom.

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who deliver us by Your Resurrection.
Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.166

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.66

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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The Third Sunday of the Transfiguration of our Lord

10th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Saviour who by Your rising after three days
broke the power of the three enemies of the human family
and by Your Resurrection rejoiced the three worlds
and restored the three orders of the creation to Your Kingdom
restore now, to our spirits filial reverence for You
and renew our hearts by the salvation that comes from You
that we may offer You the triple praise
of body soul and spirit for our salvation,
and to the Father who sent You for our liberation,
and to the Spirit who renews our whole being,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 93 (92) The Lord rules, wrapped in glory...

RESPONSE

The Lord is King. He is clothed in majesty.
The Lord clothes Himself with might.
He girds Himself with power.

Praise for Your infinite graciousness,
O our Saviour, and for Your goodness.
Lord, Lord of the universe, be gracious to the whole Creation.

You were hung on the wood of the Cross
by a wicked and enraged populace.
Lord, Lord of the universe, be gracious to the whole Creation.

You rose again to life with great wonder
and rejoiced and gladdened heaven and earth.
Lord, Lord of the universe, be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Christ, You rose from the tomb
and rejoiced the Church who saw Your Resurrection.
Lord, Lord of the universe, be gracious to the whole Creation.

The Church whom You espoused rejoices
and sings fitting praise for Your Resurrection.
Lord, Lord of the universe, be gracious to the whole Creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Holy One, Lord of the Universe, receive from us
the prayers which we offer to You at this evening hour,
and in Your graciousness grant to all
the pardon of faults and offences,
for it is You who have manifested on earth
the Glorious Resurrection from among the dead.

Peoples, make the round of Jerusalem in procession,
go round and count all her towers
and offer a discourse of praise to the glory
of the Word of God who clothed Himself with flesh,
the Uniquely Beloved Son of God who by the sufferings He endured
set us free from our debts and sins.

Holy Church of God, the angels sing of you glorious songs.
It is the prophets and the apostles who established your foundations,
and they set them firmly. Leap for joy and exult exceedingly
because the Lord, the Mighty One is with you,
and in His tender love He multiplies your peace,
the Uniquely Beloved Son, the Great King of the Universe.

Praise resounds in heaven
and the earth bursts into songs of thanksgiving
to the Mediator who made peace between them
and brings back the people who had fallen into deception.
Come let us bow down in adoration to Him,
the Christ who set us free by His blood.

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You who are God the Word, the Most High, the Invisible
who were seen in the flesh on earth
and mingled with the children of men,
behold all the people acclaim You,
"Blessed be Your Name on earth and in heaven"!

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Living One and Giver of Life to whom alone belong immortality and incorruptibility by nature, and because He clothed Himself with flesh out of love was knit together with death valiantly, and broke her sting and laid waste her city and made her captives to depart, and by His Resurrection filled them with the hope of the new life. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Christ our God who by Your life-giving death and Your life-bearing burial sowed in our hearts a good hope and the promise of life for the dead and the assurance of the abolition of death on account of Your love for humankind, because of this we praise and magnify this Great Day of Your Resurrection, and we offer the praise due to Your Greatness. Praise to You, God the Word, whose love brought You to willing abasement for our sake. Praise to You, Eternal Son of the Father, whose compassion made You become man for our salvation. Praise to You, Hidden and Exalted One, whose love for humankind made You enter the court of judgement for our deliverance. Praise to You, Just and Righteous One, who showed the strength of Your might by Your mounting the Cross. Praise to You, Good and Blessed One, who gave to the thief the key of the garden of joy as a reward for his humble faith. Praise to You, True Priest, who reconciled Your Father by Your great sacrifice for our sake. Praise to You, Saviour of our race, whose glorious light rose on the departed who were lying prostrate and You gladdened them. Praise to You, Resurrection and Life of all the fallen, who raised up Adam and his children from corruption by Your Resurrection on the third day.

Therefore we beseech You, our God, good and gentle, on this Festal and Holy Day of Your Noble Resurrection on behalf of all Your

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people, whom You redeemed by Your suffering and bought by Your precious blood, that You will accept from us who are weak and sinful, the supplications and petitions which we present to You, and the services and prayers and the stations and labours, by night and by day, which we keep before Your Majesty and which Your people offer to You in their daily life, while You pour out on them and on us all in common all blessings and bounteous gifts. Make us worthy in Your compassion that with a pure heart and sincere mind we may embrace one another with a holy kiss, in the perfect love which is becoming to Your Glorious Resurrection. Make us and all those who have followed You in Your Passover with faith, worthy of the resurrection of the just. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

"It is the One Beloved Son of the Father who manifested Himself," says the Church. He willed to become a son of man,
out of love, without dividing Himself.
One single only son is the Son of the Father and the Son of Mary.
No argum nt will ever shake our faith. The Father
has borne witness to the Son that He is not divided into two.
Halleluia, halleluia, those who question it can only be confounded.

Blessed are you, Church of believers, Bride of the Son.
How true is your faith! How true is what you proclaim!
The Only Offspring of the Exalted One
is in the heights and in the depths, with the Father and with Mary,
on the throne of the Divinity and at the bottom of the grave.
Those who alter the faith can only be confounded.
Blessed are those who believe, halleluia.

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

"My Saviour", says the Church, "be to me a high and powerful wall,
in the debates with the objectors." And she confesses,
"I confess the Father who is without beginning,
and the Son who is born of Him outside time.
And I conclude, I and my people, with the Holy Spirit,
Trinity all worthy of praise, by whom the world has life.
Halleluia, he who doubts can only be confounded.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

O Church, set your heart on the Lord and have spiritual discernment,
that you may not grow weary on account of the trials that beset you.
By all these He makes you share in His life.
Do you, at all times, give glory to Him.
For you He inclined His head on the Cross.
Compose new hymns of praise and offer them to Him with love,
halleluia, and sing glory to Him for His goodness.

Today as I was walking by the dwelling of those who have passed away,
I saw priests and deacons whose beauty of face death had ravaged.
I saw the rich and the poor lying prostrate together in the grave.
I sat down and began to cry, "Could this not happen to me
as it happened to them? How hard it is to enter the Kingdom of God!
Yet what is impossible with Man is possible with God.
Lord, set our hearts free from this world and all its riches".

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Praise to You, Jesus God, True Bridegroom
who save the world by Your Resurrection,
and by Your Festival gladden the whole Creation.

Gladden us also and give joy to us all, our Lord,
Your joy imperishable, that we may praise You
and exalt You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and bless us.
Son who by Your Transfiguration on the High Mountain
gloriously prefigured the Mystery of Your Resurrection,
keep Your Churches and strengthen them by the Cross of light.

Prince of Peace who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God which passes all understanding,
give peace to Your Churches and to the whole Creation.

Mary returned from the tomb full of joy
and told the disciples of the Mystery of the Resurrection.
The flaming ones descended from the heights and announced,
"The Son of the King is risen.
He clothed Himself with power and conquered Death."

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I met a young man clothed in garments of flame
who said to me, "The Bridegroom is risen from the grave."
His face in beauty was like that of the Winged Creatures
who serve the Hidden Being in the highest heaven.

"Such was his beauty that I forgot my grief," said Mary,
"And as he had said, I saw the entrance of the tomb open.
'Go you then now and see the great wonder, and spread the news
and offer praise to the Son of the King, Christ,
who by His Resurrection rejoices the inhabitants of heaven."

Glory to the Father who has made a feast for His One Beloved Son.
Adoration to the Son who by His Resurrection gives joy to the Creation.
Thanks to the Spirit who by the angel brings the Good News to the
women, "The Bridegroom is risen from the tomb with great power."

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
As the hart seeks the water brook
our whole being thirsts for You, O Lord.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In the past You spoke through the prophets and sages.
But in this age You speak through Your Son,
the Radiance of Your splendour and glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt. 13:31–35 Jesus teaches in parables, the mustard seed...

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday of the Transfiguration, p.*323

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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THE THIRD SUNDAY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7.

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

With those from on high, the heads of the angelic powers,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

With the Winged Creatures we bless You, O Lover of Humankind.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your name, and with the angels
we bow to You in adoration. Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

The women hasten to the glorious tomb with fragrant herbs.
They are weeping, but they meet an angel who says to them:
"Christ is risen from the tomb."

The Firstborn of the Father has become the Firstborn from among the dead. Rising with glory He rejoices the earth and gladdens the heaven. The heavenly ones and the earthly ones offer praise to Him.

It is good to offer glory, honour, adoration and the highest exaltation, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him be glory.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 138 Lord, You search me out and You know me...

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RESPONSE

O God, You know our sitting and our standing.
You discern all our thoughts from a distance.
Even the darkness is not dark for You.
Since the night shines for You like the day, the darkness like light.
We fall in adoration before You for the Mystery of Your knowledge.

Come, let us bow down and adore Him, God the Word,
born of the Hidden Father before the worlds were made,
who took flesh from the Virgin Mary and bore the crucifixion,
and in His goodness suffered to be buried, and when He rose again
saved and set free the sons of men who had perished by deception.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Fair Form of incorruptible beauty...

*As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.*325

Hymn *Come, let us bow down and adore Him.*

We worship Your Cross, Lord, by which were reconciled
the heavenly ones and the earthly ones, as Paul said.
By it those who had gone astray and were lost returned.
The just confessed it. By it the martyrs obtained the victory
and were crowned, halleluia, halleluia.
By Your Cross protect Your Churches, Christ our Saviour.

Let us offer adorations to the Lord, our Maker.

Come, peoples from all quarters and sing praise,
to the Mighty One whose power no tongue can describe.
The heavens were struck with awe at the words of the prophets.
Why did the wicked people crucify Christ?
The company of the executioners are put to shame,
halleluia, halleluia, and the Church is exalted.

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

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Ascend the high mountains, O Holy Church,
and sing praise to Christ who tasted death for you.
He established in you baptism and the altar
and gave you His body and His blood
for the forgiveness of offences, halleluia, halleluia.
Blessed is the Living One who tasted death.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today the sign of Jonah who was for three days in the fish
is explained: he made known and showed forth beforehand
the Resurrection of the Lord who was to rise on the third day
without corruption, halleluia, halleluia. Blessed is the Firstborn
whom the prophets prefigured and He fulfilled their words.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 142 Lord, listen to my prayer, hear my supplication...

RESPONSE

Lord, we remember the days that are past. We ponder all Your works.
As we muse on what Your hand has wrought
to You we stretch out our hands.
Like a parched land our whole being thirsts for You.

On Sunday Mary saw Christ risen from among the dead,
she bowed down and worshipped Him.
On Sunday Mary saw Christ and she ran
to announce the Resurrection to the apostles.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Good Shepherd who in His goodness went in search...
As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.328

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Hymn

Our Lord, look on Your people, turn to Your flock,
the company of those who put their trust in Your Cross,
You who utterly defeated the Evil One, the deceiver,
for the sake of those who loved You, halleluia, halleluia.
In Your graciousness, be at their side.

Praise is fitting to You, Uniquely Beloved Son
who tasted death for the sake of the world
and with Your life-giving Cross slew the Killer
We sing praise and offer glory to You,
halleluia, halleluia, the Lord all-gracious.

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

Incense of reconciliation who by the fragrance of Your death
made us to be reconciled with Your Father,
in Your tender love receive the incense of Your worshippers,
on the day of Your Resurrection from among the dead,
halleluia, halleluia, and be gracious to the whole world.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to the Uniquely Beloved Son who for His Church
suffered the cross and death and saved her from deception.
And He gives her His body and His blood,
the pledge of life eternal, halleluia, halleluia,
and she will not be shaken, for ever.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On this day, Sunday, the angels descend from on high
and they roll away the stone
placed at the entrance of the tomb of our Saviour.
On this day, Sunday, the women disciples
are told that Christ is risen from the tomb.
And behold, on this day, Sunday, He sits at the right hand.
When the Living One rises from among the dead, He confounds
the crucifiers and becomes our hope and our salvation.

On this day, Sunday, God rises from the tomb.
He treads for us the path of life, our way to the Kingdom.
On this day, Sunday, the bars of Sheol are broken.
Death and Satan tremble
when our Lord rises from within the tomb.
On this day, Sunday, fear falls upon the guards
when they see Him rising from the grave.
They are confounded by His Resurrection.

On this day, Sunday, the Church rejoices and exults
for her Bridegroom is risen from the tomb
and He gladdens heaven and earth.
On this day, Sunday, a light shines within Sheol.
and the dead awake and give glory to Him
who descended and visited them.
On this day, Sunday, show Your love, O God,
who rose from the tomb to give us life,
and rejoice the four quarters of the earth.

Glory to You, O Beautiful Firstborn,
who rose from the tomb to give us life.
Thanksgiving to Your Hidden Father.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy.
And on us graciousness and tender love, at all times. Amen. Amen.

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Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Fourth Sunday of the Transfiguration of our Lord

11th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Bless Your Church, our Lord, on the day of Your feast. Grant pardon to Your people. Sanctify Your devotees. Make their assemblies to shine with Your light. Gather them to offer their adorations for Your crucifixion, to honour Your death and to rejoice in Your resurrection, to be exalted by Your ascension and to receive from You the gift of the Spirit, the Comforter. And we will offer our adorations and praises to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 94 (93) O Lord, our God, vindicator of all rights...

RESPONSE

Who will stand up with us against evil?
Lord, if You do not help us we will soon be in the land of silence.
Cares abound within us. Let Your goodness hold us up.
Let Your consolation be the joy of our hearts.
Be our stronghold, O God, the rock where we take refuge.

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Your people nailed You on the Cross, but it was for our sins,
Christ, Great Saviour of the creation.
Our iniquities pierced with a spear Your side full of life.
But by Your Cross You saved the world from perdition.
You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our Fathers.

They brought You to the place of the dead, Christ our God,
and laid You there as one dead. But like a man of formidable strength,
a mighty hero, You set yourself to demolish the empire of Death
and by Your resurrection You gave the new life to all.
You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our Fathers.

On Sunday the bright cloud of the Transfiguration descends on earth
to dispel the shadows cast by the Law and to fill it with light.
It reveals the mysterious sayings of the prophets.
And we who are counted worthy of this glory cry out with them:
"You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our Fathers."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

This truly is a festal and holy day,
this day, Sunday, the Feast of the Lord,
the greatest of all feasts,
the mystical solemnity above all solemnities.
On it we offer praise to Christ, unceasingly.

On Sunday like a sleeper the Lord rouses Himself
with mighty and infinite power from the house of the dead.
He puts fear into the guards and says to the women,
"Go, tell the disciples, 'Your Lord is risen,
He goes before you into Galilee. It is there that you will see Him.' "

On Sunday the women disciples take spices and fragrant herbs.
They go to the tomb and find it open
and an angel sitting there turns to them saying,
"Why do you look for the Living One among the dead,
He who has life in His own person for ever and ever?"

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On Sunday all what the prophets had written is fulfilled. The Lord awakes as from sleep and rises from the tomb with great power. He ascends into Sheol and rejoices Adam and his children and gladdens His dejected disciples, He who has life in His own person for ever and ever.

This is truly the Hidden Mystery kept secret from ages and generations. Our Lord reveals it to the Twelve and instructs them that they might break His holy body and drink His blood and distribute them to the whole Creation, the new life for ever and ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise....

Praise...to the Adorable Trinity which is being and life itself, Maker and Restorer of the worlds both material and immaterial, First Spiritual substance known to the simple as Fatherhood, Sonship and Procession: He who begets and is not begotten, He who is begotten and does not beget, He who proceeds from them, not begotten and not begetting, One without change, and Three without difference of rank. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, when we bring before our weak mind Your Saving Economy for our salvation, we glorify Your Holy Passion, we worship Your Holy Cross and we await Your Second Coming...when You will come in glory. You are the same Word of God who became flesh from the Virgin Mary, without change, without separation, without division and without mingling...We beseech You, do not disown us on that great day...for we are Your disciples and we put our trust in the precious suffering of Your Passion, in the redeeming power of Your Cross. We confess that You are the Only Son of the Father from all eternity, and by Your incarnation the Son of Mary. We do not believe, as some say, that there are two sons or two persons, that one sucked milk and the other not, that one grew in stature and the other not, and that therefore it was not a man whom the people hung on the Cross. We believe that it was truly God clothed in flesh from a virgin.

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Therefore we proclaim the Virgin Mary Mother of God. We affirm this faith and we do not change the rules which our Holy Fathers laid down for us. We do not worship the cross of a man but the Cross of the Living God who suffered and was crucified and buried and rose in glory on the third day, and ascended to heaven in glory and is to come in glory. To Him belongs glory, honour and dominion, and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday Death shudders in the abyss,
the Evil One trembles while hearing the voice of the Son
who is risen, and who raises up with Him in glory the race of Adam.
He raises it to heaven to the side of Him who sent Him.

All peoples and nations sing praise,
on this day, Sunday, the greatest of all feasts,
when our Lord rose from the grave with great glory and rejoiced
the earth and the heavens. Blessed is He who sent Him.

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

How wonderful is this day, Sunday, on which our Lord rose
and raised with Him those who lay buried in the earth.
When He came forth the angels descended from the heights
with shouts of joy. And now praises rise to Him from all quarters.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Our Lord, receive our service and our prayers.
In Your graciousness, answer our fair requests.
In Your compassion keep away all harm from Your people
and make Your peace and calm reign all over the world.

O King and Giver of Life, whenYou appear with glory from on high
to raise the dead to life and resurrect those who lie buried,
the dead will rise together from their graves
and offer praise to the Living One who raises them up.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
O Sun of Righteousness, at Your birth a star shone in the air.
At Your baptism light flashed upon the waters.
At Your passion the lights of the firmament were darkened.
At Your death the dead resurrected.
At Your burial those lying in the grave became conscious of it.
At Your resurrection those who were in sorrow were gladdened.

By the fragrance of this fragrant incense
rejoice us, also Lord, with the joy of Your Resurrection.
Gladden us with the gladdness of Your Passover
and we will praise You and Your Father and the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Transfiguration on the High Mountain
gloriously prefigured the Mystery of Your Resurrection,
keep Your Churches and strengthen them by the Cross of light.

Prince of Peace who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God that passes all understanding,
give peace to Your Churches and to the whole Creation.

Behold, the attendants of the Bridegroom who was slain stand by
and guard the burial clothes at His head and at His feet.
He thus reveals that once He has risen He has no need of a vesture.
By His ineffable Resurrection He clothed Himself in honour and glory.

He cast off His grave clothes that belong to Death, that by seeing
this it may be understood that the house of the dead was fallen.
Two angels, sitting one at the head and one at the feet,
honour the place where the Lord of the heights was laid.

An angel clothed in flames stands by the entrance and with great awe
shows to the women the place where the Bridegroom was laid.
They are not mourning, they are filled with joy because He has risen
to dry up all the tears of the children of Adam.

O Full of Graciousness who were raised on the third day,
receive the hymn of triple praise which we sing to You.
Triple Splendour, to You be praise all over the world.
To You who are threefold in Divinity, triple glory.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
O God, You are raised above the heaven
and Your glory is far above the earth.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In the past You spoke through the prophets and sages.
But in this age You spoke through Your Son,
the Radiance of Your Splendour and Glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 13:44–52 Jesus teaches in parables, the treasure, the pearl, the net

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday of the Transfiguration, p.*323

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise, singing
the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O God."
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

At Your Resurrection, O King Christ, Watchers and angels rejoice,
and on earth Adam's children sing praise and offer thanksgiving.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday the Lion of whom Jacob prophesied roars in Sheol, and its foundations quake. The dead rise and sing praise to the Godhead.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday, O Holy Church, bow down in adoration with joy
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 144 I will exalt You, my Lord...

RESPONSE

Gracious and compassionate is the Lord,
forbearing and abounding in love.
His goodness is for all and His kindliness upon all His works.
He holds up all who stumble and heals all who are broken.
He is close to all who call on Him, who call on Him from the heart,
and He does the will of those who revere Him.

As You were fastened with nails on the Cross, O our Saviour,
dressed in a garment of derision and crowned with thorns,
You removed the sting of the Evil One and You uprooted the thorns
of the transgression of the commandment by Adam our father, the first.
For all this we sing praise, "Blessed are You who by Your Cross
save and liberate the nations who believe in You.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Fair Form of incorruptible beauty...
As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.325

Hymn
Awake, awake, Daughter of the nations,
bride of the Heavenly Bridegroom,
clothe yourself with strength
and put on a garment of glory
to sing hymns of thanksgiving to the Uniquely Beloved Son of God
who rose from the tomb and saved us all from deception.
On the day of His Resurrection
He rejoices the heavenly ones and the earthly ones,
halleluia, and redeems the Creation.

Glory to the Son of God who humbled Himself
and put on a body and became man for our salvation.
He endured the passion and the cross
and tasted death of His own will,
and descended into Sheol and broke down its walls
and rose from the tomb with glory.
He raised up the saints from their graves,
halleluia, and took them to Himself.

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

Today at the Resurrection of the Heavenly Bridegroom,
there is a great wonder for Death, the devourer of all generations.
Watchers descend from heaven and mingle with earthly beings,
in the garden of Joseph, at the tomb of the Son,
and they sing songs inspired by the Holy Spirit
through the mouth of David, king and prophet,
"The Lord awakes as from sleep and like a mighty one
who shakes off his wine, halleluia,
He puts to shame those who crucified Him."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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How beautiful was the word of the sinful woman
to the maker of ointments, "Please, give me a good ointment.
Receive this precious gold and give me the best ointment,
that I may mix it with the tears of my eyes
and go to embalm the Firstborn of the Exalted One.
In God I put my trust, that by the ointment He receives from me,
my debts and offences may be forgiven."
And she took the ointment and went, halleluia.
And our Lord who saw her faith remitted her debts.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Psalm 145 Praise the Lord, O my soul...

RESPONSE
We praise the Lord with our whole being.
We will praise the Lord our life long.
We will sing to God while we have being.
Blessed are those whose help is the Lord,
whose hope is the Lord, God who made heaven and earth.

As You gave joy to Mary on the day of Your Resurrection,
gladden Your Church, our Lord, and be gracious to her children.
May the Church who rejoices on the day of Your Resurrection
be gladdened at Your coming and found worthy of Your wedding feast
on the great day of Your manifestation.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Good Shepherd who in His goodness...
*As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.*328

Hymn
Arise, shine out, Holy Church of believers, your Light has come,
the Lord exalted and awesome has appeared and He dwells with you.
All nations and peoples join with you

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from one end of the earth to the other.
Everyone is told and knows that henceforth and for ever
you will offer praise without ceasing
to Him who chose you from the beginning,
and established in you the holy altar
and entrusted to you His body and His blood for the pardon of sins.

Ascend the high mountain, O Church, and sing praise to Christ
who rose from the tomb and rejoices heaven and earth.
David son of Jesse witnessed to His Resurrection,
who sang on his harp and announced to you,
"God goes up with glory, the Lord at the sound of the horn."
The Church sees Him as He rises with power and splendour.
She bursts into blessings and adorations
and offers a crown of praise to Him who saved her by His blood.

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

Who is able to comprehend the Mystery of the Trinity?
The heights and the depths are filled with it
but it will not lend itself to scrutiny:
the Father who begets the Only One,
the Son, the Firstborn, who became a son of man, and
the Holy Spirit the Comforter by whom the apostles were made wise.
Glory to the Hidden One who searches the sons of men,
three adorable persons, One being to be praised by the Creation.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Wherever the body and the blood of the son are distributed
the Evil One, the Deceiver, cannot defeat those who receive the gift.
Indeed fearful beings of fire surround the Lord and stand by
to the honour of His glory while angels are all around
in great reverence. And all cry to Him with one accord,
"Holy, Holy, Holy" in heaven and on earth. The world
to its bounds, is filled with Him and it is too small for Him.

MEDITATION

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THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8.

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

A great wonder it was, beloved, when our Saviour
was raised to life from the tomb on the third day.
He rose and the disciples saw Him. The Tree which Death
cut down sprouted life while slaying Death herself.
And it spread its branches within the tomb, giving life to the dead.

An angel descended from heaven and greeted the Mighty One.
He removed the stone from the tomb, rolled it away and sat upon it.
The guards who saw it were terribly perturbed.
All of them became like dead men when they saw the light
shining forth like a bewildering lightning.

Heaven and earth and all that is in them clap their hands for joy
because God is risen from the tomb and He gives hope to the departed.
He overcomes Death and Satan who were bearing haughty dominion
over humankind, and gives life to Adam and his children
and He reigns in heaven and on earth.

Blessed is He who descended to save Adam and made him to return
to Paradise, his inheritance. And behold, his children sing praise
to Him and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.
May His graciousness be on us all.

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Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

The Fifth Sunday of the Transfiguration of our Lord[13]

12th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

O King of Life, You were the victim of pardon for us. By the blood You shed on the Cross You cleared away the guilt of the race of mortal men. O Herb-of-the-Pardon-of-Faults, You were sent from the Father to heal our wounds. You are the Treasury of Goodness. When You ascended the Cross the scent of Your death spread an incense of pardon for our offences. By You, Lord, may our prayer be lifted up to the dwelling-place of Your eternal Father. And through You may we receive the pardon of offences and the forgiveness of sins, while we offer praise to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 95 (94) Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord...

RESPONSE

Come let us sing joyfully to the Lord,
let us hail the Rock who saved us.
Let us enter His presence with songs of praise,
let us hail Him with holy hymns.
Come let us throw ourselves at His feet

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in homage to His Sovereignty.
Let us prostrate before the Lord who made us,
for He is our God and we are His people.

God mighty for evermore ascended the Cross. The Creation trembled.
The earth quaked. Its foundations were shaken.
The rocks split and the closed tombs burst wide open
when they saw the shame of their Lord.
The wicked rejected His works of goodness. In their beguilement
they crucified the Lord of glory. But we only repeat the more,
"All you peoples, bless Him and praise Him and thank Him,
in all ages, the Christ, the true High Priest of our race."

The Watchers comforted the women disciples when they announced
to them the Gospel of life, "The Son of the King is risen,
and by His Glorious Resurrection from among the dead,
He raised up Adam who had fallen in the depths of the abyss.
Tell the apostles who are weeping and lamenting, to go with joy
into Galilee to delight themselves by the sight of Him."
All you peoples, bless Him and praise Him and thank Him,
in all ages, the Christ, the true High Priest of our race.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Our Lord, Your goodness made You stoop and lower Yourself to
sinners. In Your goodness, be compassionate to Your Church
who with You was fastened on the arms of the Cross.

Christ, You rose from the tomb with infinite power and glory.
In Your compassion, raise us up, Lord,
from the abyss of our disgrace.

Christ who by Your rising to life rejoiced
the heavenly ones and the earthly ones, rejoice us all
by Your Resurrection and give us a place at Your right hand.

On Sunday our Lord adorns His Church in the four quarters of the earth
with the gifts of His holy body and His precious blood,
the Mystery of the fulfilment and consummation of His love.

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Let us offer thanks to the Father in the Uniquely Beloved Son
and adore the Son in Him who sent Him
and all together sing praise to the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Strong, the Mighty and Powerful, the Giver of life and Deliverer of the whole human race, the Being who is eternal and who cannot be comprehended, the Glorious Dawn which cannot be explained, the Living One who by His death bound the power of Death the destroyer, and by His burial took her dwelling by force, and by His resurrection spoiled and demolished the City of Sheol, the gloomy. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Eternal Being born of the Father before times and seasons, before moments, even the twinkling of an eye, born not in time or by division or emanation, but ineffably beyond human reason, beyond all that is conceivable, as You and Your Father only know, You who move all things to bring them into existence, Creator and Maker by nature, who spoke and You put the spiritual world into motion, who commanded and the sensible world came to be. And by a last act of wonder You moulded man in whom You united one with the other, making one out of the two, corporeal and incorporeal, heavenly and earthly, temporal and immortal. And by Your grace You put him in a place which was fitting to him and made a test of his liberty. But he rose up against the law and transgressed the commandment and received a fall and found himself in need of mercy. Then You, O God, in Your graciousness, inclined towards his fallen state and became one with him in the flesh, and were seen on earth and walked with men and endured the passion, the cross and death, and raised up his fall by Your descent, and died and delivered him from death, and You were buried like a guilty man that You might raise up the guilty from Sheol, and You rose from the tomb on the third day and filled the whole Creation with joy.

Grant us therefore, Christ our God, on this festal and holy day, and on all the days of our life, the pardon of faults and the forgiveness of sins, that Your boundless love and Your manifold

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wisdom may be manifested by Your Churches all over the world, the new people, weak but filled with Your Holy Spirit, to be gathered together in the One Catholic Church, peoples from every nation, race, tongue and class, that all may join in the same praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Sunday the heavenly ones rejoice, and the earthly ones sing praise
and offer thanksgiving to the Lord who is risen from among the dead
who is the Firstfruits and the Fountainhead of the Resurrection.
How awe-inspiring are His ways and how tender His love!
Blessed are those who are found in it, in this world and in the next.

You are blessed, O Church of true believers, for in His love Your Lord
has put before you a good and rich food, and at your marriage feast
He mixes a drink such that those who take it will not thirst any more.
Rise, eat the Fire in the bread and drink the Spirit in the wine,
that adorned with the Fire and the Spirit you may enter with Him
the bridal chamber.

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

Out of love our Lord made Himself nothing, offering Himself
in sacrifice for our race, and He tasted death in time, in the flesh,
to give eternal life to His sheep by His blood. On the day
of Your dishonour heaven and earth were clothed in mourning,
when you were counted among malefactors and subjected to mockery.
Blessed be Your death which gives life to all.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

In the temple which You chose for Your honour
the Church stands in prayer, making supplication that graciousness
may be shown to the world which takes refuge in Your Cross.
On the great day of Your Feast which Your Church celebrates,
keep her people from all harm and evil, O our Saviour,
for behold, they offer You adoration and praise.

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Our Lord, call the dead who wait for You and raise their bodies.
Make Your voice rejoice those who are afflicted
and Your goodness console them in their pain.
Since they were joined to You as brothers in holy baptism,
bring Your love in them to perfection.
And since they have loved Your Holy Name
make them enter with You into the bridal chamber.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Our Lord, You are the Incense by whose sweet scent death was choked.
You are the Incense of Pardon through which Your Father
was reconciled with the children of guilty Adam. You are
the Blessed Fountain which sprang from the thirsty earth, Mary,
by which the people who had been led into deception are purified.

May the perfume of our incense be for Your delight, our Lord,
and may Your Godhead be pleased with our fair conduct.
With the sweet scent of plants which You created from the earth
to please Your Godhead, we offer praise, honour and adoration
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, unceasingly.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Transfiguration on the High Mountain
gloriously prefigured the Mystery of Your Resurrection,
keep Your Churches and strengthen them by the Cross of light.

Prince of Peace who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God that passes all understanding,
give peace to Your Churches and to the whole Creation.

The angel came and comforted those who were mourning.
He consoled them in the affliction which crushed them,
and showed where the body of the Son had been placed,
saying, "Do not be sad, the Lord is risen".

The Living One is not in the dwelling of the dead, He is risen.
He rose in glory on the third day, as He had said before He died.
The angels have entered the tomb and seen the miracle
but they dared not touch the linen wrappings.

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The Watchers sat one at His head and one at His feet,
in great reverence for the place where He had rested.
As the angel had given the news to the women and they were going away
suddenly Jesus came to meet them and gave them the greeting of peace.

Lord of the Watchers to You is due all adoration.
To You is due all exaltation, in all the churches.
You are the Feast, and the Lord of feasts and festivals
and of all spiritual festivities. To You be praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
O praise the Lord, Jerusalem,
Mount Sion, praise your God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In the past He spoke through the prophets.
But in this age He spoke through His Son,
the radiance of His splendour and glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 21:23–32 The authority of Jesus...The Parable of the two sons.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday of the Transfiguration, p.*323

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7.

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Awake, sinner, while there is time for conversion.
With tears of compunction and sighs of repentance
let us cleanse and remove all the stains of our offences.

We who have sinned cannot turn away from repentance.
Our Lord turns with love to those who repent.
And now He forgives us our transgressions.

On the night of Sunday,
the day on which our Saviour rose from the tomb,
let us all awake from sleep to sing praise to Him.

Our Lord, when You will come for Your manifestation,
on the day when You will appear, may we meet You,
like the holy women who went to embalm Your body.

Burst forth into song, O Church of believers,
sing praise to your Betrothed who rose from the tomb.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 73 (72) How good God is to...those who are pure of heart...

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RESPONSE
What shall I lack in heaven with You, O God?
I shall want nothing on earth.
My flesh and my heart may waste away,
body, soul and spirit will be with You for ever.

The Holy Church with great joy bows down in adoration
to her Bridegroom who is risen from the tomb
and who gives her His body and His living blood to eat and drink
and to take her delight in them and be sanctified.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Fair Form of incorruptible beauty...
As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 1st Watch...p.325

Hymn
At the Resurrection of the Son the Watchers sing praise
and the earthly ones make a joyful noise, "Glory to the Lord
who reconciles the earthly ones with the heavenly ones."
Behold, all over the world people glory in His Resurrection,
halleluia, halleluia, O Lord of the angels,
pardon us and show us Your love.

The Mighty One rose and shook off His sleep, as a sleeper who wakes up
and He gladdened His friends. He looked at Mary
and she marvelled, and at Joanna and she rejoiced.
And He also visited His apostles, halleluia, halleluia,
and turned their sorrow into joy.
Pardon us, Lord, and show us Your love.

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

Glory to the Living One who ascended the Cross
and tasted death for our sake of His own will.
He descended into Sheol and took its spoil by His Resurrection
and saved Adam His own image, halleluia, halleluia.
Save us, our Lord, from the second death.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Christ who by Your Glorious Resurrection from the tomb
renew our human race and rejoice Your Churches,
receive our service and hear our prayers. In the abundance
of Your goodness show us Your love, halleluia, halleluia,
that we may sing praise to You by night and by day.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 74 (73) Why, O God, have You cast us off for ever?...

RESPONSE
It was You, O God, who released springs and brooks,
it was You who turned primordial rivers into dry land.
Yours is the day and Yours the night,
it was You who caused the moon and sun to be.

By the light of Your Resurrection, O Christ the King,
You enlighten the whole Creation.
Enlighten us all that we may sing praise to You.
And be gracious to the whole world.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Good Shepherd who in His goodness...

As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p..328

Hymn
Lo! The Gospel of the Resurrection has spread to the four quarters
and those who crucified the Christ are confounded.
O Church, sing praise for He who has betrothed you is risen,
and resurrected, and He reigns with glory over the nations.

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Angels in their white garments descended to the resting place
of the Bridegroom, to honour His tomb, a holy bridal chamber.
Behold the beautiful bridal chamber, O Holy Church of believers,
honour it with the linen garments of a good way of life.

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

Holy Lord who are hallowed by the saints,
purify and hallow the thoughts of us all,
that we may hallow Your Name as the Fiery Ones hallow You.
Holy are You, O Lord, and blessed is Your glory.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Behold, all over the world the Churches offer praise to You,
for You have strengthened them and clothed them with glory.
Nations, tribes and families worship You within them,
who are redeemed by Your blood and saved by Your Cross.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

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Lord of all who descended
and became as one dead among the dead,
You threw our sins in the grave
and You resurrected with Your righteousness.
Christ the Bridegroom, we are taken up by You,
on this day of Your Resurrection.
May our mouths be harps playing hymns
for the Feast of Your Resurrection,
and we will sing praise without ceasing,
for being called to share in Your joy.

On this day on which the dead were delivered by You
from the tyranny of death, deliver us, our Lord,
from the yoke of the Adversary who rules over us.
On this day when the just awoke and praised You from amid the dust,
awaken us from slothfulness that we may praise You with awareness.
On this day when hope dawned upon the dead
who had slept of old, raise us up, our Lord,
who died on account of our sins, that we may praise You.
On this day on which You rejoice the dead in their graves,
rejoice us with the forgiveness of sins,
that we may offer thanks for Your graciousness and goodness.

Both secretly and openly was the King's Daughter enlightened by You,
our Lord, as she was grieving on account of Your death.
You gave her joy by Your Resurrection,
according to the prophet who cried out and said,
"Rise and be enlightened for your light has come."
May Your death become for us a source of joy
and Your Resurrection a fountain of blessings.
May Your rising be for our healing
and Your feast our exultation.
And may all confess Your Sovereignty
on account of Your salvation made for us.

Glory to the Eternal Father
who sent His Son for our salvation.
Adoration to the Son near to His heart
who rose with glory from the tomb.

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Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit
who honoured His tomb through the Watchers.
And on us graciousness and compassion at all times. Amen. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

The Sixth Sunday of the Transfiguration of our Lord

13th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

O Plenteous Chrism, O Precious Nard, who by Your life-giving sacrifice on the summit of the Cross drove away the foulness of this world! O Wise Gardener, be pleased with the sacrifice of praise which we offer to Your Sovereignty. Give peace to Your Churches in the four quarters of the earth. Bestow forgiveness of sins on all who call on Your Name, that Your Godhead may be glorified and Your Majesty worshipped by all, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 96 (95) O sing a new song to the Lord...

RESPONSE
O sing a new song to the Lord.
Sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Declare His glory among the nations,
His marvellous deeds among all peoples.

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Give the Lord you families of peoples,
give the Lord glory and power, the glory of His Name.
He will rule the world with justice.
He will judge the peoples with truth.

An insensate mob, in contempt of the law of their Lord,
cried out in their rage, "Crucify Him, crucify Him!"
All true believers, now proclaim,
"You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our Fathers and Lord of the whole Creation."

Your brightness which enlightens all, Jesus,
wonderfully rejoices a new people from among the nations,
those who were in the darkness of untruth.
You are blessed, Lord, the Strong,
God of our Fathers and Lord of the whole Creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Jesus, we fulfil the evening service, we offer
this spiritual service to You because, in Your graciousness,
You were pleased to reveal to us Your love and tenderness
by Your Resurrection truly befitting God.

Lord, our Lord, we pray You, do not abandon us, do not dismiss us
from Your presence, You who in Your graciousness were pleased
to manifest to us Your incredible love and tenderness
by Your Resurrection so truly befitting God.

Rejoice exceedingly, Holy Jerusalem, Mother of all Churches
and Glorious Dwelling-place of God, who were the first
to receive the gift of the pardon of offences and sins
by the power of the Resurrection of Christ.

Make to cease divisions in Your Church and renew her,
that she may become an instrument of reconciliation and peace
in the four quarters of the earth. Keep her by Your Cross
and increase tranquillity in her, that her children may cry out
in their assemblies, "Glory to You, Lord, and to Him who sent You."

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the High Power and Strong Arm of His Father who by His Resurrection from among the dead raised us up from death, and by the abundance of His goodness exalted our abasement, and by His tenderness which cannot be comprehended turned our gloom into joy and gladness. Him we beseech, on this festival of joy on account of His Resurrection, that He may make us worthy of His pardon and comfort us by His help. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Who is he who will be worthy to praise the imperturbable sea of Your compassion, O Lord? Or what words will be adequate to celebrate You who are far above all praise? The minds of all are dazzled, the tongue fails to speak of the wonders which You accomplished on this Festal and Holy Day, Sunday, the day of Your Resurrection from among the dead. Therefore with the priestly singer David we cry and say, "This is the day which the Lord has made, let us be glad and rejoice in it." There has been no other day like it before, and there shall not be another like it hereafter. This is the great festival the crown and pride of all festivals. On this beloved day our thoughts vibrate and our minds dance with great joy, and we cry out and say, "Come in peace, Holy Day on which, by Your power, the ancient night has ended. Come in peace Holy Sunday of the Resurrection on which humankind was redeemed."

Therefore we beseech You, Christ our God, on this Festal and Holy Day, bestow on us all, pardon of offences and forgiveness of sins. Relieve the oppressed and comfort the sorrowful. Draw near those who are far away and guide those who are near. Strengthen all those who work for the uplift of the downtrodden, for the cause of truth and freedom and for the peace of the world. Prompt all rulers and leaders to uphold justice, and to restore to all those who are oppressed, the dignity of freedom. Make a good memory of the departed believers and give them rest in Your Heavenly Kingdom, that we and they may offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

Awake, awake, Daughter of the Nations,
and by the mouth of your children sing praise to the Hidden Father
who in His love acquired you for His Son and betrothed You to Him.
At the end He sent Him who became incarnate of a daughter of David
and saved the Creation by enduring the sufferings of the Cross
for the sake of guilty Adam. He ascended to heaven and sits
at the right of His Father. And on the day of His Resurrection
He rejoices the Watchers in heaven and the children of men on earth.

Blessed are you, Church of believers, who take refuge in the Cross
by which all creatures are reconciled, on high and here below.
By it the mighty are laid low, Death, the tyrant, and the Adversary.
By it the darkness of untruth is dispelled on the face of the earth.
Glory to the Uniquely Beloved Son who streched Himself on the Cross
and made the people to return from the way of destruction
and taught them the true faith.

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

The heavens rejoice at the Resurrection of the Uniquely Beloved Son
and peace reigns on earth for the Divinity has walked there.
He has uprooted untruth, cast down Satan and turned Death away.
He has put to shame those who crucified Him.
He has betrothed the Church of the Nations
and has placed in her His flesh and blood.
Then He ascended to sit down on high.
And now the angels and the Watchers in heaven praise Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Light which fills the Winged Creatures with awe
and makes the Fiery Ones tremble has humbled Himself for us.
He became man like us and endured the torture of the Cross
and tasted death to give life to sinners.
He was raised up with glory and rose from the tomb with great power.
In His resurrection He rejoices those on high and those below.
And now from one end of the earth to the other
the Holy Churches sing glory to Him.

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O Lord, call the dead who wait for You and raise their bodies
that Your voice may rejoice those who are afflicted
and Your goodness console them in their pain.
And since they were joined to You as brothers in holy baptism
bring Your love to perfection in them.
And as they have loved Your Holy Name
make them enter into the bridal chamber with joy.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Exalted One, You lowered Your Infinite Majesty
and descended from the highest heaven
for the salvation of Your people who had strayed
and You restored them to the grace they had lost.

By the fragrance of these sweet smelling spices,
Jesus, give joy to Your Church assembled here,
and gladden the faces of Your little flock,
on this day of Your Resurrection, Christ our God.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Transfiguration on the High Mountain
gloriously prefigured the Mystery of Your Resurrection,
keep Your Churches and strengthen them by the Cross of light.

Prince of Peace who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God that passes all understanding,
give peace to Your Churches and to the whole Creation.

Blessed are you, O Holy Church.
The forces of evil shall never overpower you,
for in you is planted the Cross of the Son of God.
In you resound hymns of blessings like those of the Winged Creatures.
And the mystic hallowing of the Fiery Ones is set forth in you.
In you shines forth with great brightness the Sun of Righteousness
and the darkness flees, for it cannot stand before Him.

Give ear to the hymns which in the various tones of chant
teach to the people the sublime wisdom revealed by God.
Listen to the prophets who are like golden trumpets
pouring life from their mouths into the hearts of the believers.
Hearken to the apostles who like running streams
make to flow life-giving waters through the garden of the King.

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Turn your ear to the lectern from where the divine word is read.
Receive its teachings like precious pearls offered to You.
Meditate on the two testaments of light
and have faith in them for they will give you life eternal.
Listen to the New and give ear to the Old, and you will see
how the two contain the truth which is to be proclaimed.

Glory to the Father who has unveiled His mysteries through prophecy.
Adoration to the Son who proclaimed them through the apostles.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit, Ocean of Riches and Wisdom,
who distributes His gifts among the believers with discernment.
He strengthens the weak, heals the sick, shows graciousness to sinners,
and pardons the dead who have departed in His hope. All glory to Him.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
We confess to the Lord with all our heart.
Before kings we will sing to Him.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He is the true bread from heaven,
the bread that gives life to the world.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 6:35–51 Jesus the bread of life...He who believes has eternal life.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday of the Transfiguration, p.*323

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7.

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise, singing
the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy" are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As we awaken from sleep, let us worship and praise
Christ who rose from the tomb to give life to the world.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday pardon us all, O Christ who died for the whole world,
and give us and our departed a place at Your right hand.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today God rises from the tomb with great power and rejoices
the earth and the heavens by His Resurrection from among the dead.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 80 (79) O Shepherd of Israel, give ear, lead Joseph like a flock...

RESPONSE
O Lord, God of all cosmic forces, awake.
Show Your strength, come and save us.
You brought a vine out of Egypt into the land of promise,
and You drove out the nations to plant it.
It covered the mountain and extended its branches to the sea.
Come and save the vine You planted, the vine You made to grow.
Make Your face shine upon us and we shall be saved.

Lord, by Your power You cast down
Death the mighty and Satan the tyrant.
O Shepherd who goes out in search of the lost sheep.
You called the nations who had gone astray
and You made them to enter Your fold of life.
We pray You, O Compassionate One,
that in Your graciousness You will feed us and lead us.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Fair Form of incorruptible beauty...
As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.325

Hymn *Madrosho*
Who is able to tell the glories of Holy Sunday?
On it the angels rejoice and the Watchers on high exult.
On it the fortress of Sheol falls.
On it all the departed are glad, for the Firstborn
promises them resurrection for the new life.
On earth it is known as the First Day, the Lord's Day.
In heaven it is the Feast of feasts.

How beautiful are you, Sunday, the day on which our Lord resurrected and after rising He shattered the doors of Sheol.
Light dawned on the prisoners as the doors of the prison were broken and the iron bars were torn away.

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Death and Satan were trembling with fright as their high ramparts
crumbled and all their kin were put to shame.
Blessed is He who slew Death with His Cross.

O Giver of Life, who is able to explain the Mystery of Your Passion?
As You suffered on the Cross the dumb Creation bore witness
that in truth You are God who descended for our sake
and endured the Passion of Your own will.
You the Son who can never die, You tasted death,
and You were confined within the tomb as one who is dead,
while in the highest heaven You are life and You rule over all.

You gave us the pledge of the highest blessings, making us children.
You raised us from the dust and made us ascend with You to heaven.
And instead of a dwelling on earth You made us to dwell in Paradise.
Praise to You, Lord of Infinite Graciousness.
Praise to You from the mouths of thousands of thousands,
O Christ, Great Lover of those who turn to You.
Who could thank You for all these?

Our mouths are too small to sing Your glory.
Strengthen us for Your praise for how could we suffice?
Let Your love incline You to us
with the graciousness that sent You to our race.
Your kindliness provided all these.
Let intercession be made for us before You.
Give us a mind that does not wander and a heart that remembers,
that we may never withhold Your praise,
never forget the multitude of Your gifts.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Psalm 82 (81) God stands in the assembly of the angels...

RESPONSE
From the midst of the divine assembly God says: "You are Gods.
Yes, all of you are sons of the Most High.
Yet you shall die like other beings.
You shall fall down and die like all princes."

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Today sing praise to Him who tasted death of His own will
and rose from the tomb and raised up our race from the fall
and joined us with the companies of the heavenly ones,
that we might take our delight with them.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Good Shepherd who in His goodness went in search...
*As on the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.*327

Hymn
The Lion-cub of whom Jacob had prophesied
descended into the abyss of those who lay buried.
He killed Death the slayer, the killer of all generations.
Halleluia, blessed is He who killed Death.

When He came out of the tomb our Lord left behind
the new linen cloth and the burial shroud.
The Watcher sat on the side guarding the empty tomb,
halleluia, for Christ the King had risen with power.

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

On the victory of King David the Hebrew women sounded their timbrels
and sang praises. On this day, Sunday, the Watchers
and the women disciples praise the Son of God
and acclaim Him: "Halleluia, blessed is He who sent You."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The young maidens went out by thousands
when David had overthrown the power of Goliath.
And now the Churches praise with hymns the Son of David
who slew Death, halleluia, and broke down Sheol.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

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Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ who save us by Your Resurrection,
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

Make us worthy to sing to You with love,
on the day of Your Resurrection, O Son of God.
Your love brought You to the Cross, the Passion and Death.
With love we offer thanks to Your Father
who in His graciousness sent You to us.

Rejoice, O Adam, and sing praise,
and you Eve, exult and glory in the Lord's Resurrection.
David, sound your harp and announce
to the children of my people that our Lord is risen,
and that in His love He has delivered us from the Captor.

The Church rejoices and glories in Your Resurrection
which she was found worthy to experience.
May Your reconciliation remain firmly within her
and Your peace reign under her wings.
O You who betrothed her to Yourself, grant her Your gifts
in abundance, that she may celebrate Your festivals worthily.

Glory to the Bridegroom who prepared a feast
for the Church of believers and gave her His body and His blood
for the pardon of the sins of all her children.
Praise to Him.
Adoration to His Father.
And to His Holy Spirit the highest exaltation. Amen. Amen.

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Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

The Seventh Sunday of the Transfiguration of our Lord

14th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

O Door of Life by which the lost sheep of humankind return to the fold of blessedness, True Gate of Heaven brought down on earth, by which those who were carried away among the nations enter into the City of Repose, the Heavenly Jerusalem, where those who died in the faith rest free from all labour, renew in us that faith and trust which are becoming to the children of the Heavenly Father, that we may strive earnestly to get in through the narrow gate that leads to the Kingdom, and have a place in the Resurrection of Joy where God truly dwells among men and wipes away every tear from their eyes. And we will praise You with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 98(97) Sing to the Lord a new praise because He works wonders...

RESPONSE

All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of God.
Shout to the Lord, all the earth ring out your joy.
Sing psalms to the Lord, acclaim the Lord your King.

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In Your boundless love, our Lord,
You were lifted up on the summit of the Cross.
Pardon our offences and be gracious to all, O God.

By Your precious Cross, our Lord,
and by the blood that flowed from Your side,
pardon our offences and be gracious to all, O God.

By Your honourable burial, our Lord,
when You entered into the tomb,
pardon our offences and be gracious to all, O God.

May the sufferings which You endured for our sake
and by which we are delivered from the outer darkness
plead for us before Your Father.

Glory to You who by Your Resurrection rejoice the Church
which you espoused. Behold, she sings praise
to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Lord, we call upon You, answer us.
Listen to our cause and receive our prayer.

Blessed are You who in Your love tasted death
and by Your Resurrection liberated our race.

On the day of Your Resurrection, O Saviour of the world,
raise us up from our mortal state.

The nations and the children of the bridal feast
sing the praise of the Saviour of the whole creation.

Let us offer praise to the Father
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

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Praise...to the One Beloved Son, Effulgence of the Father...
*As on the First Sunday of the Transfiguration p.*318

Hymn

From the day our Lord was taken down from the Cross
and placed in the tomb, the children of darkness were terrorized,
for in their graves the dead felt that the thunder of the Resurrection
had sounded which would raise them from their sleep.

The guards arose, all trembling, in utter confusion and fear,
seeing that the tomb of the Son was empty though it had been sealed.
Truly this was a great marvel: the tomb had been sealed,
and He who had been buried there had arisen.
Truly a marvel for those who saw it.

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

The Creator who in His goodness fashioned the head of our race
humbled Himself and descended to visit him
among the dead and He promised to him,
"I am come to raise up your mortal state
and to restore you to your inheritance."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Your riddle has been solved, O Samson the Hebrew:
"Out of the bitter shall come forth sweetness
and out of the devourer comes food to those who believe."
It is now distributed in the Churches,
in the four quarters of the earth.

In Your bounty and love, Lord our Lord, make memory of the dead
who have eaten Your body and drank Your blood,
and who now rest and sleep in the hope of Your Name.
When You shall come to judge the peoples and the tribes,
raise them up, Lord, at Your right side.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Jesus, Sea of Tenderness and Compassion which cannot be fathomed,
Abyss of kindliness before all creatures,
when Your tenderness was moved over Adam Your image and likeness,

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You lowered Your height and You descended to the house of the dead.
And You took him, raising him up on Your shoulders
that he might have his place at the wedding feast of joy.

You who loved us and gave Yourself for us
as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God,
show us Your graciousness as You did to him, O Lord,
that we may rejoice and praise You like him, Christ,
Saviour of the world and Reconciliation of the whole creation.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son who by Your Transfiguration on the High Mountain
gloriously prefigured the Mystery of Your Resurrection,
keep Your Churches and strengthen them by Your Cross of light.

Prince of Peace who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God that passes all understanding,
give peace to Your Churches and to the whole creation.

Awake you that sleep, arise from the sleep in which you have fallen,
cast off the garment of the dead in the dwelling of Sheol,
rise gently and take the vesture in which you were clothed,
the vesture of glory from the house of the Father, and go forth.

The legions of fire and spirit stir in honour of the King,
and the ranks of Gabriel make a joyful noise before the Saviour. The heaven moves, descends, gathers to see the Awakened One who slept. prayed and awoke as He willed and rose as He was pleased to do.

And as morning came He dispelled the darkness.
God rose and His enemies were routed.
The Holy One did not taste corruption in Sheol when He went there and He did not remain in the dwelling of those who lay buried.

Glory to the Hidden One who revealed Himself for our sake,
and suffered and died in the flesh and rose with glory from the tomb.
The living and the dead offer thanks to You, our Lord, who saved them,
and to Your Father who sent You and to the Holy Spirit.
And may graciousness be on us.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Light shines forth for the just
and joy for all good men.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The just rejoice in the Lord and give thanks
for the memorial of His holiness.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 18:1—8 That we should always pray...

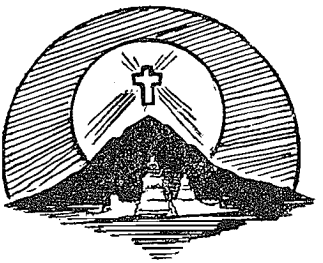
Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

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TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

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The Eighth Sunday of the Transfiguration of our Lord

15th after Pentecost

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Lord, send us Your grace that at all times we may offer You holy praises, well pleasing to You, above all on this glorious day, Sunday, on which the Holy Church, Your Bride, is exalted and crowned with heavenly glory, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 100 (99) Praise the Lord, all the earth...

RESPONSE
Sing joyfully to the Lord, all the earth.
Worship the Lord in gladness.
Enter His presence with songs of exultation.
Give thanks to Him and bless His Name.

Know that the Lord is God.
He made us and we are His.
The Lord is good and His love is everlasting.
His faithfulness endures to all generations.

Christ, when You were crucified at the centre of the universe
the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom
and the earth trembled in horror at seeing You pierced by the nails.
You are blessed for ever, O God of our fathers.

Arise and be illumined, New Jerusalem, for Christ your light
shines with glory from the tomb and enlightens the world
to its utmost bounds, and delivers our race from corruption.
You are blessed, Lord, God of our fathers.

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Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Lord, hear us. We call upon You with our whole being.
In Your graciousness, listen to our words and receive our prayers.

You who forgive sins, we beseech Your graciousness,
have compassion on us and on the whole world.

Lord, enlighten our hearts
with the glorious light of Your Saving Resurrection.

The Holy Church which You redeemed by Your blood,
now sings praise to You and confesses Your Name.

Enrich us, Lord, with Your hidden riches
and make us delight in them on this day of Your Resurrection.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the One Glorious and Perfect Nature...
*As on the Second Sunday of the Transfiguration, p.*332

Hymn
On Sunday Mary and her companion set out early for the tomb
with ointments and fragrant herbs to embalm the body
of the Uniquely Beloved Son, as John tells us.
When they reached there they saw great wonders:
two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had lain,
and the very large stone rolled away, and the angels announced,
"Christ the King is risen, as He said to His disciples."

Heaven and earth clap their hands with joy.
The Church of believers exults and offers hymns of praise,
for God is risen with glory from among the dead, and He brought back
the prisoners whom Death and Satan held from the beginning.
On the great day of His Resurrection from among the dead
He brings joy to all those who were in gloom.

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Moses the prince of prophets is in joy and gladness,
because the symbol of his staff has been made clear.
This staff which devoured two serpents and swallowed them
while remaining as it was, is the Cross of the Son of God,
which devoured Death and Satan. By His death He crushed their heads
and by His resurrection He cast them down. Come, you peoples,
who live by His blood, sing His glory, for He has saved you.

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

Among the hundred faithful sheep, here I am, the one who went astray.
The Evil One beguiled me by his cunning.
He led me in the path of deceit and there is no way left.
Good Shepherd, come to rescue me and carry me on Your shoulders,
that in the heights the companies of the angels may rejoice
and exult to see me, and likewise the Holy Church my mother,
whose crown of a hundred sheep I shall thus complete.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Son of the King, call the dead who have been waiting
for You to come and to raise up their bodies.
Your voice will give joy to those who had lost hope.
In Your compassion relieve their sufferings,
and as You joined them to You in holy baptism to be Your brothers,
bring that love to fulfilment for them who loved Your Holy Name,
making them enter with You the bridal feast of joy.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

We give thanks to You, Incense of Pardon for us.
We adore You, Lamb sacrificed for our sake
and who draw us to Yourself.
You enriched us by Your birth
and You pardoned us by Your baptism.
You sanctified us by Your fast
and You set us free by Your passion and Your death
and You raised us up by Your resurrection
and exalted us by Your ascension
and enriched us by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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Therefore, Lord our God,
may this incense of Your worshippers
be well pleasing to Your Godhead
and may the sweet scent of holy love rise from us
at all times, love for You and for one another,
and our tongues will multiply Your praises
and offer thanksgivings to You, the Uniquely Beloved Son,
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Transfiguration on the High Mountain
gloriously prefigured the Mystery of Your Resurrection,
keep Your Churches and strengthen them by Your Cross of light.

Prince of Peace, who are the peace of the nations,
the peace of God that passes all understanding,
give peace to Your Churches and to the whole creation.

The Son of God rose from the tomb with great power
and returned immortal, no more under the power of Death.
How truly, in His own person, He united
the mortal nature with that which is immortal.

He who was without body could not die, for this He needed a body.
The Word of the Eternal Father took a body from a daughter of David.
The Living One endured disgrace and suffering and death
in the human body in which He clothed Himself.

God gave the magnificent glory of the Godhead, without change,
to the body which He took from the Daughter of David.
He joined in a great battle when He was devoured by the Captor.
He fought with fortitude, enduring the passion until He died.

Glory to You, Living One, who did not see corruption when You died.
Thanksgiving to You, Father of truth, who consented to His death,
and to the Holy Spirit who did not allow our Pardon to see corruption.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
How we love Your word, O God!
Every day we ponder over it.

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Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In the past You spoke through the prophets and sages.
In this age You speak through Your Son,
the Radiance of Your Splendour and Glory.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 19:23–30 How hard for the rich to enter the Kingdom!

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday of the Transfiguration, p.*323

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

*Night Vigil as on the Second Sunday of the Transfiguration p.*337

The First Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

May the Light of Your Resurrection and the Epiphany of Your Goodness, Christ our God, comfort and rejoice all those who grope in the darkness of untruth and in the gloom of sin, and make them confess Your truth, that we all with them may offer a new praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 104 (103) Bless the Lord, my whole being...

RESPONSE
Bless the Lord, you His servants.
It is He who forgives all our guilt.
He crowns us with love and compassion.

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Praise for Your infinite graciousness
and for Your goodness, O our Saviour.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to the whole creation.

You were hung on the wood of the Cross
by a wicked and enraged mob.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to the whole creation.

You were raised to life with great wonder
and You rejoiced and gladdened heaven and earth.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to the whole creation.

Christ, You rose from the tomb
and the Church who saw Your Resurrection was exceedingly glad.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to the whole creation.

The Church, Your Bride, rejoices.
She sings glorious praises for Your Resurrection.
Lord, Lord of all, be gracious to the whole creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Today all the prophecies are fulfilled
and the Creation praises Christ who is risen.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

Today the companies of the Watchers in the heights descend
to the tomb of the Saviour and announce that Christ is risen.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

The women disciples hasten to the tomb with fragrant herbs
to embalm His body, but the angel says to them,
"Christ is risen from the tomb."

The nations sing praise to the Son of God
who by His glorious Resurrection from the tomb
fills the universe with His glory, with the splendour of His Divinity.

Today the nations sing praise to the Son of God
who by His Resurrection accomplished our salvation.
Come, let us bow down to Him in adoration.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the King of kings and Lord of lords, the Uniquely Beloved Son of the Father who redeemed us by His Passion, in His own person, and nailed our condemnation to the Cross, and tore up and cancelled the account of our sins with His Cross, and with His blood shed on Golgotha washed away our stains, and by His Resurrection raised up our fall, and made us ascend with Him to heaven, and made us sit at the right hand of His Father in glory. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

God of Gods, You called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting to the worship of the Cross, and from Jerusalem, by the passion You endured in the flesh, You revealed the glory of our faith. Glorious One, by Your self-contempt You manifested Your wisdom and the power of Your strength. Strong One, by Your weakness You make all power come to perfection. Mighty One, You bound the power of the sea with weak sand and You spread the friable earth over the waters. You redeemed the whole inhabited world by the humiliation of the Cross, and You cast down the Enemy and his powers and put an end to the malediction, and made the thief enter Paradise, and You restored the earthly Adam to the Kingdom of his first inheritance, removing the wall of enmity and reconciling those above with those below. By the humiliation of the Cross You made the earth heaven. You made the children of men mingle with the angels and gave them the knowledge of the truth and established the Holy Church. By the life-giving Cross You renew all the festivals of the Lord and You fulfil all the symbols of the sacrifices. By its symbol You calmed the flood in the days of Noah and its sign kept away the Destroyer from the firstborn of Israel and its figure divided the sea before the Hebrew people. We also, our Lord, sign ourselves with it upon our faces and we find our glory in You, Christ Saviour of all...

Therefore, by Your Cross, we beseech Your love of our human race that You will deliver us from all the passions of sin and clothe us with the armour of right living and of justice, and strengthen us with the mighty power of the Precious Cross, that by it we may conquer our

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spiritual enemies and defeat all their powers. And we will offer praise to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

O Church born on the Cross from the side of Christ,
exult and intone hymns of praise to the Son,
the Firstborn who humbled Himself for you,
and became a man of our race and made you His bride.
He filled the earth with His blessings,
endured the Cross and the Passion, and from the tomb
was raised in glory to the side of His Father.

Blessed is He who came to His own. But His own received Him not.
They made Him ascend the tree of the Cross and crucified Him
and put Him to derision as much as they could think of.
To heal their wounds He had His hands pierced with nails.
Blessed is He who put to shame those who crucified Him
and who chose the Holy Church, and now she sings praise to Him
who saved her and made her His bride.

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

The whole world to its boundaries rejoices for the Son of the King is risen. He has raised Himself from the tomb with glory and set free Adam and his children from the hands of the Evil One and from Death. He promised His Holy Church: "You shall be with Me where I shall be." In truth He has raised her up and placed her in the heights at the right hand of Him who sent Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

In His Gospel our Saviour calls all the nations to His marriage feast.
He is betrothed to the Holy Church to whom He has entrusted
His body and His blood most holy and set it in the sanctuary,
to be seen on the altar and partaken of with faith
and given for the pardon of sins
and for the inheritance of eternal life.

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May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places in Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Jesus, Incense of life which Death tasted and she perished,
and which the Evil One breathed and it choked him,
by Your scent Adam who was dead revived,
and the dead rose and worshipped You.

Receive this incense compounded of spices
which the Church Your bride presents to You
and grant that she who suffered with You in Your Passion
and was grieved by Your death, may rejoice in Your Resurrection,
exulting in Your rising from the tomb
and offering praise unceasingly for Your salvation.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

May Your peace be the strength of Your Churches who adhere to You.
May it drive away from them all evil, all divisions and rivalries.
By Your Cross uphold their high gates against all harm, dwell in them
and bless all their children and multiply their assemblies.

May Your calm guard the corner-stones of Your Churches.
May Your love be to them a wall of protection.
May Your peace be the light keeping watch at their doors.
May all who come and cross their threshold find peace.

May their choirs offer praise in good order and earnestness, with joy.
May they chant halleluia from the heart.
May the Cross be the powerful ensign of their people
and may they assemble from all parts to honour it.

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Glory to the Father who sent His Son to save us by the Cross.
Adoration to the Son who by it gives life to our death.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who crowns those who take up their Cross.
May the Cross be our light, our life and our salvation.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not want.
He leads us to green pastures.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He leads us besides the waters of peace.
He renews life within us.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 17:20–37 The Kingdom of God is within you...Like a lightning-flash will the Son of Man be when His day comes...

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation."

Christ our God who ascended the Cross out of love for us, and by Your life-giving death brought salvation to the world, grant eternal life to all those who seek You with all their heart, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Christ our God who by Your Cross cast the fire of Your love on the earth and longed for it to be enkindled, grant us ever to cling to Your truth and to walk in Your light, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy Father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

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Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all men, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

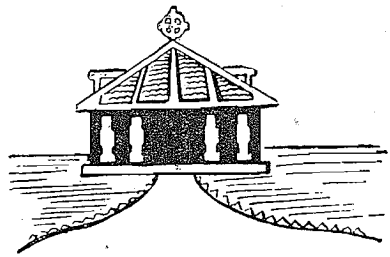
Concluding Prayer

Christ God, our Saviour, grant that at all times we may remember Your death on the Cross and Your Life-giving Resurrection, and all the great things You have done for us, that we may bear good fruits in our lives by which You will be glorified, our Lord and God, and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

With those from on high, the heads of the angelic powers,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You.
Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

With the Winged Creatures we bless You, O Lover of Humankind.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, and with the angels
we bow to You in adoration. Glory to You, Creator of all creatures.

The women hasten to the glorious tomb with fragrant herbs.
They are weeping. But they meet an angel who says to them:
"Christ is risen from the tomb."

The Firstborn of the Father is now the Firstborn from among the dead.
Rising with glory He rejoices the earth and gladdens the heaven.
The heavenly ones and the earthly ones offer praise to Him.

It is good to offer glory, honour, adoration and the highest exaltation
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, one true God.
To Him be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 84 (83) How lovely is Your dwelling-place, Lord, Almighty...

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RESPONSE

God of all cosmic forces, our King and our God,
how blessed are those who dwell in Your house
and sing glory to You near Your altars!
How blessed are those whose refuge is in You
and from whose hearts wells up Your praise!

Saviour of all, who cancelled the sentence of the bitter writing,
and made an end of it by nailing it on the Cross,
and in Your goodness brought to naught the power of Death,
we confess, adore and praise Your Glorious Resurrection
in which is our salvation.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise....

Praise...to Him who is immortal and not subject to passions, who by His death for our sake raises us up from death, and by His Resurrection from the tomb bestows on us incorruption, and delivers us from the malediction incurred on account of the transgression of the commandment. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Strong One who are glorious in Your magnificance, Being before all creatures, Eternal One who humbled Yourself and descended to the earth and endured all our human lot and were wrapped in grave clothes and in a linen cloth and shut up in a tomb for three days, Immortal One and life of the world, Breath of every living creature who came to suffering and crucifixion in Your wondrous love for humankind, above in the heights You cause the ranks of the Watchers to tremble in adoration, and below they set guards over You lest You should be stolen by the company of Your apostles. Above in the heights the glorious heart of the Godhead is enlarged with You, and below in place of singing the triple Amen, they wrap in a shroud the Lord of Creation. Above You signal to the Watcher to roll the stone from the tomb swiftly, and below the women carry spices and fragrant herbs to embalm Your body as for one who is dead.

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Therefore we beg and beseech You, Christ who do wonders, have compassion on us. Make us share in Your Resurrection worthy of God. Clothe us in joy like the company of the apostles. Bestow on us Your peace. Like the thief, make us to inherit Your Kingdom and grant us to be worthy of the marriage chamber, that with the chosen ones of Your grace we may offer praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed is the Son of the King who lowered Himself
and tasted death. The Freeborn was in Sheol for three days
to fulfil the sayings and utterances of the prophets
that the Living One would rise from the house of the dead.
Blessed is He who sent Him.

Blessed is the Firstborn who rose from the tomb with glory
and the guards became heralds of His Rising. By His Resurrection
He confounded those who did not believe in Him and He chose
the nations to carry His body and His blood in procession.

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

Let the Churches rejoice today and sing praise to the Living One
who slept in the house of the dead while He remained awake.
On the day of His Resurrection He makes peace abound for His children
that they may carry His body and His blood in procession
and be sanctified by it.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Come you peoples from all the corners of the earth and sing praise to the Strong One who cannot be spoken of by unbelieving inquirers. The heavens stand in wonder before Him of whom the prophet cried out:
"How did You make the Daughter of the Hebrews the bride
of her Lord?"

MEDITATION

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SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.&

Psalm 90 (89) Lord, You have been our habitation...

RESPONSE
In the morning fill us with Your love,
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.
Show forth Your work to Your servants.
Let Your glory shine upon their children.

The heavens adore the Father
and the earth sings praise to the Uniquely Beloved Son.
Angels and men offer glory to the Holy Spirit.
Let us join in their praise and sing glory with them.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise....

Praise...to the Everlasting Peace who by His own blood brought peace to all that is in heaven and all that is on earth, reconciling His Father and His Spirit with the people who had provoked Him, and making a full and perfect redemption for the human race, and by His Cross put and end to the dominion of Death and made His light to reign everywhere and in all regions. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Praise to You, Christ the True Light, who suffered for us the Passion in the flesh of Your own will, and by Your Redeeming and Life-giving Cross delivered us from the dominion of the Enemy, and taught us to honour the Wood that bore You, and by it to serve You and worship You. Therefore we cry out with joy, "Blessed is the Wood of Life, the Holy Cross, which is the bearer of Glorious Mysteries, the bestower of all righteousness, the uprooter of all pride, the giver of joy to those in sorrow and the fountain of salvation for the whole world...You are the tree of life which was planted in the Garden of the Paradise of God, and now You were seen on Golgotha. You gave to Abraham a lamb to be offered in sacrifice instead of Isaac, and You held on high the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. You are the sign

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which kept the Destroyer from the houses of Your people, and now You have become a sign for the nations. By You the sea was divided before Moses, and the waves of sin before Simon. You caused the water to flow from the rock and gave to drink, and now Your drink gives joy to all nations. You are the token of deliverance from the flight before the bow. You are the sign of victory in war. By You Amalek was conquered and by You sin is proved wrong. By You are accomplished all glorious signs and all wondrous miracles: the staff which budded and gave fruit, and the sweet cluster full of all life and salvation. You are the candlestick which makes to shine the crown of the Church in the midst of the eternal and inaccessible light. You are the necklace upon her neck. By You the sacrifice of our lips and the fragrant incense of our minds is perfected."

Therefore we pray that by You peace may come to us and joy be bestowed upon the whole Creation. By You may the Churches be strengthened to witness to the Gospel...By You may we journey to the house of life and there with open faces and lighted lamps offer praise and thanksgiving to the Lord Christ who was crucified on You in the flesh, and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Admirable is the Son of God who descended to Sheol like a spy,
clothed in the garment of our mortal nature.
He entered Sheol among the dead like every other man,
and when He had accomplished His purpose
He rose from the tomb and drove away its master.
Those from on high saw it and angels clothed in white
descended in His honour and announced to the apostles,
"He goes before You into Galilee as He promised."

Today the whole creation thrills with joy and offers praise
because the Son of God has risen with glory from the tomb.
He is magnified on His throne above all Powers and Dominions.
The Church of believers contemplates Him on the altar.
He is offered in sacrifice and becomes our food.
The cup is mixed for the forgiveness of sins
and each day she takes her delight in it,
as if rejoicing with Him in His Heavenly Kingdom.

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

King of the heights, the earth is full of Your glory.
You are magnified on the throne of honour
and Your Sovereignty is established for ever.
In Your tenderness be compassionate towards the whole world.
Keep away floods and droughts, famine and wars.
Forgive our sins and our faults, Lord, and may we all be filled
with Your calm and peace and love that we may chant glory and always
offer thanks to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Christ our Saviour, when the wood of the Cross appeared
it cast out the Enemy and abolished death
and gave the light of true knowledge to the world.
The Cross is the glory of the Churches and of all Your worshippers.
But, behold, the nations also revere it
for the children of men find in it the meaning of life.
The Churches embrace it and worship it
and meditate upon this token of Your unfathomable love.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

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Christ, who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

On this holy day, our Lord, adorn us with a good life.
On this day of joy, our Lord, call us to Your wedding feast.
On this Holy Passover gladden us with the pardon of our faults.
Make Your peace reign among us and protect us by Your Cross.

On the day of Your holy feast, our Lord,
give us Your peace and tranquillity.
On this holy day of joy let what is new replace what is old.
On this day make the new light shine, Lord who enlighten all.

On this day of forgiveness give us the pardon of our faults.
On this feast of peace, our Lord, give us a full measure of Your peace.
Drive away from us envy and all deceit,
and fill us with love and compassion.

Remove from us pride, the root that bears all evils
and make us grow in humaility, the mother of all good things,
that we may praise You, O Humble One, gracious and gentle,
and Your Father who sent You for our salvation
and the Holy Spirit, at all times.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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The Second Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

We adore You, Renewer of the oldness of our race. We exalt You, Firstborn of the Eternal Father who became the Firstborn from among the dead. We beseech Your Graciousness that You will not blot us out from Your Book of Life on account of our sins, the Book in which we were entered as brothers and sons, the fruit of Your Resurrection, by which You are most beautifully glorified, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, Christ, the hope of our lives and our Saviour, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 104 (103) Bless the Lord, O my soul...

RESPONSE

We bless You, Lord, with our whole being.
You are very great indeed, clothed in majesty and splendour.
We give thanks to You for Your manifold works.

You water the mountains from Your dwelling-place on high.
You make grass grow for the cattle and plants for our needs:
food to sustain our hearts and oil to make our faces shine.

You who by Your Resurrection gladden heaven and earth,
rejoice Your Church and protect her children by Your Cross.
O God, be gracious to the whole Creation.

Those who crucified You were put to shame. Those who believe in You sing praise, the Church whom You made Your bride.
O God, be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Those who crucified You were confounded by the Good Tidings,
but the women disciples rejoiced and the apostles exulted when they met.
O God, be gracious to the whole Creation.

When You were struck by the soldier's spear You blunted the spear
of the Winged Creature and opened Eden for Adam and his children.
O God, be gracious to the whole Creation.

Glory to the Father who created us
and to the Son who redeemed us by His Cross
and to the Holy Spirit who raises us from the dust.
O God, be gracious to the whole Creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

This truly is a festal and holy day,
this day, Sunday, the feast of the Lord,
the greatest of all feasts,
the mystical solemnity above all solemnities.
On it we offer praise to Christ, unceasingly.

On Sunday like a sleeper the Lord rouses Himself
with mighty and infinite power from the house of the dead,
He puts fear into the guards and says to the women,
"Go, tell the disciples, 'Your Lord is risen,
He goes before you into Galilee. It is there that you will see Him.' "

On Sunday the women disciples take spices and fragrant herbs.
They go to the tomb and find it open
and an angel sitting there turns to them saying,
"Why do you look for the Living One among the dead,
for Him who is life itself, for ever and ever?"

On Sunday all what the prophets had written is fulfilled. The Lord
awakes as from sleep and rises from the tomb with great power.
He descends into Sheol and rejoices Adam and his children
and gladdens His dejected disciples,
He who is life itself, for ever and ever.

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This is truly the Hidden Mystery kept secret from ages and generations.
Our Lord reveals it to the Twelve and instructs them
that they might break His holy body and drink His blood
and distribute them to the whole Creation,
the new life for ever and ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Peace of those above and the Salvation of those below, to the Brightness and Splendour of those in heaven and the Radiance and Light of those on earth, to the One Beloved Son of the Father who stretched Himself out on the Cross of His own will, and by His Cross put to shame the Principalities and Powers. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

When we fix the eyes of our minds on the glorious memory of the beloved Cross we are filled with wonder in our hearts at the beauty which radiates from it. We celebrate its festival with hymns of praise and exaltation. We marvel at the good things which flow from it at all times and we receive from it healing of our sufferings. We are given help from it and we pluck courage and strength. We rejoice at the glorious and unspeakable mysteries of the Life-giving Cross for by its sign, victory is obtained in the face of the Enemy. The Cross is an object of scorn and contempt for those who mock at it and deride its worshippers, but it is the pride and exaltation of those who worship it. Let us therefore today exult with the apostles and with Paul cry and say, "Far be it from me to glory except in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ," because it is the token of salvation. Today let the Holy Church keep festival like the queen at the right hand, because she is truly redeemed by the Cross of her Bridegroom...Today let us all together celebrate and honour the Holy and Life-giving Cross with songs of praise, because we are saved by its sufferings...The Cross is the sign dreaded by the demons. It terrifies the evil spirits. The Cross is participation in the life of the Father and the Holy Spirit. By the Cross those above are joined and united with those below...By the Cross the people learn to worship in spirit and in truth.

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Therefore we also worship the Cross. We praise Jesus who was crucified upon it. We exalt His Good and All-blessed Father. We give glory to His Life-giving and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

My Lord and My God has prepared a feast, says the Church
of believers, but the unbeliever cannot partake
of the Banquet of Life offered in sacrifice,
for Jesus has truly commanded and said:
"Whoever comes to you without being reborn of water and the Spirit
cannot partake of the Mystery that is shared between you and Me."

On Sunday the Watchers in the heights descend
beside the tomb of Christ the King, and there
they sing glory with hymns of the Holy Spirit.
God has risen from the tomb, all His enemies are scattered.
He has vanquished those who crucified Him,
and He has planted the Church of the nations
and now all their children bow before Him.

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

The Church says to Christ: "By Your humiliation You exalt us.
By Your Cross, O my God, You set us free from deceit and untruth.
By Your Death You save us from death.
By Your Resurrection You give us life.
By Your Ascension You lift us up to heaven beside Your Father.
Glory to You who love us so much."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Prophet Isaiah calls the Daughter of the Nations:
"Arise, O Church, arise clothed in light, for Your light has come.
Bride of the Most High may your doors be wide open,
by night and by day, that the kings may enter with their crowns
and the judges with all the signs of their power
and the peoples may chant your praise."

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Lord, magnify the memory of our fathers and brothers who are at rest.
Lord, deign to place Your worshippers
in the ranks and among the number of Your saints.
And when You sit on Your throne to separate the good from the wicked may we experience Your compassion be and place when You judge at Your right hand, while rejoicing and chanting Your praise.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Child born of the Father before the worlds, a divine birth,
hidden from those above and those below,
by Your birth in a body You experienced time
and the day of Your birth was revealed at Bethlehem,
Your growing up in Judaea and Your baptism in the Jordan,
Your victory in the desert, Your teaching in Jerusalem,
Your Mystery in the upper room, Your burial in the evening,
Your rising at night, and in the morning
the revelation of Your Resurrection,
the Good News to the nations
and also the proclamation to the world.

Your throne is in heaven
but Your authority extends to the heights and the depths.
The Church is glorified by Your Dispensation.
Your priests offer You sweet spices of incense,
before Your altar, receive them in Your goodness.
Make us enter into the rest of Him who sent You
and give pardon to all those who believe in You.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

May the peace which rests in You come to the Holy Church.
May it drive away all evil and make to cease divisions and rivalries.
By Your Cross uphold her high gates against her adversaries.
Dwell in her, bless her people and multiply her assemblies.

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May Your calm keep the cornerstones of Your Churches.
May Your love be to them a high wall of protection.
May Your peace be the light keeping watch at their doors,
that whoever crosses their threshold may find peace there.

May their assemblies resound not with strife, but with praises.
May they make their halleluias to ascend from the heart.
May the Cross be the high refuge of their people
and may they assemble from all parts to honour it.

Glory to the Father who built the Church and who guards her.
Adoration to the Son who by His death has prepared a banquet for her.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who gathers her and makes her
worship in spirit and in truth. And now praises resound in her
to the Uniquely Beloved Son who rose from the tomb.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Give thanks to the Lord with all your heart,
in the Church, with the wisdom of the just.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
"I saw a figure like the Son of Man," said John,
"His head and His hair white as snow,
His eyes like a burning flame
and His voice like the sound of the ocean."
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 15:1-11 How can you break God's commandments on the pretext of traditions created out of selfishness?

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on the First Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, p.400

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the thre fold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy" ar You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

At the Resurrection of the King Christ Watchers and angels rejoice
and on earth the sons of men offer praise and thanksgiving.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday the Lion of whom Jacob prophesied roars in Sheol.
Its foundations quake. The dead rise and sing praise to the Godhead.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On Sunday, O Holy Church, bow down in adoration with joy
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, One true God.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 93 (92) The Lord reigns. He is magnificent...

RESPONSE
The waters have lifted up, O Lord,
the waters have lifted up their voice,
the waters have lifted up their thunder.
Greater than the roar of mighty waters,
more glorious than the surgings of the sea,
the Lord is glorious on high.

When You were fastened with nails on the Cross, O our Saviour,
adorned with a crown of thorns and a garment of derision,
the sting of the Evil one was removed
and the thorns of disobedience of our father Adam uprooted.
Because of this we sing praise, saying: "Blessed are You
who by Your Cross deliver and save the people who believe in You."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is immortal and not subject to passions...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.*403

Hymn
On this day the Watchers descend from heaven
to the tomb of the Son and they find it empty.
They announce to the apostles:
"The Son of the King is risen, halleluia, halleluia,
who gains the victory for your race."

Glory to the Son of the Good One
who endured the Cross and death for the sake of the Church.
He saves her from untruth and He gives her His body and His blood
for the forgiveness of sins, halleluia, halleluia,
that she may never be shaken.

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

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Isaiah calls the Christ, "The Lamb sacrificed for all."
And John says of Him, "There is the Lamb of God."
For by Him the peoples obtain life, halleluia, halleluia,
with the truth that sets them free.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Be glad and leap for joy, O Church, Bride of the Most High,
you are magnified by Christ and marked out in heaven
on the palm of His hands. Offer praise to Him
halleluia, halleluia, who exalts you by His Resurrection.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 95 (94) Come, sing praise to the Lord, sing to our God...

RESPONSE
The Lord is a great God,
the Great King over all Gods.
In His hand are the depths of the earth.
The heights of the mountains are His.

May the Church who rejoices on the day of Your Resurrection
be gladdened by Your coming in glory, O Lord,
Make her worthy of the heavenly resting place,
on the day of the manifestation of Your Sovereignty.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Everlasting Peace who by His own blood brought peace,
As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p. 405

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Hymn
Who will be able to tell the things happen on this day?
The Father in heaven rejoices.
Death in its lair is groaning.
The heavenly ones bow in adoration to His body
which the earthly ones had dishonoured.

On Sunday Your Church contemplates You, O Lord,
and bows to Your Cross in adoration.
And she says with a loud voice, "Glory to You,
Son of the Exalted One who came and delivered the Creation.
And by Your Cross comes salvation.

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

Let us rejoice and exult and offer praise when our Lord
rises from the tomb and ascends to Him who sent Him,
to the throne which He had never left.
They bow to Him in adoration
the orders of the Watchers of fire and spirit.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On Sunday Moses adorned the tabernacle for Israel.
On Sunday our Lord adorns His Church in the four quarters of the earth
and He offers in her His body and His blood
for the nourishment of all her children.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p. 11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who deliver us by Your resurrection.

Christ, who save us by Your resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Come all you peoples and hear the marvel which the Exalted One
has done for the sake of Adam, the earthly one.
He lowered Himself to self-abasement
in order to restore Adam to the place he had lost
when the Devil, out of envy, drove him out.

The Uniquely Beloved Son of the Hidden Father
descended and became man of His own will.
He died on the Cross for us all to save us from death.
The Free-born, entered the house of the dead
and gave life to the dead, and ascended.

How much You humbled Yourself in Your goodness!
How much You lowered Yourself out of compassion!
Who ascended the Cross of shame
that You might remove the shame of our humanity.
You were laid in the tomb like a dead man
that You might give us the new life.

Come, let us sing praise to Christ
who rose today from the tomb,
and offer thanksgiving to His Father
who sent Him to give us life.
A shout of joy to the Holy Spirit.
And on us graciousness and tender love.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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The Third Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Prince of Peace and Adorable God, True Lord who are adored and praised by those above, do You, Lord, grant that we may offer You deep adorations and earnest thanksgivings and sincere praises and glorify You with our whole being, that we may be worthy of the crown of victory from Your blessed right hand, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 105 (104) Give thanks to the Lord for He is good...

RESPONSE

God mighty for evermore ascended the Cross.
The Creaiton shook, the ar was horrified.
Its foundations quaked, the rocks split apart
and the sealed tombs burst wide open,
at seeing the shame of their Lord,
the Lord of glosry crucified for our sins...
Let us all bless and praise and thank Him,
Christ the High Priest Supreme, for ever and ever.

The Watchers spread the news of life,
they comfort the holy women saying to them:
"The Son of the King is risen,
and by His Glorious Resurrection from among the dead
He has raised up Adam also from within the lower regions.
Go, tell the apostles who are weeping and lamenting:
'Go with joy into Galilee to take your pleasure in the sight of Him'."
Let us all bless and praise and thank Him,
Christ the High Priest Supreme, for ever and ever.

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Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Your goodness made You stoop and lower Yourself to sinners, Lord.
In Your goodness be compassionate to Your Church
who, with You, was fastened to the arms of the Cross.

Christ who rose from among the dead
with infinite power and glory, in Your tender love, our Lord,
raise us up from the abyss of our disgrace.

Christ who by Your rising to life rejoiced
those in heaven and those on earth, rejoice us all
by Your Resurrection and make us stand at Your right hand.

On Sunday our Lord adorns His Church in the four quarters of the earth
by giving her His body and His blood,
the Mystery of the supreme fulfilment of His love.

Let us offer thanks to the Father in His Uniquely Beloved Son,
and adore the Son in Him who sent Him,
and say all together, "Praise to the Holy Spirit."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the King of the heights who dwelt in the depths, the King of heaven who descended on earth to save the human race. He who is borne by the Winged Creatures was borne upon the Cross of shame, the Lord of the Fiery Ones was fastened with nails. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

While we honour Your Holy Cross in the newness of the Holy Spirit, O Prince of Peace who were crucified for our sake, in the awareness of Your Greatness we celebrate the Mystery of the Crucifixion which for those who have gone astray is folly, but to all who believe it is Christ, the Power and Wisdom of God. You are the Tree of life to those who trust in You. You are the Green Wood which, according

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to the holy word, was healing to those who were dried up in wickedness. When You were hung on the Cross like a criminal to become our justification, You revealed as blessed the Cross on which You were seen. You are the Tree of Life in the centre of the inhabited world, just as You were also seen by Abraham, our father, as the ram in the thicket. You are He who were seen by Jacob on the top of the ladder, who also signified the innumerable likenesses of the Life-giving Cross by the branches with white stripes, planted near the drinking spots... O Christ You are He who were signified by the serpent which was lifted up in the wilderness and You were prefigured by the staff which worked wonders. Moses Your servant signified You when by stretching out his hands he won the victory over Amalek. You are the Mystery which was hidden from the worlds, and at the end of time was made manifest in the flesh and seen by the angels and preached to the Nations, when You caught the wise by means of the foolish, and subdued the strong by the weak. You are He who by Your blood made the earthly ones join with the heavenly ones and gloriously renewed our race which was grown old in corruption... You are the height and the depth and the length and the breadth which we seek to apprehend with all the saints. You are the jot and the tittle which shall not pass away from the Law until all shall be accomplished by it. It is You that we will behold when You will appear with Your Cross in the East like a lightning, on the last day.

Therefor we beseech You, Lord, who did new things without end for our salvation, even to endure death on the cross, that You will make to shine upon us the radiance of Your Goodness. Renew us with the gentle showers of Your blessings. And while You make us anew with the lofty gifts which flow from Your Cross, we will offer adoration and praise, supplication and thanksgiving, to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

In heaven myriads and myriads of Watchers hallow Your Name
and thousands and thousands of angels stand in honour of Your Glory.
But in Your love You humbled Yourself to receive honour from simple mortals. The heavenly ones cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy" are You,
and the children of the Churches of believers
take Your body and Your blood.

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The Holy Church invites the nations to her marriage feast
and immolates the victim which has been set apart.
She mixes her wine to be offered to drink and she places on the table
in the sanctuary what she has prepared. She sends her servants
to assemble the peoples from the four quarters of the earth that they
may take their pleasure in her good things and inherit eternal life.

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

Today heaven and earth and all that they contain rejoice,
but the wicked who hung God on the Cross are in confusion,
for He has risen with glory. He has ascended to the side
of Him who sent Him. He has delivered Adam and his children
from the hands of insatiable Death and has given joy to His disciples
who were sorrowing on account of His death.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Rejoice and exult, O Church of believers, because your Bridegroom
has risen from the tomb leaving the guards in disarray.
He has risen with glory rejoicing heaven and earth.
Glory to Him who so humbled Himself for guilty Adam.
He blotted out his sins by the crucifixion
and ascended to Him who sent Him.

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and shall not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

We praise Your graciousness, Good Lord,
who appeared among the earthly ones and who offered Yourself
to Your Father as a sacrifice of reconciliation.
Prince of Life, You became for us a victim for the pardon of sins,
and by Your holy blood-shed on the Cross You did away
with the condemnation of the race of mortal men.
You are the Medicine for the forgiveness of offences

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sent by Your Father to heal our wounds.
By Your Passion You heal the passions of our souls.
You are the Christ, the Door of Pardon for us.

Through You, Lord, may the incense of our prayer enter into
the holy temple of Your good pleasure, and may we receive from You
the pardon of offences and the forgiveness of our faults, that
on the day of Your manifestation we may confess Your graciousness.
And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You at all times.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity,
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Son of God was three days in the tomb. He pulled down
and dismantled all the high walls of Sheol. The Mighty One
demolished the fortress of Death which had risen against Him
and liberated the prisoners who were shut up there.

Like a diver He descended into the lake of the dead
with all gallantry, and brought back the dead bodies.
He restored them to life and made them return to His dwelling.
Descending into the abyss He found Adam in chains.
He unloosed him and made him ascend to Paradise instead of being lost.

In the depths of the earth he saw Eve all together crushed.
He went to her and led her out of the gloomy dwelling-places,
and placed her in the dwelling of His Father.
He cast Himself into the immense gulf filled with the dead
and proclaimed: "Dead, you have life, return to your true dwelling."

Glory to the Father who raised up His Son with great glory.
Adoration to the Son who of His own will died and rose again.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who with Him raised up all saints.
And they entered Jerusalem and appeared to many,
causing terror among the people who had not believed in Him.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
O God, all day we will praise You.
We will give thanks to Your Name unto eternity.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
I saw a figure like a son of man, said John,
His head and His hair white as snow,
His eyes like a burning flame
and His voice like the sound of the ocean.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 18:23–35 Forgive your brother from your heart.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

As on the First Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross p. 400

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Awake, sinner, while there is time for conversion.
With tears of compunction and sighs of repentance,
let us cleanse and remove all the stains of our sins,

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We who have sinned cannot turn away from repentance.
Our Lord turns with love to those who repent,
and now He forgives us our transgressions.

On the night of Sunday,
the day on which our Saviour rose from the tomb,
let us all awake from sleep to sing praise to Him.

Our Lord, when You will come forth for Your manifestation,
on the day when You will appear, may we meet You,
like the holy women who went to embalm Your body.

Burst forth into song, O Church of believers,
sing praise to your Betrothed who rose from the tomb.
Lord of all, to You be praise.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 134 Praise the name of the Lord, you servants of the Lord...

RESPONSE
Praise the Lord for He is good.
Sing a psalm to His Name for He is loving.
The Lord has compassion on His servants.

Christ who in Your graciousness humbled Yourself
and became man for our salvation, set us free from our debts
and in Your goodness, be gracious to all.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is immortal and not subject to passions...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, First Watch, p.*403

Hymn
Blessed is the Living One who by His Rising gives life to the dead.
Blessed is the Good One who tasted death of His own will
and by His Resurrection slew Death that had slain us,
and made us ascend with Him to heaven to the Father who sent Him.

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Holy Church of believers, rise and sing praise to the Beloved Son
who suffered for your sake and saved you by His blood.
He descended to Sheol and announced the Resurrection there.
He rose with glory from the tomb and restored Adam to life.

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

David, the son of Jesse, prefigured for us beforehand
the Son, the Free-born who snatched away the booty
out of the clutches of the Adversary
and put an end to the tyranny of greedy Death.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The light that shone from Him enlightened all, like a lamp
in the deep recesses of Sheol, and it shone forth from there.
By the brilliance of the light, the power of Death was taken away,
and all who were dejected became cheerful and sang praise.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 135 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good...

RESPONSE
O give thanks to the Lord for He is good.
He brought His people out of slavery
and His love endures for ever.

King Christ who by Your Resurrection enlighten the inhabited world,
shine brightly on us all that we may sing praise to You.
And be gracious to the whole world.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Everlasting Peace who by His own blood brought peace.
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, Second Watch, p.*405

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Hymn
Christ who by Your Cross reconcile heaven and earth and all
that is in them, and by Your Resurrection enlighten the 4 quarters
of the earth, give peace to Your Church, O our Saviour,
and gladden her children with the hope of the resurrection.

Today the Mighty One bound Death with great power
and snatched away her booty, our father, the first Adam.
He tread down Sheol the devourer,
pulled down its fortress and destroyed its foundations.

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

Glory to You, Lord, who in Your graciousness lowered Yourself
for our salvation, endured the passion and the crucifixion
and tasted death for our sake and made Adam and his children
return to the Paradise from which they had been driven out.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

May the fragrance of our prayer be pleasing to You, our Lord, like
the good odour of fragrant spices, and the incense of Your servants
be acceptable to the honour of Your Godhead, and forgiveness
be bestowed on us on this day, from the treasury of Your graciousness.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p. 9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who deliver us by Your Resurrection,

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Christ, who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Blessed is He who lowered His Majesty
and descended into the lake of misery.
He visited Adam in the house of the dead
and holding out His hand raised him to life.

Brothers, let us rejoice on this day, Sunday,
and set aside all the cares of this world,
for the Great Salvation has come to us
through the coming of Christ.

Blessed is the Life-giving One who by His Resurrection
brings us the resurrection and the new life.
Blessed is He who gives us His body and His blood,
the pledge of the new life.

How beautiful is the praise that rises
from the mouths of the children of the Church!
In it they mingle with the Watchers
in the spiritual service of their Lord and God.

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ, who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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The Fourth Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

We adore You, Renewer of our race that has grown old.
We exalt You, Firstborn of the Eternal Father,
who became the Firstborn from among the dead.
We beseech Your graciousness
that on account of our wrongdoing
we may not be blotted out of the Holy Book in which we were entered
as brothers and sons of the resurrection of life
by which You are so beautifully glorified
with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit.
In Your graciousness, Lord, blot out our sins
and in Your compassion pass over our transgressions
and we will praise Your boundless love at all times,
Christ, hope of our life and Saviour of all,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 106 (105) Praise the Lord for He is good...

RESPONSE

You who rose with glory from among the dead
and who give us also the hope of the resurrection,
be gracious to the whole Creation, O God.

You who on the day of Your Resurrection
rejoice exceedingly the Church whom You made Your bride,
be gracious to the whole Creation, O God.

You who descended and dwelt in the inner recesses of Sheol,
and on the third day rose and gave life to the world,
be gracious to the whole Creation, O God.

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The heavens rejoice at Your victory, our Lord,
and thc earth exults on the day of Your Resurrection,
be gracious to the whole Creation, O God.

Glory to the Father
and thanksgiving to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit honour and adoration,
one true God.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Jesus, we have come together to celebrate the evening service.
We offer this spiritual service to You who in Your graciousness,
were pleased to manifest to us Your incredible love and tenderness
by Your Resurrection truly befitting God.

Lord, our Lord, we pray You, do not leave us,
nor dismiss us from Your presence, who in Your graciousness
were pleased to manifest to us Your incredible love and tenderness
by Your Resurrection truly befitting God.

Rejoice exceedingly, Holy Jerusalem, Mother of all Churches,
glorious dwelling place of God who were the first
to receive the gift of the pardon of sins,
by the power of the Resurrection of Christ.

Make to cease divisions in Your Church and strengthen her,
to be an instrument of peace in the four quarters of the earth.
Increase in her peace and tranquillity and keep her by Your Cross,
that her children may cry out in their assemblies,
"Glory to You, Lord, and to Him who sent You."

In Your graciousness receive the evening praises which we offer to You.
Give us the light that comes from the keeping of the commands.
Do not let the sun go down on our faults, nor ever withdraw from us,
that we may be strong and make our steps firm on the right path,
free from the snares of the Enemy, and we will call on You from
the depths of our hearts, "Hear us, Lord, Great Lover of Humankind."

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Saviour, who by His Cross revealed what remained hidden in the mysteries of the prophets, and caused to become and to accomplish the parables of the seers, who made to come true the prefigurations of the ancients, and made illustrious the sayings of the preachers, and gave power to the word of the evangelists and they proclaimed His Gospel to the four quarters of the earth, and assembled the nations for the celebration of His glory. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

While we take refuge in the Cross of Your Glory and in the exaltation of Your Godhead, O Word of God, Lord and Maker of all, and when we meditate with the inner eye on the Glorious Mystery of Your manifestation which You had made known beforehand to the prophets, the seers and the revealers of Your coming, we acknowledge You as the Creator and Fashioner of all things visible and invisible. We believe that You are our Saviour and the Renewer of our creation. We recognise You as the Tree of Life and the Immortal Fruit which You Yourself made to grow as a sign in the middle of Paradise. For the Cross is the giver of life and the sower of peace, the uprooter of error and the destroyer of sin, the sign of victory and the token of redemption. By the wood of the Cross which is the origin and the source and the fountain-head of all good things, You called us and You drew us all to the heavenly condition from which we were stripped by the eating and bitter tasting of the fruit of the tree, and by it You fgathered the nations...and You drew them to worship You in spirit and in truth...And we also while the eyes of our hearts are enlightened by the bright rays of the Mystery of the Holy Cross, we are renewed spiritually in our thoughts and in our understanding, and we beseech You that You will quicken in us the faith which You make to shine forth from Your Cross. You, the Saviour and the Overseer of all, at the end of time became man without change for our salvation, and You were hung outstretched on the wood of the Cross. By Your Passion You crucified sin, You put Death to death and You tore up the record of offences which was written against us. You bound the Prince of Darkness and You tempered the bitterness of the deadly Serpent by

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Your Passion. On account of this we offer glorious praises as we say: "O the depth of the Mystery of the Life-giving Cross by which new things are accomplished and the old are renewed. On the Cross was hung the Son of God who takes away the sin of the world and saves it."

Therefore we bring an instant petition before You, that You may grant us that while we keep this Great and Ineffable Festival with joy, and while we exult with the heavenly assembly and all the blessed, we may meet You, the Tree of Life, and pluck You, the Fruit of Immortality. And with the assemblies of the redeemed we will raise the voice of praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today the joyful news runs through the camp of the Redeemed:
"Death is dead and on the summit of Golgotha, the Rebel is crushed
by the Cross of Life, and by it we obtain salvation.
For us the Tree of the Cross is a bridge that takes us to Paradise.
It bears a fruit which is sweet to the palate while the other fruit
by which we were driven out of Paradise tasted bitter.
Blessed is Christ who is risen from among the dead
and brings joy to heaven and earth, halleluia,
on the day of His Resurrection.

Blessed is the Slain who has slain Satan
and who has rescued the captives from his hands.
He has despoiled him of all his weapons
and He has sown hope among those who laid buried in Sheol.
By His Resurrection He sets free the Church
redeemed by the blood from His side.
Like a mighty one He rises from the tomb
and ascends and sits in the heavens, halleluia,
at the right hand of His Father.

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

Sheol is illumined when it hears Your voice.
At Your command the captives held there receive the new life.
By a single gesture You have cast down its high wall
and the cruel tyrant Death which ruled over all

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is deprived of her power while the dead cry out:
"Blessed is He who has come to give us life
and who will come again to raise us up, halleluia,
glory to His goodness."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On Sunday the Resurrection is announced to the dead in Sheol
who were dejected and in darkness. But today dejection
passes from the race of Adam plunged in the deep abyss.
Light illumines the universe and the grace of God is proclaimed.
The graves are opened, unbelievers are confounded.
Blessed is Christ who is risen from the house of the dead
and now gives light to the whole Creation, halleluia,
on the day of His Resurrection.

I have seen in Sheol persons of rank and of great appearance
eaten up by death and turned into dust.
The frame of the body was loosened, its structure had crumbled.
The shape of the limbs was all lost, the whole body was in decay.
Of what remained, hands were tied and eyes had lost their light.
Feet were rendered motionless by death and removed from the body.
In a short while the beauty of the loved faces had gone.
The mouth remained silent and shut. No sound of clear words.
O Glorious One, spare Your image which is worn out. Renew
and refashion its form, halleluia, that it may praise Your goodness.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Living and life-giving Lord, You descended to Sheol
with the fragrance of Your tenderness,
and the sweet scent of Your graciousness,
and You breathed there the odour of resurrection and life,
and by Your Resurrection You made to depart
those who were held captive there.

By You, our Lord, may the departed believers be raised to life,
and by You may they be made to rejoice in the habitations of light,
that Your Sovereignty may be celebrated by all,
and Your graciousness adored by the living and the dead,

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your death on the Cross give life to Your Church,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

The Resurrection endowed the Lord with great strength and power.
He raised up with Him all the dead who were at rest.
He lifted the veil of sadness which covered the face of Adam.
And opened before him the gate of life to make him enter into Eden.

This word, "To the dust you shall return," is abolished for Adam.
Another word replaces it which says, "Come forth like Lazarus.
Leave the grave, go forth to the first place of joy.
The time when the exiles return is come."

The heavenly ones have descended to the earthly ones in their white garments, and there they rejoice the apostles and the women disciples.
Mary saw Jesus in the form of a gardener, and through her
He sent word to Peter to come with the disciples.

Glory to the Father.
Adoration to the Son.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit.
Three persons. Three Names. One sole Nature.
The Father begets. The Son is begotten. The Spirit proceeds.
Trinity above all, to You be glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Give thanks to the Lord for He is good
and His goodness is everlasting.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Make it known to all,
You the rede med of the Lord.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

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Mk 10:1–16 Jesus teaches about marriage and divorce. He urges us to become like little children in order to enter the Kingdom of God.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross p.*400

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing, "Holy, Holy, Holy" are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As we awake from sleep let us offer adorations and praises
to Christ who rose from the tomb to give life to the world.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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On Sunday forgive all, O Christ who died for all, and make all worthy,
the living and the dead, to have a place at Your right hand.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today God rises from the tomb with great power
and by His Resurrection from among the dead rejoices heaven and earth.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 138 Lord, You search me and You know me...

RESPONSE
How deep I find Your thoughts, O God!
Your designs are too many for me. How could I count them?
They outnumber the grains of the sand.
To complete the count, my years must equal Yours.
O God, search me and know my heart,
and lead me in the path of life eternal.

You raise those who have fallen and You come to the help
of those who are broken and who call upon You,
and You place them at Your right side. When You rose
from the tomb, You raised the dead by Your Resurrection.
Lord, we pray and beseech You, in Your tenderness, deliver us
from our afflictions and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is immortal and not subject to passions...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.*403

Hymn
Holy Church, ascend the high mountains and sing praise.
Look, He has extended your flock over land and sea,
the Lord at whose feet kings and rulers of the earth
come to offer Him their adorations. They see
that He dwells in you the King that makes their crowns.

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Christ the Bridegroom has prepared a wonderful feast
for the Church whom He has espoused and He calls
all nations and peoples to her banquet. In the Church
sit the twelve teachers, and the seventy two read the word.
And David the son of Jesse takes his harp and sings praises.

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

On Sunday the Lord rises to give life to all with glory,
as the prophet said, and He proclaims the Resurrection.
He rejoices the bones that were wasting away,
and the just who were waiting for Him rise with Him
and witness to the truth that He is the giver of life to all,
He who came and delivered us by His Cross.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is He who descended to put on Adam, and to make him ascend
with Him to His Father. And He made Himself for him an advocate
and obtained the pardon of his transgression.
The Evil One was confounded when he realized that henceforth
he would no more be allowed to rule but would be brought low.
Glory and thanksgiving to Him who made Adam rest by His side.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 139 Deliver me, Lord, from evil men...

RESPONSE
I have said to the Lord, You are my God.
Lord, hear the cry of my appeal.
Lord, my God, my mighty help,
You shield my head in the battle.

Today sing praise to Him who tasted death of His own will,
and rose from the grave and raised up our race from our fall,
and joined us with the companies of the heavenly ones
that we might take our delight with them.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Everlasting Peace who by His own blood brought peace...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.*405

Hymn

On this day, Sunday, the Lord awakes from His death like from sleep
and like a strong man who shakes off his wine
and He rejoices the earth and the heaven and gladdens us,
halleluia, on the day of His Resurrection.

On this day, Sunday, the Fashioner of our father Adam rises
from the tomb and descends to the house of the dead to visit
His fair image who had transgressed His commandment.
Halleluia, glory to Him.

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

On this day, Sunday, the just and the righteous exult
within their graves, because the Mighty One descended into Sheol
and visited them and sprinkled the dew of life on their faces,
halleluia, and He comforted them.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Lion-cub about whom Jacob, the Just, wrote,
entered the great cavern of those who lay buried,
and He slew Death who had slain all races and generations
halleluia, and brought Adam back to life.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

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FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia,...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ, who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Mighty One who bound Death and set her captives free,
wresting away from her dominion all those who lay buried,
make Your peace dwell in the Creation
and rejoice Your Church and her children.

Christ High Priest Supreme and Victim sacrificed on the Cross,
for the sake of guilty Adam You descended into the abyss of Sheol.
Make Your reconciliation to spread to the ends of the earth,
that Your peace may dwell in the whole Creation.

Firstborn of all the departed who were raised to life
to be with Your Father and exalted with glory
from the gulf of perdition, gladden us at Your coming,
Lord, as with the joy of Your Resurrection.

Glory to You, Exalted One, who were pleased to make to descend
Your graciousness into Sheol, the devourer of the mighty ones.
And You made to come forth from his belly all the generations
of Adam's house which Death held captive in the innermost recesses.

Glory to the Father. Adoration to the Son. Thanksgiving to the Spirit.
Three persons, three Names, one sole Being.
The Father begets. The Son is begotten. The Spirit proceeds.
Trinity exalted above all, to You be praise.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius p.16

Concluding Prayer p.6

TRISAGION MEDITATION

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The Fifth Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Ineffable Splendour and Giver of light, Jesus God,
Voice which resounded loudly in Sheol
when You were hanging on the tree,
God who appeared in the place of the dead of Your own will
and confronted Death and spoiled wretched Sheol
and by Your unconquerable might caused the fall of the rebel Evil One,
do You, Lord,
by Your death raise up the death of our minds
and by Your Resurrection renew us from the death of sin
that we may praise You and exalt You
with a praise free from every stain of sin,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 107 (106) 1–22 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good...

RESPONSE

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good
and His goodness endures for ever.
Whoever is wise let him lay these things to heart
and ponder the Lord's enduring love.

Let them say this, the Lord's Redeemed,
whom He redeemed from the hand of the foe
and gathered from far off lands,
from east and west, north and south.

You alone are blessed, O God,
who by Your Cross have torn the decree
which was written against us, and cancelled it
with great honour and infinite glory.

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You alone are blessed, O God, who of Your own will
endured the Passion and were buried and on the third day
rose from the tomb and were raised to life,
with great honour and infinite glory.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

O our Saviour, receive from us
the evening prayer which we offer to You.
We call upon You from the depths of our hearts.
Incline Your ear and answer us. Hear us and save us,
for You are good and the Lover of Humankind.

Receive, Lord, the prayer and supplication
which we, Your servants, offer to You.
In Your graciousness be reconciled with us.
Receive our service and do not turn away from us,
for You are good and the Lover of Humankind.

The just cried to You with passion and in Your goodness
You heard them. All Compassionate One, do not turn away
from Your servants who are gathered in Your Name
and who knock with passion at Your door,
for You are gracious and the Lover of Humankind.

With Your precious Cross You have broken the chains and fetters of sin
and by this You have wrested the whole human race
from the hands of the Adversary and You have gained for us
the new life from Your side opened by the spear.

Today there is joy and exultation for the entire world,
for Christ is risen from the house of the dead with glory
and by His Resurrection He gives joy to the whole world,
for He is the Lover of Humankind.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

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Praise...to the One Holy Father from whom all holiness proceeds essentially, to the One Holy Son who suffered and died in the flesh and was buried and rose from the tomb for the race of men, to the One Holy Spirit who perfects and consummates all holiness for the saints. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

To You be glory and to You be thanks, O God who became man and saved us from the slavery of the Enemy, Sweet Scent who endured want at the hands of the wicked but clothed us with a glorious garment, Courageous One whose sign was carried to all creatures and who bore the wood of the Cross for our sake, Judge of the judges who judge the guilty but endure suffering for them, You who are the Lord of the heavenly beings, Glorious Splendour of the Hidden Father who saved us from our adversaries, Heavenly Bridegroom who went down to Sheol and despoiled Death and redeemed us from her dominion over us and set us free by Your Glorious Resurrection...O Just One who did not commit any iniquity and in whose mouth no deceit was found, You reinstated the head of our lineage who had fallen from his estate. O Consuming Fire who were wrapped in the garments of the entombment and were placed within the tomb and rose powerfully, with glory, First-fruits who were in Sheol for three days and rose and redeemed us, O Son of Righteousness who shone over the dead and delivered them by Your Glorious Resurrection, glory be to You, O God, who rose from the tomb and raised with You our weak race and made it fragrant with Your glory.

On account of all this we beseech You, our Lord and our God, enlighten us with the light of Your revelation. Perfect us through the understanding of Your word, and through Your Holy Spirit guide us into all the truth, so that we may be prepared for Your manifestation at Your Glorious Coming, when You will hand over the Kingdom to Your Father. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

In the evening the Church was afflicted and shed tears
over her Bridegroom who was slain and laid in the tomb.
All the night in the upper room, they were overwhelmed with grief.
The disciples wept because of the death of their Master.

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But in the morning Mary brought the joyous news:
"The Lord is risen from the tomb. I have seen Him and He told me,
'Go into Galilee. It is there that you will see Me.'"

The Church takes her pleasure in the wine pressed on Golgotha,
on the summit of the Cross. She sings the praise of the Son of David
and Lord of David, who for her tasted death and by His death slew
Death and by His Resurrection gave us life. He delivered the captives
who were shut up and He destroyed the power of Death.
He announced the Resurrection to those who were lying in the grave
and by His rising rejoiced the Church. Blessed is He who has come
and delivered us from the malediction and gave us life.

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

The Creation offers praise to God who is risen from the grave
and by His Resurrection rejoices the heavens and the earth.
The Church and all her children adore His Majesty.
Those who believe in Him and who confess Him praise His Name,
because He tasted death for them and saves them from deceit.
Let us all confess Him and worship Him and praise the Father
who sent Him, and at all times exalt the Holy Spirit.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Bridegroom who makes a feast has sacrificed the fatted calf
and He calls all peoples to feast with Him.
The Heavenly Bridegroom prepares the feast Himself
and His guests feast on watching, on fasting and on prayer.
But He breaks His body and it becomes their food.
He mixes His blood and it becomes their drink.
In the hardness of their heart people cried, "Crucify the Christ."
But the Church of the nations cries, "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, Lord."

To our fathers and brothers who rest and are quit of this life in time,
until the day of the resurrection of the dead, grant repose,
Lord, to their souls in the dwellings of light.
May their bones in the grave feel that memory is made of them.
And when the children of the earthly Adam
will rise at Your command and be clothed with glory,
may they enter with You into Paradise
and sing to You who are their resurrection.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Jesus, Incense of Life which Death tasted and perished
and which the Evil One breathed and it choked him,
by Your scent Adam who was dead, revived,
and the dead rose and worshipped You.

Receive this incense compounded of spices
which the Church Your bride presents to You
and grant that she who suffered with You in Your Passion
and who was grieved by Your death,
may rejoice in Your Resurrection
and exult in Your rising from the tomb,
offering praise unceasingly for Your salvation.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

On leaving the tomb our Saviour left behind His clothes
that whoever should come and look into the tomb
might believe in His Resurrection. He left His garments
as a sign to His disciples that He was truly risen
and had conquered Death and ascended from the tomb.

He left in the tomb the weakness with which He entered it.
On the awakening of the Resurrection He was clothed with strength.
With the shroud, He laid aside the outrage of His wounds and He rose
without corruption from the tomb, with power and glory.

He laid aside the blows and floggings which His back had borne
and He put down the borrowed garments which Joseph put on Him
before he laid Him in the tomb. He laid aside the sufferings
which He had borne on Golgotha. In the sleep of death
He rested from His labours and rose like a mighty one.

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O You, Three Brightnesses and One Light, Glory to You!
Three Persons, One Nature, we acknowledge You.
Father, You are the light.
Son, You are the Firstborn from among the dead.
Holy Spirit, You are our resurrection.
To You be praise.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

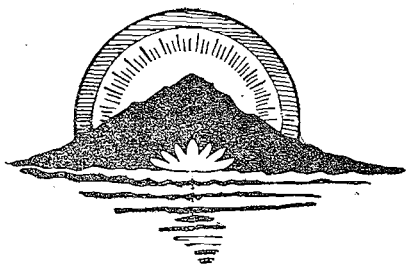
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Give thanks to the Lord and call upon His Name.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Proclaim His works among the nations.
Praise Him and sing to Him.
Recount all His wonderful deeds.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 12:18-27 God is not God of the dead but of the living.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, p.*400

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.8

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Why do you love sleep more than praise, my soul?
How long will you indulge in pleasures which do not profit?
Awake now and rise to sing praise!
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

On Sunday, the great day, our Lord rose from the house of the dead
And now He is exalted in heaven at the right of Him who sent Him
And Watchers and men cry out to Him,
"O Lord of all, to You be praise."

Sunday is the day of victory for the apostles.
On Friday they bore mockeries for the crucifixion.
but on the day of the Resurrection of the Son they acclaim Him,
"O Lord of all, to You be praise."

The women disciples set out to embalm the holy body of the Saviour.
They found the tomb empty and saw an angel clothed in fire,
who announced to them the Resurrection.
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

Church of the nations, give thanks to the Son who betrothed you
on the Cross and confounded the crucifiers while He strengthened you
and established your foundations on the rock of faith.
O Lord of all, to You be praise.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 85 (84) O Lord, You have been good to Your people...

RESPONSE
O God You have been good to Your people.
You made the captives to return.
Teach us to do Your will for You are our God.
Let Your Spirit guide us on ways that are level and smooth.

Christ our Saviour, You rose with glory from the tomb and removed the hold of greedy Death on us, and bestowed incorruptibility on our mortal race. We offer praise to You,
and for Your Resurrection, our adorations, with great devotion.

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is immortal and not subject to passions...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.*403

Hymn
Elijah the Prophet ascended Mount Carmel and looked,
hoping to see a cloud rising from the sea, the cloud
that would bring the long expected rain. Do You, Lord,
rejoice Your Church who waits in Your hope, halleluia, halleluia,
and offers praise to You, by day and by night.

The Saviour lowered Himself to the place of the great captivity and bound the captor for the great joy of the Creation. He opened the gate of the Garden, dismissed the Winged Creature, put the spear in its sheath and made Adam return alive, halleluia, halleluia, and called all those who had been condemned to make them return to their inheritance.

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

When the Son rose from Sheol He illumined the earth
and by His Resurrection He gladdened the whole Creation.
God mighty for evermore descended into Sheol and laid it waste.
He despoiled it of all its treasures, halleluia, halleluia,
and unloosed Adam's fetters, and fulfilled his great hope.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Arise, shine brightly, for your light has come upon you,
says the Glorious Prophet Isaiah to the Holy Church.
Kings come to you with their offerings and worship Him
who dwells in you, the Saviour of the world, halleluia, halleluia.
Blessed is He who is the light of His Church in heaven and on earth.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 143 Blessed be the Lord who trains my hands for battle...

RESPONSE
O God, what is man that You should remember him, man
who is merely a breath? Bend down the heavens, then, and come near.
To You, O God we will sing a new song,
we will sing Your praises with the harp.

We praise Your humility, God of power and strength,
who restored life to all the redeemed
and clothed them with Your salvation.
All the upright of heart praise and exalt Your Sovereignty.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Everlasting Peace who by His own blood brought peace...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.*405

Hymn
Rejoice exceedingly, O Holy Church, exult at the supper of your Lord
who gives you His body and saves you by His blood.
Sing praise to Him who makes you enter heaven and sets you
at the right hand of Him who sent Him. Praise Him unceasingly.

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On Sunday the Firstborn of heaven rises from the tomb
and raises up with Him the just of old who had fallen asleep there.
He removes the shroud of Adam and opens before him
the door of His graciousness and makes him enter Paradise.

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

The Tree of Life planted in the centre of Paradise appeared
in the garden of Joseph of Arimathea like a beautiful fruit-tree.
Wicked people had laid Him in the earth but as He remained incorrupt,
He sprang up and rose and He gives its fill to the whole Creation.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On Sunday the Church rejoices and her children exult
for on it she is saved from deceit and restored to life in God.
And now on all days she offers praise to Him.
She sings hymns of thanksgiving by night and by day.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia,...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ, who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Come, all you peoples, hear the wonder that the Exalted One has done
for the sake of Adam, the earthly one. He descended and humbled
Himself to make him to return to the place he had lost
when he was driven away by the Evil One out of envy.

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The Son of the Hidden Father descended
and became a son of man of His own will,
and died on the Cross for us all, to deliver us from death.
The Free-born entered the house of the dead
and raised the dead to life and ascended.

How He humbled His goodness and inclined His graciousness, who mounted the Cross of shame to lift the shame of our human nature!
He was laid in the tomb like a dead man
that He might give us the new life.

Come, let us offer praise to Christ who rose from the tomb.
Thanksgiving to His Father who sent Him for our salvation.
A shout of joy to the Holy Spirit.
And on us graciousness and compassion, at all times. Amen. Amen.

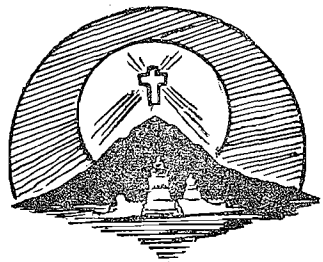
Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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The Sixth Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Exalted One who lowered the Immensity of Your Greatness and descended from the heights above for the salvation of the lost sheep,
You slew Death and defeated Satan and gave life to Adam
and restored him to Eden which he had lost,
give joy to Your Churches, Christ God, on the day
of Your Resurrection and gladden the faces of Your flock,
now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 107 (106) 1–3 and 23–43 Give thanks to the Lord for He is good...

RESPONSE

We saw the works of the Lord and His wonders in the abyss. To Him we cried in our distress and from our straits He brought us forth.

We were gladdened when the waves grew calm and He stilled the storm to a whisper. We rejoiced when He guided us to our port of trade.

Our offences and our sins we confess in Your presence, our Lord, and we entreat You, be gracious to the whole Creation.

The Churches exult on the day of Your Resurrection, gladden them at Your coming and make them worthy of Your Kingdom.

We seek refuge in You, Harbour of the weary,
in Your compassion quench the fire of our passions.

Glory to You, Christ, Lord of the whole Creation,
who by Your Resurrection gladden heaven and earth.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE

Christ our God, we are filled with hope by Your Cross and as we glory in Your exaltation, we acclaim You, the God and Lover of humankind. You are the Source of all good and the Destroyer of evil, our Lord and our God in truth and the Great Lover of Humankind.

Christ our God, by Your Cross You raised Adam the taleteller. You delivered him and gave life to the whole world. By Your power You put the Adversary to shame and put an end to the dominion of Death. You renewed and restored the human race, O Great Lover of Humankind.

Christ God, remove the shame that has been brought upon us so much that the Enemy tells us, "Where is your God?" You who by Your Cross cast down and overthrew Satan, Death and Sin, our Lord and our God in truth, and the Great Lover of Humankind.

By Your Resurrection, Christ our God, in Your graciousness, You raised Adam, and by Your humiliation for our sake You brought low the Rebel. Do not allow those who wage war against us to defeat us, our Lord and our God in truth, and the Great Lover of Humankind.

Christ God, build up Your Church in Your Name and strengthen her. And while You protect her by Your Cross, put an end to all dissensions within her, and by Your mighty strength remove all rivalries, our Lord and our God in truth, and the Great Lover of Humankind.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Mighty One who by His death on the Cross raised us to life, and by His Resurrection from among the dead made us to sit with Him in glory at the right hand of His Father, where are given things that no eye has seen, no ear has heard and no heart can think of. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Glorious and Life-giving Cross that was carved out of dead wood and became the tree of life! You are the Tree which grew up from a divine seed planted on Golgotha in the centre of the world. And when You carried on Your arms the Saviour of the world, blood and water

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came out from His side, the blood poured out for our salvation and the water by which the Spirit is poured into our hearts. Like Mary who bore for us the Son of God to make us sons of the Father, brothers of the Son and temples of the Holy Spirit, you carried the Son of Man when He was delivered into the hands of the wicked who put Him to death, and so you brought us forth to the life of the Father and made us into one body with the Son who gives us the Spirit of truth to lead us to the fulness of His light and glory. You are the Tree which reaches out its foliage to the four quarters of the earth and offers its fruits to the whole Creation in the life-giving Mysteries entrusted to the Church by our Saviour. From You come the bread of life and the cup of immortality.

Therefore we beg of You, Christ our Redeemer, that while we celebrate Your Life-giving Cross with joy and thanksgiving, and while we worship it with great fervour and devotion of heart, we may be renewed in its light and glory. Make us realize in our lives its Saving Mysteries. With Your Church may we reveal them to all men, so that by its all-healing power, sin may be vanquished, and Your victory over Death proclaimed and celebrated here on earth as in heaven, until You come again in glory, Christ our God. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

When the Sabbath day was over and Sunday began to dawn
the heaven was filled with light and the earth exalted,
because the Lord rose from among the dead with a marvellous power.
Behold Him now sitting at the right hand,
and the Watchers and the angels serve Him.

When the Sabbath day was over and Sunday began to dawn
the legions of the Watchers descended from heaven and rolled away
the stone from the tomb of the Bridegroom who was slain.
The guards trembled and were shaken
and the Good News flew over all the earth.

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

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When the Sabbath day was over and Sunday began to dawn
Death groaned and Satan fled, because
the Saviour rose from among the dead with tremendous power.
He confronted Sheol, the Devourer,
and made him give up the just and the saints.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

When the Sabbath day was over and Sunday began to dawn
Adam rejoiced with all his children because
the Living One descended to visit them in their dwelling.
And he made them to rise
from the sad abyss of the dead where they had fallen.

Let those who slept in the faith be remembered in our prayer.
Let us not forget those who have departed from among us.
Let their names be remembered on the holy altar,
that they may be at rest at all times,
and offer praise to You, Lord, who are their resurrection.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
May the light of Your Resurrection
and the manifestation of Your goodness, Christ our God,
gladden us and strengthen us all
who are in the gloom of sin and the darkness of deceit and untruth.

By the offering of incense at this evening hour,
may we obtain the forgiveness of our sins,
and come to the realization of Your truth in us.
And we will offer the new praise to You
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her people by the Cross of light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

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Whom do you worship, Christian? A man crucified?
Is He not also God of God? Whom do you worship?
Your head bowed down, and your knees touching the ground
confess that He who was lifted up on the Cross is God.

For us He is God, born in the body of the Daughter of David
and exalted after the sufferings of the Cross.
When the learned begin to argue about these marvels,
we leave them, remembering that God's Mystery
is hidden from the clever but revealed to the simple...

I thank You Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for keeping these things
hidden from the learned and the clever and for revealing them
to the simple. No one knows the Son but the Father.
It is He who reveals His Son, the Uniquely Beloved Son.

Glory to the Hidden One of whom no creature can speak,
who for mortal man willed to taste suffering and death.
We adore Him with His Father and His Holy Spirit, one God.
To Him be glory, who has compassion on all.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia,.
Praise the Lord, my whole being.
All my life I will praise the Lord.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
As long as I live,
I will sing psalms to my God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 19:16–26 How difficult it is for the rich to enter the Kingdom of God.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, p.*400

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...

RESPONSE

As we have risen early we praise You,
O Christ, our God, keeping vigil with the angels.
And with the Watchers on high we offer thanksgivings.

As we make our glory in Your Cross
and find protection under its wings, deliver Your servants,
and save them from falling a prey to evil spirits.

As we have risen early we praise You, Christ, Saviour of all,
because when You rose with power from among the dead
You illumined the world from one end to the other.

When the water of life flowed from Your side
the Church, the chosen one, became Your glorious bride,
and with You, the Bridegroom, she rose with glory.

As we have risen early we praise You,
O Glorious Trinity,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one true God.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 144 I will magnify You, my Lord and King...

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RESPONSE
We praise You, our God, our King.
We bless Your Name for ever and ever.
Every generation shall praise Your works
and proclaim Your mighty deeds.
And now we meditate on the wonder of Your works.

Christ, King of Glory, Power and Wisdom of the Father,
You suffered in the flesh for our sake on the Cross
at the hands of wicked people and all of us sinners,
and You bestowed on us the new life.
In our praises we proclaim Your greatness.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is immortal and not subject to passions...
As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.403

Hymn
Your Cross, O our Saviour, is the sign of victory, the pledge
of our salvation. By it the Evil One is dethroned and his powers
brought low, but the Church is strengthened, halleluia.
Blessed are You who saved us by Your Cross,
and confounded the Evil One who had defeated us.

Daniel the Prophet in the land of Babylon predicted
that Christ the King would be put to death, and with His death
Jerusalem the Holy City would be destroyed,
but by His Resurrection the Church would grow, halleluia.
Blessed is He who confounded those who crucified Him
and who betrothed the Church. To Him our adoration.

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

Our mouths and our tongues are not sufficient
to offer praise to You, O Creator of the worlds.
Adam sinned and died but You repaid the account
imputed to him and to his children, halleluia.
Blessed is Your Death and blessed is Your Resurrection,
O Jesus, Saviour of the world.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Church is a swallow. She offers songs and sings praise to God,
the Exalted One. She holds the harp of David in her hands
and with the Watchers in the heights she intones her song on the harp
of 150 strings. She sings glory to God who rose from the tomb
and was not touched by corruption, halleluia,
and made her inherit the Kingdom.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 145 Praise the Lord, my soul. I will praise the Lord in my life...

RESPONSE
We praise the Lord with our whole being.
As long as we live we will praise the Lord.
We will sing to our God with the harp, the God
who gives bread to the hungry and lifts up the downtrodden.

The heavens adore the Father.
The earth sings praise to the Uniquely Beloved Son.
Angels and men offer glory to the Holy Spirit.
Let us share in their praise and sing glory with them.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Everlasting Peace who by His own blood brought peace...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.*405

Hymn
"O God who became man and died and resurrected
and saved us by Your blood, we take refuge in Your Cross,"
cries the Church of believers. All you peoples and nations
who are raised from the fall and given a new life by His Resurrection,
chant glory to Him who has conquered Death, Satan and Sin,
and by His rising from the dead gives us life without end.

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On Sunday the Living Lamb of God rose from among the dead. Corruption could not touch Him and He conquered the Evil One and his powers. David sang with his harp, "God ascends with glory, the Lord ascends with great sound." The heavenly ones and the earthly ones cry out, "Blessed is the Holy One who did not know decay."

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

The heavenly ones rejoice because hope has come to the earthly ones.
The Lord God lowered Himself and became man of His own will.
He endured all tortures at the hands of the wicked. He suffered on the Cross according to His will. He died and rose from the tomb.
And now He sits at the right hand and Watchers and men worship Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Living One who of Your own will remained in the tomb for three days, and by Your Resurrection spread peace in the dark recesses of Sheol, sprinkle the dew of life on the dead who await Your coming and call them to life with Your thunderous voice and raise them from the dust, that they may rejoice with You in the highest heaven.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia,...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ, who save us by Your Resurrection
pardon us and be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Death and Satan tremble and are confounded as God mighty for evermore rises from the grave and puts an end to their rule over humankind. But the prophets rejoice because our Lord fulfils their oracles when He rises from the tomb without corruption and raises Adam and his children to the new life.

Today David is glad because his Son fulfils his prophecy: "God will rise and those who crucified Him will be scattered." Jonah, the fugitive, preaches to us from within the fish: "The Slain who was in the grave is alive, it is His Mystery which I signified."

Elisha also rejoices who represented the Mystery of our Lord and of Adam, by the little piece of wood which he immersed in the river and the precious axe, a borrowed one, was made whole.
Blessed be the Lord who fulfilled all the utterances of the prophets.

Glory to You from the heavenly ones who obtained peace by Your Cross. Glory to You from the earthly ones to whom You give life by Your death. Thanksgiving to You from the dead who are awaked by Your Resurrection. A shout of joy to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit. And on us graciousness, at all times. Amen. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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The Seventh Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

May the light of Your Resurrection and the epiphany of Your goodness, Christ our God, comfort and rejoice all those who grope in the darkness of untruth and in the gloom of sin, and make them confess Your truth, that we all with them may offer a new praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always, and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 108 (107) My heart is ready, O God, my heart is ready...

RESPONSE

Firm is my resolve, O God, I will sing and chant.
Awake, my heart! Awake, O harp and lyre,
that I might awake Dawn and praise the God Most High.
I will thank You among peoples, Most High, Shaddai,
I will sing to You among nations, O truly Great One.
Above the heavens is Your kindness, above the sky Your fidelity.

Your stature is above the heavens, O Exalted One,
over all the earth Your glory.
Grant liberation from the Adversary
since the aid of man is futile.
With You we will obtain victory.
Eternal and Everlasting King, You will scatter our adversaries.

Be reconciled with us, O our Saviour.
On this day of Your Resurrection the living and the dead
offer You their adorations who gladden them by Your rising.
Today the nations rejoice and exult and praise Your Name,
because You made them turn away from deceit and untruth,
and You gather them into Your fold.

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Rejoice and exult, O Church, holy, apostolic and catholic,
for He who was crucified for Your sake
rose from the tomb with great glory.
O Church, sing praise to Christ who suffered for Your sake,
and by His Resurrection from among the dead
delivers Your children from deceit and untruth.

Glory to the Lord, the Exalted One,
who descended from the heavenly habitations,
and of His own will tasted death
to give life to Adam and his children.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Your Cross, Christ our Saviour, is revealed as the Tree of Life.
By it death is destroyed. Its rule comes to an end and the whole world,
from one end to the other, is enlightened with knowledge.
Lord, the Strong, who have power over all, to You be glory.

Christ our Saviour nailed on the Cross is the true vine and the nations
who believe in Him pluck it, and with the thief they enter Paradise.
This is the glory of the Holy Church, the door of the Kingdom of God.
Lord of the universe who were crucified for our sake, to You be glory.

Great is the power of the Cross, an unconquerable armour
for the servants of God, the wood which heals the wounds of the tree,
life-giving death by which Death the killer is put to death,
and the whole world is enlightened to revere it and exalt it,
because through it life comes to all.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the King of kings and Lord of lords...

*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Evening Prayer, p.*397

Hymn

The Bridegroom was put to death on the summit of the Tree
and the Bride kissed His wounds, and mixed the cup from His side.
She gives it to drink to her children and eats His holy body,
and she sings praise to Him who sent Him.

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The Church betrothed by Christ rejoices and exults,
and gives praise to the Living One who was buried and resurrected,
and who threw the guards in disarray when they saw
that He had left the tomb, and the seals remained unbroken.

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

The Bride Church was much grieved when her Bridegroom
was taken away. But she saw an angel sitting near the tomb,
and her mind revived when she received the news of His Resurrection,
and her heart exulted about Him whom she had been mourning.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Church, Bride of Christ, is like the Garden of Paradise,
from her flows instruction like water to the trees.
And she also carries the Cross of the Son
to safeguard her children against deceit and untruth.

Let there be made a good remembrance
of our fathers who in their lifetime taught us
to be children of God. Give them rest, O Son of God,
in the Kingdom of heaven with the just and the righteous.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Jesus, Incense of life which Death tasted and she perished,
and which the Evil One breathed and it choked him,
by Your scent Adam who was dead revived,
and the dead rose and worshipped You.

Receive this incense compounded of spices
which the Church Your bride presents to You,
and grant that she who suffered with You in Your Passion
and was grieved by Your death, may rejoice in Your Resurrection,
exulting in Your rising from the tomb
and offering praise unceasingly for Your salvation.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Resurrection deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

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Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

When Jesus went forth He left His clothes in the tomb to show
to those who were worthy of it, how He was laid before rising again.
When the angels entered they saw the linen clothes as they were placed
when the Living One came forth from the house of the dead.

In the new age no one will rise with his garment.
They will be clothed with another garment those who are worthy of it.
Garments of glory are kept for the resurrection
and each one who obtains it is given such a garment to wear.

On earth Jesus wore the garment of earth made of dust.
But when He rose to the new life He put on a glorious body.
Those who rise will be clothed with great glory.
No garment of cloth will cover them when they rise again.

Glory to the Father who wove a garment for Him who rose again.
Adoration to the Son who put it on, on the day of His rising.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who clothes the children of men with
garments of glory when He takes them up in the air with the angels.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
O God, we seek for You
with a heart that thirsts for You,
halleluia, halleluia, halleluia,
with a body wasting away with longing for You,
like a dry and thirsty land that has no water.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 19:41-48 Jesus weeps over Jerusalem.

Intercessions and Concluding Prayer

*As on the First Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, p.*400

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
To the honour and glory of Your graciousness
we have awaked to sing praise to You.
Glory to You, Lord of the Universe.

In Your graciousness, our Lord, You visited Adam in the grave
and You rose and You raised him with glory,
Glory to You, Lord of the Universe.

In Your graciousness, Lord, You suffered on the Cross,
on Golgotha, and You purified the air which was polluted.
Glory to You, Lord of the Universe.

In Your graciousness, Lord, on the Great Day of Your Coming,
make us stand at Your right hand.
Glory to You, Lord of the Universe.

The Church and her children pray Your graciousness,
hear them, as You promised. Glory to You, Lord of the Universe.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 146 How good it is to sing praise to our God, and delightful...

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RESPONSE
How good to sing praise to our God, how delightful!
The Rebuilder of Jerusalem, the Gatherer of all outcasts,
the Healer of the broken-hearted, the Binder of all wounds.
Our Lord lifts up the lowly but He humbles the proud to the dust.
He takes delight in those who revere Him and who trust in His goodness

O Son of God, heaven and earth give thanks to You, for by You they are reconciled. They praise You unceasingly, the heavenly ones and the earthly ones. The children of the Church with the Fiery Ones and the Winged Creatures sing glory to You who made them worthy to praise You with the angels for ever and ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is immortal and not subject to passion...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 1st Watch, p.*403

Hymn
Rejoice and be glad, O Church, sing praise and offer thanksgiving to the Bridegroom who died for you and gave you life by His Cross, and by His Resurrection put an end to the rule of Death and Satan, halleluia, and promised to Adam and his children
the Bridal Feast and the Life and the Kingdom.

The guards were astounded and dismayed at the Resurrection
of the Exalted One, when they saw the angels and the Heavenly Powers
praising Him and singing, halleluia,
and crying out to Him: "Holy, holy."
Blessed is He who rose from the house of the dead.

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

At the Resurrection of the Son, Mary went to the tomb
to grieve over her Beloved, her heart stricken with sorrow.
As she saw a Watcher sitting there, halleluia,
she said to him: "They have taken away my Lord
and I do not know where they have laid Him."

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today the Creation rejoices, exults and sings praise
because the Lord is resurrected, who rose with glory from the tomb,
magnificent on His throne, above Principalities and Powers, halleluia.
Praise to Him and to Him who sent Him, the Father who so loved
the world that He gave His Only Son, that all may have life in Him.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 147 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem, praise your God, O Holy Mountain...

RESPONSE
In the beginning God said, "Let there be light".
And there was light and it dispelled darkness from the earth,
and light enlightened the earth from one end to the other.
Watchers and children of men praise Him and say, "Glory to You."

All nations, tribes and tongues sing glory to Him who enlightens us
by His Resurrection and they cry and say, "You are the true light.
By You are enlightened all those who are groping in the dark."
Watchers and children of men praise Him and say, "Glory to You."

Eucharistic Prayer
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Everlasting Peace who by His own blood brought peace...
*As on the First Sunday after the Feast, Night Vigil, 2nd Watch, p.*405

Hymn
On the morning of Sunday God rose from the tomb with great glory
which cannot be described, and by His Resurrection
He gladdened and rejoiced the four quarters of the earth, halleluia.
And now the Churches sing praise to Him in all places.

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On the morning of Sunday our Lord rose from the tomb, the Son of God,
who lowered Himself and tasted death, and He raised the saints
with Him and they entered Jerusalem, halleluia,
and announced the Glorious Resurrection, and were seen by many.

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

On the morning of Sunday angels descended from the heights.
They encircled the tomb of the King, Christ, and sang praise
with all their voices, halleluia, saying, "Glory to Him
who by His Resurrection restored to life the race of Adam."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On the morning of Sunday Mary set out with her companions.
They were weeping on account of our Lord. They went,
and when they came to the tomb they saw an angel, halleluia,
who cried out, saying: "He is risen from among the dead."

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia,...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
Son, who deliver us by Your Resurrection.

Christ, who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Come to Me, cried the Lord to Adam, make peace with Me.
It is not My will that you be lost to Me.
I do not like you to be like a straying sheep,
to be carried away by the Evil One.

The Lord looked at Adam with love and He was moved
to make supplication to the Father on account of his folly.
Moved to compassion He descended and saved him
and brought him back to the Kingdom on high.

As He made him return to the Garden of Eden
the angels rejoiced at his coming.
O Lord, make us turn to You in repentance
that the angels may also rejoice at our conversion.

Glory to You who inclined Yourself to us,
O Shepherd, who came out in search of Your sheep.
Praise to You from all mouths,
O Living One, who died for our sake.

Christ, who save us by Your Resurrection,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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APRIL 23

George the Glorious Martyr[15] Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, that while we are assembled to keep festival in memory of Saint George, Your glorious martyr, we may honour You in sincere faith with spiritual songs and with praises celebrating the works of Your Spirit in him. And by his intercession may we be filled like him with that perfect love which casts out fear, and so become one with You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 44 (43) O God we have heard with our own ears...

RESPONSE

You for whom Saint George endured all torments
with faith and love, be gracious to all, O God.

You for whom Saint george entered the contest with great fervour and put to shame the impious rulers, be gracious to all, O God.

You who strengthened Your martyr Saint George, strengthen us also to sing praise to You and be gracious to all, O God.

We offer praise to Christ who strengthened Saint George to endure his sufferings in the flesh. May his prayer be a stronghold to us.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Who would not be astounded at the admirable combat waged by the Glorious Martyr Saint George who was condemned by the judges to be delivered up to cruel tortures? O God who strengthened him in the contest, God of all, be gracious to all!

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O the great combat of the apostles and martyrs who never lost heart!
We are afflicted in every way, they confessed, but we are not crushed.
We are perplexed and bewildered, yet not driven to despair.
Struck down, we are not destroyed. O God of all, be gracious to all!

Who would not be astounded at the account of their sufferings?
Wherever we go we carry death with us in our body, the death
that Jesus died, that in this body also life may reveal itself,
that life that Jesus lives. O God of all, be gracious to all!

When death is at work in us, life is quickened in the Body of Christ.
It is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness",
who has shone in our hearts, to give the light of revelation,
the revelation of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Heavenly Bridegroom who invites to His wedding supper His friends who have shed their blood for Him, and expects at His banquet the wedding guests who have been slain for Him, and with the wine of His love makes drunk those who have been redeemed, and with the warmth of His friendship braces His athletes to endure all torments on account of His word. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

When we come and prepare ourselves for your glorious festival, O chosen athlete and noble martyr, Saint George, we pray and beseech Christ who has magnified your name, that we may honour your memory with spiritual joy and gladness. And behold we cry out and say: "Come in peace blessed martyr, Saint George, who endured every torment and every torture. Come in peace, good worker and valiant labourer, Saint George, who made light of and scorned all vain things. Come in peace, mighty champion, Saint George, who entered the great combat to death. Come in peace, noble martyr, Saint George who are like a high wall to the Holy Church. Come in peace, noble martyr Saint George, friend of the Bridegroom, who renounced family and friends and confessed Christ the King. Come in peace,

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noble martyr, Saint George, who were persecuted and slain for your Lord Christ, who was to you father and brother and family and friend."

Therefore, O noble martyr, beg for us who seek refuge in the power of your intercession, and pray to Christ the King that He may give peace to the Churches and tranquillity to the whole inhabited world. And in the face of religious antagonisms, in the midst of social rivalries dividing communities and nations, and thriving on social oppression, may He hold out for us His great messianic gifts of mutual pardon and reconciliation with understanding. And may we keep away from all retaliation and commit ourselves to non-violence and collaboration with all people. In His goodness may He bestow on us forgiveness of sins, freedom from fear, and concord, health to sick, a livelihood and shelter for all families, with dignity of life, and faith and hope in a blessed future. And we will all offer praise continually to the Hidden Father who strengthened you in your contest, to the Adorable Son for whom you offered yourself in sacrifice, and to the Holy Spirit who gives life beyond death, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

It is by Your Cross, our Lord, that all things subsist. The apostles and the martyrs confessed it and the Holy Spirit wove crowns for them. George, Your true follower, proclaimed it and he obtained the Kingdom. We magnify Your Cross, halleluia, halleluia, and seek refuge in it.

By the prayer of Saint George who made his confession by Your Cross, may all those who believe in You find strength in all trials.
Lord, by Your Cross reconcile the whole Creation and its inhabitants.
Glory to Your Cross, halleluia, halleluia, O our Saviour.

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

Blessed are You, Exalted One, who lowered Yourself to endure suffering and all tortures and the Cross. Because Adam fell by a tree You restored him by the wood of the Cross. Blessed are You who gave the Cross to Your martyr to overcome the Evil One and his powers, and he crossed over to Paradise. Halleluia, may his prayer assist us.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Rejoice and exult, Holy Church, on the feast of Saint George, and offer songs of praise to Him who chose him from the beginning. And ask Christ with us to make His peace reign in the Creation, and tranquillity among all nations, that from one end of the earth to the other, halleluia, praise be offered to the One God.

Christ, You promised the resurrection and the new life to Adam. In Your goodness, O our Saviour, sprinkle on Your servants who died in Your hope and who wait for the day of Your coming, the dew of graciousness and compassion. And may they meet You and cry out, "Praise and thanksgiving for Your Adorable and Holy Name."

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Slain Bridegroom, the fragrance of Your Resurrection has spread in the Creation, and the Church breathed its sweet scent and revived. You drove away from her sorrow and weeping and You clothed her in a garment of praise and glory, with joy fitting Your wedding feast.

Receive then this incense which we present to You on the day of the commemoration of Your glorious martyr Saint George, and give to Your Churches who celebrate his feast the boldness and strength that comes to us from trust in You, and grant that like him we may encounter all trials and afflictions with serenity and be like him also in faith and hope and love.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O blessed martyr.
May your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

Come, you who have discernment and listen to the heroic deeds of Saint George. What tortures and sufferings the saint endured in the house of judgement from evil-doers and he was not frightened, neither by the fire nor by the wheel of torture nor by the sword.

As I was passing near the court I saw a wonder, a young man, George, stretched out on the wheel of torture, with fire under him, fire on his side and tortures of all kinds, but the Holy Spirit comforted him like a mother, "Fear not, George, your crown is already woven."

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While the judges put the young man George to torture, the Holy Spirit comforted him like a mother, "Come in peace, glorious athlete, who offered yourself in sacrifice to God. If the impious tyrant cuts off your tongue, I will speak for you and nothing will go wrong."

Glory to the Father who chose you and conferred great honour on you, O glorious martyr.
Adoration to the Son who strengthened you and led you to triumph in the contest.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who magnified your name in the four quarters of the earth.
May your prayer protect this assembly which celebrates your feast.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Exult, you just, in the Lord.
Praise the Lord with the harp.
Sing to Him a song that is new.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
When they seize you do not be anxious
how you are to speak, what you have to say.
The Spirit of your Father will be speaking in you.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt. 10:17–20 The true discipleship of Jesus takes away all fear
28–32 even when witnessing to Him unto death.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ, who when You stretched out Your holy hands on the Cross drew all things to Yourself, and the glorious martyrs looked upon You and desired to be made like You, and with the thief on Your right hand longed for Your Kingdom, strengthen us to follow in their footsteps, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Christ our God, for whose sake the body of the martyr Saint George was torn to pieces by impious persecutors, and behold Your body is broken and Your blood is distributed on the day of his festival, in pardon for the sin of the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, who are the way of peace and reconciliation, manifest Yourself and let Your Spirit speak for us and enter into our lives with His healing love to put an end to frustration and oppression in our broken world, we bessech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, who were shown to the world as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, send Your Holy Spirit on us that we may bow before You in true repentance, and bow to one another in true forgiveness, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Lord, to make to shine in this world the life-giving commandments of Your Gospel and to praise You with a new praise on this day of the festival of Your glorious martyr who suffered for Your sake. By the fire of Your Holy Spirit melt our hard hearts and consume the pride and prejudice which create ditches around us and erect partitions, and fill us with that perfect love which casts out fear and binds the whole world into one family of the children of Your Father, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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GEORGE THE GLORIOUS MARTYR

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p. 7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve the Lord....

RESPONSE

Awaken us and raise us up from the sleep of negligence,
Christ our God, that with the companies of the sons of light
we may sing praise to You, Wakeful One, who do not sleep.

Holy Virgin Mother of God, Mary, beseech with us your only Son
that by your prayers He may show His graciousness
to this assembly which honours and magnifies your memory.

Blessed are you, Saint George, who shine like a pearl without flaw
in the crown of the Heavenly King, so that angels and sons of men
together are filled with wonder at your sparkling brilliance.

Blessed are you, who by your sufferings, experienced in your body
the precious sufferings of Christ. Behold, the heavenly ones
await you, who contemplate in you the glorious death of their Lord.

Glory to the Father and thanksgiving to the Son who is from Him,
and a shout of joy to the Holy Spirit. They are worshipped
and praised as one Being, the Mystery of the Trinity.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 3 O Lord, how many are my adversaries...

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RESPONSE
O Lord, how many are my adversaries! How many rise up against me! How many who eye my life! "No salvation for him from God." But You, O Lord, are my Sovereign as long as I live.
You are my Glory, who lift up my head.

Blessed is Christ who made the glorious martyr George drunk with love, and by the trials and sufferings he endured trained him for the combat in which he brought low the Enemy, and You crowned him with glory. By his prayers, be gracious to the whole world.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro For the Mother of God*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Word of the Eternal Father who lowered Himself to dwell in the womb of the Virgin and was clothed in flesh from her and came forth from her womb. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We salute you, Mary, Mother of God, light never extinguished, Mother and Virgin. It is through you that He comes, He who in the Holy Gospel comes in the name of the Lord. It is through you that the Trinity is blessed, that the Cross is worshipped throughout the world. Through you the Enemy is defeated and the fallen head of the Creation is re-elevated to heaven, and all the Creation returns to the knowledge of the truth. Through you all the believers obtain baptism and the oil of joy. Through you Churches are founded in all the world, peoples obtain conversion, because through you that Unique Son of God illumines with His light those who live in darkness and in the shadow of death.

Therefore we beg of you, O Mother of Graciousness, that you will intercede with your Son and your God and obtain for us that supreme and unspeakable humility that makes us experience the stirrings of God's Spirit in us at all times, when He pours into our hearts the blessedness that is His gift to those who have suffered failures in their lives without revolting, to the poor and the oppressed and all those who hunger and thirst to see right prevail. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

George the Martyr longed for the Kingdom of Heaven
and he endured torture and distress and had no fear of death.
He had heard the Son saying in the Gospel,
"Any one who loses his life for My sake will find it
at the feast of lights in that place full of life."
On the day of his commemoration let us cry out together,
"Glory to You, Lord, halleluia, who strengthen the athletes."

There is joy today for the children of the Church
who celebrate the commemoration of the martyr Saint George.
The Watchers rejoice in highest heaven
and the earthly ones sing praise with them.
And we make supplication to You, O Lord, that by his prayer,
You may forgive our debts and pardon our faults,
and be gracious to all. Halleluia, glory to You for Your goodness

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

The day of your commemoration, O glorious martyr, is a great feast
for the Holy Church of believers and all her children,
the aged and the young, the women and the infants.
They sing praise to Christ our Lord as they laud your martyrdom.
They are filled with wonder at your fair deeds
and they learn from you to work for the Lord like you,
halleluia, that they may be crowned with you.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Let us celebrate joyfully the glorious day
of the feast of the holy martyr, with praises of the Holy Spirit,
that he may be an intercessor and advocate on our behalf
before the Lord, and obtain from Him that He remit our debts
and that He strengthen us to endure with constancy,
like His martyr, all torments and afflictions for the name of Jesus,
halleluia, and receive the crown of glory.

MEDITATION

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SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 10 In the Lord I have taken refuge....

RESPONSE
See the wicked bracing their bow,
they are fixing their arrows on the string
to shoot from ambush the upright of heart.

For You, Christ, who suffered death in the flesh for our sake,
did the valiant martyr, the glorious Saint George, give up his spirit.
He welcomed death on account of You, to find rest in You for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Heavenly Bridegroom who invites to His wedding supper His friends who have shed their blood for Him, and expects at His banquet the wedding guests who have been slain for Him, and with the wine of His love makes drunk those who have been redeemed, and with the warmth of His friendship braces His athletes to endure all torments on account of His word. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God You are the Lord of Glory who were raised high up on Golgotha for our salvation. At Your voice that resounded from the Cross the whole earth quaked and the elements of the world were shaken. You are the Fair Name for which longed those of ancient times, and which those of the middle of time desired, and in whom those of the last times rejoice and take delight and are enlightened. When George the Martyr heard Your name he was wounded with Your love, and he yearned for Your beauty and was consumed with longing to see You. And stripped bare he set out of the world in search of You because he marvelled at Your beauty and was pierced with awe by Your sufferings. And so inflamed with Your love and burning ardently he exclaimed, "May it be given me to be bound in every way by the love of my Lord and to imitate Him in His Passion!

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May it be given me to delight in the vision of my Lord and to suffer blows for His sake! May it be given me to tread underfoot the orders of the rulers and to be offered in sacrifice for His Name! May it be given me to proclaim openly to all in my own person the Passion of my Lord and to receive a glorious crown at His right hand! May it be given me to die with my Lord that I may reign with Him!" How sweet can sufferings become for those who love! How desirable death can be that makes us enter life eternal! How trivial hardships become for a servant truly devoted! How astounding are your works, O Lord! How incomprehensible Your judgements! This athlete then did not let his love for You to be shaken, our Lord Jesus Christ, even when he was delivered unto death on account of You.

Therefore we beg from You, our Lord, in Your goodness, be pleased with us on account of Your martyr so loved by You. Give us to be bound in Your affection and to be fervent in Your love like him, and to become alien to the world of evil as he was. And we will offer praise to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

How beautiful the day of your remembrance, O blessed martyr! The fragrance of your life has spread to the four quarters of the earth. By your prayers the children of the Church who have come to keep vigil before your bones to celebrate your feast obtain blessings. Happy are you, for on the day of the resurrection the Lord will rejoice you and raise you up at His right hand at the feast of gladness.

Keep your door always open, Saint George,
to all who are in distress and come to you for help.
Receive them like a shepherd, O great martyr, and ask for them
from the Lord, graciousness and compassion, and by your prayer
may God pour down His blessings on all who cry to Him.
And may we who celebrate your feast be given to see you in the Kingdom.

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

Glory to the Son of God who strengthened you and gave you the victory over the Adversary, in the contest which you entered with Him. You went down to the combat valiantly and you came out of it. You met with suffering and torture and you endured joyfully.

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Blessed be the Father who multiplied your heroic deeds.
Glorious is the Spirit who crowned your victory.
Pray and make supplication for all who celebrate your feast.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

For the torments the blessed martyr suffered, the son of God gave him the heavenly resting place and the Kingdom. For the afflictions he endured for His love, He refreshes him in Paradise amid the angels. And behold he rejoices and exults and is exceedingly glad, and he takes his delight with the spiritual ones. And now the day of his commemoration is celebrated in the four quarters of the earth.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son of God, You are the beauty of all beauties.
From You all beauties obtain their beauty,
help me to recount the beauty of George Your glorious martyr.

It is with joy that George became a sacrifice for his Lord,
for the fire which his Lord cast upon the earth was kindled in him.
He was consumed by the flames of the love of his Lord.

Breath of Sweetness who take away captive those who suffer for You,
Fragrant Odour wafted on Your noble martyr Saint George,
rejoice us with him, O our Saviour, in Your abode of light.

The heart of the martyr is filled and overflowing with life and love
spiritual flowers, as the meadows abound with roses and lilies.
Blessed is he who is found worthy to take his delight with him.

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The breeze of the Resurrection will blow life on the martyrs
and rivers of pure joy will gladden them.
Have compassion on us, on that day, O Jesus full of graciousness.

Glory to the Father who strengthened George, the chosen martyr.
Adoration to the Son for whose love he endured all sufferings.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who gave much honour to his crowning.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

MAY 8

John the Evangelist[16]
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord our God, on the feast of the Blessed Apostle John who proclaimed Your truth and bore witness to Your love, to offer You honour and adoration fitting Your Sovereignty, and acceptable in Your sight. And by his intercession may we share in the blessings which you have prepared for him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 81 (80) Ring out your joy to God our strength...

RESPONSE
Blessed are you, Chosen Apostle John, whom your Lord
loved more than your companions, your memory
is exalted and magnified in the Church of believers.

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Your Commemoration is most glorious, John the Apostle.
Happy are those who celebrate your feast with faith.
May your prayer be a stronghold for us.

The angels marvelled at John, the Disciple whom Jesus loved,
as he rested on the breast of his Lord. Christ God,
who held Your Evangelist on Your breast, be gracious to all.

Glory to the Father who chose you, John.
Adoration to the Son who held you on His breast.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who spoke to you.
May your prayer be with us.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Blessed are you, John, who when you followed Jesus and asked Him,
"Where do You live?" heard such simple
words from Him, "Come and see."
And you went with Him and saw where He lived and stayed with Him.

The angels marvelled at John, the fair young man, seeing him at supper
resting on the breast of his Lord. He heard from Him secret things,
and today we celebrate his feast. O God of all, be gracious to all.

Blessed are you John, virgin and noble disciple, loved by the Master.
Your Gospel lights our darkness with faith in the Son of God and
zeal for the love of the brethren. O God of all, be gracious to all.

Heaven and earth rejoiced, hearing the oracle of the Holy Spirit
resounding through you, "Son of God who, at the beginning
were with Your Father, You came to us and gave us life."
O God of all, be gracious to all.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Fountain of Purity, the Stream of Holiness that is never dissipated, the Giver of Reverence to the saints and the Bestower of Virginity to virgins, who chose the Evangelist and Holy Apostle

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John the Theologian from his youth, when He found him and his brother James with their father Zebedee, repairing their nets. And He called them to be His disciples and He revealed to them His glory. He made John to be a holy apostle and a chaste virgin, so that he reclined on His breast and drew from it a stream of holy theology. And He counted him worthy to be a son to her who is full of holiness,and thus he dwelt with her, and buried her holy body which received God. He made him proclaim the Good Tidings of the Gospel together with the Divine Revelations, to be a brilliant light in the world and a strong pillar in the Church. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, You sanctified and called the holy prophets and bestowed on them virginity and holiness, and You revealed their glorious deeds to the world. At the end of time when You humbled Yourself and willed to become a son of man, from our own nature which was corrupted by sin, in order to give us life, You took the same nature and became flesh. You chose for Yourself as mother one who had no knowledge of marriage. You adorned her with virginity, purity and holiness, and You honoured her and made her high above all who are born, and through her You enriched all the saints and virgins with virginity and holiness. When therefore You chose the apostles of Your Gospel and ministers of Your Economy of Salvation, You chose virgins and saints, and manifested their holiness. You revealed John the Evangelist and Holy Apostle as more exalted, more glorious, more pure and raised above all, to speak divine things. As he willed to reveal Your Divinity without beginning, inspired by the Holy Spirit he proclaimed, "In the beginning was the Word." And when he wanted to declare that You were born in the flesh he added, "We have seen His glory such as befits the Father's Uniquely Beloved Son"...The Holy Church, then, celebrates his feast with praises and songs of the Holy Spirit and cries out, "Blessed are you, holy father evangelist and holy apostle, Saint John the Theologian, flute of swee' melodies, inspired by the Holy Spirit to make a joyful noise in the Church with songs of divinecontemplation. Blessed are you,holy father, who were found worthy to be given as a son to the pure Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ. Blessed are you, our holy father, evangelist and apostle, John the Theologian, great voice of preaching which resounded

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like thunder over the whole world with the proclamation of the Gospel and were therefore rightly called by your Master, Son of thunder...

Therefore the Holy Church which celebrates your memory and rejoices on the day of your feast asks of Christ, that through you and with you she may offer praise to Him, the God who chose you, and to His Father who glorified you, and to the Holy Spirit who endowed you with wisdom, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Blessed Apostle John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, heard from Him secret things, and on account of this became a teacher of wisdom. At supper, as he reclined on the breast of His Master, he asked Him, "Who is it that will deliver You?" And the heavenly companies marvelled and they wondered at how the Church of believers is exalted which celebrates his feast. By his prayers he helps her children to become like him, and he keeps them by the truth of his teaching.

As a rising sea with waves of mighty strength overflows and fills
the Creation, the Son of thunder proclaimed the Gospel of the Son,
and taught many people and brought them to the of worship the Trinity.
And he was called by his brothers, "the Disciple whom Jesus loved."
He was exalted and glorified and entered the feast of joys.
And his commemoration is celebrated in the Holy Church.
May his prayer be to us a wall of protection.

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

John the Evangelist, the Disciple whom Jesus loved, you spoke with God. You were blessed more than the other apostles, who at supper rested on His breast, and you learned from Him secret things. Pray and beseech your Lord to make His peace reign in the Creation, and to have compassion on sinners, and give hope and salvation to the community which celebrates your feast, and on the day of judgement may they experience His compassion.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Neither the sea nor the dry land are able to depict the beauty of his way of life, who made the heaven on high marvel at the depth of his teaching, who revealed to us that the Son is the Word who at the beginning was with His Father, and is God with His Father. And He became flesh and He mingled with us, and He enlightened the utmost ends of the earth by the proclamation of His Gospel. And behold, the Holy Church celebrates his commemoration. May his prayer be to us a wall of protection.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Glorious Name which the apostles carried throughout the world and they spread the fragrance of the Resurrection in the Creation. Those who breathed its sweet scent were healed from their diseases and it drove away from the Church sorrow and weeping, and she was clothed in a garment of glory fitting Your marriage feast.

May all the Churches now also rejoice in its fragrance, with Simon and John who were running side by side to the tomb. The Disciple whom Jesus loved outran Peter and reached first. Stooping in he saw the linen clothes on the ground and did not enter, waiting for his Elder to see that Jesus had left the wrappings there. Then he also went in. He saw and he believed.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Blessed Apostle,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayer and be gracious to all.

By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil from all those who take refuge in you with faith.

You who have discernment consider how high John rose, who became a son to the Virgin as she became his mother. He was therefore very fairly called by a beautiful name, the Disciple whom Jesus loved more than all others.

Jesus loved him so much that He gave him to His mother so that John took His place in relation to the Virgin Mary. To please the Blessed Virgin, He gave him to her instead of Himself. He was given instead of the Holy One, that she might not be bereaved!

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He willed to show that it was not in words only that He loved him. He showed His love to the disciple by His actions: He bore him on His breast and held him to be one with him. He breathed His Spirit on him, revealed His secrets to him and He gave him His mother.

Glory to You whose love urged Yout to descend on earth,
that by You our poor race might be exalted and be with You.
Blessed is He who sent You, and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.
Mystery to be adored, Exalted Being, to You be glory.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Their Good Tidings have spread throughout the earth
their words have reached to the ends of the world.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Jesus sent His Spirit to His apostles,
that they might bear witness to His truth and love.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 13:21–26 The Disciple whom Jesus loved was resting on His breast.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and reverence to God: "Hear us, Lord , and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our Lord who revealed the inscrutable mystery of Your love for us in the love of predilection with which You honoured Your friends, and above all the Disciple whom You loved, enlighten us to love our brethren every day of our life with intensity, with a creative love flowing from our heart, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our Lord who revealed to Your apostle John that God loved us first, and as He sent His Son in atonement for our sins, we in turn ought to love one another, prompt us to grow and to become known as a community of those who love God and neighbour, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

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Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Christ our Lord, that by the writings of John the Evangelist, the Seer of Patmos, we may continue to grow in faith and love till our last breath, and so be taken up in the eternal, mutual love of the Father for the Son, and of the Son for the Father, the communion with the Father and the Son which John wished to share with us, so that our joy may be full, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to praise You, our Creator, and with the angels to make a joyful noise, singing the threefold hallowing.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

You whom the Winged Creatures bless
and whose glory the Fiery Ones hallow,
and the angels and the sons of men cry to You, "Holy, Holy,"
glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all O Compassionate One.

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At night let us offer praise with the Watchers and make a joyful noise with the apostles to the Watcher who never sleeps, and we will not cease to offer Him our services of praise and adoration.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed apostle John, evangelist of truth and love,
preacher clothed in victory,
offer praise and thanksgiving to Christ
who set you up as a light in His Church.
May Your prayer be to us a wall of protection.

Praise to Him who is One in Three,
and the Three are One:
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
one true God, to Him be glory.
And on us His graciousness.

FIRST WATCH FOR THE MOTHER OF GOD

Psalm 45 (44) My heart overflows with noble words...

RESPONSE
Listen, O daughter...in place of your father shall be your son.
You shall make him prince over all the earth.
I shall sing your name through all generations,
and the peoples will praise you from age to age.

On the day of the commemoration of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Watchers and the angels rejoice,
and the Church and her children sing praise to the Lord,
who magnifies her feast in the four quarters of the earth.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who was born beyond time and came to birth in time from the virgin womb of Mary, to the Bread of Life who was

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brought up at Nazareth and grew in wisdom and in stature and in favour with God and men. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We worship You, Eternal Child, who were born of the Father before time while being one with Him. And again You were pleased to be born in time of the Virgin at Bethlehem. Who can comprehend Your first birth from the Father when You are one with Him? Who can grasp Your conception by Mary without her knowing man? Let us praise the Holy Virgin who received the word from the angel. Let us exalt Your Holy Spirit who descended and rested upon her. With great wonder we will cry out and say, "O Virgin Earth which brought forth the new Adam, from whose side our spiritual mother, the Church, was born, when on the Tree there flowed blood and water from His breast."

Therefore, according to her word, let us call her blessed as is right, and say, "Blessed are you from whom the Tree of Life grew up for us, and while we take our delight in Him, we will offer praise and thanksgiving and adoration to your Son and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Ephrem

Come, all you who have discernment, let us marvel
at the Virgin Mother, David's daughter,
herself most fair, she gave birth to the Wonderful.
She is the spring that provides the Fountain,
the ship that bears joy from the Father,
that carries good news in her pure womb.
She took on board and escorts
the great Steersman of creation
through whom peace reigns on earth and in heaven.

Come, let us wonder at the Virgin most pure,
wondrous in herself, unique in creation,
she gave birth yet knew no man.
Her pure soul was filled with wonder,
daily her mind gave praise
in joy at the twofold wonder:
her virginity preserved, her child most dear.
Blessed is He who shone forth from her.

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A young dove, she carried the Eagle, the Ancient of days,
singing praise as she carried Him, in her lovely songs:
"O my Son most rich, in a tiny nest
You have chosen to grow. Melodius Harp,
You are silent like a child, please let me sing to You
with the lyre whose cords stir the Winged Creatures.
Pray let me speak to You.

Your home, my Son, is higher than all,
yet it was Your wish to make me Your home.
Heaven is too small to contain Your splendour,
yet I, poorest of creatures, am carrying You.
Let Ezekiel come and see You on my knees;
let him kneel down and adore You, and acknowledge
it was You he saw there lifted by the Winged Creatures
above the chariot, and let him call me blessed
who carry You now.

The very chariot stops amazed that I carry its Master.
The Winged Creatures cry out with trembling,
"Blessed is Your Splendour from Your place",
that place is with me, my bosom is Your home!
Your Radiance rests on my knees,
the Throne of Your Majesty is held in my arms.
Instead of the chariot wheels, my fingers clasp You.
I too will cry out, "Blessed are You from Your place."

Isaiah the prophet proclaimed
"A virgin shall conceive and give birth."
Come, Isaiah, and look on me; let us rejoice together,
for I have given birth, with my virginity still sealed.
O prophet of the Spirit, rich in your visions,
look upon Emmanuel who was hidden from your eyes...
raise your voice to confirm that I gave birth
in my virginity, as you yourself foretold.

Come, all you who have discernment,
vocal advocates of the Spirit, prophets
who beheld hidden things in your true visions.
You farmers who sowed seed, and slept in hope,

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rise up and rejoice at the harvest: look in my arms
I clasp the Wheat-sheaf of life
that provides bread for the hungry,
that feeds the needy. Rejoice with me, for I carry
the Sheaf full of joys.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 47 (46) All you peoples clap your hands...

RESPONSE
God has gone up amidst shouts of joy,
Yahweh to the sounds of the trumpet.
Sing praises to God sing praises.
Sing praises to our King sing praises.

Young men, praise Him and exalt Him who sent His apostles
like stars shining with God, Christ our God,
and they lighted the Creation. Revered priests,
peoples and nations, exalt His Holy Name for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Holy and Divine Trinity, the Father with whom the Son was from the beginning and from whom He came to us, and the Holy Spirit sent to us by the Father and the Son to guide us into all the truth, and He descended on the apostles and sent them to carry the Good Tidings to the four quarters of the earth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, we keep memory of Your apostle John who was known as the Disciple whom You loved, and he rested on Your breast at the festal supper. Yet he was also surnamed Son of thunder, and truly he was a thundering voice of flesh which proclaimed in the Creation the coming of light and life, new life, life eternal, and brought the

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knowledge of the love of God and of the brethren. He revealed the streams of life-giving waters are surging, with the coming of the Spirit, from the breast of those who believe in You, and he witnessed to the blood and water that flowed on the Cross from Your pierced side. A marvellous fisherman he cast into the sea of this world the net of the Gospel and filled it with an abundance of souls. A hard working farmer he knew that the grain of wheat has to die if it is to bear fruit. A spiritual gardener he grafted on the tree of humankind the sucker of the Cross. Good physician, without medicines, he healed the sick bodies and diseased souls.

Therefore we ask You, Christ our God, who take Your disciples to Yourself and crown Your labourers, that in fair conduct and good life You will make us imitators of Your apostle John who left his boat and fishing nets and followed You. You made him to drink Your cup, but You also showed him Your glory, and he bore witness to Your love above all other things, and we know that his testimony is true. Glory to You and thanksgiving, who magnified our race by such a divine, and a preacher of Your Gospel of life, and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

John's Hymn *On the Word that became flesh*

In the beginning was the Word.
The Word was with God and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.

Through Him all things came into being.
Apart from Him nothing came into being,
not a single thing came into being apart from Him.

In Him was life, and He is the life of all that lives. This life
is the light of men. And the light shines on in the darkness.
And the darkness did not overcome the light.

The true light, the light which enlightens all men,
was coming into the world. He was in the world, the world
which was made through Him, but the world did not recognise Him.

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He came to His own people, but they did not receive Him.
Yet to all who received Him, those who believed in His Name,
He gave power to become God's children.

The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us,
and we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father's Only-begotten
filled with love and truth, and of His fulness we all
have received, love overflowing with love.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to us by the prayer of the apostle John.

By the prayer of the Disciple whom You loved,
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

"What was from the beginning", he declared, "What we have heard,
what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at
and felt with our hands, the Word of life, we proclaim to you.

We proclaim it to you that you may be joined in communion with us,
the communion we have with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.
We proclaim this, indeed, that your joy may be full...

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Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God.
He who loves is born of God and he knows God.
He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

In this was the love of God revealed to us, that God sent
His only Son into the world, so that we have life through Him.
Brothers, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

No man has ever seen God, but if we love love one another God abides in us and His love is perfected in us. And we know that we abide in Him and He in us, in that He has given us of His own Spirit."

Lord, be gracious to us by the prayer of the apostle John.

By the prayer of the Disciple whom You loved,
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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MAY 15

Apa Pachomios[17]
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to honour and celebrate the day of the commemoration of the great among the fathers, Apa Pachomios with sincere faith and ardent love, who for the sake of Your love and for the service of humankind turned away from the world of evil and adorned the Churches with his apostolic teachings and his noble way of life. May we also walk in his footsteps and grow into a holy habitation of God and people, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 112 (111) Happy the man who reveres the Lord...

RESPONSE

How happy the man who reveres the Lord
and greatly rejoices in all His commands.
Numerous in the land shall be his seed.
His children are blessed, the merciful and compassionate and just one.
In the darkness he makes to dawn the Sun for the upright.

His trust is in the Lord. His heart is steadfast.
He shall never stumble. In eternal memory is the just man.
Even-minded in pain and pleasure, he has no fear of evil reports.
With an unshakable heart his happiness cannot be destroyed.
Open-minded he gives to the poor, his generosity endures for ever.

O you who took up on your shoulders the yoke of your Lord,
holy father, Apa Pachomios, and from the heart
left behind the world of evil, with you we cry out,
"You are blessed for ever and blessed is Your Glory,
glorious above all, God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation."

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You who fashioned in your mind the image of your Lord,
good and gentle, and who walked in His glorious footsteps,
and found rest for your soul, with you we cry out,
"You are blessed for ever and blessed is Your Glory,
glorious above all, God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Blessed are you, holy father, Apa Pachomios,
who walked the whole way of life of the Prophets, and ran
on the path trodden by the Apostles in the footsteps of our Lord.

Our father, pray and ask for us from the Lord of all
that He may show His graciousness to the whole world.
And may all find protection by your prayers.

Blessed is He who chose you and invited you to His Kingdom
and you made His Name to be loved
and you sowed peace in His Church.

Beloved of the Son who for His love bore all trials,
ask from your Lord that He may set us free from deceit and untruth
and lead the human family on the path of liberation.

Our father, rejoice in Christ, our Lord and Master,
who made you illustrious among your people
and rejoice us also by the help of your prayers.

Glory to the Father
and to the Son who is from Him.
And to the Holy Spirit a shout of joy, at all times.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who by His saving coming trod the path of life by which the children of men journey to the Heavenly Kingdom, on which our holy father, Apa Pachomios, walked strenuously and

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valiantly, whose memory we celebrate today. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Praise to you, Christ our God, who from the beginning of the world have chosen just and holy men to bear witness to Your truth. You chose Abel and Seth, Enoch and Melchizedek who offered acceptable sacrifices among the nations, and You appointed Noah to save the human race from the waters of the flood. You chose Abraham to be the father of Your people and Moses to give them Your law and to guide them through the wilderness, and Joshua to lead them into the promised land. You sent the prophets to prepare the way for Your coming, and after Your coming You chose twelve apostles to preach Your Gospel in all the inhabited world. You also chose Pachomios when he did not yet know Your Covenant and You revealed Yourself to him through the love of Your disciples. His heart was touched by the charity of a Christian community who treated him and his conscript companions with love and compassion. And he, withdrawing aside, spent the night in prayer to the God in heaven, making supplication for a sign of Your goodness, and committing himself in return to serve humankind all the days of his life. Like Abraham he left home and family. He received baptism and soon put himself in full obedience under a holy hermit who taught him to labour in fasting and vigils, in the recitation of the word of God and in many prayers with the labour of the hands. Later, after a vision of the dew from heaven coming down on him and from his hand spreading over the surface of the whole earth, he gathered around him thousands of men and women to bring them to the knowledge of God and to salvation, assembling them in a community which renewed after several centuries the experience of the early Church of Jerusalem. Our father Saint Ephrem left us spiritual hymns which made the Churches of Mesopotamia resound with praise and thanksgiving while impressing on them a lofty vision of the life of solitude and unceasing prayer. Saint Anthony of Egypt taught his disciples the angelic life which made the desert resound with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Saint Basil in West Asia established brotherhoods which he led to the Gospel life through unceasing interpretation of the Holy Scriptures, which enabled them to be enrolled for the ministries and services of the Churches. But Apa Pachomios became the father of thousands of men and women with whom he relived the apostolic *koinonia,* in

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the then virgin soil of Africa. He gathered them there in gigantic monastries, patterns of christian communities which were soon to spread to Palestine and Syria, to Pontus and Cappadocia and further still to Gaul and Italy.

Therefore we beseech You, Lord, who-chose Your beloved Apa Pachomios and sanctified him and strengthened him and ennobled him, that You will ennoble us also who make memory of him, with all goodness that we may grow into a true *koinonia,* the communion by which You live in us and among us, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. And send into our broken world prophets and apostles who will create and multiply all over the inhabited planet base communities of people committed to true sharing and to upholding dignity of life and true freedom for all. And help us also to labour like them for the cause of righteousness, working with You to remove all evil in us and around us, that Your Holty Name may be praised in us which ennobles those who honour it, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Like a skilled merchant in search of fine pearls who sells everything
he has, in order to buy the precious pearl of unsuspected value,
the young Pachomios, when he first came to know the love of the Lord,
set his whole heart upon Him and upon His holy will,
and was listening to Him as one thirsty of water.

As the conscripts of the Roman ruler were sailing down the Nile, when
they put in at the city of Thebes, their guardians held them in prison.
In the evening the Christians of the locality hearing about them
and seeing them in dire want and sunk in great affliction
brought them things to eat and drink and all what they needed.

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

Pachomios' heart was touched by their love and compassion, and
drawing aside he spent the night in prayer to the Maker of the Universe,
"O God, if You will look upon me in my lowliness and deliver me
from my distress, I shall do Your will all the days of my life, loving
all men and making myself their servant according to Your command."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Blessed are you, Holy Apa Pachomios, who became father
to thousands of men and women who turned to you for their salvation.
And they brought their possessions to you to share all goods in common
in token of the brotherhood of all children of men and of communion
for a life of mutual service in love and concord, the holy *koinonia*.

We make memory of our fathers who in their lifetime
taught us to be children of God in this passing world.
Son of God, grant them and all who followed You in Your Passover
to take their delight in Your Kingdom with the just and the righteous,
in that world which shall not pass away nor come to end.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord of lords, may the good odour of this incense
which we burn before You on this day,
in commemoration of Your servant Apa Pachomios,
be pleasing to Your Lordship and give delight
to Your Godhead, with our praises and thanksgivings.

And may our praises and thanksgivings be joined with his prayers,
that they may find their way to You and be acceptable in Your sight,
and we will celebrate You, singing praise to You
with tranquillity and peace and love and delight and gladness.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Blessed Apa Pachomios,
May the Lord hear your prayer, and be gracious to all.

By your prayers may the Lord dispel the darkness of evil
from all who take refuge in you with faith.

Blessed are you, holy father, Apa Pachomios,
for your Lord saw your way of life all transparent and radiating,
and He was well pleased with you and He blessed your ministry.
May your prayer be a protection for us and for the whole Creation.

Blessed are you who were like a fragrant incense in this world
and its sweet aroma ascended to God Most High and gave Him delight.
On account of this today your memory is honoured
and magnified in the four quarters of the earth.

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Blessed are you who set your whole heart on your Lord
and were made into a life-giving spring. Streams of living water
flow from you, and the Churches and their children,
still today drink from them and quench their thirst.

Blessed are you, holy father, Apa Pachomios,
for your crown is woven and it is waiting for you
to be placed on your head on the day when the Son of the King
comes with great glory with His angels.

Glory to the Father who chose you, Holy Apa Pachomios.
Thanksgiving to the Son who made you an ornament for His Church.
Adoration to the Spirit who through you uttered words of life.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The just flourish like the palm tree,
as the cedar of Lebanon extending their branches.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Planted in the house of the Lord,
they grow vigorously in the house of God.
As the vine laden with fruits,
they proclaim the glory of the Lord.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Jn 15: 1–8 It is My Father's glory that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and reverence to God: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world."

Christ our God, who raised up your servant Apa Pachomios to be a pillar of light in the ancient Church of Africa and its radiance spread all over the world, reveal to the Church in this country of India–the cradle of monastic living—the Christian monastic charism as the

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manifestation of a divine quest and a true pattern of Gospel life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God who through Your servant Apa Pachomios revealed the monastic life as a meeting place of God and men, bearing fruit in the holy *koinonia,* a community of goods with union of hearts, make to spread in Your Churches basic communities to rebuild into one body with one heart, a world painfully divided and sorely broken, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that in a world faced with unprecedented dangers and opportunities on account of technological advances resulting in consumerism and the deterioration of spiritual values, monastic communities may contribute to uphold patterns of simple living, with unconditional sharing and respect for all that lives and for the whole creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Christ our God, we pray that the monastic *koinonia* which shone so brightly in the life and works of Apa Pachomios may prompt our Churches to regain their freedom from oppressive social and economic structures, and to make their presence felt among the poor and the downtrodden, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole world.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Lord, to be imitators of his sincere faith and evangelical way of life, that the Churches may reveal themselves as communities of love, working with You in this world to put an end to poverty, humiliation and degradation, by a true sharing of all the good things of this world, and by upholding the rights and dignity of all that lives and the sacredness of the whole Creation, and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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APA PACHOMIOS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise, singing
the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy" are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, that we may praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is Christ who heard you, holy father, when you spent the night praying, "May Your goodness quickly come upon me! Deliver me from my affliction, and I will serve humankind all the days of my life."
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is Christ who strengthened you to keep vigil at night, even when you travelled by boat. And you taught your disciples to alternate sleep and prayer, while you persevered in prayer throughout the night.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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Glory to Him who is One in Three
and the Three are One:
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
one true God.
To Him be praise.
And on us His graciousness.

FIRST WATCH FOR THE MOTHER OF GOD MOTHER OF THE EARS OF CORN

Psalm 45 (44). My heart overflows with noble words...

RESPONSE
You are the fairest of the children of men,
charm emanates from your whole being, because
the Fair One, the All-beautiful, has made you His own.

Mary you are a great marvel,
holy in yourself, noble in your thoughts,
and you carried the Fire in your womb.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Word who was made flesh of a virgin mother to give us life, and today makes glorious and magnifies the day of her remembrance in the four quarters of the earth, to Him who makes the simple great and who looked on the humility of His Mother and raised her up and exalted her beyond all measure, to Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Christ, Power, Wisdom and Mind of God the Father, Heavenly Bread who descended from heaven to satisfy the hunger of the peoples, Blessed Husbandman who came to earth to uproot briars and tares and to make it bear fruits of life, Heavenly Ear which were sown in the Spiritual Earth and grew up without water or labour, Spiritual Wheat which sprang from the Virgin Field and provided food for mortal creatures that they might live by it, Blade of Blessings which grew in the Illustrious City and made a banquet for the hungry that they might feed upon it, Sweet Fruit which grew on the Spiritual Tree to take away the bitter taste of the fruit of death from the palate of mortal

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man, Sheaf of Blessings which sprang from the Thirsty Earth without seed and from her filled the whole earth which was not sufficient for it. Lord, while we are filled with wonder at the riches of Your bountiful blessings, on this day of the commemoration of Your Mother laudable above all, the Holy Virgin Mary, we offer to Your Sovereignty sincere thanks and due praise, and we say, "Blessed are You, Heavenly Ear, by whom the ancient malediction was taken away from the earth... Blessed are You, Ear of Joy, by whom hungry souls are filled with the bread of blessings. Blessed are You, Ear of Wonder, who sowed Yourself and caused Yourself to spring up, and made Yourself to grow, and harvested Yourself, and You brought Yourself to the threshing-floor and stored Yourself in the spiritual barn of our hearts. Blessed are You, Ear of Wonder, who became our food and drink, our support and our life, our resurrection and our salvation.

Therefore we beseech You, Word of God, on this day of the commemoration of Saint Mary, full of grace, that by her prayers You will pour upon the whole earth Your graciousness and compassion. Make the land to be fed by timely rains, that it may yield fair harvests and all who labour on it may find their livelihood. May those who have abundance not deprive those who suffer want and may all obtain a fair share of the good things of mother earth, and we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

"All generations of the earth will call me blessed,"
answered the Virgin Mary who brought forth the Son.
And He betrothed the Holy Church who every day sings praise.
Halleluia, blessed is He who confounded those who crucified Him,
and He espoused the Church. To Him our adorations.

Virgin, who from all generations on earth were chosen to become
the Mother of God, on the day of your commemoration,
pray and make supplication to your only Son, that He may
make His peace reign in the world. Halleluia, blessed is He
whose mother asks Him to make peace in the whole Creation.

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

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Blessed is He who descended and put on a body from Mary
and He was seen by us in it. Blessed is the Risen One
who by His death slew Death and raised up the dead from Sheol.
Halleluia, blessed is He who makes to ascend from there
the children of Adam who were lying in corruption.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

"From all my children may praise ascend to my Lord,"
says the Church, and she sings to Him, "From her
also who was Your chariot, in whose womb Your Glory dwelt,
the womb of the Virgin that carried You." Halleluia,
blessed are You, Word of God who sucked milk from a virgin.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.&

Psalm 21 (20) 1–8 Lord, Your strength gives joy to the king...

RESPONSE
O Lord it is in Your strength that the king rejoices.
He exults greatly in Your saving help.
You did not ignore the requests of his lips.
You have granted him his heart's desire.

The Church rejoices and exults in her fathers and teachers
whom Christ raises up in her to serve and teach her children.
Apa Pachomios gathered them into the *koinonia* and taught them
by his words and by his deeds and by the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the God and Lord of all, who is glorified by the saints and praised by the fathers and who was pleased to call to His service, through His Spirit, Apa Pachomios, to gather His people into the holy

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koinonia, the common life in mutual service, with love and concord. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord Jesus, our God, our mouth is powerless to tell the glories of Your servant, Apa Pachomios, the chosen one who in his own person obtained the victory. We recall with wonder how, though not born a Christian, he was touched to the heart by the love and compassion of a Christian community and spent the whole night in prayer to the God of Heaven, offering himself to Him to do His will, always and everywhere for the service of humankind. And later, when resentment and anger had taken hold of him while he was working with his brother, how from evening to morning he besought You with tears for the grace of patience and forbearance that purify the heart and soften it and make it fit for the holy *koinonia.* We marvel greatly with his first disciples how with a body broken by mortification he was taking all the care of the community. How he spoke to them the word of God, kindling in them zeal for all good works. And even when he kept silent, they saw his conduct and this also was a word of life. And he, drew unceasingly on the Holy Scriptures which he knew by heart and made all to learn them and to recite together at the times of prayer. He established for them rules of life and traditions profitable for their souls. We listen with rapture to the account of the growth of the *koinonia* bringing together thousands of men and also women into one community of which he was truly the father, he who till his last breath walked among them in all simplicity and humility, the servant of all, a man pure and humble, truly a great vision. For what is greater than to see the invisible God in a visible man!

We therefore beseech You, Lord, grant that through the intercession of Apa Pachomios we may never grow weary on the path he trod for us. May we put affection into our love for the brotherhood, honouring one another and never allowing our zeal to flag, that our community may maintain its spiritual glow. Let us always find joy in Your service while being concerned with our people. Let us share with all who are in need, and cherish hospitality, while keeping in harmony with one another and being at peace with all men and women. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn *Madrosho*
Who is able to tell your praises, O glorious and chosen Apa Pachomios? As the sun gives light to the Creation, you illumine the Church by your way of life, and now she rejoices on the day of your commemoration. O good shepherd of the spiritual flock gathered by the True Shepherd, O skilful gardener of His choice vine, blessed are you on the day when the Son of the King will appear in glory with the angels.

Blessed are you, Holy Apa Pachomios, who turned to the Lord to do His will all the days of your life, loving all men and serving them. We glorify and bless the Holy Spirit who dwelt in you, for it was the Spirit of God that seized you and told you, "Settle down in this deserted village", scorched by the intensity of the heat. And it pleased you and you listened to His voice.

You stayed there and grew vegetables and with some palm trees and the labour of your hands you earned your food, enough to share with the poor and the stranger who would pass by in a boat or on the road. And as you received people and enjoyed conversing with them, they would leave their place and come to live with you because you strengthened them and gave them hope by sharing their life.

The night you were baptized, to be made worthy of the Holy Mysteries, you saw the dew of heaven descend on your head and turn into a honey comb in your hand, and it dropped and spread all over the earth. Later you sought to become a monk. Blessed are you who were received with joy by Apa Palamon and taught the word of God for constant prayer in night vigils, and with the work of the hands and with fasting.

Once you were at prayer in a solitary place, the voice was heard again, "Dwell in this place, many will come to you for their salvation." Blessed is the Lord who out of love for us founded the holy *koinonia* through Apa Pachomios. Blessed is His servant who walked the whole way of the Prophets and ran on the path of the Apostles, the way of service and universal love, on which our Lord walked here on earth.

Blessed is the chosen one of God Almighty called from the nations
to make the Gospel to shine among the nations.
And He made to flow from his heart streams of living water
in which the Illustrious Churches find great delight.

MEDITATION.

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THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heaven...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Holy Apa Pachomios,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracioust o all.

By your prayer, O Blessed Father, may the Lord
strengthen the bond of *koinonia* among us and among the Churches,
and make us all walk in love, in mutual service and concord.

We are not able to fashion an image of your fair deeds,
O Holy Father, our mouths are too small to declare your praises,
on whose head descended the dew from heaven, and in your hand
it formed a honey comb, and it dropped unto the earth
and it spread to the four quarters of the world.

We remember how the Lord called you to lead others to salvation
and how you exhorted those who had not attained inner freedom
so as to serve others with joy, to strive unceasingly through prayer
and recitation of the Scriptures, and purity and humility and obedience,
while you found rest in serving God and men all the days of your life.

The Holy Mysteries were celebrated every Saturday and Sunday in the
monasteries. You gathered them all every year for the Passover Week,
while every evening in whichever monastery you found yourself,
after work and meal, you would assemble the brothers to speak
God's word to them and interpret for them the Holy Scriptures of Christ.

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You would warn them against any thought of high rank and love of power. Did you not go into hiding when the bishop who wanted to set you over all the monks pressed the Great Athanasius to ordain you to the ministerial priesthood? Blessed are you, who through all your labours and prayers have become a guide to life eternal.

Let us glorify the Holy Spirit who dwelt in you.

Glory to the Father who chose our father from the beginning. Adoration to the Son who set him as a beacon of light in His Church. Thanksgiving to the Spirit who through him declared the wisdom from on high. And now after your death it remains in your bones.

May your prayer be with us.

Concluding Prayer

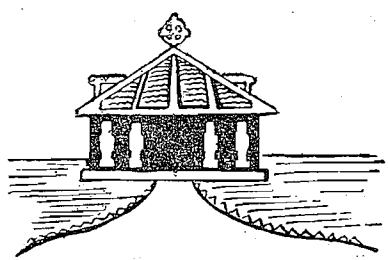
Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

JUNE 9

Ephrem the Syrian Deacon of Edessa and Teacher of the Church[18]

As on January 28, Volume II p. 576-587



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JUNE 24

The Birth of John the Baptist[19] Evening Prayer

Lamp-Lighting Hymn Joy-giving Light of the holy glory...

Opening Prayer

Comforter of those who mourn and Hope of all the ends of the earth, Lord who by the birth of John the Forerunner comforted Zechariah the priest and rejoiced Elizabeth the barren daughter of the Levites, rejoice us now also by the prayers of those who loved You, with the blessings which You have promised to them in the world of spiritual joys. And make us worthy to honour and celebrate the birth of John the Forerunner with joy, our Lord and God for ever. Amen.

Psalm 15 (14) Lord, who shall live in Your dwelling-place?...

RESPONSE

The human race had been in the darkness of untruth
from of old when the Forerunner came and cried out:
"You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our fathers."

Your wondrous birth from a barren women has healed the Creation which was lying prostrate while by your message she 'learned to cry out, "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our fathers."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Blessed is He who has given to an old and barren woman to bring into the world him who has not his equal among the sons of men, who on the day of his birth opened closed doors: as he came forth from the womb of his mother, he unbound the tongue of his father.

From Zechariah the priest, Elizabeth brought forth into the world a cherished fruit, the servant of the Most High who was for the Church a glorious preacher. And he sowed the seed of life
in the ears of the bride of the Most High.

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Blessed is He who sent the Voice before His coming
to preach repentance for the pardon of sins.
On the day of his birth, joy shone for Elizabeth the barren
and for his father who had become dumb.

Today the bond tied by the angel
which held the tongue of Zechariah is released.
And Elizabeth thrills with joy on seeing her son John
who is to baptise his Lord in the river Jordan.

Lord God, we call upon You with tears. Hear us, O Lord,
in Your goodness, and in Your graciousness pardon our sins.
And on the day of Your coming make us worthy of Your Kingdom,
by the prayers of Your mother and of all the saints who loved You.

Eucharistic Prayer

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the King of Glory who in His goodness chose His Forerunner, and rejoiced Zechariah and Elizabeth by his birth, whom He had chosen from the womb of his mother. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Who can render in earthly paints your greatness and beauty, beloved child whose conception was announced by an angel while dumbness held the tongue of your father when he doubted of your birth? Eloquent Advocate conceived in a barren womb to make known the resounding voice which was silent and dumb in the womb of the Virgin. Great Prophet to whom was made known the Mystery of his Lord from the womb of his mother and in the womb leapt for joy in praise of Him. New Grape which appeared on the old stock and gave joy with your wine to the wearied. Child born of aged parents, old and barren, to make the renewal of the Creation. Great among those born of women, who proclaimed the lofty greatness of the Most High who descended to empty Himself. Shining Star who announced the True Morning. Joyous Morning who made known the Glorious Day. Fair Lamp who manifested the Only Light. Timely Moon who met the Eternal Sun. Today Zechariah rejoices because the bond of his tongue is loosened, and the barren woman

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gives thanks because her expectation is fulfilled. Today two wondrous births are manifested to the world, a new birth from a barren womb and a new voice from the mouth of Zechariah.

Therefore we beseech you, O Key that opened the barren womb, by your intercession on our behalf may the ancient fetters of sin be loosened and removed from us all. Beg humbly of the Lord that He may blow in the inner self of the Church of believers the breath of His grace which does wonders. May He enrich the barren shoots of the trees—which are our souls—with the abundant fruits of His Divinity, that with Zechariah your father whose tongue was loosened by your birth, we may give thanks, and with Elizabeth whose barrenness was ended by your conception, we may sing praise to the Child of Wonder before whom you danced in the womb of your mother, and to his Hidden Father who made you the Messenger of His Uniquely Beloved Son, and to the Holy Spirit with whom you were filled when you were in the womb, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today in the mountains of Judah Elizabeth brings forth
into the world the Voice of the Word of God.
By his birth he rejoices the Holy Church of believers
and makes her children return to the way of truth.

Grant us, O our Saviour, to sing beautiful praises to You
on the day of the birth of the Preacher of Truth, and remove utterly
from the earth wars, famine and epidemics, and make to reign
peace and tranquillity in Your Church and all over the world.

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

Today Zechariah the Priest sings praise and offers thanksgivings
to the Lord of all who makes him happy in his old age,
by giving him as son the preacher who will call peoples and nations
to turn away from error and to walk on the way of truth.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to the Strong One who lowered the height of His Majesty
and descended and became man according to His will.
It is before His coming that John, the son of the barren, proclaims:
"After me will come Christ the Saviour."

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense

John the Messenger and Forerunner,
you are the sower of peace in the desert,
the preacher of calm in the wilderness
who turned those who were in error to the way of truth.

Pray to Him who was divinely proclaimed by you,
that He may receive this incense,
which we offer on the day of your birth,
and that He may make us turn away from evil to good.

Second Hymn

The words of Gabriel to Zechariah in the sanctuary are accomplished. Elizabeth the barren has brought forth a son in her old age. At his birth Zechariah rejoiced and today the Church celebrates with thanksgiving the Son who sent before Him
His messenger to make plain His way.

News spreads through the mountains of Judah: Zechariah the priest has a son John. Praise is offered, joy and gladdness reign, Aaron's daughter who was barren rejoices because of the fulfilment of her long desire. Blessed is He who rejoices the barren by the
birth of the Preacher of Truth.

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

Zechariah the priest offers praise, glory and adorations because the bond of his tongue is loosened. His mouth is full of praise because the Preacher is born who will prepare the way for the Gospel. Blessed be the Child born without marriage, in virginity. He rejoices the earth and the heaven. And, behold, they offer praise to Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is he who by his birth gave joy to the priest already old, before he went down to Sheol. Seeing the infant his heart was filled with joy. He led him into the desert that he be not stained with sin. Glory to the Son of God who chose the Preacher of Truth of whom he bore witness that there is not his equal among the sons of men.

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May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Christ who gave joy to the priest in his old age
by the birth of the Preacher of Truth, give joy to Your Church
whom You betrothed to Yourself in the waters of Jordan.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their children by the Cross of light.

The course of nine months being completed, You gave orders
for the Voice to be born, as it had been promised.
The barren one, advanced in age crouched down
to bring to birth the son of Zechariah.
Then a powerful voice made new sounds of praise to be heard.

Relatives and neighbours and parents hear it
and they praise the Lord for the grace given to him.
Judah rejoices, the barren one exults, Zechariah gives thanks.
His mouth is opened and he intones songs of praise.

He rejoices at the child of the Daughter of the Levites
who fulfils the word of the angel.
The priest is filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesies: "Blessed be
the Lord who has raised up to David the power of salvation."

Glory to the Father who gave fruit to the barren womb.
Adoration to the Son, who chose to betrothe the Holy Church,
and to the Holy Spirit, who rejoiced the old man by the unloosening
of his tongue. And on us graciousness, by his prayers. Amen. Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Let the mountain of Sion rejoice
and the daughters of Judah exult.

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Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Elizabeth gives birth to the Preacher of Truth
and all the people rejoice with her.
Wonderful indeed are the Lord's dealings with us!
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 1:57–66 The Birth and Naming of John the Baptist.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and gladness, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation!"

Christ our God who had closed the lips of the priest Zechariah on account of his disbelief and opened them today for the birth of his son, set us and all whose faith is shaken, free from unbelief, and open our minds and hearts to the light of Your deifying mysteries, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God who through the birth of the Preacher of Truth rejoiced Zechariah and Elizabeth and all their neighbours, give us to rejoice always in Your gifts and prompt us to share them with all, rejoicing with all who rejoice and being at the side of those who are afflicted, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God who dealt graciously with the world when You raised up John the Baptist, a prophet of the Most High, to prepare the way for Your coming, prompt us and all the Churches to show the way to salvation by working with You for the removal of evil and by living in the light of Your Gospel, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

As we awake from sleep, we offer praise and exaltation
to the Hidden Father who is without beginning
and to the Adorable Son who comes forth from Him
and to the Holy Spirit the Comforter.

Watcher of the Watchers, we minister to You,
and the angels sing Your praise,
and the Winged Creatures bless Your Name,
awaken us to sing glory with them at all times.

Blessed and chosen Saint John, noble and holy ascetic,
fair model of purity and teacher of perfection,
be with us, as we are gathered now,
to keep vigil in commemoration of you.

Stand well, mighty hero, at the head
of the company of those who laud you, and help us,
by your great power, that we may celebrate
the day of your commemoration with pure hearts.

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Glory to the Father who chose you,
and to the Son who strengthened you in the contest,
and to the Holy Spirit who magnifies and honours
the great day of your commemoration,
Blessed Saint John the Baptist.

FIRST MATCH

Psalm 1 Happy indeed is the man...

RESPONSE
How blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
who, night and day, ponders over it.
He shall be like a tree planted near streams of water.
Its leaves never wither and its fruit comes in due season.

Blessed are you, Saint John, at whose birth, your father
was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he uttered this praise, "You,
Child, will be the prophet of the Most High, the Lord's forerunner,
to prepare His way and lead all to salvation through knowledge of Him.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro For the Mother of God*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who was born beyond time and came to birth in time from the virgin womb of Mary, to the Bread of Life who was brought up at Nazareth and grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We worship You, Eternal Child who were born of the Father before time while being one with Him. And again You were pleased to be born in time of the Virgin, at Nazareth. Who can comprehend Your first birth from the Father when You are one with Him? Who can grasp Your conception by Mary without her knowing man? Let us praise the Holy Virgin who received the word of the angel, and Your Holy Spirit came upon her and rested upon her. With wonder we cry out and say, "O Virgin Land, which brought forth the new Adam from whose side our spiritual mother, the Church, was born when on the Tree there flowed blood and water from His breast.

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Therefore according to her word let us call her blessed as is right and say, "Blessed are you from whom the Tree of Life grew up for us". And while we take our delight in Him we offer praise and adoration and thanksgiving to Your Son and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

When John the Levite was born of a previously barren mother,
Zechariah his father uttered and revealed hidden things concerning him.
Glory to the Uniquely Beloved Son who by His revelation
filled him with the Spirit and sent him ahead of Himself
to make plain the way to the Kingdom.

In the mountain of Judah there was wonder and joy among the Levites
when was born to them the preacher and forerunner of the Uniquely
Beloved Son. The child put an end to the silence of his father
whose tongue the angel had bound on account of his disbelief.

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

Zechariah was filled with joy at the birth of his son John
for it loosened the bonds of his tongue that had been bound
when he had doubted the conception of Elizabeth,
his barren spouse, and both were advanced in age.
The birth caused great rejoicing also among his people.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

You were chosen from the womb of your mother, John, son of the barren. And our Lord in His Gospel said this, "There has been none like you." By your birth two doors were opened that had been closed, the womb of your mother that had never borne fruit, and the mouth of your father that had been silenced.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 34 (33) I will bless the Lord at all times...

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RESPONSE
The angel of the Lord is at the side of those who revere Him.
Taste and drink deeply and see that the Lord is sweet.
How blessed is the man who puts his trust in Him!
Revere the Lord, you His saints, you will lack nothing.

Your birth, O John, announces to the Creation
that in the tender compassion of our God,
He makes the Morning Sun rise and shine upon the world
to guide the human family into the way of peace.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who consoles the sorrowing and is the hope of all the ends of the earth. He comforted Zechariah the priest and gave joy to Elizabeth, the barren daughter of the Levites, by the birth of John His preacher. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

We offer unceasing praises and thanksgivings to You, Lord, for Your grace so full of tenderness and compassion. For You sent the holy prophets before Your coming like heralds, and each of them announced the hidden and wonderous mystery of Your coming in the flesh. One prophesied concerning Your messenger John and said that he was an angel. Another spoke of him as the voice crying aloud in the wilderness. When You had revealed Your saving coming to all the holy men in a mystery, You sent John the Baptist before Your coming, between the old and the new covenants, a star before the Light, a lamp before the Sun of Righteousness, a voice before the Word, a preacher who preached to the people openly, "After me there will come one who is mightier than I. I am not even worthy to loose the strap of his sandals." He it was who was found worthy to baptise You, O Lamb of God who take away the sin of the world. He it was of whom You declared, "I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John."

Therefore, Lord, raise up in Your Churches prophets who make Your light to shine in the world and arouse the conscience of Your

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people to overcome the darkness of exploitation and oppression, of poverty and hunger, and heal in us all, the restless urge to have and to possess, and give us instead hearts ready to share all that we receive from Your Goodness. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father to and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Today Zechariah the priest who was speechless, rejoices
and exults on account of the birth of his son.
His mouth is filled with thanksgiving and he prophesies about him.
He will be the Forerunner of the Word made flesh and go before him
to prepare for the Creation the path that leads to life,
and to awaken conversion in the Holy Church of believers.
Blessed is He who chose him from the womb and who gave him
the Spirit by whom hidden things were revealed.

The barren one brought forth the Lord's Forerunner who was to prepare the way of the Gospel. His father the priest who had been silenced by the angel and was speechless, raised his voice in praises. Through this child the Church would return to the way of truth. He would reveal it to her in the coming of the One Beloved Son of God, who would give her a new life and restore her beauty.
With her betrothal to her Lord in the water of baptism she would no more be led astray but be free from all estranging fears.

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

There was glory and great joy in the house of Zechariah the priest
when the Preacher was born to the barren daughter of Levi.
All their brothers and relations gathered with them
to rejoice on account of the child that had come so late to them.
His father who was speechless because of the word of Gabriel
made a sign for a writing-tablet on which he wrote the child's name,
John. And straightway the bond of his tongue was loosened
and he sang praise to God in a loud voice.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Blessed is the birth of wonder that brought new things to the Creation.
The Holy Spirit was poured forth and filled John in the womb
of his mother. And the mouth of the priest was opened
which had been silenced on account of his doubt. He revealed
his knowledge of hidden things and prophesied in the Holy Spirit.
Glory to the Uniquely Beloved Son who enlightened the earth
by His coming, and came forth to us from a virgin womb
while He is God who fills the heights and the depths.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Lord, be gracious to us by the prayer of Saint John.

By the prayer of him who loved You so much,
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

How glorious is your commemoration, Saint John,
and illustrious, in the four quarters of the earth!
And now the Holy Church sings praise
to the Lord who made a crown for you.
Who would not rejoice on your feast,
O Athlete of Righteousness?

Blessed are you, Saint John,
who laid your right hand on your Lord
and who took hold in your hands of the Flame
at whose brightness the Watchers quake.
And now the heavenly ones rejoice with you
and the earthly ones exult on account of you.

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Blessed are you, fruit of the barren,
shoot who sprang forth on the dry vine.
Behold, the Holy Church celebrates
with joy the day of your feast.
May your prayer be a stronghold for her
and keep her children within her.

Glory to the Father who magnified John and made his beauty to shine.
Adoration to the Son who makes his feast glorious in the four quarters.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit.
And on us graciousness and compassion, at all times.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

JUNE 29

Peter and Paul Heads of the Apostles[20] Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to honour and celebrate with love the glorious and exalted memory of Your great apostles, Peter and Paul, with true faith and sincere thanksgivings, with a noble way of life and with beautiful thoughts. By their prayers may we be worthy of that bliss reserved for them, that in their heavenly abodes we may offer praise and thanksgiving, to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 19 (18) The heavens proclaim the glory of God...

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RESPONSE

The heavens proclaim the glory of God. Day unto day
pours forth speech and night unto night unfolds knowledge.
Their message goes forth to the ends of the earth.

You who made Simon the head of the apostles
to hold the keys of the Kingdom, Christ God,
and who magnifies his memory, be gracious to all.

The prophets rejoice on the day of the commemoration of Peter and
Paul, the glorious preachers, and they sing praise to Christ
who set them as the foundation of His Church.

Blessed are You, chosen apostles, Peter and Paul,
who preached His Gospel to the world, and now
your memory is venerated in the four quarters of the earth.

As we hold the faith which you have handed over to us,
O blessed apostles Peter and Paul, ask our Lord
to confirm it in our hearts for ever and ever.

Glory to the Good One who chose His apostles, Peter and Paul,
the glorious preachers, and who honours and magnifies
their feasts in the Holy Church of true believers.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Do you love Me more than all else? asked the Saviour to Simon Peter.
Peter was deeply perturbed because Jesus asked this three times.
"Lord, You know me," Peter replied, "You know well that I love You."
And Jesus said to him: "Take care of My sheep." Lord of all,
in memory of Your apostles, be gracious to the whole world.

Who would not wonder at these words of Jesus: "When you were young
you fastened your belt about you and walked where you chose.
When you are old you will stretch out your arms and a stranger will
bind you fast and carry you where you have no wish to go." And this
He said to indicate the manner of death by which he would glorify God.

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Paul descended to the field of combat highly trained and well proved. He faced powerful rulers and angry mobs. He fought and triumphed, enduring all afflictions, blows and tortures for the love of his Lord, Jesus the Son of God, and he had his head cut off by the sword. Lord of all, in memory of Your apostles, be gracious to the whole world.

Who would not admire and believe the Apostle Paul who cries out, "Trials and torments, persecutions and all kinds of sufferings bear no comparison with the glory which is waiting at the end for the true disciples, the freedom and glory of the children of God." Lord of all, in memory of Your apostles, be gracious to the whole world.

Simon Peter, simple fisherman and head of the company of the apostles, you were called the Rock to be made the foundation of the Church. Pray for us to Christ that He may spread His peace in all the Churches which rejoice and praise and celebrate the day of your remembrance. Lord of all, in memory of Your apostles, be gracious to the whole world.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Lord of the heavenly ones and the earthly ones who raised up in His Church two main pillars, Peter the Rock and Paul the Builder of many churches, who lay down their lives for the flock which He redeemed by His blood, Jesus for whose love the great Peter was crucified, head down, and Paul the architect who was beheaded by the sword for His Name. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, who were pleased to live with the sons of men of Your own will, and became our first apostle and high priest...and by Your Divine Economy chose twelve simple men, and made them wise by the Holy Spirit, and gave them glorious laws and ordinances that Your Gospel message might be preached in due order without confusion. You made Peter their head and their foundation in the height of perfection and You sent him as the head and chief of his brothers to Rome, the head and first of cities. You manifested Yourself to Paul when he persecuted Your disciples. You captured him on the

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road, and from a bitter persecutor you made him one of the persecuted. You enriched him with glorious revelations and gave him wisdom in the Divine Mysteries. Like an eagle he flew over all parts of the world and filled them with the Gospel of life. He spoke boldly rebuking kings and reproving judges and comforting the weak. And lastly he was crowned with Peter, the head of the company of the apostles. While Peter was crucified head downwards, as if he were kissing the foot of the Cross of his Master, Paul was crowned with the sword and had his honoured head cut off. And now today in the Churches, in the four quarters of the earth, their memory is glorious and all their children sing praise to Him who magnified them. And we also cry out with songs and praises of the Holy Spirit...Peter and Paul, shining lamps of fire, by your preaching you gave light to all the world. Peter and Paul, skilful fishermen, you caught men in the net of the Gospel. You drew them up from the sea of sin and lifted them up to the Heavenly Kingdom. Peter and Paul, spiritual streams flowing from Eden, you gave joy to the Church of God by your writings inspired by the Holy Spirit.

And now we beseech You, Lord our God, by the prayers of Your apostles and of Your Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, look upon us with the eye of graciousness...Strengthen the weak. Heal the sick. Hasten the liberation of the oppressed. Bring back those who have been taken far off. Guard those who are near. Pardon us and all when we fall into sin. Receive the penitent. Be a protector and deliverer from all harm to those of every age and condition who have believed in You, through their preaching. Give rest to the departed believers who have gone hence to You in Your blessed abodes, in orthodox faith, that we and they in the company of Your friends may offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed are you, Rock of truth, Foundation of the Holy Church, Simon
head of the apostles, fisher of men, who by the teaching of the Cross
cast your net and gathered humankind into it and baptized peoples
and nations according to the message of the Gospel.
Like your Saviour you endured death on the cross and revealed
its power and glory in the four quarters of the earth.
May your prayer be to us a wall of protection.

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Simon, the head of the apostles, was proclaimed blessed by the Lord. He was called the Foundation by the Architect, who put in his hands the power over the heights and the depths, to order according to His will and to heal the ills and infirmities of the weak race of Adam. Glory to the Lord who chose him and who made him feed His flock, and like a true disciple he was moved by the Holy Spirit for the celebration of the Holy Mysteries.

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

Saul obtained letters from the scribes empowering him to imprison the followers of the apostles, disciples of the Uniquely Beloved Son. On the road a light flashed from the sky all around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice coming from heaven, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" "Who are You?" he answered, "I do not know Your Name." And the Lord said to him, "I am Jesus of Nazareth. Go and preach among the nations that I am Jesus, the Word of God."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Church of believers was seized with great wonder.
She marvelled when she saw Paul preach the faith of the apostles
and endure tortures, torments and fearful perils many times.
And at last he carried off the crown of life and glory
given by his Lord so pleased with his works.
He inherited the Kingdom with the saints, and now the Holy Church
whom he espoused to the Word of God celebrates his memory.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon,
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
By the prayers of Your holy apostles Peter and Paul,
the architects of Your Holy Church, we beseech You,
Lord God, be reconciled with us.
Receive our services and our prayers.
And may this fragrant incense be for Your delight.

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By its good odour, grant us good health of body, mind and spirit,
and Your help in our services to others,
and a good remembrance of those who followed You in Your Passover,
that we may always give thanks to You with joy,
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayers be with us, O Peter and Paul.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be compassionate to all.

By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil
from all who take refuge in you with faith.

Simon Peter is the chief of the apostles.
He is the first among the beloved company of the disciples.
The Word chose him as the foundation and called him Rock.
On him He built the glorious edifice of the Holy Church.

The Lord put in his hands the keys of the heights that he might open or shut, bind or loose, like God. He takes the lambs of the Son to the fountain of life and it is not by force that he makes them enter and places them in the heights of heaven.

Behold, three times he confesses that he loves the Son
to make up for his threefold denial.
The Good Shepherd who died for us of His own will bestows on him the care of the lambs, of the sheep and of the flock.

Simon head of the apostles offers pure glory to the Son of God, who gave him power over the heights and the depths. The Church presents her offerings of praise to Him who established in her a good shepherd to take care of her children sincerely.

By the prayer of Your apostles, our Lord, remove from Your Churches the scandal of disunity, that Your own prayer for the human family may be fulfilled, "Father, may they all be one, as You are in Me and I in You, that the world may believe that You did send Me."

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Jesus, Apostle of His Father to the world,
sent His Spirit to His apostles

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to preach the Gospel to the nations.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Their Good Tidings have spread throughout the earth.
Their words have gone to the ends of the world.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 16:13–19 Peter's part in the foundation of the Church. He is the Rock.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and reverence: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who by Your holy apostles Peter and Paul have guided the nations who were groping in the dark so as to bring them to the light of Your knowledge, lead us all to the full light of Your Gospel, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who willed that Your work of salvation entrusted to Your holy apostles Peter and Paul should be carried out by Your Churches, never cease to prompt them by Your Holy Spirit, to guide the world into all the truth, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, for our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the fostering of universal brotherhood among all human beings, beyond distinctions of race caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the worldand harmony be restored among all nations,and strengthened

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in this our country of India and in the whole creation,we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Lord our God, grant that by the prayers of Your apostles Peter and Paul, we may continue in the confession of their faith without faltering and unshaken, until our last breath, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Festal Trisagion

Holy are You, Sanctifier of the saints.
Holy are You, the Strong, Upholder of those who strive for You.
Holy are You, Immortal One, Giver of holiness to the holy ones.

TRISAGION

Holy are You, O God.
Holy are You, the Strong.
Holy are You the Deathless who were crucified for us.
Have mercy on us. 3 *times.*

Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have pity and mercy on us.
Lord, receive our service and our prayers and have mercy on us.
Glory to You, O God, Glory to You, Creator.
Glory to You, Christ the King,
who have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless, Lord!

Our Father in heaven..... Hail Mary.....

MEDITATION

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PETER AND PAUL HEADS OF THE APOSTLES

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing,
"Holy, Holy, Holy," are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

You whom the Winged Creatures bless
and whose Glory the Fiery Ones hallow,
and to whom angels and men cry, "Holy, Holy,"
glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all O Compassionate One.

At night let us offer praise with the Watchers and make a joyful noise
with the apostles to the Watcher who never sleeps, and we will
not cease to offer Him our services of praise and adoration.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O compassionate One.

Blessed Peter and Paul, apostles of the truth,
preachers clothed in victory,
offer praise and thanksgiving to Christ,
who set you up as lights to the Churches.
May Your prayer be to us a wall of protection.

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Glory to Him who is One in Three
and the Three are One:
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
one true God.
To Him be praise.
And on us His graciousness.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 34 (33): 1–10 I will bless the Lord at all times...

RESPONSE
We will bless the Lord at all times.
His praise will ever be in our mouths.
Let us glorify the Lord together,
let us extol His wonderful works for us.
Blessed are those who put their trust in Him.

We all who have received the teachings of the apostles
full of blessings, let us celebrate together Peter and Paul,
the heads of the apostles and great preachers of the faith.
Let us give glory to them with songs of the Holy Spirit,
and at all times, for ever, offer praise to Him who chose them.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who called Peter, first of fishermen, and made him the first of His apostles. And He called Paul, the persecutor of His Church, with His voice, and made him a preacher of His Gospel. And He called His apostles and made them guides and leaders, and stewards over His treasure-house. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God...You raised up for Yourself the company of the apostles to be the servants of Your Gospel of life, that they might proclaim the salvation which You accomplished for the whole Creation by Your crucifixion in the centre of the world. You called Simon, the Rock, and You raised him up as the head over the Twelve, and committed the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven first to him, at the time of his great confession, and You put in his hands also all his companions.

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You also revealed Your greatness to Saul, whom you called Paul, that is the Wonder, who was the persecutor of Your Church, and You set him as apostle and preacher of Your Gospel in all the world to keep guard over it. Today we celebrate their memory with joy before You, Lord, while we greet them with divine peace and we say: "Come in peace, Great Peter, head of the apostles, who hold the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Come in peace, Chosen Paul, great among the apostles and architect of the Church of Christ. Peace be with you, Great Peter, whom Christ, the Son, called blessed. Come in peace, Chosen Paul, whom Christ, the Light, met on your way and made you, a bitter persecutor, into one of the persecuted. Peace be with you, Great Peter, to whom the Father revealed concerning Christ that He was the Son whom He had sent into the world. Come in peace, Chosen Paul of whom Christ revealed to Ananias that you were a chosen instrument for him. Peace be with you, Great Peter, who felt in your heart that you were a sinful man in the presence of your Lord when He commanded you to make the great catch of fish. Come in peace, Chosen Paul, who felt that you were the least of the Twelve, and were not worthy to be called an apostle because you had been a persecutor. Peace be with you, Great Peter, to whom Christ revealed by word by what death you should end your life. Come in peace, Chosen Paul, to whom your Lord revealed also how many afflictions you were to endure for His sake. Peace be with you, Great Peter, whose shadow brought resurrection to the dead. Come in peace, Chosen Paul, who carried the name of your Lord before kings and nations. Blessed are you, Great Peter, who kissed the feet of your Lord by being crucified head downwards. Blessed are you Paul, who kissed the feet of the Lord by finding all your glory in the Cross.

Therefore we beg of you, blessed apostles and chiefs of the Churches of God, and strong men of the Church of believers, that you will obtain for us by your prayers and by the sacred blood which flowed from your necks perfect pardon and health of soul and body, purity of heart and uprightness of behaviour, that we may be altogether enlightened by your teachings, and cleansed by the salt of your words, and delivered from deceit by your preaching, and be brought to the knowledge of the truth. And with you and among you we will offer praise to the Holy Trinity, one true God, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

All you who have understanding, marvel at Simon, head of the apostles, whom the Good One, our Saviour, gave us and He set him as the foundation of the Church, who confessed Him saying, "You are Christ, the Son of the Hidden Father." He endured sufferings and afflictions and the cross on account of His love. And he set out for the Kingdom and inherited life eternal. And the Holy Church of believers celebrates his feast. May his prayer be for us a wall of protection.

Blessed is He who magnifies the glory of Simon, head of the apostles. He took him, a simple man, and filled him with the Holy Spirit, and made to dwell in him the wisdom from on high. He made him a pillar of the Creation, the foundation of the Holy Church truly to be trusted. Glory to the Supreme High Priest who made him a chosen apostle. And now his feast is celebrated in the four quarters of the earth. May his prayer be for us a wall of protection.

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

Paul, architect of the faith and builder of the Church, you abounded in privations and afflictions for Christ. You made the nations to turn away from untruth, and to be born in spirit and in truth. In the contest you took suffering like a perfect athlete. You received the marks of Christ, the Great Shepherd of the flock. And by reason of holiness you were taken to the highest heaven and there you contemplated hidden mysteries.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Paul descended to the contest and fought and conquered splendidly. He made little of honours and rather chose shame, the way of Christ. He endured pain and sufferings for the love of the Son of God. The Lord who saw his steadfastness has magnified the day of his commemoration. And as the Churches celebrate the feast of the great athlete, may the world be blessed by his prayers and all be found worthy of graciousness and the pardon of sins.

MEDITATION

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SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 47 (46) All you peoples clap your hands...

RESPONSE
All you peoples clap your hands,
cry to God with shouts of joy!
For the Lord, the Most High, we revere.
Great King over all the earth...
Sing praise to our King, sing praise.

Christ our God, who shone forth from God like the stars,
sent forth His apostles and they lighted the creation.
Children, praise Him and exalt Him.
Revered priests, nations and peoples,
exalt His Holy Name for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Holy One, who is pleased by the holy, and who dwells in the holy, and who hallowed His apostles with His Spirit, and sustained them by His truth, and committed to them His treasure, and taught them His faith, and commanded them to preach His Gospel among the nations. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

We take refuge in you, O holy and godly apostles, true disciples of Christ God. You who are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. You are the eyes of the body and the sons of the heavenly marriage chamber. You are the good seed. You are the building on a rock. You are the pillars of the Church. You are the wise architects who laid the foundation of the truth and cast out the corruption of impiety. You are valiant labourers who filled storehouses of blessings and gathered in good harvests. You are diligent merchants who made rich gains. You are zealous workmen who claim your reward with confidence and who receive still more. You are true ambassadors and preachers of the Heavenly King. You are rays

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of the true light that drives away the darkness from the world. You are sowers of tranquillity and true peacemakers. You are those who ran in the contest and shone in the combat and who received the crowns of victory. You are those who set us free from sin by the body and blood of the Uniquely Beloved Son, and who gave us birth, a new birth, by the water of baptism.

Beg therefore for us and pray that we may celebrate your glorious memory with joy, and be prepared with you for the marriage feast of your Lord. And likewise with you and among you be worthy to offer praise to Christ who chose you, and to His Father who glorified you, and to His Holy Spirit who crowned you, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Like farmers, Peter and Paul, chosen apostles, were sent to the world.
And like the sun they lighted the whole earth covered with darkness.
They taught to worship in spirit and in truth and built Churches.
They made to shine a great light, the true light,
faith in the Father and in the Son and in the Holy Spirit,
whom all creatures worship. And nations and peoples and tribes now sing praise to Him, halleluia, at all times.

Who is able to recount the great story of your admirable deeds,
O head of the company of the apostles and chief of the disciples,
blessed Peter, apostle of Christ and foundation of the Holy Church?
Behold, all over the world the Churches sing praise
to the Lord who magnifies your commemoration.
And may we, with you, enter the bridal feast, full of life,
halleluia, and sing glory.

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

Blessed is He who chose you, Peter, head of the apostles,
to proclaim His Gospel, and He put in your hands
the authority to feed the sheep in holiness.
Blessed is He who adorned you with spiritual ornaments: zeal, love and every kind of virtue. Blessed is He who gave you divine powers to bind and to forgive sinners, in heaven and on earth.
Intercede now for God's graciousness in favour of your flock.
Halleluia, and may your prayer be with us.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Who would not be enlightened by the glorious apostle Paul?
who said, "I have no power, no strength. I glory in my weakness.
For it is Christ who strengthens me and helps me. In His strength
I can overthrow the strongholds of untruth and deceit.
Now I preach and proclaim to all nations to turn away from deceit,
and to receive baptism while believing truly in the Father
and in the Son and in the Holy Spirit, halleluia, one God."

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service for the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayers be with us, O Peter and Paul.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to all.

By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil
from all who take refuge in you with faith.

Simon, the fisherman, the Son of God made you Peter, the Rock,
the head of the apostolic body and the foundation of the Church.
You were stretched on a cross, head downwards and you embraced it,
wishing to honour your Lord to whom alone praise belongs,
the Crucified, universal peacemaker who crucified the sin of the world.

Our Saviour proclaimed Simon Peter the chief of the apostles,
greatly blessed, when He made him the foundation of the Church.
And after His Resurrection He said to him, "Feed My lambs, My sheep
and My flock, and make them children of the Heavenly Jerusalem.
As for him, he endured the cross and entered eternal life.

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Who would not wonder and sing glory and offer thanksgiving,
on the day of the remembrance of the Apostle, crowned with victory?
A wolf he was rending the Church, but changed and became a lamb.
He evangelized the nations, enduring with joy trials and torments.
A wise architect he laboured and spent himself and obtained the crown.

Paul the Apostle, builder of the Church and preacher of the faith,
you faced the trials of single combat and you could say, "I have been
crucified with Christ, the life I live, is the life Christ lives in me."
Glory to Him who showed the way to His disciples and He was slain.
They died for His love and now their memory is exalted.

Glory to the Father who strengthened Paul in the Gospel proclamation.
Adoration to the Son who made him triumph before the king.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who saved him and raised him up from
the bottom of the sea and kept him from all harm and evil
when he was in fetters. Blessed is He who chose him.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION







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JUNE 30

The Twelve Apostles
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Christ our God, that we may celebrate today with knowledge and a right mind, with fervour of faith and ardent love for You, the glorious commemoration of Your chosen apostles those who loved You with all their hearts and who left everything to follow You. By proclaiming the Gospel they made disciples for the truth of all nations and peoples. Grant us that with them we may be worthy of the wedding feast which does not come to an end, and together we will offer glory and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 19 (18) The heavens proclaim the glory of God...

RESPONSE

Truly you are the light of the whole world, disciples
of the Uniquely Beloved Son. By you sin is put to flight.
Every creature is filled with your blessed teaching and cries out,
"You are blessed for ever, God our fathers."

We adore the Hidden Father and we confess the Son who comes forth
from Him and we exalt the Holy Spirit, three holy persons,
equal in essence, one God, to whom we cry:
"You are blessed for ever, God of our Fathers.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Rejoice exceedingly Church of believers,
in the memory of the Blessed Virgin Mother of God,
and offer songs of praise to Him who willed to be born of her
to deliver your children from deceit and untruth.

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Lord, our Lord, we ask of You, do not let us grope in the dark,
draw us into the light of Your presence.
Be pleased to be tender and compassionate,
by the prayer of Your holy apostles.

Rejoice exceedingly, O Church, Bride of Christ.
Exult and give praise in memory of the holy apostles
who dug and laid your foundations on the rock of faith.
Blessed be the Lord who has glorified them.

Lord, the apostles who preached Your Gospel made the nations
to turn away from deceit and untruth, to the true faith.
May they intercede with You that You may be pleased
to be gracious to all, through their sincere prayers.

Praise, adoration and exaltation with shouts of joy
and thanksgiving, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
one God, our Creator, in memory of the apostles who taught us
what had been revealed to them from on high.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to You, God the Word, true light from true light, who were sent forth from the Father as His Word and who chose for Yourself the company of the twelve and also the seventy two, and filled them with Your light and sent them to give light to those who were living in darkness, and to bring them to the knowledge of the one true God. To You belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, Sun of Righteousness, by the beams of Your light You removed the night of deceit and untruth from the face of the earth, and You chose for Your majesty a company of twelve fishermen, simple people, uncultured, poor and mean. And to them You revealed the way which leads to the Kingdom of Heaven, by the signs of power which You performed in their presence among the people. And You drew them towards Your passion and Your willing crucifixion and gave them endurance in the face of all trials. You filled their hearts with joy and peace, and sowed among them faith and hope and love. By

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breathing upon them You gave them the Holy Spirit and You committed to them the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, that they might open and close and bind and loose. You sent them to preach Your Gospel in all the earth and to teach and baptize into life everlasting, the peoples and nations, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, in the form of tongues like flames of fire, and You filled them with all wisdom and knowledge, and taught them all tongues that they might speak and teach. When they received these lofty gifts, they took upon them Your adorable name and Your light and gentle yoke. And they dispersed over all the inhabited world, while they were poor and needy and despised and naked and barefoot and in want. But in this poor attire they spoke in all tongues of Your wonders, and taught the people the way of Your Kingdom. Because of You they were beaten, and for Your name's sake they were despised. They endured all afflictions and gave their bodies to all torments and were put to death for the sake of Your flock. At all times they offered prayers to You, while receiving ill treatment with joy and gladness. You then, like a good Lord and just rewarder, increased their honour in heaven and even on earth, so that rulers honoured them and the wise and the foolish acknowledged them and called down every blessing upon them.

We, therefore, who have inherited the truth of their teaching beg of You, by their intercession, that You will receive from us sinners the petitions, which we present to You on behalf of the whole world and of all the people of Your Holy Church. And we and they will offer praise and thanksgiving now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Holy apostles of Jesus our God, and His true friends,
you sowed the earth to its bounds by the preaching of the Gospel
and you made disciples and You baptized all nations
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
One Nature in Three Persons.

The Lover of Humankind, You promised the gift of the Holy Spirit
to the friends You chose for Yourself, and in the vision of fire
You fulfilled the promise made to Your disciples, so that they
could divide among the needy the immense riches of the gifts which
do not diminish with the great number of those who receive them.

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

You divided the gifts of the Spirit among Your apsotles
by the tongues of fire, and You gave powers into their hands.
You made them renowned in the whole Creation.
The gift You gave to the holy martyrs made them to brave
the flames of fire and the fearful sword of the persecutors.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The blessed apostles went to preach the truth
in the four quarters of the earth. They brought to the nations
the knowledge of the true faith and they taught them
all that was necessary to make them true witnesses
of the Glorious Resurrection of the Saviour.

Those who at baptism have been anointed
with the unction of Christ through His Holy Spirit,
who have eaten His body, the bread of life,
and have drunk His blood, the medicine of immortality,
will be raised by Him from the dust of the earth
and will be clothed with vestures of glory.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Glorious Name which the apostles carried
in the inhabited world by their words and deeds,
by You they gathered a chosen people from the nations
into one Church and brought to You true adorers who worship
Your Sovereignty in the Spirit and they shed abroad
all over the world the fragrance of Your death.

They revealed to all the glory of Your Cross
as they took pride in Your crucifixion.
By their prayers, be compassionate to all
and to our dead who followed You in Your Passover,
that with them and among them we may offer You
unceasing praises with pure thanksgivings.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O chosen apostles,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to all.

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By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil
from all who take refuge in you with faith.

The Son of God gave to the apostles the Spirit with power.
He made them the salt of the earth that had deteriorated.
They were the springs from which flow a delightful drink.
They went forth like twelve rivers to water
the whole creation which was becoming a desert land.

He chose uncultured men and filled them with wisdom,
poor people to whom He gave hidden riches.
In face of the riches and the wisdom of an evil world,
poverty and simplicity were ranged in battle.

He sent them without bag or purse, and they went forth,
making little of the treasures of the kings.
As they had been ordered, the apostles of the Son
had no gold, but they had the power to cure all diseases.

By the prayers of Your apostles, Jesus our Lord,
remove from Your churches the scandal of disunity,
that Your prayer to the Father may be fulfilled,
"May they all be one, as You are in me and I in You,
that the world may believe that You did send me."

Glory to the Father whose truth is made illustrious by the simple.
Adoration to the Son who enriches the world through the poor.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who makes them wise and rich,
and through them the earth learns to know the true God.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Jesus, Apostle of His Father to the world,
sent His Spirit to His apostles,
to preach the Gospel to the nations.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Their Good Tidings have spread through all the earth.
Their words have gone to the ends of the world.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

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Mt 19:27-30 The reward promised to those who leave everything to follow the Lord.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who sent Your holy apostles to the four quarters of the earth, and they established Churches by bringing the nations to the light of Your knowledge, raise today also apostles who will restore to the local Churches a sense of reality and autonomy, with collegiality, in the light of the Gospel and of the experience of the apostolic Churches, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who willed that the proclamation of the Kingdom of God entrusted to Your holy apostles should always be carried out, awaken and foster in Your Churches a determined search for ways to overcome the divisions which mar the unity of Your body, and to attain the *koinonia* which is nourished by Your Word and by the celebration of Your Mysteries, Your great gift to Your apostles, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who by Your Holy Spirit sent Your apostles to the four quarters of the earth, deepen in Your Churches the *koinonia* which they shared with the Father, through You, in the Holy Spirit, that it may be the foundation of order and harmony for a living relationship between unity and diversity all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who appeared on earth among the poor and who chose Your apostles from among simple people, make to grow among us all a greater awareness of, and identification with the poor, the sinners and all those who suffer persecution or oppression, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Concluding Prayer

Jesus, our Lord and our God, create in us a new openness to the Spirit, the Spirit that came with power on Your apsotles and is now moving the Churches through the signs of the times to a deeper penetration of the Gospel in the diversity of peoples and Churches all over the world, through a search for communion and oneness, with true sharing and through dialogue with the great faiths of the world, we beseech You and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Festal Trisagion

Holy are You,
Sanctifier of the saints.
Holy are You, the Strong.
Upholder of those who strive for You.
Holy are You, Immortal One.
Giver of holiness to the holy ones.
Holy are You, O God.
Holy are You, the Strong.
Holy are You the Deathless who were crucified for us.
Have mercy on us. 3 *times*

Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have pity and mercy on us.
Lord, receive our service and our prayers and have mercy on us.
Glory to You, O God. Glory to You, Creator.
Glory to You, Christ the King,
who have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless, Lord!
Our Father in heaven..... Hail Mary.....

MEDITATION

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THE TWELVE APOSTLES

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing,
"Holy, Holy, Holy" are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As we awake from sleep we come to offer praise
to the Lord who chose the apostles
and who sent them to the Creation.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed is the Good One who through His Holy Spirit
imparted wisdom to his apostles
and put in their hands the power to heal all ills and diseases.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

By the prayers of the twelve apostles whom You chose, Lord of all,
in Your compassion, make to pass away from us
and from the whole world, all exploitation and oppression.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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Glory to Him who is One in Three
and the Three are One:
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
one true God.
To Him be praise.
And on us His graciousness.

Psalm 34 (33):1–10 I will bless the Lord at all times...

RESPONSE
Glory to You, Christ, who through Your Holy Spirit,
equipped Your apostles and the Church, Your bride,
And You make her rejoice, O our Saviour,
on the day of their commemoration.

Apostles, who proclaimed the Good News
and made the nations to turn away from deceit and untruth,
enlighten us and strengthen us by your teachings,
that we may offer fitting praises on the day of your feast.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Prince of Truth who made His disciples His brothers and filled them with heavenly riches from His rich treasure-house. He sent them to distribute the blessings of His riches to the sons of men in their need, and to impart to them the hope of immortal life. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ, Lord of the powers on high and of the heavenly assemblies, You chose the company of the apostles that You might entrust to them Your riches to provide for poor and needy man. You taught them to walk the way of the Cross that leads to Your kingdom. After that You had ascended to heaven, You sent the Comforter to them, according to Your sure promises. Through Him You gave them wisdom and enlightened them in all spiritual knowledge. They, then, as You commanded them, went forth to the four quarters of the earth and poured out all the riches of Your love into the hearts of the people who believed. Therefore, Lord, while we keep today their memory,

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we raise the voice of praise to You and say, "Praise to You, True Physician, Lord Jesus Christ, who sent medicines by the hands of Your holy apsostles, and healed and cured all the diseases of men. Praise to You, Eternal Light, who sent Your rays by the hands of Your disciples to the world in darkness and filled it with Your light. Praise to You, Good Shepherd, who entrusted Your staff and your pipe to Your gentle apostles to gather together the sheep of Your flock into Your fold of life. Praise to You, Good Sower, who sent Your sickle by the hands of Your blessed reapers and gathered into Your spiritual granary the clean, heavenly wheat...we greet them with a greeting of peace while we say, "Come in peace, brothers of Christ and stewards of the heavenly treasure. Come in peace, springs of healing and fountains of blessings."

Therefore, O blessed apostles, be continual intercessors on behalf of us who honour the day of your memory, with Christ who magnified you, you who for His love endured afflictions and abuse and torments and death with joy. By your mediation may He shed on us compassion and graciousness. And with you and among you, we will offer praise to Him and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The apostles said to our Lord: "What will You give us
who renounced this world that passes away and followed You?"
Jesus said to them, "I will give you the bridal chamber, Paradise,
the Kingdom of heaven and life eternal." Halleluia, halleluia.
Blessed is He who gave to His apostles what He promised.

As the sun dawning on the earth at the hour of morning,
the apostles appeared all over the earth to dispel darkness.
They made known the Name of Jesus, and the nations
turned away from the deceit and untruth in which they were bound,
to the true faith, halleluia, halleluia, and they baptized them
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

Blessed are you, the Twelve, whom Jesus sent out when He said,
"Preach, 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick.
Raise the dead. Cleanse the lepers and cast out demons.

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Take nothing for your journey, no bag, no bread, no money.
You received without pay, give without pay."
And you departed and went preaching and healing everywhere.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

O the power of the Lord shining in you, blessed apostles!
O the divine gifts and incorruptible glory.
What incomparable honour for rude, simple fishermen,
ignorant and weak to hold the keys of the Kingdom,
to sit on thrones of honour and to be made judges,
to judge the peoples and the nations.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 75 (74) We give thanks to You, O God...

RESPONSE
Praise to You, the Uniquely Beloved Son who gave wisdom
to the simple, and they dispersed abroad among the nations.
They proclaimed the Good News about Jesus.
They brought it to the four quarters and taught it:
God who became man of His own will to save the sons of men.

Praise to You, Son of God, who chose Your apostles
and set them in Your Church as bright lamps.
And now she rejoices in their feasts,
singing praise on their festivals, to Christ
who made them glorious in the four quarters of the earth.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Prince of Uprightness and Truth who taught the simple the wisdom that does not fail, and bestowed on the ignorant the knowledge that does not pass away, and enriched the poor with

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riches that do not come to an end, and gave joy to the Churches by their teachings. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Praise and thanksgiving to You, Lord of Glory, who by twelve noble labourers sent Your Gospel into the world. Good Lord, who by twelve servants set men free from servitude. Fountain of Graciousness, who by twelve streams quenched the thirst of those who were redeemed by the water of grace. Spring of life, who by twelve rivers made to flow streams of blessings for the thirsty.

We beseech You, Christ our God, grant us that by the twelve inner ministries which You created among us by Your grace You will work in us good and perfect service. Join wisdom to the knowledge of you, and to knowledge the love of instruction, and to instruction labour in perfection, and to meditation, exhortation, and to study power of judgement, and to reflection the remembrance of death, and to understanding praiseworthy discernment, and to thought the splendour of purity, and to intelligence spiritual watchfulness, and to reasoning right order, and to the will loving union, and to the mind divine light, that by these twelve talents of wise discernment which are given us by Your grace we may grow in the inner self, and with purity and holiness honour and exalt the blessed memory of Your holy apostles, and be worthy, both our departed and ourselves, of the Heavenly Kingdom. And with one accord, with them and among them who were your noble ones, may we keep festival joyfully, with divine music and dancing. With voices of thanksgiving may we honour You and praise You, Lord, and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Like hard working farmers the apostles went to the world,
to plant in it the doctrine which our Lord taught them
through the Holy Spirit. They sowed the faith
and planted Churches and erected the Cross,
the sign of baptism, the baptism of the forgiveness of sins.
They gave the body and blood of Christ, the food of the world.
They removed the darkness of error, halleluia, by their proclamations.

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Peace to you, builders of the faith, chosen apostles.
Come in peace, beloved friends of the Bridegroom.
The peace of Christ, your spouse, is with you,
who endured sufferings and all torments for your Saviour.
Ask our Lord that by your prayers He may grant us
the pardon of sins and make us worthy of the feast of lights.
May we enter with you the Heavenly Kingdom
halleluia, and inherit life eternal.

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

Come in peace, preachers of the faith, apostles of the truth.
Peace be with you, builders marked with the sign of the Cross.
Blessed are you who by the blood of your necks
made your bodies to shine with a glorious light.
Now your spirits dwell in abodes filled with light
and enjoy pure delights. Ask the Bridegroom who chose you
to gather us all at your side, halleluia,
on the day of His manifestation.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On the unbreakable rock which the prophet saw
the Church is built and all the powers of hell
will not prevail against her for ever.
She is made of chosen stones,
the prophets, the apostles and the holy martyrs.
The Cross is set in her for protection against temptations.
In her is the table of the body and blood of Christ.
The nations enter and take it with faith, halleluia,
and by it obtain forgiveness.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p. 8

Common Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord,...p.9

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FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O chosen apostles,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to all.

By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil
from all who take refuge in you with faith.

Twelve lights of the firmament of holiness,
like the twelve hours of the day,
by whose appearances the whole world is enlightened.
Twelve dawns by which the night comes to an end,
leaves the earth and gives place to the joy giving light.

Twelve great powers went forth with the Son of the King
and laid down rules for the peace of the christian faith.
The Son of God chose twelve gems for His own crown
and all other diadems looked as nothing before them.

Glory to the Father who chose the company of the Twelve
from the beginning.
Adoration to the Son who by the company of the Twelve
is commemorated all over the world.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who by the company of the Twelve
established the truth and filled the earth with their teachings.
To Him be praise.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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Thomas the Apostle[21]
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Be with us, Lord, to celebrate the feast of Your Blessed Apostle Thomas who proclaimed Your truth to our forefathers, and witnessed to Your love in this our country of India. And grant us to offer You honour and adorations worthy of Your Majesty and wellpleasing to You. By his prayers may we come to the blessedness which You prepared for him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 81 (80) Ring out your joy to God, our strength...

RESPONSE

Let us shout for joy to God, our strength.
Let us make music to the Lord, with songs and hymns,
and offer prayers of praise and thanksgiving,
to the God of our fathers and Lord of the whole creation.

When you touched the body of your Lord whom you loved,
blessed apostle Thomas, you acknowledged Him as Lord and God,
and you cried out: "You are blessed for ever,
God of our fathers and Lord of the whole creation."

Before you had seen the Risen Lord you would not believe.
When you had touched His wounds you confessed the Resurrection,
and you cried out: "You are blessed for ever,
God of our fathers and Lord of the whole creation."

You are blessed Thomas because you saw and believed. Blessed also are those who believed through your preaching, though they had not seen.
And we cry out: "You are blessed for ever,
God of our fathers and Lord of the whole creation."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE

The Church of believers rejoices and sings praise in your honour,
Blessed Thomas, Chosen Apostle of our Saviour,
because you confessed your faith in His Resurrection and went forth
to spread among the peoples the truth of His Divinity.

"Unless I put my finger in the marks of the nails", cried Thomas,
"I will not believe!" "Give Me your finger. Here are My wounded
hands," said Jesus. "My Lord and my God," cried Thomas!
And he went forth to proclaim the Resurrection.

You were a diligent labourer, a true athlete of the faith.
You planted the Church like a tree in the land of Bharata.
Its branches spread out from the Arabian Sea to the Coromandel Coast.
In Malabar alone seven Churches grew up into a household of God.
And the fragrance of the Gospel spread even to the interior regions.

May this assembly which receives your teachings
be blessed by your prayer.
And may the peace of your Lord
rest upon the Church which proclaims your praise.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Great One, and Lord, and God above all, who bestowed on His chosen apostles the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and instructed them and enlightened their minds in all heavenly knowledge, and placed in their hands authority over the heights and the depths, and sent them to proclaim His Gospel in all the inhabited world. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

While we celebrate the glorious memory of the Blessed Thomas Your apostle and our father in the faith, O Word of God who became man for our sake, we give unceasing praise to Your Ineffable Being for choosing him to proclaim Your Gospel to this nation of India, and by Your grace to turn our forefathers to the truth of belief in You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, one God. We call Your true apostle blessed, while we say with joy: "Blessed are you, Chosen Apostle Saint Thomas who renounced the world and yourself for the

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sake of your Lord Jesus Christ, and who gave yourself without fear to His service for the sake of His Gospel. Blessed are you, Chosen Apostle Saint Thomas, whom your Lord allowed to touch the wounds of His hands and His side pierced by the spear on the Cross. Blessed are you who cried out openly to Your Lord: "My Lord and my God!" and by your wondrous word, cast out the unbelief of those who have doubts concerning the Divinity of your Lord. Blessed are you Valiant Apostle Saint Thomas, whom the fierce threats of King Gundafor did not cause to tremble, because of the palace which you built for him in heaven. Blessed are you, Chosen Apostle Saint Thomas whose fearless service won freedom for those who lay oppressed by the Evil One. Blessed are you, Chosen Apostle Saint Thomas, who were found worthy to lay down your life with joy for your God in this land of Bharata, on the mountain, near Mylapore, when you received in your side the thrust of the spear in the likeness of your Lord.

Therefore we beseech You, Christ our Lord, who made us, Your worshippers, into the household of God built upon the foundation laid by Your chosen apostle Saint Thomas, with You Christ Jesus as the foundationstone, gather all Your followers in India, and bring them together from all rites and communities, and make us all grow into one body, the new temple, the spiritual dwelling of God. Fulfil in our days the words of Your prophets and set up Your house over all other mountains that all the nations may come and stream to it, and all the peoples with us may come and say: "Let us climb on the mountain of the Lord to offer praise and thanksgiving, to Him and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit," now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Thomas the Apostle was a noble workman, a hero of the faith,
a builder who completed his building, and its roof reached to heaven.
He was a farmer who ploughed the field of His Lord and planted trees,
and their branches grew and the Holy Spirit came to dwell in them.
And behold, from every side people hasten to honour him,
praising God and asking for the help of his prayer.

Jesus sent His apostles to make disciples all over the world.
Peter and Paul were sent to Rome and John to Ephesus.
Andrew preached the message of salvation in Greece,

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Matthew in Persia, Bartholomew and Thomas in India.
They preached the Gospel of the Resurrection
and taught men to believe in the Holy Trinity.

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

Your memory is glorious in heaven and on earth, Saint Thomas.
The angels rejoice in heaven and the sons of men on earth.
Your Lord looked upon your combat and saw you in the victory.
The Watchers on high awaited the sight of you.
The Father and the Son received you and the Holy Spirit
wove a garland for you and placed it around your neck.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Come in peace, true shepherd and wise ruler,
foundation of the Church, like Peter and Paul,
brother and friend of the prophets of God,
companion of the apostles of Christ,
zealous like Elijah and virgin like John.
Blessed is the Church of India who received the Gospel from you.

Those who at baptism have been anointed
with the unction of Christ through His Holy Spirit,
who have eaten His body, the bread of life,
and have drunk His blood, the medicine of immortality,
will be raised by Him from the dust of the earth
and will be clothed with vestures of glory.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Glorious Name of Jesus which Saint Thomas
carried to the sons of Bharata by his words and deeds,
and by whose power he worked wonders and miracles,
be pleased by the fragrance of this incense.

As You gave to Your apostle to spread the good odour of the Gospel
to this furthest part of the inhabited world, O Lord,
make our lives fragrant with the good odour of Your truth,
You who are the way, the truth and the life,
through whom and in whom we go to the Father.

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Saint Thomas,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to all.

By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil
from all who take refuge in you with faith.

When Jesus appeared to the disciples Thomas was not there.
He did not believe when they said: "We have seen the Lord".
"Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails", he said,
"Unless I put my hand into His side, I will not believe".

A week later the disciples were together behind locked doors.
Thomas was there. Jesus stood among them and said to him:
"Behold My hands and My feet. Put your hand in My side
and do not be faithless but believe". "My Lord and my God!",
replied Thomas, as he worshipped Him, touching His feet.

He beheld the marks of the crucifixion and of the spear,
and he confessed the Resurrection of his Lord.
He beheld the form of a man and he worshipped the Divinity.
Blessed are those who have received his word
and have confessed the faith in the Holy Trinity.

By the prayers of Your apostles, Jesus our Lord,
remove from Your Churches the scandal of disunity,
that Your prayer to the Father may be fulfilled:
"May they all be one as You are in Me and I in You,
that the world may believe that You did send Me".

Glory to the Father who chose Thomas to witness to the truth.
Adoration to the Son who made him touch His wounded side.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who enlightened his mind
and made him who disbelieved, a preacher of the truth.
And he came to this land to give us life eternal in Christ.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Lord showed the marks of the nails in His hands.

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Thomas put the hand in His pierced side,
and worshipped Him: "My Lord and my God!"
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
His speech has spread to India.
His word has come to Bharata.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

John 20: 19-29 Jesus appears to the disciples when Thomas is with them.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and reverence to God: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who called Thomas the Twin to be Your apostle in the service of Your Gospel, and revealed Yourself to him as the way, the truth and the life, and made him witness to Your Resurrection, renew in us the charism of apostolic dedication, and confirm us in Your faith that we may come to share in life everlasting, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who through Your holy apostle Saint Thomas sowed the seed of the Gospel in the soil of India from ancient times, and made it to grow into a tree with many branches, gather all Your Churches into one body, that this nation may see in them the light of Your truth, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the fostering of universal brotherhood among all, human beings, beyond distinction of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord and be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations, and strengthened in this our country of India and in the whole Creation, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Lord our God, by the prayers of Your apostle Saint Thomas that we may continue without faltering and unshaken in the confession of the faith he taught us, until our last breath, we beseech You and we will say three times:
Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Festal Trisagion

Holy are You,
Sanctifier of the saints.
Holy are You, the Strong,
Upholder of those who strive for You.
Holy are You, Immortal One.
Giver of holiness to the holy ones.
Holy are You, O God.
Holy are You, the Strong.
Holy are You the Deathless who were crucified for us.
Have mercy on us. 3 *times*.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Lord, have pity and mercy on us.
Lord, receive our service and our prayers and have mercy on us.

Glory to You, O God.
Glory to You, Creator.
Glory to You, Christ the King,
who have compassion on Your sinful servants. Bless, Lord!
Our Father in heaven... Hail Mary...

MEDITATION

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THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing:
"Holy, Holy, Holy" are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

You whom the Winged Creatures bless
and whose Majesty the Fiery Ones hallow,
and to whom angels and men cry: "Holy, Holy,"
glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

At night let us offer praise with the Watchers and make a joyful noise
with the apostles to the Watcher who never sleeps, and we will
not cease to offer Him our services of praise and adoration.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Saint Thomas, apostle of the truth and preacher clothed in victory,
offer praise and thanksgiving to Christ,
who set you up as a light in His Church.
May your prayer be to us a wall of protection.

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Glory to Him who is One in Three
and the Three are One:
the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,
one true God.
To Him be praise.
And on us His graciousness.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 19 (18) The heavens proclaim the glory of God...

RESPONSE
The preaching of the Apostles, friends of the Son,
reached the ends of the earth. They uprooted error
and made disciples of all nations and baptized all peoples
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Temple of the Holy Spirit and Abode of uprightness,
Chosen and Holy Apostle, intercede for the Churches.
Offer supplications to the Lord who crowned you that He may give
peace and tranquillity to His children who celebrate your feast.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who exalted the mother who bore Him, and honoured His apostles by the gift of the Holy Spirit, and sent them to proclaim the Gospel in the four quarters of the earth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, who when You had to choose Your apostles went into the hills to pray and spent the night in prayer to God. And when You came down and saw a large crowd of disciples You said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for the Kingdom of God is yours." Praise to You who sent the twelve without money, or bag or sandals to preach the Good News of the Kingdom and bring healing and peace to each house. Praise to You, Divine Teacher, who gave to Your apostles Your own power and authority when You said: "He who hears you hears Me...I am sending you like lambs among wolves!" Praise to You, Word of God, who on the

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day of Pentecost filled Your apostles with the Holy Spirit, and they began to talk in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them power of utterance.

For all these, Lord, we offer praise, and we beseech You by the intercession of Your Holy Mother Mary who was constantly at prayer with Your apostles in the upper room, and received with them the gift of the Spirit in the form of tongues of fire, clothe us in the joy and fervour of Your apostles, and bestow on Your Churches and on the whole world Your peace in perpetuity. Bring out in us that simple goodness which is the reflection of Your own image in us. Set our hearts free from all inhibitions and fears. Make us more constantly aware of Your all pervading presence and of the unity of all life in You. Make our hearts athirst for the vision of Your Godhead. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Thomas the Blessed Apostle, Conqueror of the faith,
went to India and proclaimed there the Gospel of life
and made the people turn to the knowledge of the truth,
halleluia. They believed, were baptized and were pardoned,
in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Thomas the Holy Apostle was sent to India
and he filled it with the life of the Spirit.
He proclaimed to the people the Gospel of the Son
and taught them to keep all the commandments, halleluia,
and the Mystery of the Trinity in one essence and nature.

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

On the day of the commemoration of the Apostle Thomas, the Blessed
One, give peace to Your Church, O Son, who by Your blood
reconciled all that is in heaven and all that is on earth.
Remit our debts and forgive our offences, halleluia,
by the prayer and supplications of Your beloved apostle Thomas.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Christ our God, by the prayer of Your apostle Thomas,
the Conqueror of the faith, protect Your Church.
Give her times of peace, and pardon the faults of her people,
halleluia, who on the day of his commemoration offer praise
to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 47 (46) All peoples, clap your hands...

RESPONSE
Clap your hands, all you nations,
acclaim our God with shouts of joy.
Sing praise to our God, sing praise.
Sing praise to Him with all your skill.

Christ sent His holy apostles to the Creation,
preachers of truth, to proclaim His Gospel to the world.
Children, praise Him and exalt Him. Revered priests,
nations and peoples, exalt His Holy Name for ever.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Holy and Divine Trinity, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, whom the apostles proclaimed and taught us, as we received from them the gospel of life. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord Jesus Christ, we rejoice in memory of Your apostle saint Thomas, the living voice which made the message of the Gospel to resound in the Creation. A spiritual gardener he grafted on the tree of humankind the sucker of the Cross and made to grow from it fair fruits instead of thorns. A hard working farmer he uprooted from the earth all the thorny growth of sin and sowed in it a field of souls for the clean harvest of the knowledge of the truth...A marvellous

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fisherman he cast into the sea of this world the net of faith and filled it with an abundance of believers. Shining lamp he drove the darkness of the night from our land and made it a house of God. Wise physician he healed with spiritual remedies the sick bodies and diseased souls.

We ask of You, Christ our God, who exalt Your apostles and crown Your labourers that in fair conduct and good behaviour You will make us imitators of Your apostle, Saint Thomas, whose memory we keep today. He left all things and took up his cross and went after You. May we always imitate him that we may be worthy to see the crown which You have prepared for him, in joy and gladness. And we will offer You praise and thanksgiving with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *Madrosho*
Blessed are you, Thomas most beloved disciple,
treasure-house of beauties full of good things,
for your hand touched the blessed fountain
and there flowed life for the world.
Your love was vehement
and you lay hold on the treasure most full of riches
which the world can provide.
Great indeed is your bliss, you who with your finger
touched the Sun of the heavenly ones.

Blessed are you, apostle beautiful among your brothers.
To you belongs the beauty of holiness.
But another glory also, who touched the side of the Son of God.
That Fiery One offered his body to be touched
and because you desired to touch, he encouraged you,
And you took hold of the treasure of life
which the world is not big enough to contain.
And you held it in your hands.

Blessed are you for the Son came to you.
He gave Himself to you, manifested Himself to you.
With your eyes you saw Him, with your hands you touched Him,
with your fingers of flesh you laid hold on Him.
You emboldened yourself to lay hold on him
from whom Gabriel and the angels stand afar,

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who receives glory from Michael and the archangels,
whom the companies of fire adore in trembling.

Blessed are you whom the heavenly companies envy,
you of whom the assemblies of the Fiery Ones are jealous.
For no seraph has ever touched the Son.
No Fiery One has ever laid hold on Him.
What a wonder that the Perfect One
whom the Fiery Ones approach only with trembling
you lay hold on him, the Flame, without fear.

Blessed are you who are among the Twelve to whom has been promised
the throne of glory destined to the disciples.
Lofty is on earth the voice of your preaching of the Son.
With the judges you are resplendent to the furthest end.
Glorious are you, preacher among the preachers of the Gospel.
Who will be able to celebrate your beauty with his tongue?

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us!
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayer of your apostle saint Thomas.

By his prayers and supplications,
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

Blessed is he who magnifies your commemoration,
O glorious apostle Saint Thomas, and who made you
a fountain of help and a refuge for all the afflicted.
And, through you, made the sons of India
turn to the true faith, and you baptized them
accordingly in the name of the Trinity.

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Christ anointed you secretly with sacred oil from on high
and with it you anointed priests for His service,
Evil spirits were driven out of the people,
and through you ills and diseases vanished away.
Those who were born in bondage were redeemed and set free.
Those who were living in darkness became lights in heaven.

Blessed are you, Saint Thomas, who believed in Jesus
and you cried out to Him: "My Lord and my God!"
Blessed are you who made to flow from His side
truth, light and all blessings.
You said: "Let us also go an die with Him!"
By the same way you went to your work.

Glory to the Father
who chose you, Saint Thomas, to be His apostle.
Adoration to the Son, who
by the touch confirmed you and initiated you into the Mysteries.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit
who perfected your preaching and it conquered.
At al times may your prayer be to us a wall of protection.
Amen. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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AUGUST 6

The Transfiguration of our Lord[22] on the Mountain The Feast of Tabernacles

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamps

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to keep festival before You in holiness and to sing of You with sincerity, and to celebrate You with spiritual hymns and praises, on this day of the manifestation of Your Godhead on Mount Tabor. And while we are changed from our evil ways to right living, may Your Churches reflect Your divine radiance, and the whole Creation share in the glory of your Transfiguration, that the whole human family may come to offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 89 (88) 1-19 I will sing for ever of Your goodness, Lord...

RESPONSE

On the summit of the Mountain You manifested
to Your disciples but a feeble ray of Your glory
and their faith in Your Divinity was strengthened.
You are indeed blessed and for ever, Lord of the whole Creation.

They trembled with awe and wonder at the tremendous vision
and falling before You in adoration they proclaimed
that You are God, the Exalted One.
You are indeed blessed and for ever, Lord of the whole Creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

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RESPONSE
Today on Mount Tabor when the chosen apostles
are joined with the prophets in their ministry,
it is the new people of God who are made to realize the truth.
As they are enlightened with the light of the Son,
the old order has run its course.

With a simple sign He commands Death,
"Give Me back Moses and bring him here!"
He commands also the Storm-wind, "Go, bring Me Elijah."
He called them with a simple sign
and they were found with Him on the mountain.

John saw Elijah, holy among the holy,
pure among the pure, envoy to the prophets,
while the Son stood as the Mediator.
Blessed is He who manifested His glory to His disciples.

The canticle of the Holy Spirit intoned by the prophets is explained today: behold His chosen ones are joined with Him
to seal the Covenant through sacrifice
by which He was to call us to salvation, for the new Creation.

Glory to the Son of God who listened to the words of His prophets
and who manifested His glory to His apostles
and showed to them that He is truly the Lord of the two Covenants,
the Lord of the heights and of the depths and of all that is in them.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the High and Exalted One whom the chariot of the Winged Creatures carries in fear, to the Hidden One before whom the heavenly powers bow down, to Him who reveals the Mystery of His being, known in three persons, to the nations, who does not grow by greatness, nor is He reduced by feebleness, the One Sovereign adored and glorified by all who are born or have been born, at this time of evening...

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God the Father, truly the Cause, who in Your Eternal Being beyond measure, eternally beget the Word and cause the Spirit to proceed without division, given that You are without matter, and that thought cannot seize hold of You, nor inquiry comprehend You, the Shining Splendour who is Your Only Son appeared marvellously in the Creation, to give light to those who were living in darkness. He was seen in human form on earth that He might mould our nature by His knowledge, and join our manhood with His Godhead. And on this day when the divine splendour flashed forth through His manhood, He was truly seen in His oneness. The disciples marvelled and said that truly God has been seen on earth. Today Tabor and Hermon exult and give glory to Him when He is manifested. Today Peter, James and John exult that they are counted worthy to see Your Majesty, and fear overwhelms them. Today Elijah the Tishbite comes to worship the Lord of the prophets who descended to fulfil the prophecies of the prophets. Today Moses the Prince of prophets is raised up and comes to see the Lord whom he saw in the bush which was not consumed. Today the disciples are shown that their Lord is the Lord who has authority over the living and the dead. Today Elijah the prophet comes to pray to the Lord who came to deliver the Creation, and says: "Ah Lord, ascend the Golgotha of Isaac and consecrate the sacrifice by which was signified the salvation of the Creation. Ah Lord, ascend the altar of Melchizedek which signified You who receive all first-fruits. Ah Lord, be the perfect sacrifice and put an end to sacrifices. Crucify sin, and put Death to death, and baptize Adam with Your life-giving blood. "Today Moses the prophet beseeches with intense supplication, "Descend, Lord, to Your beloved and renew the likeness of Your glory, stamped with Your image." And see how he waits and longs to meet You and cries out loudly while he is sunk in the deep abyss. The apostles trembled, filled with awe, when they heard the voice of the Father, "This is My Son, My Beloved. Hear Him for He has power over the heights and the depths."

And we, assembled here in His name, beg of Him, on this day of His glorious manifestation, that He will gladden the earth and its inhabitants with peace and calm, and bless the Crown of the Year. And as He unveiled His Divinity before His disciples to strengthen them that they might share in the Mystery of the Cross, may we all be fortified in our sufferings, that we may reflect in our lives the glory

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which we receive from Him, and becoming Christ-like, be transfigured with Him. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to Him and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Lord took with Him Simon, James and John, and went up
a high mountain to pray. And while He was praying,
He was transfigured before them in infinite glory.
His garment became white as snow. His face shone like the sun.
And with Him were Moses the Prophet and Elijah the Fiery One,
and they were conversing with Him face to face,
while the apostles fell on their faces and adored Him.

Moses spoke to Christ, entreating Him,
"My Lord, it is good for You to face humiliation.
It was right for You to descend to save Adam, Your image,
who is lying in corruption, the work of the Evil One.
My Lord, if You do not go to death how will salvation come
to the children of Adam, the earthly one?
Be sure, he can only be waiting for Your coming."

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

When Simon heard what Moses was telling,
he made earnest supplications to Christ, saying,
"Let me make here three huts,
one for You, one for Moses and one for Elijah.
But at once a voice was heard saying,
"This is My Son, My Uniquely Beloved Son,
who descended to set Adam free from his bondage to sin."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to You, Lord, who proceed from the heart of the Father,
Image and Radiance of the Being of the Holy and Hidden Father,
Light that was from ever, before the ages and before the creation,
Treasury abounding in all good things,
Physician who heal all diseases, may Your peace and tranquillity
reign in the four quarters of the earth.

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May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkle on the young men in the furnace of Babylon,
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
O Good One, may this sweet incense which we burn before Your altar,
on the Great Day of Your Manifestation on the Mountain,
ascend to that place raised above all where Your chariot is carried.

You who revealed Yourself to the eyes of Your disciples
and caused the cloud of Your kindliness to overshadow them
when they heard the voice of the Father, "This is My Beloved Son,"
let the graciousness of Your Godhead overshadow us also, sinners,
as we offer You our adorations with praises and thanksgivings.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Churches of Christ, rouse yourselves with holy hymns
and offer your praises and adorations to the Son,
on the day of His Glorious Transfiguration on the Mountain.

The glory of this feast surpasses that of all other feasts,
for the Son's Divinity breaks through on the summit of the Mountain
and shines forth with glory through His body of flesh.

Jesus took Simon, James and John with Him
and went up into a high mountain to pray.
When He reached the summit and was with His disciples,
He revealed to them the glorious vision of His Divinity.

While the three apostles were with their Master,
suddenly a great light appeared and they were struck with awe,
as a bright cloud shone with divine splendour,
which the eye of flesh could not bear.

They saw Him, the Son, changed into light.
The radiance of His countenance surpassed that of the sun.
The nature of His body of flesh was changed and it was made clear
that He was not Elijah but the Lord of Elijah.

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You are praised by the prophets and the apostles,
Uniquely Beloved Son who manifested Yourself on Mount Tabor.
In the Church of the nations, and in the old testament and in the new,
Your glory is proclaimed, Your story is recounted. To You be praise.

Peace who reconcile those in heaven with those on earth.

Give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their children by the Cross of light.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In the past You spoke through the prophets and the sages.
In this age You spoke through Your Beloved Son.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He is the Radiance of the Uncreated Light
revealed today on the Holy Mountain.
We listen to Him in obedience of faith.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 16:28 Some will not taste death before they see the Son of Man
17: 1–12 coming in His Kingdom...This is My Beloved Son.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and from the heart, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who today in the cloud of Mount Tabor let Yourself to be seen as the Brightness of Inaccessible Light, to reveal to Your chosen apostles that You are the glorious effulgence come forth from the heart of the Hidden Father, make Your Churches radiant with the glory of Your Divinity, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who by the unveiling of Your divine glory prompted Peter to an outburst of longing for things eternal, gladden the human family with the removal of all social evils, works of darkness, exploitation, inequalities and all forms of corruption, that we may

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all be set free from the shackles of sin, and grow into the liberty and glory of the children of God, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, and for the fostering of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and strengthened among our people in this our country of India and in the whole Creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, who from the midst of the glory of Your Transfiguration were speaking with Moses and Elijah of the Mystery of Your Passion, do not allow the anxieties and the trials of this world to shake our faith, but make them to quicken in us, a new life, for the glorious revelation of the children of God, the sharing in Your life, and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD ON THE MOUNTAIN

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to offer praise to Christ on this feast
on which He manifested His Divinity to His apostles on the Mountain.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today the prophets of justice and truth assemble
on Tabor, the high mountain, to bear witness to Christ.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Come Moses, son of Amram, adore your Lord who has come,
the Lord You saw in the burning bush and who rides on a cloud.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

And you, Elijah the Fiery, come and tell us plainly
if this is the Lord whom You saw on the chariot of fire.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On this feast of great joy, by the testimony of the prophets,
the chosen apostles are made certain that our Saviour is God.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 29 (28) O give the Lord, you sons of God...

RESPONSE

Come, Simon, and behold Your Lord standing between Moses and Elijah and do not believe the people who say that He is Elijah. Having seen Elijah and Moses with Him on the top of the Mountain, go quickly and tell your brothers that He is the Christ of God.

Come Moses, and take with you the beautiful ornaments which prefigured for us the Holy Church in the tent which you erected. In the tent was offered the blood of dumb animals, but in the Holy Church is offered the body and blood of Christ.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Son who today made His brightness to shine on Mount Tabor and made His disciples to share in the vision of His divine face which is beyond compare, and revealed to His holy servants that He came to abasement of His own will for the sake of Adam, that He might restore him to his former glory. It is good to remember Him and to praise Him at this time of the night vigil...

When we meditate on the Mystery of Your Economy full of wonder O Word, God, we offer unceasing praises and thanksgivings to Your Sovereignty, continually, because in You we live and move and have our being, You who are truly our Maker and the Treasure-house whose gifts are never exhausted or diminished. On account of this we sing praise to Your Godhead and offer honour and exaltation to Your Divinity, in that You are the never changing image of Your Father in Your eternal being, and beyond all times and seasons, eternally, beyond conception You shine forth from His own being. And at the end of time when You were pleased to descend to redeem Your Creation, You took flesh of the Holy Virgin Mary, and in the flesh in which You were clothed from her, You worked miracles and signs and wonders and mighty deeds. And when the time of Your life-giving passion in the flesh for our sake drew near, You were

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pleased to disclose to Your holy apostles the things concerning the renewal of the world to come, and the glory which is kept for those who do good. In order that the sons of Your likeness might not be offended by Your willing passion and death in the flesh, You took with You Simon, James and John and ascended Mount Tabor, and were transfigured in their sight. Your face shone like the sun, while by this You revealed and made known to us that You are neither Moses nor Elijah but the Lord of all prophets. Again You showed us that at the end of time the dust will be changed from corruption and shine like the sun in full strength. On this festal and holy day the garments on Your body became white like snow, and by this You gave us a sign of the shining garments of immortality which are kept for those who do Your will...On this festal and holy day the Father sent a cloud of light from on high and it rested upon Mount Tabor that it might teach us that the just shall be caught up in clouds of light to meet You on the last day, and they shall be with You for ever and shall take their pleasure in Your light.

Therefore we beseech You, change our hearts from evil to good, from the darkness of evil ways to deeds of light, shining with virtue and true faith. Remove from us the filthy garments of shameful desires, and grant that they may become white garments, brighter than the rays of the sun. And make us worthy to find shelter in the abode of Your glorious light, that there we may offer You praise with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Our Saviour took Simon, James and John
and went up with them into Mount Tabor to show them His glory,
that they might not doubt at the death of the Living Son
who had come for their salvation.

Our Saviour commanded as God who rules over all,
and at once there came Moses and Elijah who praised
and confessed Him who lowered Himself to save His image,
and by His manifestation fulfilled their mysteries.

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

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As they heard the thundering voice of the Father,
"This is My Son. This is My Beloved. In Him is My delight.
He will make the nations to turn away from deceit,"
the disciples were seized with trembling and fell on their faces.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

He willed to gather on Mount Tabor the chiefs of the Old Covenant
with the chiefs of the Gospel of the Son, in fulfilment
of the prophecies, and they gathered at His side.
Praise for His graciousness, who inclined Himself for our salvation.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 84 (83) How lovely is Your dwelling place...

RESPONSE
How lovely is Your dwelling place, Lord!
Our whole being is yearning for You,
our hearts and our flesh shout joyously
to God, the Living God.

Sing halleluias, chant praises, all you peoples.
In all speeches and all tongues offer worship to Him
of whom the Father witnessed from on high,
"This is My Uniquely Beloved Son, listen to Him".

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Great Splendour and Glorious Image by whom the threefold lofty Mystery of the Godhead is made known to us, the Lord who is ever concerned for our human race, and at all times visits us with His help beyond telling. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, You are worshipped and glorified with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit inseparably. When in Your love for

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humankind You willed to bring our earthly race into being and to raise it as a companion of the heavenly spirits, You brought the first Adam into being from the lowly dust, and You adorned him with kingly authority and entrusted to him all that You created as to its lord. And when he was dragged down by his earthly nature and fell from his exalted glory by the transgression of the commandment and was consigned to Sheol where he lay prostrate in the dust, Your graciousness, Lord, led You to descend to the earth for his sake, and to redeem him and to restore him to his former glory. In Your goodness which cannot be described, You clothed Yourself in the body of humiliation and descended to the depths of Sheol and drew him from the abyss of destruction and made him enter the high dwelling of Your Father. And today You took Your holy disciples apart, deliberately, and made them ascend with You Mount Tabor... and You showed them the hidden mysteries of Your Godhead. You were transfigured before their eyes by the splendour of the light of Your glory and You were covered with a luminous cloud of spiritual brightness, and You made them hear the voice of the Father full of joy, "This is My Son. This is My Beloved. Listen to Him and hear Him." At the same time You brought Moses and Elijah and You were speaking mysterious words with them about the end of the times and days.

Therefore we beseech You, O Bountiful Lord, shed on all men that radiance which on this day of Your Transfiguration brightens the countenance of Your Church. Make her truly the sign of unity of all humankind, the sacrament of Man's union and oneness with God, according to Your Economy of dignifying the human race with a participation in Your life. Give rest also in Your abode of light to all those who have followed You in Your Passover with faith, and may we, with them, offer praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Who would not be filled with wonder at the sight of the Son
on the summit of the Mountain with His disciples?
While they look at Him standing in prayer,
He is transfigured into a great marvel.
They see Him in such glory and majesty
which cannot be told and they cry out,
"To You be glory, halleluia, now and for ever."

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As the disciples stood in awe, all of a sudden
a bright cloud overshadowed the Son,
and the Mountain was radiant with the light
that manifested the glory of His Majesty and Divinity.
While the voices of the Watchers sang praise,
the cloud shed forth its light on the Uniquely Beloved Son,
who was seen in the flesh, halleluia, and they worshipped Him.

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

Glory to Your Majesty manifested today on Mount Tabor
before Your disciples, O Son of the Godhead,
born of the Exalted One, raised to the glory of Your Father.
And the disciples were confirmed by Your Father's voice
that testified, "This is My Son, My Beloved."
All you peoples, listen to Him and offer praise to Him.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Come, Moses son of Amram, and reveal to us
who it is who dwells on the Mountain in this brilliant light.
"It is He whom I saw on Mount Sinai.
It is He whom I saw in the fire in the bush.
It is He whom I saw on the throne of crystal,
God and Son of God and Saviour of the world,
halleluia, offer praise to Him."

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
on this Holy Feast.

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And on that feast which shall not pass away,
give us a place at Your right hand.

Today our Saviour went up the Mountain with His disciples,
and He was transfigured by the brightness of His face
and the glorious light of His Majesty.
The disciples saw and marvelled
and offered praise to His Sovereignty.

Today a cloud overshadowed Tabor, the high mountain,
and the voice of the Father was heard from on high,
"This is My Beloved, My Uniquely Beloved Son."
And those who were with Him cried out,
"Blessed is the coming of the Lord."

Christ who manifested to Your disciples
the glorious light of Your Godhead,
enlighten us by Your magnificent light.
Transform us by Your goodness for the keeping of Your commands
and may Your love always fill our hearts.

Glory to the Holy Father who made a solemn procession for His Son.
Adoration to the Beloved Son who revealed His glory to His disciples.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who confirmed and fulfilled
all that has been written.
And on us, graciousness and compassion at all times. Amen. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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AUGUST 7–14

The Seven Days after the Feast of the Transfiguration

Evening Prayer

The celebration of these Services is left to the decision of the presiding priest. They are not celebrated on Sunday.

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Make us worthy, Lord God, to keep festival before You in holiness, and to sing of You with sincerity, and to celebrate You with spiritual hymns and praises on this day of the Manifestation of Your Godhead on Mount Tabor. And while we are changed from evil to good, may Your Churches reflect Your divine radiance and the whole Creation share in the splendour of Your Transfiguration, that the whole human family may come to offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 89 (88) 1–19 I will sing of the goodness of the Lord...

RESPONSE

We will sing for ever of Your goodness, Lord,
our mouths will tell Your faithfulness to all generations.
Eternal One, Your love created the heavens
and You made Your fidelity more steadfast than these.

I have made a covenant with My Chosen One.
I have sworn to David My servant,
"I will establish Your line for ever,
and build up Your throne for all generations."

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The heavens declare Your wonders
and the assembly of the holy ones Your truthfulness.
Who is equal to You, Lord, God of all cosmic forces?
Yours are the heavens, Yours is the earth.

Happy the people who behold Your radiance,
who walk, Lord, in the light of Your face.
They rejoice in Your presence all day,
and they are jubilant over Your manifestation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Our Lord took His disciples and ascended Mount Tabor
and manifested Himself in splendour,
in the glorious power of His Majesty,
truly, the beauty of His Divinity.

When our Saviour had ascended the Mountain
He called the great Moses and he came.
He called Elijah and he descended at His side.
And He gave them the pledge of His glory.

The Father made for Him a luminous cloud,
a bridal chamber of light that He may be honoured by it,
not like the hut of branches of which Simon spoke
that he wished to make as a shelter for the Son.

The prophets gathered and the disciples stood there.
The people rejoiced that the Father spoke
and the Son stood among them
and was made glorious through the Spirit.

Praise to the Good One who manifested His glory
to the simple company of the blessed apostles
and they sang glorious praises to Him
and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

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Praise...to Him who is and who was and who is to come, origin and perfection of which there is no beginning and no end, God of gods, Lord of lords from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth takes its name, Father without father, Son without son, Spirit without father and son. They are praised and do not sing praises. They are adored and do not offer adorations. They are one hidden nature, by whose glory the mouths of all creatures endowed with reason, and of all beings conceivable by the mind or perceptible by the senses, are moved and prompted and made speechless and stunned. To Him be directed uninterrupted shouts of joy, and holy songs with sweet melodies be offered, at this time of evening...

Let us sing for God with wisdom. Let us sing to the Spirit who searches out all beings, even the very depths of God, for we see in Him who is the Light of the Father, who is Spirit, the Son of God, the Light Inaccessible. Today is manifested what the eye of the body cannot see, an earthly body shining with divine splendour, a mortal body manifesting the glory of the Divinity, for the Word has become flesh and the flesh has become the Word, although He has not given up the divine nature. Tabor exults and rejoices...There the chosen apostles see Christ in the glory of the Kingdom. There the resurrection of the dead is manifested to their faith and Christ shows Himself as the Lord of the living and the dead. Truly the mystery hidden before all ages is revealed and the real glory is made manifest...when a voice resounds out of the cloud saying: "This is My Son, My Beloved, listen to Him. The One who is man and is seen as such, who yesterday became man and conversed with us in a holy fashion, and whose face now shines forth, He is My Beloved Son, before the ages, the Only Son who eternally proceeds from Me, who is always from Me, in Me and with Me. In Him is My delight." For through the Father's good will the Only Son became man, through the Father's will the Only Son effected the salvation of the world, the Father's good will in the Only Son has created communion with all humankind.

Therefore we beg of Him on this day of His Glorious Manifestation that He will gladden the earth and its inhabitants with peace and calm, and bless the Crown of the Year. And as He unveiled His Divinity before His disciples to strengthen them for sharing in the mystery of the Cross, we also may be fortified to witness in our lives to tha glory which we receive from Him, and be transfigured, becoming more

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and more Christ-like. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to Him and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Uniquely Beloved Son of God, the Word of the Heavenly Father,
today makes Himself to be seen on Mount Tabor,
in a miraculous manner. He manifests to His disciples
His Divinity which was hidden by His Incarnation.
They recognize His Divinity through the body of His humanity.

Happy are you disciples of the Good Master and True Lord
who counted you worthy of the manifestation of His Divinity
which was hidden since He took a human body.
You have been illumined by the light of the Holy Spirit
and You have heard the voice of the Heavenly Father.

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

The mountains proclaim you blessed, Mount Tabor.
for today the Majesty of the Word of God
is supremely exalted on your summit.
On you are heard the shouts of joy of the Watchers in highest heaven,
praising the One Beloved Son who took flesh for our salvation.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Our Lord ascended to the summit of the Mountain
with the chiefs of the disciples, Simon the Rock
and the sons of Zebedee, John and James.
His face shone like the sun.
The disciples were filled with awe and wonder
as they heard the voice of the Father, "This is My Son, My Beloved."

The dead who were clothed with You at baptism,
O our Saviour, who ate Your body and who drank
the cup of salvation of Your precious blood,
raise them from their graves without corruption
and clothe them with glory in Your abode of light that
they may sing at Your right hand: "Glory to You, Lord, halleluia."

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
O Good One, may this sweet incense which we burn before Your altar,
on the day of Your Manifestation on the high mountain,
ascend to that place raised above all where Your chariot is carried.

You who revealed Yourself to the eyes of Your disciples
and caused the cloud of Your kindliness to overshadow them,
when they heard the voice of the Father, "This is My Beloved Son,"
let the graciousness of Your Godhead overshadow us also, sinners,
as we offer You our adorations with praises and thanksgivings.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Churches of Christ, rouse yourselves with holy hymns
and offer your praises and adorations to the Son,
on the day of His Glorious Transfiguration on the Mountain.

The glory of this feast surpasses that of all other feasts
for the Son's Divinity breaks through, on the summit of the mountain,
and shines forth with glory through His body of flesh.

Our Lord ascended Mount Tabor and took with Him
Simon and James and John only, and He was pleased
to show them the great glory of His Divinity, like the chariot
on which He is carried magnificently to His Father.

The Uniquely Beloved Son of the Father sent by Him,
prayed that His Divinity be manifested through His body,
in a vision of the Mysteries to be accomplished, and revealed
to the eyes of the disciples who were still unprepared to believe.

They called to Him as to their Lord and their Glorious Master.
They did not know that He enjoyed the divine glory with His Father.
On account of this He willed to show to them through His body,
the fair glory of His Divinity and of His humanity.

Glory to the Father who today witnessed to His Uniquely Beloved Son.
Adoration to the Son who showed His glory to the eyes of His apostles.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who brought Moses and Elijah
and they witnessed that He was the Christ. To Him be praise.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
In the past You spoke through the prophets and the sages.
But in this age You spoke through Your Beloved Son.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
He is the radiance of the Uncreated Light
manifested today on the Holy Mountain.
We listen to Him to bring about the obedience of faith.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

1st Day	Mk	9:2–10	Jesus was transfigured before His disciples...
2nd Day	Jn	1:9–18	We beheld His glory, the glory of the Only Son...
3rd Day	Lk	9:27–36	While He was praying His appearance changed...
4th Day	Mt	17:1–13	This is My Beloved Son. In Him is My delight...
5th Day	Jn	8:12	I am the light of the world...He who follows Me will not walk in darkness.
	Mt	5:14–16	You are the light of the world...
6th Day	Mk	9:2–10	This is My Beloved Son, listen to Him...
7th Day	Lk	9:27–36	He spoke of His decease...in Jerusalem...

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy, from the heart: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who manifested Yourself on the High Mountain as the Self-shining Consciousness of the Father, make Your sinless humanhood be for us and for the whole human family the root on which our old man is grafted, to be restored in the image and likeness of God, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God who by the unveiling of Your Divinity prompted Peter to an outburst of longing for things eternal, remove from our world all works of darkness: our social evils, exploitation and

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corruption, that our people may truly be set free from the shackles of sin and grow into the liberty and glory of the children of God, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, who from the midst of Your glory on the Holy Mountain were speaking with Moses and Elijah of the Mystery of Your Passion, do not allow the anxieties and sufferings on this world to confound our faith, but make them to prompt us to a new life, for the revelation of our divine sonship and our sharing in the very being of God, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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THE SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to offer praise to Christ on this feast
on which He manifested His Divinity to His apostles on the Mountain.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today the prophets of justice and truth assemble
on Tabor, the high mountain, to bear witness to Christ.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Come, Moses, son of Amram, and adore your Lord who has come,
the Lord you saw in the bush and who rides on a cloud.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

And you, Elijah the Fiery One, come and tell us plainly
if this is your Lord whom you saw on the chariot of fire.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

On this feast of great joy, by the testimony of the prophets,
the chosen apostles are made certain that our Saviour is God.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 76 (75) God has shown Himself in Judah...

RESPONSE
God has shown Himself to us, His name is great among us.
O Luminous One, clothed with light, You are majestic.
Let us make vows to the Lord our God and fulfil them.
You all, who revere Him, bring gifts to the One Who Sees.

Praise, praise, sing praises, all you peoples,
in all speeches and all tongues, and offer adorations to Him
of whom the Father witnessed from on high:
"This is My Beloved. Listen to Him".

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Son who today on the Holy Mountain made His Godhead to shineforth and gave His apostles the glorious vision of His divine face and made known to them that for their sake He came to abasement of His own will, that He might restore them to His own glory. It is good to remember Him and to praise Him at this time of the night vigil...

Today indeed the Lord has truly appeared on the Mountain. Today human nature of old created in the likeness of God but obscured by the darkness of sin has been transfigured into the ancient beauty of humankind created in the image and likeness of God. Today on the Mountain the human race is transfigured. While remaining itself it shines with the glowing light of Divinity. Today on the Mountain He who clothed Himself in the dark and sorrowful garments of skins spoken of in Genesis has put on a divine garment, clothing Himself with light.

Therefore we beseech You, Lord, that You will change our hearts from evil to good, from the darkness of evil ways to deeds of light, shining with faith and true virtue. Remove from us the filthy garments of shameful desires and grant that they may become white garments, brighter than the rays of the sun. Make us worthy to find rest in the

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abode of Your glorious light. And there we will offer You praise, with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *Madrosho*
Our Lord took Simon, James and John
and went up the Mountain to manifest to them
the resplendent glory of His Divinity.
His face shone like the sun with rays of glory.

Suddenly they saw Moses, the Prophet, and Elijah,
who were speaking with our Saviour.
They were wonderstruck at the sight they beheld, while the songs
of the Watchers that praised the Son filled them with delight.

By His manifestation the Son illumined Mount Tabor.
The brightness of His face gave splendour to His appearance
and suddenly a cloud of light overshadowed with wonder
the company of the apostles.

It was a glorious assembly that beheld the Son on the Mountain:
prophets and apostles, living and dead,
and the Son, Christ, among them and the Hidden Father,
who cried out and bore witness to His Uniquely Beloved Son.

Blessed are you, Simon, who were given such blessings by our Saviour,
On you He built the Holy Church. In His love He entrusted to you
the keys of the Kingdom. And on the summit of the Mountain
He made Moses to rest from offering sacrifices.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.11

Psalm 97 (96) The Lord is King, let the earth rejoice...

RESPONSE
The Lord is King, let the earth rejoice,
let the many coastlands be glad.
His lightnings light up the world,
the earth trembles at His sight.

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Today on Mount Tabor the Father cries out
from the highest heaven:
"This is My Son. This is My Beloved.
In Him is My delight. Keep His commandments".

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Great Splendour and Glorious Image by whom the Lofty Threefold Mystery of the Godhead is made known to us, the Lord who is full of care for the human race, and at all times visits us with His help beyond telling. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Today on Mount Tabor, O Christ, You recreate the image of earthly beauty and You transfigure it into a likeness of heavenly beauty... Today Tabor and Hermon exult together. They invite the whole universe to share their joy...Today on Mount Tabor there has mysteriously appeared a view of the future life and of the Kingdom of Joy. Today in a wonderful manner ancient messengers of the Old and New Covenants have gathered around God on the Mountain, bearers of a deep mystery. Today on Mount Tabor is revealed the Mystery of the Cross which gives life through death. And just as You were crucified between two men on Mount Golgotha, so You stand here in divine majesty between Moses and Elijah.

Therefore we beseech You, Beautiful Lord, shed on all men that radiance which on this day of Your Transfiguration brightens the countenance of Your Church. Help her to become truly the sign of unity of humankind, and the sacrament of our union and oneness with God, and thus bring to fulfilment Your Divine Economy of dignifying the human race with the blessedness of sharing in Your life. And we will offer praise to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
Glory to You, our Lord, eternally existing from the Father,
Child from everlasting, who on Mount Tabor
manifested to Your disciples the glory of Your Majesty,
halleluia, halleluia, and they sang glory to You.

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Our Saviour called Moses and Elijah,
the prophets of the house of His Father and immediately
they assembled on Mount Tabor and confessed His Lordship,
halleluia, halleluia, and they adored His Majesty.

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

Glory to Christ who on Mount Tabor
manifested His glory to the company of His apostles.
And the Father from on high declared:
"This is My Son, halleluia, halleluia,
My Beloved. In Him is My delight."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

As You were transfigured on Mount Tabor,
You illumined the Holy Church, O our Saviour,
by the light of Your goodness,
and You rejoiced Your disciples, halleluia, halleluia.
Glory to Your manifestation.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
on this Holy Feast.

And on that feast which shall not pass away,
give us a place at Your right hand.

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Today our Saviour went up the Mountain with His disciples,
and He was transfigured by the brightness of His face
and the glorious light of His Majesty.
The disciples saw and marvelled
and offered praise to His Sovereignty.

Today a cloud overshadowed Tabor, the high mountain,
and the voice of the Father was heard from on high,
"This is My Beloved Son, My only one."
And those who were with Him cried out,
"Blessed is the coming of the Lord."

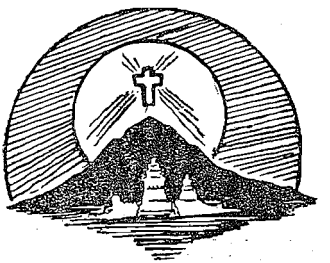
Christ, who manifested to Your disciples
the glorious light of Your Godhead, enlighten us
by Your magnificent light, and transform us
by Your goodness for the keeping of Your commandments.
And may Your love always fill our hearts.

Glory to the Father who made a solemn procession for His Only Son.
Adoration to the Beloved Son who revealed His glory to His disciples.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who confirmed and fulfilled all
that had been written.
And on us, graciousness and compassion at all times. Amen. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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AUGUST 15

The Assumption of Mary Mother of God[23] Independence Day in India Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Christ our God and Lord of all, join us with the multitude of the heavenly powers and the company of the holy apostles to praise and exalt the Glorious Day of the Departure of Your Blessed Mother from earth to heaven, with pure and sincere hearts and bodies free from sin. And by their prayers and intercessions keep Your Churches here on earth, and us all, from all that may harm the body or the soul, You who are the Christ, our Lord and our God for ever. Amen.

Psalm 131 O Lord, remember David and all that he endured...

RESPONSE

O Lord, remember David and all that he endured,
how he swore to the Lord and vowed to the Almighty,
"I will give no sleep to my eyes, no slumber to my eyelids,
until I find a dwelling for the Almighty."

Go up, Lord, to the place of Your rest,
You and the Ark of Your Strength. You have chosen Jerusalem,
You have desired her for Your habitation, as You said:
"This is My resting place for ever. Here I have chosen to live."

Honour the day of the Departure of the Virgin, young men and maidens.
You all, old men and women, and rulers and nobles of the earth,
rejoice, keep festival and offer praise
to the Lord God the Saviour of our fathers.

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The Assumption of the pure and holy Mother of our Saviour
is a most sacred day and worthy of great honour.
The angels join with the inhabitants of the earth
to magnify and praise the Lord God, the Saviour of our fathers.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

On the day of the passing away of the Virgin,
the apostles come to her to celebrate a sacred service,
and the legions of fire and spirit with the just,
all together, form a procession for her burial.

On this day legions of Watchers of fire and spirit
and the powers of the angels honour the Departing
of the Virgin Mary, Daughter of David,
the Mother who gave birth to God.

Peace be with you, O Daughter of David, Virgin full of grace,
holy and all beautiful, the earth was blessed by your death
and the air by your assumption to heaven,
O Mother who gave birth to God.

Who among those who are subject to passions
and clothed with a body endowed with reason can suffice
to sing your praises, O Virgin pure and immaculate?
The Watchers and the human beings are amazed and enraptured
at your departure from this world to your Son.

Peace be with you, holy dwelling-place of the Most High.
In your falling asleep the earth is blessed,
like the air in your assumption to heaven.
The heaven and the heaven of heavens receive your pure being,
that you may take your pleasure with your only Son and your God.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Sun of Righteousness who appeared in the world from the East - Mary the Pure Virgin - to give light to the whole Creation by His divine rays, the Hidden Child who honours the day

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of the burial of His Mother and now glorifies her Assumption in heaven and on earth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, a thi s time of evening...

Praise to You, Christ our God, high and hidden , who descended to dwell in the womb of the Virgin, Your Mother, without her knowing marriage. You were made in all things like to us except sin, and You delivered us from the bonds of death, sin and Satan. You have honoured the memory of Your pure Mother, adorned with all the beauty of spiritual perfection. You have filled the hearts of the children of men with high and glorious praises in her honour, and moved all tongues to exalt the day of her departure with heavenly songs. And behold, we Your servants here on earth, prompted by the Holy Spirit hasten to praise her. You are the Bride Untouched, the Mother Pure who knew not marriage, the Spring which pours forth blessings, the Ship of Joy which brought to the world a blessedness beyond description. You are the Leaven of Life hidden in three measures of corn, which is the Word of God. You are the Honour of Virgins and the Glory of Christians. You have filled the whole world with wonder on the day of your passing away, and the heavenly companies hastened to honour you and cried out with joy, "Come in peace, Dove who carried the Eagle, the Ancient of Days. Come in peace, Pure and Holy Palace, Dwelling-place of the Heavenly King. Come in peace, You who received the greeting of peace from Gabriel and gave life to the house of Adam. "In the bodily and spiritual glory which You possess in heaven, O Mother of Jesus, you continue to bring light and life to your people and your fragrance permeates the whole Creation, for you are the image and the first flowering of the Church as she is to be perfected in the world to come.

Therefore we beg and beseech you, Pure and Holy Virgin and Mother Divine, shine forth on earth until the Day of the Lord shall come. Reveal yourself to the people of God and to the whole world as a sign of sure hope and solace. Intercede for us with the Only Son born from you in virginity that on this day of your glorious departure, He may bestow upon all His Churches and on the whole world true faith, pure love and spiritual joy in heavenly and divine things. Obtain for all who leave this world a blessed death, by the grace of your

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adorable Son and His glorious Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Blessed be the Splendour-shining-from-the being-of-the-Father,
who at the end and consummation of time
took flesh from a daughter of David,
while preserving the purity of her virginity.
She bore Him without stain, and today her departure
is celebrated throughout the whole creation,
from one end of the earth to the other.
May her prayer be to us a wall of protection.

How beautiful is your departure,
Mother Pure and Holy, Virgin Mary, Daughter of David!
Churches and monasteries celebrate your festival,
and the four quarters of the earth beseech your only Son,
who has honoured you on earth and in heaven,
that we may obtain the pardon of our faults,
and be worthy to take our pleasure with you in Eden.

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

The highest heaven and angels and human beings
are astounded and filled with wonder at your passing-away,
Mother of the Word of God, who like every human being drank
of the cup mixed by Adam. Glory to Him who shone forth from you
and abolished the corruption of death and raised you up
and placed you in the Heavenly Kingdom.

From age to age and for ever Amen.

On this day the whole Creation is in gladness
for the pure body of the Holy Virgin is taken away.
Angels and men sing glory and offer thanksgiving
to Him who took her to the Paradise of light,
and placed her holy being in the dwelling of life.
May her prayer be to us a wall of protection.

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May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord God, who are praised and glorified by the heavenly powers,
to You we raise the inner eyes of our minds
as we present our supplications to Your graciousness.

May this incense which we burn on the honoured festival
of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary who bore You
be accepted in the presence of Your Majesty.
Grant our requests and hallow our whole being, body, soul and spirit,
that with those who followed You in Your Passover with faith
we may be found worthy of Your bountiful graciousness.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Blessed One,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

You who are full of graciousness,
pray and beseech Him who is all graciousness,
to be gracious to all who are in distress.

As the day had come when the Blessed One was to leave
this world for the new world, immortal,
she prayed and entreated her Son Jesus that the apostles might come,
that she might see them before her departure,
for she had a great desire to receive the blessing of their prayers,
who were witnesses to her Son and initiated into His Mysteries.

She called Peter, senior and chief of the company, Andrew, Philip
and James the Elder, and Thomas who had touched the side of life,
Bartholomew, Lebbeus-Thaddeus the Canaanite, and all the others:
James the Less, known as the brother of the Lord.
Accordingly, the Spirit who had caught Philip and brought him
to Azotus realized her hope, because of the Only Son, and assembled
the apostles from the ends of the earth by the side of His Mother.

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John to whom the Lord had entrusted His mother,
as the head of the house, performed the burial of the Blessed One.
As Nicodemus had buried the body of her Son,
so the pure and luminous Son of Thunder buried her body.
And the whole company of the aposties
in a wondrous manner, accompanied with offerings
the luminous soul of Mary, Mother of God.

Glory to the Father who chose Mary from among all peoples
and who honours and magnifies in the four quarters of the earth
the Day of her Assumption to Heaven.
Adoration to the Son who for the burial of His Mother assembled
the prophets and apostles as she wished.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit through whom she came to her rest,
according to His will.
and in her passing-away she takes her delight with her Son.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Speak to the Churches, O Lord.
Speak of the glory of Your Mother.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Let us hear what the Spirit makes known to John,
the great sign which he saw in heaven,
the woman adorned with the sun,
with twelve stars on her head for a crown.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk. 3:31–35 The true blessedness of the Mother of Jesus.
Lk. 11:27–28

Intercessions As we offer prayers tc the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation".

Christ our God, who by Your Mother's glorification in heaven revealed in her the firstfruits of the glory destined to the Church and

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to the whole Creation, make us live with the vision of the consummation of all things, when God will be truly all in all, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who praised Mary, Your Mother, not because of the womb that bore You or the breasts that You sucked, but because she received the word of God with faith and kept it, grant us to be more and more awake to Your word in our daily life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

On August 15 only:

Christ our God, on this day which marks the new emergence of India into independent nationhood, give to our leaders a spirit of dedication and service, for building up our people into an integrated and deeply united and prosperous nation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, on this day on which India became SVATHANTRA BHARATA VARSHA, grant to her people to mould their life according to the vision with which You endowed her sages and leaders, illumined by the light of Your Gospel, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Intercession

Christ our God, we also pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and strengthened among all races, in this our country of India and in the whole Creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, who were raised from the dead as the Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep, and who made Your Mother to sit at Your side, grant that all who rejoice in her bodily Assumption to heaven may be given to share in her glory, even now, as You promised that Your Spirit would be poured out upon everyone, and among all peoples and nations, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

With those on high, the heads of the angelic powers,
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You as we say,
"Glory to You, Creator of all creatures."

With the Winged Creatures we bless You.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, O Lover of Humankind,
and with the angels we bow to You in adoration.
Glory to You Creator of all creatures.

The highest heaven receives your glorious body,
O Mother of the Light of the world, and now with the spiritual ones,
standing in glory before your Son you sing praise with them.

The assembly of monks and of virgins sings praise,
on the day of your departure from this life in time
to your only Son, O Holy Virgin.

Astonishment and wonder seized the Watchers on high
when the Fountain of Life gushed from the earth below.
Glory to Christ who brought her to the harbour of life.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 45 (44) My heart over flows with noble words...

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RESPONSE
Listen, O Daughter, forget your people and your father's house.
It is the Lord, your King who desires your beauty.
You will be escorted amid gladness and joy
as you are taken up to the King's habitation.

You became mother but God preserved your virginity.
You were taken to heaven but you continue to protect the world.
When you passed away you entered into glory.
Praise to you, Mother of Christ, Mother of Life.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Word who was born of the Father without beginning, before all ages, and at the end of time came forth from Mary daughter of David. And today He commanded the heavenly powers to take her pure soul in procession with great honour, and He ordered the holy companies of angels to arise and to prepare her holy body for burial, with beautiful hymns. Him we pray and beseech at this time of the night vigil...

What mouth is able to speak of you, O Storehouse of Holiness, Holy Virgin Mary! You were Mother to God who took flesh from you. The mind is confused and the understanding fails in the attempt to tell of the splendour of your glory. You are the second heaven and the chariot of flesh, as you carried on your knees the Lord of the Winged Creatures whom Ezekiel described. The angels and archangels tremble at the loftiness of your beauty when it pleased God that you should be carried as it were on a throne of crystal. And today by His dispensation you departed to return to Him, that you might reign with Him in His Heavenly Kingdom. Today the angels and the companies of the archangels cry out in joy, "Come in peace Second Heaven. Come in peace, High and Heavenly Throne. Come in peace, Mystical Bush. Come in peace Lampstand adorned with lights." Today the assemblies of the Winged Creatures and of the Fiery Ones accompanied your holy body. Today David the prophet rejoiced while he exclaimed, "You, the Tabernacle of the God of Jacob, are today buried in the hollow of the earth like the rest of the dead!"

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Today the company of the aspostles, both the living and those who had gone to their rest, by a gesture of your only Son are wondrously gathered together, that they might honour and carry on high your body, the mystical temple of the Godhead.

With them we, weak and sinful servants, also praise this day of your Passing away and Holy Assumption, and we beseech you with supplication, Holy Virgin, that you will intercede for us with the Lord God who came forth from you in the flesh, that in His graciousness and compassion He will look upon us and pour His blessings on the whole world. May He also mingle our songs with the praises of the assemblies of the Winged Creatures and of the Fiery Ones, and of the apostles, who accompanied you and buried your body which received God, and with you and them we will offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Company by company the Watchers on high fly and descend.
The six-winged Fiery Ones honour the day of your Assumption
with great joy, O Holy Virgin full of grace.
They multiply their chants of joy and take you in procession
and bring you to the Jerusalem on high, halleluia,
with your Son and all those who loved Him and did His will.

As Mary reached the door of heaven, the sun and the moon
and the constellations of stars paid homage to her.
At the second door the angels bowed to her,
and at the third door the archangels sang, "Come in peace,
Mother of our Lord. It was truly in your hands that laid the peace
between the Father and the world. Halleluia, come to be our queen."

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

Christ the King, our Saviour exalted the Mother who bore Him.
He put her in the abodes of life, at the table full of delight,
the place where there is no more sorrow,
and no more crying nor pain, and death is no more.
And she intercedes with Him who rules the kings, that He may be
reconciled with the world, halleluia, and give peace to the Churches.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Happy are you, John, young and virgin aposlte, whom God the Word chose from among your companions that He might entrust His Mother to you. And He said, "Son, here is your mother, look after her in holiness all the days of your life that with her you may enter the Kingdom and the life that shall not pass away, haleluia,
and she shall be a mother to you."

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.11

Psalm 48 (47) Great is our Lord and greatly to be praised...

RESPONSE
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised in His dwelling.
His Holy Mountain rises in beauty, the joy of all the earth.
The City of the Lord Almighty, He upholds for ever.
O God, we ponder Your love within Your Temple,
Your praise and that of Your Mother reach to the ends of the earth.

And Mary said, "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord.
Rejoice, my spirit, in God my Saviour, so tenderly
has He looked upon His servant, humble as she is.
Henceforth all generations will call me blessed, so wonderfully
has He dealt with me, the Lord, the Mighty One."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Child who came forth from you, Holy Virgin, in His humility, and exalted and raised up our nature by His descent to us, while He was clothed in the flesh of our nature, and redeemed us and ennobled you who brought Him forth with glory high above this world, and with the fair beauty of virtue. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God, who were born of a virgin full of holiness at the end of time, and became what we are, apart from sin, that we might become by Your grace what You are, and that You might make us like You, we human beings, one with the Godhead, You raised us up

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by Your Saving and Divine Incarnation...And now when You magnify the joyful memory of Your Virgin Mother Mary in all the world, You count us worthy to celebrate today her who conceived You and bore You without the seed of man, above the power of nature and of speech. Therefore we also today with the companies of the prophets cry and say to her, "You are God's Dwelling-place. You are the Strong City, the Spiritual Mountain of Sinai, the Divine Mother. On the day of your Departure to your Beloved Son and God above, the heavenly powers descended in flight to do honour to your holy body. The holy apostles also were gathered together and came from distant places to bury you as you desired. Then the heavens were opened and the powers of fire and spirit stood there wonderously and rejoiced before you while they cried and said, "Come in peace, Mother of the Creator of the world. Come in peace, Living Bush of burning fire. Come in peace, Pearl without flaw. Come in peace, you who received the message of peace from Gabriel. Come in peace, you who gave life to the children of Adam."

Therefore we beseech you, O full of grace, we who are weak and sinful and poor, on this Great Day of your Assumption, intercede for us with your only Son, that the glory which He made you share with Him be reflected on our Churches in purity and holiness, in truth and love. Pray for us, Divine Mother, now and at the hour of our death. And we will offer praise to your Son and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Exult and leap for joy, O Holy Church, on the falling asleep
of her who is full of grace. Sing hymns of praise to the Only Son
who came forth from her. Exalt and magnify her memory on earth
and above in heaven. And now, the day of her burial is celebrated
in every place, unanimously. May her prayer be a rampart to us.

Today the Watchers fly and descend near Gethsemane,
company by company, to honour the day of the burial
of the Mother full of grace. Angels and disiciples join together
to bring her with honour to the habitations of the Kingdom,
that she may rejoice and take her delight there.

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

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Our Lord called Simon Peter from Rome, John from Ephesus,
and Thomas the apostle from India. By a simple gesture.
He brought them to Jerusalem that they might celebrate the burial
of the Holy Virgin Mary Mother of God. The angels came from on high
and brough ther with honour to the abodes full of life.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The spirits of the just and devotees of old,
and the holy patriarchs gathered and came joyfully
before the Holy One and joined with the angels. Their companies
rose with exultation and received with joy the blessings
of the body without stain. And they sang praise to her only Son.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayer of Mary who brought you forth.

By her prayer and supplication,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Let no one be astounded at the passing away of the Blessed One.
Let no one doubt that she departed from this life in time.
God who came forth from her took her to Himself
and He made for her a great procession
with such honour that cannot be told.

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Death could not claim her to death. The Mother of God died
but to take her delight in life with joy and exultation.
She receives honour from God.
She receives honour from the angels.
She receives honour from the spirits of the holy fathers.

The gatherings of earthly ones
mingle with the multitude of the heavenly ones.
The songs of the heavenly ones
mingle with the songs of the earthly ones.
The orders of the heavenly ones stand wondrously.
The orders of the earthly ones stand wondrously.
They hallow the earth with their songs
and also the air with their shouts of joy.

Blessed is He who glorifies her who brought Him forth
and who magnifies the day of her departure.
Blessed is He who celebrates her burial magnificently.
In the heights divine, praise, adoration and all glory
to Him and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit.
And on us graciousness and compassion at all times. Amen. Amen.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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AUGUST 16–22

The Seven Days after the Festival of the Assumption

The celebration of these Services is left to the decision of the presiding priest, but they are not celebrated on Sunday.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Lord God, as You rejoiced the companies of the spiritual beings in heaven on the day You made Mary, Your Mother, to depart from this world and raised her to heaven in body and soul, and made her sit on a high throne above all the orders of angels and archangels, and made her Queen of the heavenly ones and of the earthly ones, make us to rejoice in her glorification and her exaltation with a spiritual joy free from all disordinate impulses. Grant us to experience her assistance at all times, by her prayers for us, that we may be diligent in imitating her in our life, and that on the day of our own departure we may be found worthy to rejoice in Your grace and that of Your Father and of Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalms *One of the following, each of the seven days.*

1*st Day* **Psalm** 24 (23) The earth is the Lord's and its fulness...

RESPONSE

Who will go up the mountain of the Lord and stand in His place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart
and who seeks the face of God our Saviour.
He shall receive blessings from the Lord.

Praise to you, Mary, whom Gabriel called, Full of Grace!
And Elizabeth filled with the Holy Spirit cried aloud:
"God's blessing is on you above all women.
His blessing is on the fruit of your womb."

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2nd Day **Psalm** 45 (44) My heart overflows with noble words...

RESPONSE

Listen, O Daughter, forget your people and your Father's house.
It is the Lord Himself who desires your beauty.
You will be escorted amid gladness and joy,
as you are taken away to the King's palace.

You became mother, but God preserved your virginity.
You were taken to heaven when you passed away.
You entered into God's glory, but you keep the world under your care.
Praise to you, O Mother of Life.

3rd Day **Psalm** 46 (45) God is our strong refuge and helper...

RESPONSE

The waters of a river give joy to God's city,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is in the city she can never fall...
Come, let us consider the works of the Lord,
the wonderful deeds He has done on earth.

Blessed are you who received the angel's word,
"Rejoice, O Full of Grace, the Lord is with you.
The Holy Spirit will overshadow you.
You shall conceive and bear a son, Emmanuel, God-is-with-us.
Your child will in truth be the Son of God".

4th Day **Psalm** 48 (47) Our Lord is great, highly to be praised...

RESPONSE

Great is our Lord, we praise Him mightily.
His Holy Mountain rises in beauty, the joy of all the earth,
the City of the Lord Almighty which He upholds for ever.
O God, we ponder Your love within our temple.
Your praise, like Your name, reaches the utmost ends of the earth.

And Mary said, "Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord.
My Spirit, rejoice in God my Saviour, so tenderly has He looked
upon His servant, humble as she is. Henceforth all generations
will call me blessed, so wonderfully has He dealt with me,
the Lord, the Mighty One, His name is holy."

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5th Day **Psalm** 87 (86) His dwelling-place is on the Holy Mountain...

RESPONSE
The Lord loves His Holy City
more than all other dwelling-places.
He dwells on His Holy Mountain.
He has made her His home.

Churches of Christ, rejoice with songs of praise
on the falling asleep of the Mother of God, when the heavens
are open to receive her with the body that gave birth
to Him whom the universe cannot contain.

6th Day **Psalm** 113 (112) Praise, O servants of the Lord...

RESPONSE
Who is like the Lord, our God,
who has risen on high to His throne?
From the dust He lifts up the lowly to set them in His company
and to take their delight with Him in glory.

Peace be with you, Holy Virgin Mother of God.
In your passing away and your burial the earth is blessed,
and by your ascent to heaven the air is hallowed.
Like Elizabeth, the Churches, with all generations, count you blessed.
You are the Mother of all Churches and their crown of glory.

7th Day **Psalm** 130 O Lord, my heart has not prided itself...

RESPONSE
Be with us and help us, O Virgin Mary Mother of God,
like you to submit ourselves to the word of God
and to account ourselves as lowly.
As the weaned child on his mother's breast,
our soul will be quiet, our heart at peace.

Today with the powers of the angels
and the legions of the Watchers of fire and spirit,
we offer praise for your Assumption to heaven,
O Virgin Mary, Daughter of David,
Mother who gave birth to God.

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Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
Happy are you, Mary, Holy Virgin,
who were worthy to become the Mother of God,
and today you departed from this world
to the abode of life for ever.

Death is the common law of human nature.
It is the end of all those who are clothed with flesh.
You shared the common lot, suffering death and being laid in the tomb.
But you were taken to heaven in body and soul.

Your only Son took care of your body,
as of the ark made by Moses.
May your prayer be a place of refuge for this assembly
which celebrates your Assumption to heaven.

On this day of your departing from this world,
may we part with all disgraceful passions,
O Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of God,
and may your prayer be to us a wall of protection.

Glory to the Firstborn who appeared from your womb.
According to His will you departed from this world.
But you take your delight with Him in glory.
May your prayer be to us a wall of protection.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Sun of Righteousness who appeared in the world from the East - Mary the pure Virgin - and gave light to the whole Creation by His divine rays, the Hidden Child who honours the day of the burial of His Mother and now makes glorious her memory in heaven and on earth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this times of evening...

When we recall in our hearts your memory, you who are glorious above all, and when we consider the glorious mysteries and the great riches which have come to us from you, we sing continual praises

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and holy songs, saying: "O Virgin Mother of God, on the day of your departure you spread wonder in the Creation. O Mary, Holy Virgin and Mother of God, on the day of your glorious departure you stired the whole world end to end. O Mary, Mother of the Eternal Child, on the day when you were taken to your Beloved Son, the heavenly powers came to meet you. They flew and descended to honour your holy body. The holy apostles were gathered from distant places to assist you and bury you according to your desire and were joined with the heavenly powers. Oh the great wonders which were seen at your departure. The heavens were opened. The powers of fire and spirit were astounded. The Winged Creatures offered blessings. The Fiery Ones cried, holy. The legions stirred. The orders cried aloud. The ranks breathed fire. Thousands of companies beyond number descended and came to honour your greatness. The Creation was clothed in mourning. The air was vibrating with the cries of the songs of light. The firmament was shaken and rustled like trees. The mountains tossed like branches. The hills mourned in sorrow for the Mother of the Heavenly King. The apostles accompanied on earth with grief the Blessed Mother full of grace. The heavens received with joy the Glorious Mother. The bright clouds went to meet you. The fair lilies surrounded you. The ark of mysteries was carried above your bier. The lovely bed chamber was adorned for the bride who knew not marriage. Bright rugs were spread in it to cover the Mother of the kings. Fair clouds shed a soft rain on the cloud of flesh. Beauteous garments clothed her who was worthy of blessing. The Mother departed to her Son. The Maiden was carried on her bier by the Twelve, the Dwelling-place of God was placed in the hollow depths of Sheol. The Chariot of Flesh was taken to the door of the tomb. The orders on high cried out in joy and said: "Come in peace, Dove who carried the Eagle, the Ancient of Days. Come in peace, Pure and Holy Palace, Dwelling-place of the Heavenly King. Come in peace you who received the greeting of peace from Gabriel and gave life to the house of Adam. In the bodily and spiritual glory which you possess in heaven, O Mother of God, you continue to bring light and life to your people and your fragrance permeates the whole creation, for with your Son you are the first flowering of the Church as she is to be perfected in the world to come.

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Therefore we beg and beseech you, Pure and Holy Virgin and Mother Divine, shine forth on earth until the Day of the Lord shall come. Reveal yourself to the people of God and to the whole world as a sign of sure hope and solace. Intercede for us with the Only Son born from you in virginity that on this day of your Glorious Departure, He may bestow upon all His Churches and on the whole world true faith, pure love and spiritual joy in heavenly and divine things. Obtain for all who leave this world a blessed departure by the grace of your adorable Son and of His glorious Father and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Alternative Eucharistic Prayers in a shorter form.

Praise...to the Eternal Word who was born of the Father without beginning, before all ages, and at the end of time came forth from Mary Daughter of David. And today He commanded the heavenly powers to take her pure soul in procession with great honour and He ordered holy companies of angels to arise and to prepare her holy body for burial with hymns befitting it. Him we pray and beseech at this time of evening...

Today the Holy and Life-containing Ark of the Living God who conceived the Creator of the world in her womb departs from this world and comes to rest in the Temple of God that is not made with hands. David her ancestor dances with all his might, and the angelic choirs make melody to glorify her, while above her honoured bed, sweet voices and pure and lovely songs are heard...

One of the four following sections followed by the Conclusion:

"In the bodily and spiritual glory..."

1. O the great wonders which were seen at your departure! The Creation was clothed in mourning. On earth the apostles accompanied with grief the Blessed Mother, full of grace, but the heavens were opened! In heaven the powers of fire and spirit were filled with wonder, the Winged Creatures offered blessings, the legions were stirred, the thrones cried aloud, the ranks breathed fire, companies by thousands, without numbers, descended and came to honour your greatness. And we, with them, like Gabriel, cry out, "Blessed are you, O Full of Grace!"...

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2. How could she, in whom was the True Life ever taste death? She obeyed the law ordained by Him whom she bore, and as a daughter of the first Adam she submitted to the ancient sentence, as her Son who is life itself, abided by it. But as the Mother of the Living God it was right that she should be raised up to Him. God sent the first created man out of Eden, "lest he put forth his hand and take from the tree of life also, eat and live for ever." How then could she who had received, within her, Him who is life itself, life which has neither beginning nor end, not be alive for all eternity?...

3. How could Paradise not welcome her who had been preserved from all sin, and who had brought into the world the Child of obedience to God, the Father of her Son? How could the heavens not open their gates joyfully to her? Since Christ who is the life and the truth said, "Where I am, there shall My servant be also." How indeed could His Mother not share His dwelling-place, not be with Him? Since the pure and holy body which the Divine Word had taken to Himself from her had risen from the tomb on the third day, it was fitting and fair that she also should be carried away from the tomb and raised up into a greater and more perfect dwelling-place, into heaven itself...

4. O the great wonders which were seen at your departure! The Creation vibrated with the cries of the sons of light. The firmament was shaken and rustled like trees in the wind. The hills moaned the Mother of the Giver of Joy, the Heavenly King. The apostles were mourning as they carried to the burial place the bier of the Mother who departed to her Son, the Dwelling-place of God who was taken to the hollow depths of Sheol. But the heavens were opened and the angels in the highest heaven cried out in joy and said: "Come in peace, you who received the greeting of peace from Gabriel and gave life to the house of Adam".

Conclusion: In the bodily and spiritual glory which you possess in heaven, O Mother of God, you continue to bring light and life to your people and your fragrance permeates the whole Creation, for with your Son you are the first flowering of the Church as she is to be perfected in the world to come.

Therefore we beg and beseech you, Pure and Holy Virgin and Mother Divine, shine forth on earth until the Day of the Lord shall

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come. Reveal yourself to your people and to the whole world as a sign of sure hope and solace. Intercede for us with the Only Son born from You in virginity, that on this day of your Glorious Departure, He may bestow upon all His Churches and on the whole world true faith, pure love and spiritual joy in heavenly and divine things. Obtain for all who leave this world a blessed departure, by the grace of your adorable Son and of His glorious Father and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *One of the three following hymns*

First Hymn *Blessed are you, O Church. On the 1st, 3rd and 6th day.*
Today the legions and the companies
of the beings of fire and spirit descend.
The six-winged Fiery Ones rise and fly down in all earnestness.
The angels and the Watchers of the heights
come near the tomb of her who is full of grace to hallow the day
of the passing away of Mary the Most Pure Daughter of David
the Mother who brought forth Christ,
the Word of the Heavenly Father
who lowered Himself and became man of His own will.

Today in a wondrous manner the Virgin Mary Daughter of David is carried to the heavenly mansions where sorrow exists no more.
The spirits chant before her the glory of their Lord
whom she bore in the flesh, and celebrate the day of the passing away of her who became the Mother of their Lord.
He who is more hidden than all, was carried in her pure womb.
And on account of this, from one end of the earth to the other,
He honours and magnifies the day of her departure.

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

Today, you all souls of the just men of old,
go before the pure soul of Mary Daughter of David.
It is through her that your sayings became true,
and your manifold symbols were revealed.
Truly she is the light of your teachings.
Offer praises to her joyously
until she enters the dwellings of the Heavenly Kingdom
with her Firstborn, her Son and her Lord.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today the companies of heaven are enraptured and filled with wonder.
With fear and astonishment the Fiery Ones, the six-winged,
rise to see the Mother Most Pure who bore and nursed
Him who is carried on their wings. It is He who by death
has separated her soul from her pure body.
Glory to Him who chose her and took up His dwelling in her because it pleased Him. Now He raises her up and places her in the midst of the Watchers of flame and spirit in the dwellings of light.

Remember, Lord, the dead and grant repose
to those who were clothed with You at baptism
and received You at the altar, those who ate Your holy body
and drank Your blood, the cup of immortality.
May they rejoice with Abraham in the Kindom
and stand at Your right hand and sing:
"Glory to You, Lord, halleluia".
Lord, grant repose to Your servants.

Second Hymn *The two worlds belong to You.* *On the 2nd and 4th day*

Today the companies of the Watchers
gather together with the disciples
to enshroud your glorious body,
O Virgin full of all beauty.

Blessed is He who magnifies in the Creation
the day of the passing away of the Virgin.
And He invites and calls to her burial
the assemblies of the heights and of the depths.

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

Blessed and glorious is the day of your departure,
O Virgin Mother of God. You are the root of the Resurrection, the fountain of immortality. The Son who came forth from your womb He took you to Himself with great glory.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Make us to share, Lord, in the commemoration
of Your Mother and of Your saints.
By the prayers of those who loved You so much,
be gracious to us and to the whole world.

O King and Giver of Life, when You appear with glory from on high
to raise the dead to life and resurrect those who lie buried,
the dead will rise together from their graves
and offer praise to the Living One who raises them up.

Third Hymn *Blessed are you, O Church.* *On the 5th and 7th day*
All the earth will acclaim, worship and praise Him
who came forth from her who is full of all beauty.
Glory to Him who though He was the Son of God
chose a daughter of man to be His Mother,
and sent the Watchers to celebrate her Assumption to heaven.
From all quarters, peoples sing praise in her remembrance.

Heaven and earth sing praise and make music
on the Assumption of the Blessed Mother of God.
The Mighty One who carries the Creation in His hand
manifested Himself to us from her pure womb.
Glory to Him who did not break the seal of virginity
and who magnifies His Mother from one end of the earth to the other.

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

On this day of your Assumption, O Mary Virgin Pure,
company by company the Watchers descend from the heights
singing praise with their songs, full of joy,
while carrying your body with great honour and love.
Rejoicing, they place it in the Jerusalem on high.
Blessed Mother of God, may your prayers always be with us.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The whole Creation looks up to you to extol you,
O Virgin full of all beauty who brought forth the Son of God,
who came down for us and was incarnate in your pure womb.
Glory to Him who manifested Himself as a son of man
and who greatly rejoices the Churches all over the world
by the Glorious Assumption of His Mother to heaven.

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May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense

Lord, who are praised and glorified
by the sons of men on earth and by the powers on high,
to You we raise the inner eyes of our minds
while we offer our supplications to Your Majesty.

May this incense be received in Your presence
which we offer on the honoured festival
of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin who bore You.
And may it hallow our whole being, body, soul and spirit,
and make our poor lives a fitting response to Your boundless love.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Blessed One,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

You who are full of graciousness,
pray and beseech Him who is all graciousness
to be gracious to all who are in distress.

In your giving birth, O Mary, conception was without seed,
and you gave milk to the Child without knowing man.
In your falling asleep death was without corruption.
Your dead body was embalmed and carried to be buried,
but it was enthroned in heaven at the right hand of your Son.

When you inclined the ear of your heart to the word of God
the Holy Spirit rested on you and overshadowed your womb.
In the cave you brought forth without pangs
the Son who is the way, the truth and the life of the world.
How could Death ever reign over you, O Mother of life?

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Today the Life-containing Ark of the Living God
who carried in her womb the Creator of the universe
is carried away to rest in that temple not made with hands.
The Living Heaven takes her place in the heavenly mansions.
How could you who are the Mother of life ever be claimed by Death?

Glory to the Father who chose Mary from among all women,
and who honours and magnifies in the four quarters of the earth
the Day of her Assumption to heaven.
Adoration to the Son who for the burial of His Mother
assembled the prophets and apostles as she wished.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit through whom she came to her rest,
according to His will.
And in her passing away she takes her delight with her Son.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Speak to the Churches, O Lord.
Speak of the glory of Your Mother.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Let us hear what the Spirit makes known to John,
the great sign which he saw in heaven,
the woman adorned with the Son
with twelve stars on her head for a crown.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

1st Day	Lk	1:46-50	The Almighty has done great things for me.
2nd Day	Lk	10:38-42	Mary has chosen the best part.
3rd Day	Mk	3:31-35	He who does the will of God is...my mother.
4th Day	Lk	11:27-28	Happy are those who hear the word of God and keep it.
5th Day	Mt	12:46-50	Anyone who does the will of My Father is my mother.
6th Day	Jn	19:25-27	To the disciple He said, "This is your mother."
7th Day	Lk	1:39-45	You are blessed among all women.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and gladness, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

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Christ our God, who by Your Mother's bodily Assumption into heaven revealed the firstfruits of the glory which is kept for us all, give to all believers a deeper awareness of the uncertainties of our earthly pilgrimage, but also a right appreciation and true gratitude for the bodily values of life, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who by Your Mother's glorification remind us that we are called to share Your life with our whole being: body, soul and spirit, teach us how to make our body reflect our inner life, and thus enter into deeper communion with You and with our fellow beings, we beseech You:

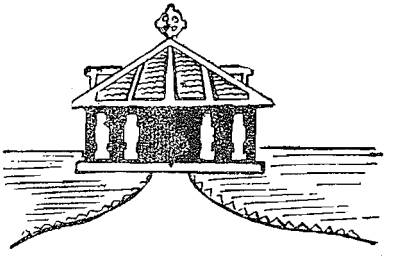
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, who were raised from the dead as the Firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep, and who made Your Mother to sit at Your side, grant that all who rejoice in her bodily Assumption to heaven may be given to share in her glory, even now, as You promised that Your Spirit would be poured out upon everyone and among all peoples and nations, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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THE SEVEN DAYS AFTER THE FESTIVAL OF THE ASSUMPTION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

With those on high, the heads of the angelic powers
we offer thanksgiving to You and we praise You as we say,
"Glory to You, Creator of all creatures."

With the Winged Creatures we bless You.
With the Fiery Ones we hallow Your Name, O Lover of Humankind,
and with the angels we bow to You in adoration.
Glory to You Creator of all creatures.

O Mother of God, on the day of your Assumption
from this life in time to your only Son, the heavens rejoice
and the earth exults because it is blessed
by the burial of your pure body.

The companies of those who do not have a body
with the Fiery Ones and the heavenly powers,
prepare for burial your pure and holy body
with hymns and praises of the Holy Spirit.

It is good to offer glory and praise,
adoration and the greatest honour,
to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
One true God, to Him be glory.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 65 (64) To You our praise is due...

RESPONSE
Blessed is she whom you chose
and called to dwell in Your courts.
May we also receive the blessings of Your house,
O God, our Saviour who keep Your pledge with wonders.

On the Day of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
the Watchers and the angels rejoice
and the Churches sing praise to the Lord,
who magnifies her feast in the four quarters of the earth.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Word who was born of the Father without beginning, before all ages, and at the end of time came forth from Mary daughter of David. And today He commanded the heavenly powers to take her pure soul in procession with great honour, and He ordered the holy companies of angels to arise and to prepare her holy body for burial, with beautiful hymns. Him we pray and beseech, at this time of the night vigil...

What mouth is able to speak of you, Holy Virgin Mary, Storehouse of holiness? You are Mother to God who took flesh from you. The mind is astounded and the understanding fails in the attempt to tell of the splendour of your glory...Today by His dispensation and His grace you departed to return to Him that you might reign with Him in His Heavenly Kingdom. Today the angels and companies of the archangels cry out in joy, "Come in peace, Second Heaven. Come in peace, High and Heavenly Throne. Come in peace, Mystical Bush. Come in peace, Lampstand adorned with light." Today David the prophet marvels while he says, "You are the Tabernacle of God" and behold, today you are buried in the hollow of the earth like the rest of the dead! Today the company of the apostles, both the living and those who had gone to their rest, by a gesture of your

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Only Son, are wondrously gathered together, that they might honour and carry on high your body, the Mystical Temple of the Godhead...

And we who rejoice with them, also beseech you with supplication, O Mother of God, that you will intercede for us with the Lord God who came forth from you in the flesh, that in His graciousness and compassion He will look upon us and pour His blessings on the whole world. May He also mingle our songs with the praises of the assemblies of the Winged Creatures and of the Fiery Ones and of the apostles who accompanied you and buried your body which carried God, that with you and them we may offer praise and thanksgiving, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *Madrosho*

The companies of the children of light perceived
the falling asleep of the Virgin Daughter of David
and the heavenly assemblies went forth to meet her
and to take her to the place of light.
The Fiery Ones received her on their wings
and took her to the place of life in the heavens
among the choirs of the spiritual ones.
Her holy body was put in Paradise. Blessed is the Fruit of Life
who magnifies His Mother in the two worlds, halleluia.

Who is she on whose falling asleep the Watchers rejoice
and the disciples exult as the watchers greet her,
"Come in peace, Mother of God, who give life.
And now you are wrapped in a shroud and buried!
In your passing away graciousness is shown
to those who lay buried and believed in your only Son."
Glory to Him who chose you and who came forth from your womb,
and gathered you to Himself that you may rejoice with Him
among the companies of the Watchers, halleluia.

Above in heaven and below here on earth,
your Assumption is exalted, O Blessed One.
The Watchers rejoice on the day of your feast,
for He who dwelt in your womb took you to their ranks.
The children of men give praise, who by your bringing forth
are saved from death, for the new Saviour appeared from your womb.

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And behold, your feast is celebrated
in the four quarters of the earth and in highest heaven.
Blessed is He who appeared from your purity, halleluia.

O Mary, send down your abundant blessings
on this assembly that celebrates your holy passover.
As the angels rejoice for your Assumption
because you were taken to their ranks,
rejoice us also with your blessings.
By your prayers may graciousness be shown to us
and may wars come to an end, and peace and tranquillity
reign among us with love and concord.
And we will offer praise at all times, halleluia.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 66 (65) Cry out to God with joy, all the earth...

RESPONSE
Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.
O sing to the glory of His Name.
Say to God, "How tremendous Your deeds!
Before You all the earth shall bow.
The whole creation sings to You, sings to Your Name!"
Let our joy then be in Him.

The Holy Virgin carried in the creation,
in the house of the earthly ones,
Him whom the angels serve with trembling.
It is He whom the earthly ones adore
and also the companies of the heavenly ones.
O Mother of God, to you be praise from the whole creation.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Child who came forth from the Holy Virgin in His humility, and exalted and raised up our nature by His descent to us, while He was clothed in the flesh of our nature and

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redeemed us, and ennobled with glory high above the world her who brought Him forth. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God who today magnify the joyful memory of Your virgin Mother in all the world, we thank You for counting us worthy to join the heavenly companies who praise her, and with the prophets and seers of old we say to her, "Truly you are God's Dwelling-place. You are the City Fair and Lofty, the Joy of the whole earth. You are the Spiritual Mountain, the Divine Mother on the day of whose passover to your Beloved Son and God, the heavens were opened and the powers of fire and spirit stood there wondrously and rejoiced before you while they cried out, "Come in peace, Living Bush of burning fire. Come in peace, Pearl without flaw. Come in peace, you who received the message of peace from Gabriel. Come in peace, you who give life to the children of Adam."

Therefore we beseech you who are full of goodness, we sinners, weak and poor as we are, on this Great Day of your Departure, intercede for us with the Only Son who came forth from you that the glory which He made you share with Him, be reflected on us in purity and holiness, in truth and love. Pray for us, Gracious and Mighty Mother, now and in the hour of our death. And we will offer praise to your Son and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *Madrosho*

Blessed are you, Fair and Glorious One,
for the whole Creation marvels at your departure.
The heavens open and the Watchers descend
to take you in a great procession.
The Winged Creatures carry you on their wings,
the angels praise you and hallow you,
on this day of your passing away from this world.

Today the earth is sanctified by the burial of your body
and the air is blessed by your assumption.
Today the dead themselves perceive your passing away
for through you they regain hope and receive consolation.
Death reigned over all your members as for every creature
but your Son exalted you far above the Creation.

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Adam, the head of the human race,
bows before you and welcomes you with joy,
for through you his head is raised
which had been lowered in Sheol,
for instead of the leaves that covered his nakedness
you clothe him with a garment of glory.

Eve, the first mother, mother of all who live,
exults and bows herself in homage to you, confessing,
"Adorations to you who gave me the much desired progeny,
making to pass away the reproach borne by women
and putting an end to the malediction
that weighed down upon my children."

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayer of Mary who brought You forth.

By her prayer and supplication,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Let no one be astounded at the passing away of the Blessed One.
Let no one doubt that she departed from this life in time.
God who came forth from her took her to Himself
and He made for her a great procession
with such honour that cannot be told.

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Death could not claim her to death. The Mother of God died
but to take her delight in life with joy and exultation.
She receives honour from God.
She receives honour from the angels.
She receives honour from the spirits of the holy fathers.

The gatherings of earthly ones
mingle with the multitude of the heavenly ones.
The songs of the heavenly ones
mingle with the songs of the earthly ones.
The orders of the heavenly ones stand wondrously.
The orders of the earthly ones stand wondrously.
They hallow the earth with their songs
and also the air with their shouts of joy.

Blessed is He who glorifies her who brought Him forth
and who magnifies the day of her departure.
Blessed is He who celebrates her burial magnificently.
In the heights divine, praise, adoration and all glory
to Him and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit.
And on us graciousness and compassion at all times. Amen. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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AUGUST 29

The Beheading of John the Baptist
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to celebrate this holy feast of the Beheading of John the Baptist in sincerity and holiness, with sweet-sounding spiritual harps and clear voices, that we may be gladdened like him with the blessed joys which do not pass away. And we will make a joyful noise with songs of thanksgiving, to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 15 (14) Lord, who shall live in Your tent?...

RESPONSE

O John, you resisted the impious rulers heroically
and you made the law resplendent
by the blood that flowed from your neck!
You are blessed for ever, Lord, God of our fathers.

The girl harlot asked for your head
to be brought to her on a dish, O Preacher of Truth,
and her wicked mother made a mockery of you.
You are blessed for ever, Lord, God of our fathers.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE

Driven by his burning passion, the wicked king
promised to give to the girl on a dish
the head of John the Baptist, the Friend of the Bridegroom.
O the wickedness that leads to the depths of utter darkness!

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No one born of women is greater than John,
said our Lord in His Gospel. Come, therefore, all believers,
let us honour his memory with joy and exultation,
that we may be found worthy of the pardon of our sins.

As the harlot danced a lustful dance
the heart of the impious king was burning with passion.
And he sent to the prison to have John's head cut off
and he gave it to the girl on a dish.

O the iniquitous banquet celebrated there!
A harlot girl dances for the merriment of all
and the head of John is brought on a dish.
Are they not destined to the fire, to the worms, to darkness?

The Holy Church whose marriage John celebrated in the river Jordan,
on the day of his commemoration sings praise to Christ,
who honours the day of his feast in the four quarters of the earth.
May his prayer always be with us.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Heavenly King who chose the son of the barren to go before His manifestation and to preach and proclaim His Kingdom, and sent him before Himself on the path of witnessing unto death. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Glory to You, who honour the memory of Your friends, Lord Jesus Christ, those who laboured in Your vineyard with the faithful labour of sons and did not remain in the rank of hired servants, but gave back with increase the talents entrusted to them, out of love, and brought forth fruit, one thirtyfold, another sixtyfold and another a hundredfold to the Lord of the Heavenly Vineyard. Among these perfect servants was raised up John the Forerunner, the wise messenger who was sent before his Lord, the beauty of whose virtue cannot be represented by any earthly painter because it is far above the praise of all the children of men. But the Holy Church honouring the day of his memory with psalms of the Holy Spirit cries out with joy and

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exultation in the assemblies on her people: "Come in peace, baptizer and forerunner, noble Saint John whose birth was under the mosaic law and who grew up wonderfully under the new law. Come in peace, mediator between the old testament and the new, who fulfilled them both in truth. Come in peace, prophet and apostle, greater than whom there is no other. Come in peace, tree which grew up by the waters of baptism and remains to this day the ornament of the Churches. Come in peace, high priest whose birth was with dancing, and whose crowning at the end of his life was also with dancing.

Therefore by your holy prayers may we all be worthy to be partakers of the graciousness and compassion of your Lord. And may the Holy Churches who are exalted by you rejoice in your festival, and offer praise and thanksgiving to Christ who chose you, and to His Father and to His Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

John, you were a marvel, filled with the Holy Spirit
and adorned with the most diverse spiritual charisms.
Prophet and apostle, you were made perfect by martyrdom.
You prepared the way for the Son of the King, who dwelt in you
more than in any other dwelling on earth,
and who brought you to perfection on the swift wings of humiliation.

It was a great combat that you endured,
John, son of the barren, who grew up in the desert.
You prepared the way for the Son of the King, who dwelt in you
and you celebrated His marriage with the Holy Church.
Herod cut off your head and had it on a dish at table.
And we celebrate your festival. May your prayer always be with us.

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

King Herod acted with gruesome cruelty who cut off
John's head without reason and without fault,
and gave it on a dish to the girl for her lustful dancing.
Blessed is He who glorifies His friend who greeted Him from the womb
and magnifies His preacher whose voice made the desert resound.
The Holy Churches celebrate the day of his commemoration with joy.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

It was an iniquitous reward for the girl, the just and humble John
who had grown up in the desert, and who was made to shed
his innocent blood like a sheep before the slaughterer.
Blessed is He who made Him His Messenger
to proclaim the truth of His Gospel and who magnifies
the day of his commemoration in the four quarters of the Creation.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Stretch forth Your right hand, our Lord,
upon this assembly of believers and bless Your people,
and receive this incense offered in homage to Your Sovereignty
in commemoration of John, the great witness to Your truth,
who was happy to call himself the friend of the Bridegroom.

And make us worthy to praise and exalt Your Godhead
with songs of thanksgiving and spiritual hummings,
and thus offer praise and thanksgiving to You
and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Preacher of Truth,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

By your prayers, O Friend of the Bridegroom,
may the Lord remove all harm and evil
from those who take refuge in you with faith.

What a sight! The great ascetic put to death by the fornicator,
a horrible high priest sacrificing his innocent victim,
the golden lamp filled with the oil of righteousness,
the glorious olive tree growing by the waters of baptism.

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Cluster of Sweet Grapes which the impious king pressed out in the dish!
And behold, the whole Creation takes delight in its taste.
Friend of the Bridegroom and Wedding-guest of the Bride,
Baptizer of the Lord, Noble and Chaste Priest,
blameless and illustrious among all the prophets.

Sacred Temple, Incense of exquisite fragrance, Victim of the lawless,
imprisoned out of envy and put to death out of lustful jealousy,
no one born of women was greater than he who said to his disciples,
"The Friend of the Bridegroom is overjoyed
when he hears the Bridegrooms' voice.
This perfect joy is now mine. He must become greater and greater,
and I must become less and less."

Glory to the Father who chose His servant, the son of the barren.
Adoration to the Son who was baptized by Him in the river Jordan.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who filled him with all His charisms.
And on us graciousness by his prayers at all times.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Put a crown of glory on his head,
a crown that will never be taken away.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
John, the Friend of the Bridegroom, gave his life for Him.
Man can have no greater love
than to lay down his life for his friend.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 14:3-12 John's head was brought on a dish and given to the girl...

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with earnestness and joy: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who adorned John with very diverse charisms making him a prophet, an apostle and a martyr to proclaim Your

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Kingdom, make us all turn to You with faith, to do Your will in obedience to the truth, that we may experience Your graciousness and compassion, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who strengthened John to witness to Your Kingdom by suffering injustice and death at the hands of a lawless ruler, strengthen all those who work for the release of prisoners of conscience and for their fair and early trial, and for the abolition of torture and death penalty from this world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ God, Great Lover of Humankind, deliver those who suffer for the sake of justice and truth from the pressures of the mighty ones of this world. Strengthen them with Your Spirit that they may give witness to Your Gospel with power, even at the cost of their life, and give them the crown which will never be taken away, and we will say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

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RESPONSE
It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy" are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to sing praise with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The glory of your memory shines forth throughout the world.
Behold, O John, all the Churches sing praise for your victory.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Today all over the world the memory of John is celebrated,
who preached the Gospel of his Lord to the Creation.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

The friend of the Bridegroom put to death by the impious king
is celebrated today by the Churches with great joy.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 2 Why are the nations in an uproar?...

RESPONSE
Your venerable and holy head, O John,
was served on a dish at the king's banquet.
And now the Holy Church of believers
takes her delight in its taste.

John, you are great among those born of women,
among the apostles who proclaimed the Lord,
among the prophets who announced the Son,
and also among the martyrs for your head was cut off.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Mighty God and Prince of Peace who adorned his messenger with all beauty, and strengthened him in the face of evil, and made him lay down his life in witness to His truth and justice. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Praise to You, our Lord and Saviour, who sent Your forerunner to proclaim Your Kingdom and he made the mountains to be laid low, winding ways straight and rough roads smooth that all may see Your salvation. Praise to You who strengthened John to rebuke and admonish Herod because of wicked Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip, which the king had taken. He would not listen to John. He had him seized and bound him and put him into prison. On the king's birthday, in the middle of revelling, at the request of Herodias he had him put to death, as the price of her daughter's dancing. John's godlike head was cut off and brought on a dish before all the guests. Then John descended to the house of the dead and announced the resurrection and life, and good hope of salvation.

Therefore we beseech Your love of humankind that You will grant us to praise the day of his all glorious memory, while we offer sincere praises to You with the company of the prophets like whom he prophesied, and bless You with the apostles like whom he preached, and exalt and glorify You with the martyrs with whom he was united, and like whom he received the crown for his great love. We all, with him and like him, praise You and exalt You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

John's head is like a cluster of grapes
which Herodias pressed out but she could not taste it.
The good and just people who believed in him took it. And behold they have made his bones a wall of protection for the Holy Church.

Blessed is the Lord who magnifies and extols your memory,
O John, virgin and illustrious son of the barren.
Beg and beseech your Lord for the world, that by your prayers,
His peace and tranquillity may dwell in the four quarters of the earth.

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

The girl asked John's head from king Herod
and the Church asked Christ's body from Pilate.
John heals our pains without fees
and Christ forgives the sins of the children of Adam.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

You were chosen from the womb of your mother, O John. Your Lord Himself witnesses in his Gospel that there is no other like you.
Burning with envy at you Herodias had you put to death.
Blessed is He who made you preacher to the four quarters of the earth.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 43 (42) Vindicate me, O God, and redeem my cause...

RESPONSE
O John, Chosen One who baptized the Christ,
be a rock and a stronghold for the Churches
against the Evil One and his powers.

In the womb of your mother you leapt for joy
in the presence of the Lord, and behold,
on the day of your commemoration the Churches dance for joy.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Word of God who became flesh and adorned His messenger with all beauty, and ennobled His forerunner with all charisms, and exalted His preacher who suffered death at the hands of the impious king. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

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Christ our God, from whose side on the Cross flowed water and blood for the life of all believers, through the precious death of Your martyrs and saints, You strengthen those who have come to the faith. Herod the wicked king under the pretext of keeping an oath he had pronounced out of lust, thought he would blot out the memory of John from the minds of men. Not only was John's memory not destroyed, but believers in their thousands, fired by his example, joyously welcomed death for the sake of righteousness and truth. And now throughout the world the Churches celebrate his memory, and all generations call him blessed, as his virtues fillt he Churches with their fragrance. For John did not live for himself alone, nor did he die for himself alone. How many who were burdened with sin have been brought to conversion through his noble life? How many have been encouraged to endure their trials, inspired by his unmerited imprisonment and death? And we too offer thanks to God, as we commemorate him who was slain on account of his stand for righteousness. He despised the orders of the tyrant rather than those of God.

Therefore we beseech You, Christ our Lord, let us never prefer anything to the will of God. And with His great friends make us die to our sins and to self love. Arouse us to remain ever watchful and alert to the cause of truth and justice. And we will offer praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *Madrosho*
O lovely fruit of the barren one,
blessed is He who called us
and invited us to your feast.
You leapt for joy in the womb before your Lord,
who had come to reveal Himself.
You defeated the Evil One who branded you with disgrace.
You conquered him in the desert, like your Lord.
Your light appeared, and it exposed his treacheries.
Your voice resounded and it brought sinners to conversion.

In the spirit and with the power of Elijah
you preached openly before the coming of your Lord,
who Himself called you Elijah.
By your words you confounded Herodias.

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The vipers' brood trembled and quaked
because of you, while every day
you were preparing a way for your Lord.
sinners who saw you were reconciled with God,
as you proclaimed to them the Kingdom of Heaven.

By your words you confounded Herodias
who had your head cut off, but you put an end to her kingdom.
Your words inflamed the anger of the harlot.
In her fury she demanded your death,
and your head was brought
like holy bread on a paten for the banquet
so that all were astounded.
The edge of the sword wove a crown for you,
your Lord took it and put it on your head.

You proclaimed the coming of your Lord among the living,
and before Him also you went to announce Him among the dead.
As you made haste to proclaim Him from within the womb,
you went to announce Him to the dead within the tombs.
All heard your voice, the living and the dead.
And to the Lord, your Lord, they sang praise,
they praised Him with one accord.
Thanksgiving from all to your Lord
who magnifies the day of your commemoration.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayers of Saint John.

By his prayers and petitions,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Blessed are you, John, the Chosen One, sweet and delightful fruit,
you became a cluster of grapes and a delicious wine to drink.
Your venerable and holy head was served on a dish at a banquet.
The Holy Church rejoices and takes delight in its taste.

She listened to your voice in the desert of Judah
where you were preaching and she was made to turn away
from graven images to be betrothed to Christ.
And behold, today she celebrates your feast with exultation.

While you were preaching you humbled yourself before the crowds
saying: "I am not worthy to touch the feet of the Bridegroom King,
even to undo the straps of his sandals."
And you began to baptize and to purify sinners through repentance.
And you also baptized your Creator laying your hand upon His head.

Glory to the Father who chose you,
and filled you with all spiritual beauty.
Adoration to the Son who on account of His love made you stir,
while you were still in the womb.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit,
who crowned you with the crown of victory.
And on us graciousness and compassion by your prayer at all times.
Amen. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p. 6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

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FULL MOON OF THE MONTH OF CHINGAM
END OF AUGUST–BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER

Festival of Onam and Commemoration of Saint Thomas the Apostle[25]

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Be with us, Lord, as we gather together on the feast of Onam, the great festival of Kerala, to thank You with all our people for Your providence in our favour, the wonderful works of Your ceration, the fruits of the earth and the new life that comes to nature with the annual rains and showers from heaven. Prompt us to work in all sincerety for the true prosperity of the new nation of India, as the legendary figure of King Mahabeli who sacrificed himself for the well-being of his people, to foster the reign of justice with love and universal compassion, the great gifts of Your Kingdom, our Lord Jesus Christ, entrusted for us all, to Your holy apostle Thomas in whose memory we rejoice today with a our people and offer praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 80 Ring out your joy to God our strength...

RESPONSE
Sing out in praise of God, our strength,
acclaim the Lord of the whole Creation.
Make music, sound the drum and *nadasvaram,*
at the full moon of Chingam, the festival of Onam.

It is He who through the voice of King Mahabeli,
as in the seeds of the Word planted in the world's religions,
reminds us that we are called to be set free from our great burdens
and that He saves us to give us life when we call on Him.

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He is the Lord who brought us to life in this land of Bharata.
It is He who opens our mouths to fill them,
and who feeds us with the rice of our fields, and relieves our bodies
and gladdens our hearts with the oil of our coconuts.

A voice I did not know said to me,
"I freed your shoulder from the burden;
your hands were freed from the load.
You called in distress and I saved you."

Evening Psalms We call upon You Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
The Churches rejoice and sing praise in your honour,
saint Thomas, on this day of the Feast of our people,
because after confessing your faith in the Resurrection of your Lord
you came to this country and proclaimed the truth of His Divinity.

You were a diligent labourer, an athlete of the faith who planted churches like trees in the land of Bharata. From the Arabian sea to the Coromandel coast you sowed the word, and in Malabar alone seven churches grew up and the fragrance of the Gospel was wafted to the interior regions.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Great Lord and God of all who is the beginning and the end of all things and who takes care of the needs of all peoples at all times, and by His gifts to us draws us all to Himself, creating a new understanding among the believers of the great living faiths, that His Gospel of love and peace and unity may be proclaimed and accepted in all the inhabited world. Yo Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

While we celebrate the glorious memory of Saint Thomas, Your apostle and our father in the faith, O Word of God who became man for our sake, we give unceasing praise to Your Ineffable Being for choosing him to bring Your Gospel to this, our land of Kerala. It is

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You, Lord, who are the author of the Creation, the Source of all life and energy. It is Your beauty which pervades all things and Your continuous love and care for us that we experience on this feastday and on all days, and Your unceasing activity that we witness all around us. On this day of Onam, Thiru Onam, as it is called, we thank You for all Your gifts: the air we breathe, the light of the sun by day, and the brightness of the moon at night, the rains that come down from heaven to quench the thirst of Mother Earth and make her grow plants and trees that bear fruits in plenty, and the food and drink through which You come to dwell and live in us, and You make us to share in Your divine life and being.

Therefore, Lord Jesus, we beg and beseech You, awaken in us an ever greater awareness of Your presence and workings in us. Give us divine eyes to read Your message written on the face of the Creation. Offer us Your light and strength to protect, cultivate and increase these great gifts to us of which You make us, simple creatures, Your stewards and co-workers. Grant us the grace to work hard with our people to lead them to prosperity. Accept also their innocent merriment, sports and rest of this day, with their songs of gratitude and love. And as Your Father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, transforms daily for us the bread and wine into Your body and blood, make us all sharers of the divine mysteries of Your life, death and resurrection. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

With Solomon in the Song of Songs we say, "Behold!
the winter is past, the rains have come and watered the land.
The flowers appear on the earth.
The fig ripens her fruits and the vines in bloom give their scent.
The time of the singing of birds has come.
The voice of the turtle dove is heard in our land."

We recall how Isaiah spoke of our closeness to the peoples,
"You will suck the milk of the nations,
you will be suckled at the breasts of kings."

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"Violence shall no longer be seen in the land, robbery in your homes.
I will establish Peace and Righteousness as your government
and you will know that I am the Lord, your Deliverer."

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

"The wolf shall live with the lamb. The calf and the young lion
shall grow up together. A little child shall lead them.
Children will dance over the hole of the cobra and not be hurt.
They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain,
for as the waters fill the sea, so shall the land
be filled with the knowledge of the Lord."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

"The sun shall no longer be your light by day
nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you at night. The Lord
shall be your perpetual light, your God will be your splendour.
Your sun will never set and your moon will never wane. The Lord
will be your perpetual light, the days of mourning are finished.
All your people will be righteous. They will possess the land for ever."

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon,
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Glorious Name which Saint Thomas carried
to the sons of Bharata by his words and deeds,
and by whose power he worked wonders and miracles,
be pleased by the fragrance of this incense.

As You gave to Your apostle to spread the scent of the Gospel
to the furthest parts of the inhabited world, Lord,
make our lives fragrant with the good odour of your truth,
You who are the way, the truth and the life.

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Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Saint Thomas,
may your prayer always be with us,
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

By your prayers may the Lord, the Good One, remove all harm and evil from all who take refuge in you with faith.

Blessed are you, Thomas, apostle of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who when you brought the Good News of God's Kingdom
to our forefathers in this land of Kerala,
truly fulfilled the legend of the just and compassionate King,
who through an act of utter selflessness
brought well-being and prosperity to our people.

Blessed are you, Thomas, apostle of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who when the time had come for Him to ascend to Jerusalem,
where the rulers of his country wanted to stone Him to death,
burning with zeal and love for your Master, cried out
to your fellow disciples: "Let us go and die with Him."
And later, like your Master, your side was pierced with a lance.

We praise the Father who chose Thomas to witness to the truth.
We are followers of the Son who sent him to the coast of Malabar.
We give thanks to the Holy Spirit who confirmed his words
by the wonders and miracles he performed among our people,
when he came to this land to make us share in the new life in Christ.

Glory to the Father,
who so loved the world that He gave His Only Son.
Adoration to the Son,
who made Himself nothing and delivered Himself unto death.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit,
who pours out into our hearts the love of the Father and of the Son.
And on us peace, joy, goodness, all the fruits of His dwelling in us.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
O give thanks to the Lord for He is good,

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for His love endures for ever.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
It is He who gives bread to the hungry.
It is the Lord who sets prisoners free.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 6:25-30 They have no store-houses. God feeds them.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord, let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and exultation, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, Source of all Life and Energy, and Lover of all that lives, who gave to the seers of old far-seeing eyes to recognise You in the trials of their people, grant to the leaders and rulers of this world to see that no peace can be obtained on our planet unless it is with sacrifice and with the sharing at our own cost, as King Mahabeli prefigured for our people in this land of Kerala, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Source of all good, who give to our planet rain from heaven and fruitful seasons to give food to all, filling our hearts and all living beings with joy and gladness, prompt all who hold Your goods in excess of their needs to share with the millions who are in want, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life, who distribute Your gifts among all peoples and nations, all fashioned in the divine image and made of the same human blood, grant us Your light to meet hunger, and all our needs and wants, with the eye of faith that we may experience our being humbled, as a hidden spring of the joy of life overflowing from You, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Lover of all that lives, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their

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services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all human beings, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of Life and Lover of all that lives, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and races, and preserved in this our country of India and our land of Kerala, and in the whole world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

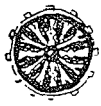
Lord our God, on this Great Feast of Onam, a feast of plenty and of joy for our people, You feed us all with heavenly food through the grace and the sacraments of Your gifts to us, unveil also Your face hidden in and pervading the whole Creation, and reveal to all in this our country the depth of Your love, You who gave Your Uniquely Beloved Son for the life of the world, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

As on the Feast of St.Thomas, July 3, *p.*554




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SEPTEMBER 2

Simeon the Pillar Saint[26]
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord our God, that with true faith and intense love we may celebrate the memory of the great among the fathers, Simeon the Pillar Saint, who for the sake of Your love renounced the world and its pleasures, to seek unceasing communion with You. He adorned the Holy Church with a new monastic charism, while by his teachings and exhortations he healed all those who came to him sick in body, soul or spirit, for Your glory and that of Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalms 111 (110) I will thank the Lord with all my heart...
112 (111) Blessed is the man who reveres the Lord...

RESPONSE
We will thank You, Lord, with our whole heart
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.
Great are Your works, our Lord,
to be pondered by all who love You.

Happy the man who reveres the Lord,
and takes delight in His commands.
He is a light in the darkness for the upright.
His head will be raised in glory.

You bent your neck to the yoke of the Lord, Saint Simeon.
You renounced the world with your whole heart, crying out:
"You are blessed for ever, Lord of the whole Creation.
Blessed be Your glory, glorious above all, God of our fathers."

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From the days of your youth you fashioned in your mind
the image of your Lord, all compassionate, gentle and humble of heart.
You walked in His footsteps, drawn by His most admirable examples
and you cried out: "You are blessed for ever, Lord of the whole Creation. Blessed be Your glory, glorious above all, God of our fathers."

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
I examine myself and I see the faults I have committed.
I weep and my whole being is wasting away.
O Compassionate Lord, do not keep account of my faults,
that I may be gathered to Your flock in Your sheepfold
with the labourers of the last hour to whom You showed so much love.

O Holy Virgin and Blessed Mother, from your womb
came forth the Word of the Heavenly Father.
Pray and beseech the Lord whom you brought forth,
that by your prayers He may show His tender love to all.

Peoples and nations incline the ear of your hearts with love,
to listen to the story of Simeon the Pillar Saint,
so illustrious by his stupendous charisms and his true humility.
Praise with joy the Lord who exalts him and magnifies him
among the Watchers in heaven and on earth in the Holy Churches.

Praise never ceased to flow from his lips all his days.
Thanksgiving welled up from his heart all his life.
His thoughts were set on the Father,
his mind on the Son and his heart on the Holy Spirit,
through whom he obtained wisdom and walked to perfection.

Our Father Saint Simeon, offer prayers to God
who was pleased with your manner of life so astounding,
that we also may please Him with our faith and our love,
and praise the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

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Praise...to the King of kings and Lord of lords who chose His saints before the foundation of the world, and poured into their hearts the fire of divine love, and enlightened them with the wisdom that passes all understanding. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, who with the wine of Your divine love quench the thirst of those who love You, and by Your grace make them drunk with a divine drunkenness, and enrich them with Your lofty gifts, and make them stand before You as pillars of light to all that is beneath the heaven, You wondrously brought to the heights of sanctity our Glorious Father Simeon, that sublime beauty of holiness and pillar of perfection which cannot be shaken. You raised him to immeasurable greatness by his humility and made him attain heavenly things by the simplicity of his mind. While he was still a shepherd boy You opened his heart to Your word, and make him to be born again from Your message of truth, when he heard in the Church how Your Kingdom belongs to those who suffer, and how those whose heart is pure shall see God. On hearing from an elder that this could best be obtained by watching and fasting, by penance and prayer, he withdrew into solitude to the top of a mountain where he lived for You alone. And when multitudes came from all parts of the world to seek his blessings, he took refuge on a high pillar where he persevered to the end in prayer to You and in spiritual ministry to the needy.

Therefore today we remember him who trod the path of asceticism and made Your Church glorious with a new monastic charism. He was a model for those who travel on the way to sublime perfection, in caves, or among the rocks, or on the mountains. On account of this we beg of You, Lord, and we beseech Your grace that You will be with us and strengthen us on the monastic path on which You called us. Help us, that we may be made like to Simeon in courage and steadfastness and like him also be found worthy of the reward of those whose heart is pure, the vision of You, face to face, now and always and for ever, Amen.

Hymn

The Holy Church of believers rejoices and is exceedingly glad.
She chants joyfully the praises of your Lord
who chose you from the beginning, O holy father Saint Simeon,

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and who placed you within her as a lamp,
a lamp burning with the light from above.
Enlightened by you on the day of your commemoration
we burst into song with hymns of the Holy Spirit.

Come, you all who are wise, come with faith and love,
to honour the day of the commemoration of the father of truth,
Saint Simeon. Let us take our delight in his teachings
and obtain from him words of life,
the good seeds which his example sows in our hearts.
And by his prayers may be we delivered
from the Evil One who fights against us.

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

The humble Moses took the bones of Joseph
and brought them from Egypt to the Land of Promise,
that they might be a protection for the people.
By the divine power that resided in them,
he defeated Amalek and his allies.
O Holy One, may your commemoration be to us a protection
against the Evil One and his powers.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Saint Simeon, our Blessed Father, pray and beseech
that the earth may be according to your desire.
May it be like the vineyard of your labour.
May we all be good sheep and true lambs in the sheepfold.
May we feed on the pastures of the Gospel of the Lord
and slake our thirst like you at the fountain of the Beatitudes.
And may we be confirmed for ever in the faith he taught us.

May the dew of life sent from the Father
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord of lords, may the good odour of this incense
which we burn before You on this day,
in commemoration of Your servant, Saint Simeon,
be pleasing to Your Lordship and give delight
to Your Godhead, with our praises and thanksgivings.

And may our praises and thanksgivings be joined with his prayers,
that they may find their way to You and be acceptable in Your sight,
and we will celebrate You, singing praise to You
with tranquillity and peace and love and delight and gladness.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Blessed Simeon.
May your prayer always be with us
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

By your prayers, O Simeon glorious among our fathers,
may the Lord dispel darkness and remove all evil
from all who take refuge in you with faith.

You were brought forth and born to a new life
by the word of the Lord on the Mountain.
And you cleansed your heart by prayer and penance
that you might be pleasing to the Lord of the Beatitudes,
bringing down from His treasury an abundance of blessings,

Valiant witness to the truth of the Son,
friend of the Father, initiated into His mysteries,
by your prayers, O wise one, heal our afflictions,
and by the power that dwells in your bones give wisdom to our minds.

From the time of your youth you pleased God by your Godly way of life,
and as you advanced in age your life was like that of the angels.
Your body has become a holy relic, O Simeon, and its appearance
illumines the Holy Church like a bright light.

Blessed are you, chosen one, whose life was astounding
and who never grew weary in the service of the Lord. Blessed are you,
chosen One of the Holy Church, giver of inner joy and peace
to those who venerate your bones with a holy kiss.

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Glory to the Father who called you to His service, Blessed Simeon.
Adoration to the Son who taught you to suffer for His name.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit who filled your heart with joy
by revealing to you what eye of flesh has not seen,
what God prepares for those who love Him.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The just flourish like the palm tree
and grow like the cedars in Lebanon.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Planted in the house of the Lord,
they grow vigorously in the courts of God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 5:1-10 Blessed are the pure in heart: they shall see God...

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who while You were walking on earth for our salvation revealed to man the highest perfection by your life-giving words on the Mountain, fill the hearts of all those who suffer for Your sake with the joy of the Beatitudes, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who raised up our fathers in the monastic life as living and breathing pillars of every form of perfection and models of divine philosophy, make us walk joyfully in their footsteps, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who sowed in ancient cultures and religious seeds of Your word, prompt us to seek seeds of contemplation and to gather fruits of the monastic quest in the spiritual heritage of this, our country of India, we beseech You:
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries, for their services to the people, and that the love of our brothers in the monastic life all over the world, and especially in India, may penetrate deeply into our hearts, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, through the works and trials of this life to find our way to our Father's home, and as Simeon on his mountain from the top of his pillar kept his mind fixed on You while giving relief to all those who suffered, make us experience in our daily life the joy of the Beatitudes, in contemplation and service, and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

As we awake from sleep we offer praise and exaltation,
to the Hidden Father who is without beginning,
and to the Adorable Son who comes forth from Him,
and to the Holy Spirit, Source of all life and energy.

Watcher of the Watchers, we minister to You
and the angels sing Your praise
and the Winged Creatures bless Your Holy Name,
awaken us to sing praise with them at all times.

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Blessed and chosen Saint Simeon, virgin, glorious and holy,
fair model of purity and teacher of perfection,
be with us as we are gathered here to keep vigil
in commemoration of your astounding way of life.

Stand well, great wonderworker and mighty hero,
at the head of the ranks of your devotees,
and by the power of your strength help us
to celebrate, with sincere hearts, the day of your commemoration.

Glory to the Father who chose you,
and to the Son who strengthened you in the contest,
and to the Holy Spirit who magnifies and extols you,
on the great day of your commemoration, O Blessed Simeon.

FIRST WATCH

Psalm 1 Happy is the man...

RESPONSE
Happy is the man whose delight is in the Lord!
He is like a tree planted beside a watercourse
whose leaves never fade
and who gives fruit in due season.
The Lord Himself watches over his way.

Blessed are you, Simeon the Pillar Saint,
who, out of love for your Lord, endured hardships and afflictions.
Now He keeps your crown in heaven
that with all those who confessed Him on earth,
you may take your delight in His glorious light.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Word of the Eternal Father who lowered Himself to dwell in the womb of the Virgin and was clothed in flesh from her and came forth from her womb. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

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We salute you, Mary, Mother of God, Light never extinguished, Mother and Virgin. It is through you that He comes, He who in the holy Gospel comes in the name of the Lord. It is through you that the Trinity is blessed, that the Cross is worshipped throughout the world. Through you the Enemy is defeated and the fallen head of the creation is re-elevated to heaven, and all the Creation returns to the knowledge of the truth. Through you all the faithful obtain baptism and the oil of joy. Through you Churches are founded in all the world and the peoples obtain conversion because through you that Unique Son of God illumines with His light all those who are in darkness.

Therefore we beg of you, O Mother of Graciousness, that you will intercede with your Son and your God and obtain for us that repentance which crucifies sin, and compunction which brings blessedness, that like our Father Saint Simeon we may experience the bliss of the Beatitudes. Through virginity and poverty, sobriety and watchfulness, may his disciples radiate in this homeland of asceticism and contemplation the spiritual beauty of the Gospel and the transfiguring splendour of the Holy Spirit. Through unceasing prayer and by humble service may they attain the heights of divine charity, to be in truth like your Son Jesus, sons of the Father and brothers to all men, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

May your prayer be for us a wall of protection.
Confessor of the truth and lover of Christ,
who obtained the Kingdom
by the labours of your astonishing way of life,
pray for graciousness for us all
from the Lord who chose you
that He may save us in His mercy,
halleluia, halleluia,
that with you we may take our delight at the feast of gladness.

Let not your grace and your faith be hidden in the noble Church.
Your glory is great in the Kingdom on high,
Blessed Saint Simeon, great lover of Christ.
Make therefore supplication to the Good One,

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the Lord whom you loved with all your heart,
with all your soul and with all your strength,
halleluia, halleluia,
that we may be found worthy
to take our delight with you in the Kingdom.

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

Glory to Him who magnifies the day of your festival,
O Chosen Saint Simeon, in heaven and on earth.
Pray therefore and offer supplications for graciousness
from your Lord, for the Church and all her children
who today keep festival in remembrance of you,
halleluia, halleluia,
that by your intercession,
all may find protection against the Evil One.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Intrepid confessor, chosen one full of beauty,
the Father whose commands you kept
and the Son whose will you did
and the Holy Spirit whom you served
make you stand at the right hand
in the glorious ranks of the spiritual ones,
halleluia, halleluia,
to sing praise in their assemblies.

MEDITATION



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SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 33 I will bless the Lord at all times...

RESPONSE
Look towards Him and be radiant
let not your faces be abashed.
Strong lions suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing.

Blessed are you, Simeon, great among our fathers,
who suffered joyfully for the name of Jesus.
As you confessed Him by your life,
He will acknowledge you at the end of time.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who by His life-giving Cross cast down the Rebel, and made him to be trampled down by those who walk in His footsteps, and by His living words and wondrous deeds which He manifested in His humility armed His servants against the strength of the Crafty One. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God in whose sight the death of Your saints is precious and in whose eyes the memory of those who loved You is so dear, You willed that on this day the noble athlete Simeon, valiant labourer, skilful merchant and ardent devotee of Your Majesty, should depart from this world, he who sacrificed everything in this passing life for the life to come, and from the time of his youth bent his neck to your gentle yoke. Smitten with the arrow of Your love and captured by Your friendship, he left self behind, took up his cross and followed You. In his heart shone the light of Your knowledge like the sun, and it drove out the darkness of sin. On the rugged mountain and later on his pillar he endured hunger and thirst, cold and heat, labouring also diligently in the spiritual vineyard which You planted by Your disciples,

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he at whose combat the spirits in heaven marvelled, while those from below wondered at his constancy, giving thanks to Your Name because You ennobled him.

Therefore today the Churches celebrate his memory with the voice of praise, while praying that you will strengthen them in their conflict with the Evil One and his powers. By his prayers save them from all compromise with truth and justice, and help them to grow in faith and love, discernment and freedom. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Who is able to recount your deeds, O confessor of the truth, your works of wonder on your pillar which stirred the world far and near.
How you pleased Christ from the days of your youth,
in vigil and fasting and prayer with tears,
in true faith and hope and love!
And for these He has given you the life
that does not come to an end, halleluia, halleluia.

How lovely the day of your remembrance, Blessed Simeon!
Christ magnified you on account of your life hidden in Him.
Your death was life. And it was all glorious to God,
who honours the death of His saints.
You will go to meet your Lord with an open face.
May we also be worthy to rejoice with you,
in the abode of glory, halleluia, halleluia.

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

You wove a crown by your labours, chosen blessed one,
and you chiselled gems: vigil with fasting.
You put in your lamp the oil of frugality
and you watched for the Bridegroom when He comes.
Blessed are you, chosen one, for He calls you:
"Come to Me, good and faithful servant
who kept My commandments, halleluia, halleluia."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Your body was like a crown in which are set
gems and pearls of great beauty, O blessed one.
In it was fasting which is a very precious gem,
and prayers which are beautiful pearls,
and love which was the fruit of deep faith.
Blessed are you, good one who bore the Lord's yoke,
and He took you to Himself, halleluia, halleluia.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saint Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Blessed Simeon,
may your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

By your prayers, O Simeon, glorious among our fathers,
may the Lord dispel darkness and remove all evil
from those who take refuge in you with faith.

Your crucifixion, O our Saviour,
brought to fulfilment Your bodily life.
Grant us to surrender to the crucifixion of the body,
that we may enter the light of the life of the Spirit.

May Your Resurrection, Christ Jesus,
strengthen in us the rule of the Spirit.
And may the contemplation of Your Life-giving Mysteries
be a mirror through which we come to know You in truth.

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Your divine words, O our Saviour,
fashion the world spiritually.
Make us surrender ourselves eagerly
for the new creation, the new man.

Lord, do not take away from us
the manifestation of Your Holy Spirit,
do not withdraw from our hearts
the gentle warmth of Your grace.

Glory to the Father who chose Simeon from the beginning.
Adoration to the Son who taught him how to suffer for His name.
Thanksgiving to the Holy Spirit, who filled his heart with gladness.
And on us, by his prayers, God's tender love and compassion.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

SEPTEMBER 8

The Birth of Mary Mother of God
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Lord, Lord of all, inspire us with all sincere praises and all noble hymns and all angelic songs, and make us worthy to glorify You and extol You with purity and holiness on the day, full of beauty and more glorious than any other day, of the birth of the mother who bore You, our Lord and our God for ever. Amen.

Psalm 46 (45) God is our refuge and our strength...

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RESPONSE
The waters of a river give joy to the City of God,
the holy place where the Most High dwells.
God is within it. It cannot be shaken...
"Be quiet, and know that I am God."

From long ago the whole human family
was living in the gloom of deception.
But when the Virgin appeared she moved us to cry out:
"You are blessed, Lord, God of our Fathers."

O Glorious Maiden, your birth from your mother in her old age,
healed our human nature which was wounded and suffering,
for it is you who made us cry out:
"You are blessed, Lord, God of our Fathers."

Child of miracle clothed with all grace and beauty,
Pearl of purity, Mother-pearl of the deep seas,
who did not take even a drop of sea water,
on the day of your birth the whole Creation greets you.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
He who fashions all children in the womb of their mothers,
and who orders the whole Creation, had chosen beforehand
the mother from whom He would appear in the Creation.

Gabriel descended from heaven to Joachim and Hannah.
And he announced to them: "God has been gracious to you.
You will give birth to a holy and blessed daughter."

Today, the just and noble Joachim rejoices and exults.
And with Hannah, his spouse, they offer praise and thanksgiving
to Him who has fulfilled their hope.

Hannah said to Joachim in the joy of the Holy Spirit:
"Blessed be God who blessed the fruit of my womb.
How happy are we who are given a child of blessing in our old age."

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Joachim the just is in joy, and Hannah the barren in gladness,
because the Lord has remembered His Covenant.
He has been gracious to Abraham and his posterity.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the King of kings who was pleased to come forth at the end of time from Mary, who was born today within the world. To Him who today gives to the Church the joyous festival of her birth which brought joy and gladness to all the just and righteous who were awaiting the manifestation of His Divine Economy, belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

While we celebrate the Birthday of the Holy Virgin Mary with spiritual songs, we sing and pray... "Blessed is the Lord who visited His people and raised up for us the hope of salvation through His Christ." He came forth from the womb of the Holy Virgin Mary who today was born into the world, and from her began a new life for the whole world. Hannah and Joachim were filled with great joy...when their daughter was born and they gave her as an offering like Samuel, in the house of the Lord...O what fair and lovely joy is given us today by the birth of the Holy Virgin Mary from whom came forth for us the Sun of Righteousness! How glorious is the birth of Mary! How fair, how exalted! O Hannah and Joachim, how great a good hope is born today in your house, the beginning of good things...the sweetening of the ancient bitterness of Paradise...the bringing of new tidings to the beloved company of the believers! O you, companies of women, make spiritual festival while you say, "Today our race has drawn near to the first joy, in that it was through mother Eve that we were led to our fall, but with Mary we found our way to the Garden from which we had been driven out."

Therefore, Lord, as there was joy in heaven at the birth of the Holy Virgin Mary, on the day of her festival let us hear the sound of joy and gladness. Create pure hearts in us with a steadfast spirit, that like the Virgin Mary, Your Mother, we may be worthy to walk before You with the simplicity and trust of the true children of God. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

Today all the assemblies of virgins and holy women rejoice
at the birth of the Virgin Mary, by whom women are exalted
who had been brought low by the cruel Serpent.
The treacherous Evil One is confounded at the sight of her,
the pure temple of the glory of God Most High.
Halleluia, blessed is He who chose her for His Son.

Fair is the promise which the parents of Mary,
Joachim the just and Hannah his blessed wife, make today:
"If the Lord grants us a child it will be offered to Him
for its whole life." Grace heard them and gave them Mary
that she might be a glorious palace for God Most High,
halleluia, that He might dwell in her.

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

The parents of Mary were just people before the Lord
and served Him in a very simple way of life but had no progeny.
Grace visited them and gave them Mary, and they set her apart for God
and gave her to Him, that every day she might take her delight
in the good things of the table of His house,
halleluia, and chant His praise by night and by day.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Virgin Mary was chosen from the womb like Jeremiah,
and like Samuel she was obtained by prayer, and offered to the Lord.
Her body was bathed in holiness, her mind was set on the Lord.
Her heart was resplendent with purity.
She was dedicated to the service of the Lord and dwelt in His house
halleluia, and the power of the Most High was dwelling in her.

Remember our dead, Lord, and grant them repose,
who were clothed with You in baptism and received You at the altar,
eating Your body and drinking Your blood, the chalice of salvation.
May they rejoice in the Kingdom with Abraham, and may they cry out
at Your right side, "Glory to You, Lord, from all creatures."
Halleluia, our Lord, grant repose to your servants.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Receive, Lord, this incense which we offer to You
on this festival of the Birth of the Holy Virgin Mary,
the Mother who bore you. She sprang forth from Hannah and Joachim
in their old age, who in love of your humanity cried out with joy
and exultation, "Blessed be the Lord who has visited His people
and has multiplied His compassion for the whole world."

And now by the prayers of Your Blessed and Holy Mother
and of her just and righteous parents,
forgive the faults of Your people
whom You redeemed by Your precious blood, and answer their requests
from Your rich treasure-house, Christ our God.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Blessed One.
May your prayer always be with us.
May the Lord hear your prayers and be gracious to the whole world.

You who are full of graciousness,
pray and beseech Him who is all graciousness
that He may be gracious to all who are in distress.

By the birth of Mary, the blessed one, daughter of Joachim,
the mysteries of the prophets are revealed.
All the riddles of the seers receive their answer
and the symbols which were veiled and hidden are disclosed,
for the truth has been manifested.

Prophets and seers, priests and kings of God's people
ministered to the Son through His symbols and figures.
But when He appeared with a body taken from the Virgin Mary,
He put an end to their symbols, revealing Himself
as the Lord and Saviour of the whole Creation.

In the symbols and figures of divine revelation
is manifested the truth about Mary,
who is born to a barren woman in her old age.
The seers rejoice because their visions are explained
by the birth of the Blessed One, the pride of our race.

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Glorious is the Mystery revealed to the just of old
and made present in Mary, Hannah and Joachim.
In Him the nations of all ages rejoice
and in the Church His glory is wonderful.
To Him be praise with His Father and His Holy Spirit.

By the prayers of her who carried You for nine months, Son of God,

Keep away from us and remove from this world all harm and evil.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The Daughter of the King stands in majesty,
clad in gold of Ophir with the queen at her right hand.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Lord, You descended on Mary like a gentle rain,
let Your words also sink deep into our hearts
and accomplish in us what they proclaim.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mk 3:31–35 Whoever does the will of God is My mother...

Lk 11:27–29 Happy are those who hear the word and keep it...

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole creation."

Christ our God, who by Your Mother's birth fulfilled the promise You made to our forefathers in the Garden, that the Woman with her Son would defeat the Serpent, make us work with You and her for the total victory of Good over Evil, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who proclaimed Mary, Your Mother, Blessed among all women, not because she bore You in her womb, but because she heard Your word and kept it, grant us always to listen to Your words with the same faith, that they may become for us spirit and life we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, and for the fostering of universal brotherhood among all men beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and strengthened among our people, in this our country of India and in the whole world, we beseech You:

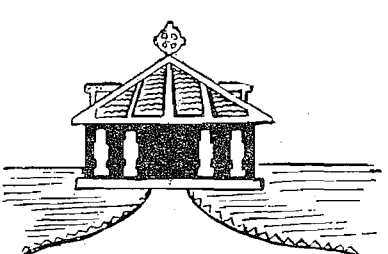
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus, on this holy day of the Birth of Your Mother, gladden us with the joy of a spiritual birth. Make us grow in love that we may never cease to bear in our lives a good harvest of the Spirit: joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, truthfulness, humility and self-control, by the intercession of your Mother Mary, we beseech You and we will cry three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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THE BIRTH OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion, for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

It is good and fair to rise early to praise You, our Creator,
and with the angels to make a joyful noise,
singing the threefold hallowing: "Holy, Holy, Holy" are You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

As the angels keep vigil and never cease to praise You,
awaken us also, earthly ones, to praise You with them.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Mother pure, you were chosen from King David's progeny,
and God came forth from you, Mary, daughter of Joachim.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Blessed are you, Head of all the generations of the world,
living temple of God, all beauty, all purity.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

Glory to Him who became flesh for the salvation of Adam
and did not break the seal of the virginity of His Mother.
Glory to You, glory to You, glory to You, O God.
In Your tenderness be gracious to all, O Compassionate One.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 45 (44) My heart overflows with good words...

RESPONSE
Who is this arising like the dawn,
beautiful as the moon in her fulness,
resplendent as the sun at midday,
more majestic than the starry heaven?

Listen, Mary, the King desires your beauty,
and we, your people, come to offer praise to you.
May our songs make your name for ever remembered.
May the nations praise you from age to age.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Eternal Father who knows His saints before they are formed in the womb, and who chose Mary from the house of King David before the foundation of the world, and set her apart to be the Mother of His Son, and gave her to His servants Joachim and Hannah as a child of miracle. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Let us celebrate with joy the Birth of the Virgin Mary, the beginning of the new creation of the world. Today the earth has truly yielded its increase, the earth which from all time had produced with brambles and thorns the corruption of sin. Now, heaven knows that it has not been built in vain, since humankind for which it was made, sees the light today when Mary is born. Rejoice, O House of God, who carried in your womb Him whose divinity overflows all bounds! Rejoice, O Full of Grace, resplendent with the light of divinity! Your birth and your life are more joy-giving than any other joy. From you, Christ, immortal joy and source of all joys has come into the world, to put an end to man's sorrow, and heal him, and transfigure him into His own Divine Image, in glory, with the whole Creation.

Therefore we beseech You, O Lord God, Almighty Father, as You gave joy to the angels by the birth of Mary, give us joy on the day of her festival and remove all evil from this world. Fulfil the

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unceasing search of humankind for peace and joy and true freedom with dignity for all beings, and give us the forgiveness of our sins, that we may offer praise and thanksgiving to You, Father, and to Your Son and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
Sing and rejoice, O Daughter of David,
for I am coming to make My dwelling with you.
Fear not, O Land, be glad and rejoice,
for the Lord has done great things for you.

Mary, daughter of Joachim and Hannah, you are God's land,
the land on which the Holy Spirit Himself came to rest,
and He made it the foundation of the new earth,
the land that yielded its fruit without being sown.

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

Land on which the thorn of sin has never grown,
you gave birth to Him who has torn up sin by the root,
land on which the Lord's blessings rest,
a land bearing in her womb Jesus, the Blessed Fruit.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Rejoice, O Full of Grace, land on which God has stepped, the Eternal entered into time, the Infinite confined Himself within bounds.
Rejoice, Paradise happier than the Garden of Eden,
Garden in which the tree of life has blossomed and borne fruit.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 48 (47) Our Lord is great and greatly to be praised...

RESPONSE
Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised in His dwelling.
His Holy Mountain rises in beauty, the joy of all the earth,
the City of the Lord Almighty which He upholds for ever...
O God we contemplate Your love in Your Temple.
The praise of Your Mother reaches to the ends of the earth.

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With what shall we compare you, O Virgin Pure,
if not with God's Holy Mountain, God's Holy City?
You are the true pole where God and man join for the new creation.
You are the Temple filled with the glory of God.
In you we contemplate the love of God Most High.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Word of the Eternal Father who descended from His seat on high, though He never left it, and dwelt in the womb of the Virgin, and was clothed in flesh from her, and came forth from her womb. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

O Lady Mary, Blessed Virgin Mother of our Lord and God and Saviour Jesus Christ who was pleased at the end of time to be born in the flesh from your virgin womb, we call you blessed as you are worthy to be called in the measure of our strength and we say, "Blessed are you who became Mother to Him whom heaven and earth cannot contain. Blessed are you who brought forth Him before the majesty of whose power the spirits of flame tremble. Blessed are you who gave milk to suck to Him who feeds the whole Creation."

Therefore we beg of you, O Mother of graciousness and High House of Refuge that you will intercede with Your Son and Your God that He may bestow on us His heavenly help so that we may keep His commandments and fulfil His will. May He make us worthy to behold you in the Church of the Firstborn in heaven, that we may praise and exalt and glorify the Holy Trinity without ceasing in that Kingdom which does not end, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn
At the birth of Mary daughter of David, the Holy Virgin,
the doors which had been closed are opened,
the barren womb and the inner gate of heaven.
Sons of men and angels sing
"Glory to Him who showed His love to His Creation."

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In the land of Judah new things are happening
with the unexpected birth of the Virgin Mary.
All people glorify God and offer praise to Him
who rejoiced Hannah the barren, causing her to be a mother.
Glory to the Lord of Creation who gladdened her old age.

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

On the day of the birth of his only daughter
Joachim sings praise and offers thanksgiving,
seeing her whom he obtained by prayer and supplication to God.
Blessed is He who has blessed Joachim and Hannah,
and gladdened the barren by giving fruit to her womb.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Praise and adorations to the Word, the Uniquely beloved Son of God,
who gave Mary to Joachim and Hannah, the most blessed fruit,
and filled her with the Holy Spirit and she grew beautiful
to be the mother in whom He chose to dwell.
Blessed is He who grants the vows and receives them back.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayer of Mary who brought You forth.

By the prayer of her who loved You so much,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

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When He who forms all children in the womb,
and sustains and orders the whole creation,
chose a mother to take flesh from her,
Gabriel descended from the heights to Joachim the Just
with the good news of the birth of a blessed daughter.

From the seed of the just of old, and from the land of Judah,
the manhood of Christ was made.
The law found its end in Mary when she received Him
who fulfils all the expectations of the prophets,
all the symbols and signs foretold by the seers.

Glorious was the Mystery revealed to the just of old,
which was made manifest in Joachim, Hannah and Mary.
In Him the nations of all ages rejoice,
and in the Churches His glory is wonderful.
To Him all praise, with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Glory to the Word of God who willed to become a son of man,
and from the seed of just people He chose for Himself
a holy mother, and became flesh from her in purity,
without change or alteration, and He came forth from her
and in His graciousness saved us from the captor.

Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayer of Mary who brought You forth.

By the prayer of her who loved You so much,
pardon us and be gracious to the whole world.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

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SEPTEMBER 14

The Exaltation of the Cross[27] Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord our God, that we may be strengthened by Your Cross, and be worthy to honour it in a manner befitting God, and to adore You in its presence, with holiness. And while at every hour of the day we put to death our earthly passions, may we be enlightened by You, that we may live in all awareness of Your presence, with reverence, always giving thanks to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 18 (17): 27–51 With the holy man You will be holy...

RESPONSE

Life belongs to You, Lord. You are our Rock.
We offer praise and thanksgiving to You, our God and our Saviour
who redeemed us by suffering the shame of the Cross.
Because You were lifted up on the wood You draw all things to Yourself
We sing psalms to Your Name, Lord of the nations.
We praise You, Lord of the whole creation.

The blessed young men, a trinity in number, in their sincerity
worshipped God the Father, Creator of the universe.
They confessed the Son who descended for our salvation,
and turned the blazing furnace into a cool refreshing breeze.
Bless Him, give thanks to Him who gives life to all that lives
by the Spirit, the Sanctifier of all, at all times, from age to age.

On the Exaltation of the Cross on which was shed
the living blood of the Word of God Incarnate, the powers
and the heavenly companies sing praise and exult
on the feast by which the whole human race is given a new life
You peoples, come and worship the Life-giving Cross, by which
the world obtains the new life, at all times, for ever and ever.

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Come, let us worship Christ our Saviour,
the Son of God lifted up on the Cross for our sake.
Happy is the wood on which He stretched Himself.
From the fire of death He rose to the new life.
The Cross of Jesus is the Cross of Light,
the sign that will accompany His coming in glory.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
The Mystery of the Cross is extolled and the Creation rejoices.
Christ the King is proclaimed and the whole Creation is renewed.

The Mystery of the Cross is spoken of in the sayings of the prophets.
Its sign is proclaimed in the earth and the whole world is redeemed.

The Cross conquers our nature, the Cross raises us from the fall.
O Lord, may Your Cross be to us a wall of protection.

Your Cross gives peace to all. Your Cross brings life to all.
By Your Cross may we be guarded against the Evil One and his powers.

We worship Your Cross, our Lord,
for in it is our resurrection and the new life.
By it our dead are raised to life,
and their bodies are clothed with Your glory.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

On the first evening of the feast, at Kurisumala Ashram.

Praise...to the Lord who called us on the Mountain of the Cross and revealed Himself to us in the clouds and the rain, in the thunder and the lightnings, in the glorious light of His sun and in the fire of His love. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

We praise You, Lord, for the glory with which You clothe our rocks and our mountains. We thank You for the grass You make to grow and it spreads like an unending green carpet, and the humble

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peas and the vegetables and the fruits, and every flower and green leaf. We are filled with wonder with our mountain-lake swarming with fish, and with the birds that fly on the wing of the wind across the firmament of the heavens.

Praise to You who are the Prompter of all *sadhanas,* the Guru of all *sadhakas,* the Giver and Receiver of *brahmacharya.* Thanksgiving to You who first gave us *sanyasa* when You revealed Yourself to us in the cave of the heart, prompting us to the great departure that teaches us how to share the love and wisdom which make us merge with You and overflow in commitment and service. It is You who utter the truth in us and make us truthful in action with a glowing faith, radiant with truth and love. Praise to You who strengthened us with Your glorious power to meet whatever happened in the past years with fortitude, and patience and joy. We give thanks because You made it possible for us to share in Your life, in Your being and Your bliss, *sat-cit-ananda.* Praise to You who did not exclude anyone from ascending Your Mountain and who made us to dwell here with You. And You built us on love into a monastic brotherhood, to pray and work together and to share Your gifts and the fruits of these waste-lands with others in love and patience, with peace and joy.

Ground of the universe, Ground of all beings and of all personality, complete now in us the work of Your grace. Fulfil in us the Mystery of Your Passover. As You who longed with great longing to eat the Passover with Your disciples and surrendered Your life into the hands of Your Father, make us to pass unceasingly from untruth to the truth, from darkness to the light, from enslavement to the passions to the freedom of the Spirit, from death to life, and thus make us to find You who are the Way, the Truth and the Life. And as our minds turn to You and Your disciples in the upper room, make us steadfast in the meditation of Your word, make us to share the common life of this brotherhood in the daily breaking of the bread, and in the prayers, and in the work which provides our sustenance, that we also may share everything with our neighbours, as You, Son of the Father and brother to all men, share Your life with us. Strengthen us with Your divine power to do good and to be lovers of God and men. And we will offer unceasing praise to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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On the Evening of the Day of the Feast and on the Day of Leave-taking.

Praise...to the Saviour who accomplished our salvation by His Cross in the Centre of the World, to the Word of life who was hung upon the Cross and was made a curse for our sake, to the Wisdom of the Father who at the end of time emptied Himself for our sake, and by putting off the flesh upon the wood of the Cross, broke down by His mediation the barrier which stood between the two sides, and brought peace and unity to those above and those below. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

Lord, God of mercy and compassion, for the renewal of the race of man You descended to this earth of thorns and walked upon it according to Your Economy. And when You were raised on the wood of the Cross, and were nailed on it of Your own will, You bestowed salvation on humankind ...By Your Cross the Churches have grown, and by it their children are redeemed. In it the true believers make their boast, and the peoples are made radiant with joy. They sing psalms of victory. And we also with them cry out with joy and say, "Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which the malediction of Eve was removed. Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which peace and tranquillity reign on earth. Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which the darkness is dispelled and disappears from the world. Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which the exiles return to their inheritance. Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which all the sacrifices and festivals of the Lord are consummated. Blessed is the wood of the Cross by which all joys have been bestowed upon us.

Therefore we present praise before You and we beg and beseech You, Christ our God, that You will confirm and strengthen Your Churches by Your Cross. Give wisdom to their pastors. Adorn their priests with truth and love. Make their deacons shine with reverence in their ministry...Pour out Your Spirit on all men. Remove from us discrimination that creates barriers between us, and bring all men together through Your Cross. Build them up into a single body, Your body, Christ our Saviour, the new humanity reconciled with Your Father. Make them into a spiritual dwelling, a holy temple of the Lord. And grant us all in all that we may be given a place beneath Your Cross on the last day, the day of Your coming, Christ our God. And we will offer praise and thanksgivng, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn

Happy are you, Church of believers for whom the Cross
is a high place from where Your Lord draws everything to Himself,
and reconciles all creatures with His Father and with each other.
Its rays drive out darkness and enlighten the earth, and by it, the
fortress of greedy death and the satanic powers are made to fall.
Glory to the One Beloved Son who stretched Himself on the Cross
to gather the nations and to confirm them in the true faith.

Constantine the Conqueror, the King who believed, saw the Cross
in the height of heaven, a strange and marvellous sign,
one which bears the ends of the earth and all creatures.
And he cried out joyfully, "How wonderful is the sign of the Cross!"
Glory to Him who willed to stretch Himself upon it.
All the peoples whom He has saved chant His praise.

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

Your Cross is the pillar which supports the earth and the heaven,
and the people who believe in Your Cross prevail over the Evil One.
For the martyrs it is the bridge by which they cross over,
by which they pass into the Paradise of joys. The sons of the Church
of believers are marked with the sign of the Cross.
Glory to the Strong One who carried the wood of the Cross
and saved Adam and his children from deceit and untruth.

Son who by the blood that flowed from Your side
give peace to every creature,
and with Your Cross make the salvation of Adam and all his children,
give peace to Your Holy Church
and keep her children by the sign of Your Cross.
In Your compassion make to cease in her schisms and rivalries
that peace and tranquillity may abound for ever.
Save her children from the Evil One and his powers,
the people who worship the Cross of life.

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places of Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Jesus, High Priest Supreme and Incense of Pardon,
You offered Yourself in sacrifice on the Cross
for the sake of evil-doers, and for the sake of sinners
You were burnt as incense, in Your own person, before Your Father.

Be reconciled with us who have offended You, and be the advocate and the defender of sinners before Your Father, that we may be at peace with You and with Your Father and with Your Holy Spirit. Gladden us with all joyful expectations, while a good memory is made of all those who followed you in your Passover with faith.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Cross deliver Your Church from untruth,
grant her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

Grant us, our Lord, to recount the glories of the Cross of light.
What great wonders flow from it for those who contemplate it!
The Cross is all light. It clothes its worshippers with light
and it lifts them up from the depths to the heights.

The Cross explains all the symbols which prefigured it.
All that was shrouded in the mysteries is now disclosed,
all that remained hidden in the visions of the prophets:
"God so loved the world that He gave His Only Son for our salvation."

Glory to the Father who revealed the Cross through the prophets.
Adoration to the Son who gave it as an armour to the apostles.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit by whom all sacrifices are made acceptable.
May the Cross restore peace and unity among the Churches.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Blessed is He who made Himself nothing,
humbling Himself up to death on the Cross.

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Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Exalted on high at the right hand of the Father,
He will appear in heaven with glory,
to judge the living and the dead.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Mt 21: 4– 5 What will be the sign of Your coming and of the close
21: 23–31 of the age?

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and thanksgiving, "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation".

Christ our God, who ascended the Cross out of love for us and brought salvation to the world by Your life-giving death, grant eternal life to all who seek Your face, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who raised up our fathers in the monastic life as breathing pillars of the life which You wish to share with us, and the rishis and seers of India as models of divine philosophy, make us walk joyfully in their footsteps, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who sowed in the culture and the religions of India seeds of Your word, prompt us to seek in them seeds of divine life, and to gather for You the fruits of the monastic charisms so manifest in the spiritual heritage of our people, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that the love of our brothers in the monastic life all over the world, and especially in India and Asia, may fill our hearts and remain deeply rooted in us all, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for our fathers in the faith who minister to us with love, our holy father N...pope of Rome and head of the Catholic Church, our fathers N...our archbishop metropolitan and N...our metropolitan, and the bishops and clergy and people all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all human beings, beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and harmony be restored among all nations and be preserved in this our country of India and in the whole Creation, we beseech You:

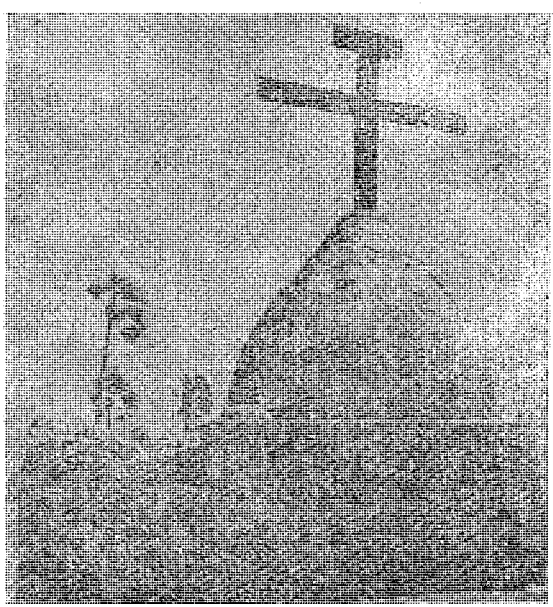
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Son of God, the Holy Church celebrates the glorious festival of the Exaltation of Your Cross, adoring it with faith, and her children within her cry out to You: "Holy, Holy, Holy are You, Son who, by Your Cross, holy and adorable, deliver us from untruth." And we cry and say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION MEDITATION



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THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Come, let us worship that wood which was hidden in the earth
and has been revealed to all with great wonders.
Let us all honour the Cross, unconquerable armour in heaven,
and exalt it without ceasing for ever and ever.

Glory to God who was pleased to be lifted up on the wood of the Cross.
Let us offer our adorations and our thanksgivings to Him
who of His own will endured the Passion on Golgotha.
Let us exalt Him without ceasing for ever and ever.

By the Cross Constantine was led to the faith. In the light of the Cross he joined battle with deceit and untruth, and truth prevailed.
He granted recognition to the Holy Church and strengthened her.
On account of this, his name will be remembered for ever.

Let us all honour the Serpent lifted up in the desert
which healed the people from the deadly snake bites.
Let us all worship the Cross set up on Golgotha which gives life
to all who believe in it. We will exalt it unceasingly.

Let us sing praise to the Father and offer thanksgiving to the Son
who is from Him and give a shout of joy for the Holy Spirit,
and all together offer adorations for the Mystery of the Trinity.
Glory to the One in Three without ceasing, for ever and ever.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 44 (43) We heard with our own ears, O God...

RESPONSE
On this day of the Feast of the Cross of light,
grant us to recount its victories, O Son who were crucified upon it,
Power who defeats the strong one and who raises up the fallen,
and the believers obtain the victory and defeat the Rebel.
By it, Amalek the tyrant who was ruling over our race
was made powerless, while the humble Moses triumphed over him...
By the light of Your Cross, Lord, enlighten our enemies, for it is
You who are the hope of the whole Creation. In You is our trust.

O You whose might weighs the mountains with strength
and who added them to the Creation by a mere sign of Your command,
You stretched out Your arms on the Cross of Your own will,
for the sake of guilty Adam, to restore him to his inheritance.
You showed him the Cross of light whose power surpasses all.
The mighty who fought against it were made powerless.
They were confounded by the sign of the Cross.
And today the Creation finds refuge in it and prevails over Satan.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Saviour who by His Cross revealed the symbols of the prophets, and explained the allegories of the seers, and confirmed the examples of the just, and brought to perfection the images of our forefathers. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

Christ our God Living Sacrifice and Incense of Reconciliation, when You saw our weak race driven away from Paradise for the transgression of the commandment, You came down from heaven, You became man, You accomplished Your Dispensation in the world and made Your way straight to the Cross, so that through it You might bring about the restoration of our weak race. We also, while considering the redemption which You bestowed upon us, with Paul cry

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out and say, "It is not for us to boast in anything except in the Cross of Christ." By the Cross was uprooted the tree of the transgression of the commandment which was in the centre of Paradise. Through the wood of the tree we were driven away from Paradise, but through the wood of the Cross we return again to Paradise...Through the wood of the transgression of the commandment we were stripped of the vesture of glory, but through the wood of the Cross we are clothed with an incorruptible garment...Through the wood of the transgression of the commandment we were cast away in outer darkness, but through the wood of the Cross we are enlightened by a divine light. On account of this with David the Prophet we cry out and say, "What shall we give back to the Lord for all that He bestowed upon us?" And all of us with one voice of praise say, "Glory be to You, O Loved of Humnakind. Glory be to You, who came down to give us life. Glory be to You, who took flesh from the womb of the Virgin. Glory be to You, who accomplished Your Dispensation in the world. Glory be to You, who were crucified. Glory be to You, who were burier in the tomb and who rose on the third day...and who ascended to sit at the right hand of the Father. Glory be to You, who are to come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

Therefore we beseech You, Christ our God, make us all worthy of a good end and of a gracious crossing over. And may all the departed believers who worshipped Your Cross and who believed in Your life-giving Passion be granted the blissful repose with Your saints, so that we, with them, may offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

Come, O Cross, fountain-head of life, and beseech with us
the Strong One, who of His own will carried you with honour.
Come, remain with us on the paths of this life
so that seeing you our Lord may be reconciled with us.
For by you, He saves Adam and his children from slavery.
By you, we enter Paradise which had been lost of old, halleluia.
May we be welcome there by His graciousness.

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I passed near the gate of the Church and I saw her standing
with the Cross in her hands, interceding with her Spouse, and praying,
"By the Cross on which they crucified You, O Lord,
and by the nails in Your hands and in Your feet,
and by the spear-thrust that opened Your side on Golgotha,
keep away all harm and evil from the whole Creation.
Give relief to all those who suffer, halleluia,
and guide Your Church to be the light of the world."

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

Behold, the Church leads out her children as on a march,
like thousands of valiant ones on the way to conquer.
But instead of bows she carries prayers.
Instead of shooting arrows she sings praise. And behold,
instead of sharp swords she carries the Cross in procession. O God,
who give life to Your Church, forgive us and be gracious to all,
halleluia, and make us conquer by Your Cross.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

We are citizens of heaven, and from heaven
we expect our Deliverer to come, our Lord Jesus Christ,
who will make us experience the power of His Resurrection.
He will transfigure this body that belongs to our humble state, and
give it a form like that of His own resplendent body, by the power
of the Cross by which He draws all things to Himself. Halleluia,
may He mark our lives with the sign of the life-giving Cross.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 135 Praise the Lord for He is good...

RESPONSE
O Holy Church, sing praise to the Son of God who came
and redeemed you by His Cross, and He gives you His body
and His living blood to delight in them and grow spiritually.

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O King Christ, Your Cross is for us a token of peace.
By it Satan is made powerless and by it we defeat the Adversary
who fights against us, and we trample underfoot the sinful passions.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is the peace of those above and the reconciliation of those below, the Uniquely Beloved Son of the Father who stretched Himself on the Cross, of His own will, and by His Cross filled with shame the Principalities and the Powers, and wove a crown for the bride He espoused, the Daughter of the Arameaens, and made His Cross a bridge and a passage for all the redeemed. And behold, all the nations take their pride in it and find refuge in it. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

When we fix the eyes of our minds on the glorious memory of the beloved Cross of our Lord and Redeemer, we marvel in our hearts at the beauty which is impressed upon it, and while we celebrate its festival with hymns of praise and exaltation, we marvel at the blessings which flow from it at all times. As we obtain wondrous healing of our diseases, and pluck the fruits of victory and triumph, and receive true help from it, we say, "Today there is honour for Queen Helen through whom the memory of the Cross was renewed. Today the bones of Constatine and of all the believing kings thrill with joy and gladness, because they gained victory by the Cross of Jesus Christ. Today let the prophets rejoice in the mysteries about which they prophesied, that by the Cross salvation should come to us. Today let the apostles be glad, and with Paul let them say, 'we will not boast in anything but in the Cross of Jesus Christ because it is the sign of salvation.' Today let the martyrs and confessors exult because He who was hung and fastened on the Cross is the umpire of their contest and the object of their conflict. Today let Moses the head of the prophets keep festival, because the mystery for which he stretched out his hands is revealed, for when Aaron and Hor held up his hands and he won the victory over Amalek, he was foreshadowing the mystery of the Cross. Today the Holy Church keeps festival like the Queen at the right hand because she is saved by the Cross of Him who espoused

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her and adorned her with a garment embroidered with fine gold." Today let all of us celebrate and honour with praises the festival of the Holy and Life-giving Cross by whose sufferings we are redeemed. With the prophets and the apostles, the martyrs and the confessors, with them and after them, we ponder the mysteries which are enshrined in the Cross. We worship the Holy and Life-giving Cross. We glorify Jesus our Lord who was crucified upon it and we exalt His Father and His Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

The Cross explains all the parables which had been told.
The Cross instructs us in all the mysteries which were hidden.
Indeed the Cross confirms the sayings of the prophets,
the things about which the seers of old had spoken
in figures and parables, which the prophets had conceived
and the apostles made illustrious. And through them
they made disciples in the four quarters of the earth.
Blessed is the Lord of the prophets who by His Cross
fulfilled and accomplished their words.

As King Constantine joined battle with his enemies
he saw the Cross in the sky as bright as a lightning.
He bowed his head and worshipped it, as he was told that by this sign
he would obtain the victory. It liberated the nations,
setting them free from deceit and untruth, unmasking and exposing
the deceptions of the Devil. And by its victory it made to shine
the Holy Church of believers and exalted its strength.

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

Great peace filled the Church when the Cross of the Son was found
by Queen Helen. It did away with deceitful images
and it taught the true worship, in spirit and in truth.
It brought back the nations which had been ensnared
making them return to the way of the truth.
It gave them the glorious mystery of baptism
celebrated by the ministry of the priests.
Blessed is the wood of the Cross
by which we are saved from deceit and untruth.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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Come, let us worship the Cross with faith.
With it we can face all the deceit of the Adversary.
It has dethroned the Prince of this world and taken away his power.
It has snatched away from him the captives
who had been led away by his envy and his deception.
It has built up the Holy Church and completed it
and perfected it with the Holy Mysteries.
Glory to the Son of God who by His Cross made the nations
to turn away from deceit and untruth.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Cross deliver Your Church from untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of Light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your Churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of Light.

Adam was vanquished by the Devil by means of a tree,
the tree of the knowledge of good and evil whose fruit he ate.
By means of the tree of the Cross Christ vanquished the Devil
when He tasted death and recalled Adam from among the dead.

God forbid that we should boast in anything
but in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ
who bore for our sake the malediction of the Cross
and with it earned for us freedom from the tyranny of sin.

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Give us, Lord, to partake of the Mystery of the Cross,
that the new creation may take place in us,
and the Paschal Mystery, celebrated by the feast,
may transform and transfigure our daily lives.

Glory to the Father who kept the Mystery of the Cross hidden from the impious. Adoration to the Son who revealed it to Constantine. Thanks to the Spirit who gave the Cross to us through Queen Helen. Take us under its wings, our Lord, when You come.

Hymn of Saint Athanasius

As the angels and the archangels sing praise, like them...p.16

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

SEPTEMBER 15–21

The Six Days after the Exaltation of the Cross

These Services are celebrated according to the will of the presiding priest, yet not on Sundays.

Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

May Your Holy Cross be to us a token of peace, a sign of victory. May it clothe us with salvation, Jesus Christ, God who were crucified for the life and the salvation of our race. Protect the world under its wings by the power of Your right hand that has power over the whole Creation. And we will thank You and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Psalm 51 *As here below.*
Be gracious to us, O God, because of Your goodness.
Because of Your infinite graciousness blot out our sins.

Again and again wash us of our guilt.
Make us clean of our sins.
We acknowledge our faults.
We are always aware of our sins.

We have sinned against You, against You truly.
We have done what is evil in Your sight.
Your judgements are right.
Your sentence is justified.
We have been evil from the time we were born.
From the time of our birth we have been in sin.

But You take Your delight in the truth.
Make then known to us the secrets of Your wisdom.
Sprinkle us with Your hyssop and we shall be clean.
Wash us and we shall be whiter than snow.

Fill us with joy and gladness
and our bones which are crushed shall rejoice.
Turn away Your face from our sins
and wipe out all our faults.

Create in us a pure heart, O God,
and renew Your Good Spirit within us.
Do not cast us away from Your presence
nor deprive us of Your Holy Spirit.

Restore to us the joy of Your salvation
and strengthen us with Your Glorious Spirit.
That we may teach the wicked Your way
and sinners may return to You.

Spare our life, O God, God of our salvation
and our tongues shall praise Your righteousness.
Lord, open our lips and our mouths shall sing Your praises.

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You do not take pleasure in sacrifices.
You are not appeased by burnt-offerings.
The sacrifice that pleases You is a humble spirit.
A broken heart O God, You will not spurn.
In Your goodness deal well with Your people
and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem.
Then You will be well pleased
with fair sacrifices, whole burnt offerings...

Glory be to the Father... From age to age...

RESPONSE
We worship Your Cross, most precious and life-giving.
By its power and strength we never grow weary.
O God, be gracious to the whole world.

Every day we take refuge in Your most precious and life-giving Cross.
And when we have to battle with Satan we prevail over him by its power.
O God, be gracious to the whole world.

By Your Cross, O our Saviour, keep Your Holy Church.
Protect her under its wings and make her vanquish the Evil One.
O God, be gracious to the whole world.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
May Your Cross be a guard for this assembly
which You love and have chosen for Yourself,
and help all to do Your will, here on earth as in heaven.

By Your Cross keep this assembly, and by Your divine commands
enlighten all the movements of our thoughts and of our hearts,
that we may always discern Your will and fulfil it.

To You be praise from all mouths, Jesus our King,
Conqueror of death, who by Your Life-giving Cross
quench the thirst of the whole Creation.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

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Praise...to the Mighty One who when He was hung upon the Tree bore our sins in His own person, so that we might die to our sins. And since He was lifted up from the earth and raised at the right hand of His Father, He draws all things to Himself, and sends the Holy Spirit to pour God's love into the hearts of all those who turn to Him. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of evening...

O Cross, Holy Cross, Cross of Light and Tree of Life, You are but a piece of dead wood and yet through You the dead rise to life. Through You the human race is reconciled with its Creator. Before You the kings of the earth take off their crowns and worship, the warriors lay down their arms and prostrate with the people to give You a holy kiss, for under Your foot the Serpent's head is bruised. Through You the grip of Death over us is loosened, and from You, as from the Tree of Life people pluck fruits of salvation, for on You God mighty for evermore was lifted up and crucified, that on You, with Him, we also may be lifted up to heaven. Those who suffer take refuge in You, and You strengthen them, and You make them forget what is behind to press towards the goal and receive the prize, the life above with Christ Jesus, God's promise to all who believe in Him.

Therefore we all poor seekers of God turn to You for the purification of our sins, and as in baptism we were crucified with Christ, make us now live, not our life, but the life which Christ lives in us. Make out in our being the boundaries of the old man and of the new creation in Christ, that will help us to discern and control the impulses of the lower nature and to bear a good harvest of fruits of the Spirit, love and joy, peace and patience, gentleness and self-restraint, that we may make His Kingdom truly present in this world. And all the Churches will offer right praise and whole-hearted thanksgiving to Christ the Lord who was and is to come, and to His Father and to the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *On Monday*

When Constantine joined battle with his adversary
he was strengthened by a vision of the Cross
and he conquered by the great power of the Cross.

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By Your Cross, our Lord, Your Holy Church is redeemed.
The Cross is a wall of protection for her and she worships it.
She plucks from it the fruits of life and finds her glory in it.

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

In Your Cross, Lord Jesus, we seek refuge every day.
It is by the Cross that we are set free from evil, famine and death,
and from the inner strife, much as from the outer one.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

On the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross we cry out:
"Holy, Holy, Holy are You, O Son of God,
who by Your Cross have become our salvation."

The two worlds belong to You, Lord Jesus, Your power extends
both here and there. Keep the living by Your Cross
and in Your graciousness pardon all the departed.

Hymn *On Tuesday*

Christ who by Your Cross save us from untruth,
receive our service and be gracious to all.
On the day of the Feast of Your Cross, our Lord,
give us joy that we may sing praise to You,
halleluia, halleluia.
By Your Cross, our Lord, protect us at all times.

We take refuge under Your Cross, O our Saviour.
Under its wings protect us from the Evil One and his powers.
May Your Cross be a wall of protection and a house of refuge
for all who call upon Your Holy Name,
halleluia, halleluia.
We worship You, our Lord, by Your Life-giving Cross.

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

Under the wings of Your Cross protect us, our Lord,
from the burning arrows of the wicked Adversary,
that we may magnify and praise Your Name every day.
Blessed is Your goodness which visited our race,
halleluia, halleluia,
and saved us by Your Cross and made us return to Paradise.

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From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Church of believers lifts up her voice and cries out:
"It is You, Christ, who were crucified on the Cross.
It is You who have slain Death.
It is You who are risen from the tomb,
halleluia, halleluia,
and who have gone up to heaven to sit at the right hand.

Let those who slept in the faith be remembered in our prayer.
Let us not forget those who have departed from among us.
Let their names be remembered on the holy altar
that they may be at rest at all times,
halleluia, halleluia,
and offer praise to You, Lord, who are their resurrection.

Hymn *On Wednesday*

Happy are you, O Church of believers,
who make your people live under the wings of the Cross.
By the Cross the powers of evil are defeated
and heaven and earth are reconciled.

The radiance of the Cross dispels the gloom of despair
and brings light to this earth with hope.
Glory to Him who stretched Himself on the Cross
to strengthen those who are shaken and to confirm them in the faith.

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

The old things are no more remembered.
The new heavens and the new earth are created.
Jerusalem is called, Joy, and her people, Gladness.
No sound of weeping, no sound of cries are heard in her.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

O Happy Wood on which Christ stretched Himself!
Earth could not keep you. You accompanied to heaven
Him who is to come again in glory,
when will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man.

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The Cross conquers and renews our sinful nature.
The Cross lifts us up from the Fall.
The Cross gives joy to the living and peace to the dead,
and at the Resurrection clothes them all with a garment of glory.

Hymn *On Thursday*

The Lord Himself laid the way of Man's pilgrimage through time.
For the sake of the fruit He laid the way of life
which runs from the Tree right to the Cross.
It extends from the Wood to the Wood,
from Eden to Golgotha and from Golgotha to the Holy Church,
and from the Church to the Kingdom.

The Son of David came to His throne.
He put on the robe and the crown of mockery.
He mounted on the Cross and reigned on Golgotha,
ending the way of the prophets
and opening instead the way of the apostles,
and with the thief He ascended to His Kingdom.
Praise for His goodness.

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

Christ broke the gate bars of Sheol
and led out the believers who were lying there.
He went ahead of them on the way to Paradise, laying the milestones,
the Mysteries: holy baptism and anointing, the breaking of the bread
and the cup of salvation and the holy scriptures.
Blessed is the King, the milestones of His way cannot be hid.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Blessed is the Way which runs from the Tree to the Cross and leads all
to the Heavenly Kingdom where is seen the glory of the Father.
Because I confessed You, acknowledge me!
Be merciful to the sinner who has believed in You!
Even though he has sinned, he is knocking at Your door.
Even though he was sluggish, he has journeyed on Your way.

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Lord, remember our dead and give them rest.
They were clothed with You at baptism
and they received You from the holy altar.
They ate Your body and drank Your blood, the cup of salvation.
May they take their delight in Your Kingdom, at Your right hand,
with Abraham, and cry out, "Glory to You, Lord, halleluia!"
Grant rest, Lord, to Your servants.

Hymn *On Friday*
Christ showed me the Cross of light.
And I saw above the Cross the Lord Himself
not having any shape but only a Voice,
and a Voice not such as was familiar to me,
a Voice sweet and gentle, truly divine.

The Cross of light we know by many names.
It is the Door. It is the Ladder. It is the Way.
It is the Food of Life. It is the Resurrection.
It is Life. It is the Truth. It is Grace.
It is Jesus. It is the Christ. It is the Word.

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

The saving trophy of Jesus shall one day appear coming from heaven.
The King's trophy shall go before Him so that seeing Him whom
they pierced and recognising by the Cross Him whom they dishonoured,
the crucifiers may repent and mourn,
and we may glory in the Exaltation of the Cross.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

What shall be the sign of His coming
so that no power may be able to halt it? He Himself has said:
"Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man."
The Cross is the sign of Christ's power and glory.
The sign of the Cross of light shall go before Him.

When Your sign, O Son of Man, will appear with glory,
to raise the dead to life, O Christ, Giver of life,
and to resurrect those who lie buried in their graves,
they will rise together from the tomb like Lazarus,
and offer praise to the Living One who raises us up.

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Hymn *On Saturday*

Rise and be illumined for your light has come, says Isaiah
to the Holy Church of believers, the Bride of the Most High, open
your high gates of glory that the Lord your Saviour may enter and rest.
He has arisen from among the dead with great power, and all nations
and peoples chant His glory, halleluia, by night and by day.

The Church says, "All you nations, listen.
Do not be divided on account of Jesus, the Blessed God,
who is the Power and the Wisdom of the Father.
He whose Being is hidden with the Father came and was manifested
through Mary and He ascended the Cross to give life to the world.
Give thanks for His goodness.

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

Our Lord, give to Your Holy Church, by day and by night,
Your peace and tranquillity and faith in You unshakable. Keep away
from her hard times, and bring to an end all divisions and rivalries,
that we may give peace to one another with a sincere heart.
And may Your love dwell in us until the end, halleluia,
that we may never depart from You.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

O Watcher who came for our salvation and who kept vigil for our sake,
may our watching and our prayer be pleasing to Your graciousness, and
as Aaron's sweet-scented incense was agreeable to You, the noble priest
who ministered in the Tent of the Ark of the Covenant,
may our service and our prayers be pleasing to You. Be gracious to us,
Lord, in both worlds, halleluia, and teach us how to love You.

May the dew of life sent from the Father,
and sprinkled on the young men in the furnace of Babylon
be shed upon the dead in the gloomy dwelling-places in Sheol.
And may He pardon the transgressions of His servants,
those who rest in His hope, that they may inherit the Kingdom
which does not pass away and will not be destroyed.

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Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Jesus, Holy Sacrifice and Incense of Reconciliation,
You were immolated on the height of Golgotha
and offered on the summit of the Cross,
and burnt as incense for the pardon of the sin of the world.

Make the fragrance of our incense ascend to Your holy temple
and may Your will be pleased by it. May the believers
who died in the faith be visited by it, that all,
and we with them, may offer praise and honour to You
and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Son, who by Your Cross save the Church from deceit and untruth,
give her Your peace and keep her children by the Cross of light.

Peace, who reconcile those in heaven and those on earth,
give to Your churches the joy of peace and unity
and keep their people by the Cross of light.

Queen Helen saw the Lord of Adam lifted upon the Wood
instead of being carried on the chariot of the Winged Creatures.
Her believing heart throbbed on account of the pain
which kindled in her a burning love for the Cross of light.

She saw Him stretched out naked on Golgotha, stripped of His tunic,
a precious one, woven in one piece from top to bottom, without a seam.
She saw the King stretched out on the summit of the Wood
and she set her heart on Him while contemplating His Cross with love.

Lord, she prayed, guide me on the way of the Wood of the crucifixion.
Behold, I set out for it and I follow You, be my companion.
Lord, reveal to me Your Cross which the crucifiers buried and hid,
that Your Church may rejoice on the day of its manifestation.

Glory to the Father who gives hope to those who are without hope.
Adoration to the Son who revealed His Cross through Queen Helen.
Thanksgiving to the Spirit who made her heart throb with love.
as she prayed with tears that the Cross be revealed to her.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations

Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Through You, our enemies are brought low.
In Your name our adversaries are overcome.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Blessed is He who made Himself nothing,
humbling Himself unto death on the Cross.
Every tongue confesses Him as Lord,
to the glory of the Father.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

1*st Day*	Lk 21:25–31	Hold your heads high, your liberation is near.
2*nd Day*	Jn 3:13–17	The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness.
3*rd Day*	Jn 12:27–36	When I am lifted up from the earth I shall draw all things to Myself.
4*th Day*	Jn 19:31–37	They shall look on Him whom they have pierced.
5*th Day*	Mt 16:21–28	Whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.
6*th Day*	Lk 9:22–27	The Son of Man must be put to death...and on the third day be raised.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and thanksgiving: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who out of love for us humbled Yourself in obedience, accepting death in the Garden of Agony, and then ascended the Cross for the salvation of the world, lead now to eternal life all those who seek You though they may not know You, yet strive to do the will of the Father, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who in our time prompt the Churches to acknowledge the monastic charism of the great religions of Asia as true seeds of the Word, make the love of our brothers in the monastic life, all over India, be deeply rooted in our hearts, and express itself in a sincere fellowship of the monastic order all over the world, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

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Christ our God, who raised up our Fathers in the monastic life as breathing pillars of the higher life, and the rishis and seers of India as models of divine philosophy, make us walk joyfully in their footsteps on this Mountain of the Cross, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray for the peace and serenity of all ashrams and monasteries and their services to the people, for the strengthening of universal brotherhood among all human beings beyond distinctions of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world, and harmony be restored among all nations and preserved in this our country of India and in the whole Creation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Son of God, the Holy Church celebrates the glorious feast of the Commemoration of Your Cross in adoring it with faith while her people in their assemblies cry to You, "Holy, Holy, Holy", Son who by Your Cross, holy and adorable, deliver us from deceit and untruth, and we also cry out and say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION

MEDITATION



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THE SIX DAYS AFTER THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7.

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

Awake, rise, you sons of light, and give glory to the Lord
who out of love suffered and died on the Cross
to redeem the whole Creation.

Awake, brothers, let us light our lamps and be alert,
because the Bridegroom is coming
and we must go forth to meet Him.

As the lightning shines forth from the east to the west
so shall He come on the clouds of heaven in glory,
while His Cross shall go before His face.

By the prayers of the Virgin Mary who brought You forth
and who stood at Your side when You hung on the Tree,
be gracious, Lord, to Your Church redeemed by Your Cross.

By the outstretching of Your divine hands on the Tree
You bring together all the peoples of the earth,
Son of God who are over all and through all and in all.

FIRST WATCH

Psalms

Monday 20 (19) The Lord will answer you on the day of distress...
Tuesday 21 (20) Lord, by Your strength You give joy to the King...

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Wednesday	25 (24)	To You, Lord, I lift up my soul...
Thursday	66 (65)	Give praise to God, all the earth...
Friday	67 (66)	Our God, be gracious to us...
Saturday	73 (72)	God is good to Israel and to the pure of heart...

RESPONSE

Blessed is He who by His Cross reopened Paradise,
and prepared a feast of lights for the people who believe in Him.
And now they cry out, "Glory to You, O God."

O Life-giving Cross, erected on the summit of Golgotha,
You save those who put their trust in You.
And now they cry out: "Glory to You, O God."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who alone is full of compassion and saves our race by His Cross, the undefiled wood by which we reach out to the immortal fruit of Eden and enjoy it. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration at this time of the night vigil...

O marvellous wonder! Today the Cross, the Life-giving Tree is lifted up on high and shown to the world. All the ends of the earth rejoice and give glory, while the Evil One and his powers are put to shame by the great and divine gifts now bestowed on mortal man. O marvellous wonder! The Cross which carries the Most High like a cluster of grapes full of life is seen today exalted high above the earth, and through it we are all drawn to Him, as Death is swallowed up for ever. O marvellous wonder! The length and breadth of the Cross is equal to heaven and earth, for by its divine power the universe itself is freed from the shackles of mortality and enters upon the liberty and glory of the children of God.

Therefore, O Lord, give to all who venerate Your Cross with love healing of body, soul and spirit, and the strength to overcome their weaknesses. And make us all worthy to worship You on the day of Your manifestation when the sign of the Luminous Cross shall go before You. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

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Hymn *On Monday*

Lord, You lowered Yourself to the earth and You were lifted up
on the wood of the Tree. May Your Cross be a stronghold for us,
against the Evil One and his powers who fight against us.
On this feast bestow on us the forgiveness of offences and sins,
and grant us always to please You by living in Your presence, while
growing in our inner being through the work of Your Holy Spirit.

Sing praise, O Church, to the Son of the Living One
who delivered you from deceit by His death,
and set your children free from the dominion of the Enemy.
He established your foundation on the rock of faith.
The forces of evil shall never overpower you, for the Living Cross
keeps you safe, as the city wall protects the people.

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

The Churches are not afraid, our Lord.
The Evil One cannot overpower them
for Your Cross is engraved on their doors,
and Your living body is distributed in them,
and the people receive it in their hand.
With lowered eyes they worship the Cross
and obtain the forgiveness of their sins.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

The Triune God descended and dwelt
in the house of Abraham, His friend.
He gave him a son in his old age
and the life that was promised before.
Our Lord, let Your peace and tranquillity dwell
in the four quarters of the Creation, and in Your tender love
keep the Churches and their people under Your protection.

MEDITATION

Hymn *On Tuesday*

"When You have lifted up the Son of Man on the Cross,
you will know and believe that it is I," says Jesus.
God shows the foolishness of human wisdom
by saving the believers through the foolishness of the Cross.

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Jesus, You hung from the Tree as one crushed,
so that we might escape the curse of the Law.
Exposed on the Cross in the likeness of sinful flesh,
You set us free from the law of sin and death.

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

The Cross is the glory of the Churches but the nations also revere it:
"The Cross is the sign of the ultimate victory, the swallowing up
of Death by Life. It proclaims that non-violence and compassion
are more powerful than fire and the sword."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

"Joy cannot stem from inflicting pain on others.
It is the fruit of non-violence, even with pain willingly suffered
by individuals as well as communities and nations.
The body of the nations of this world, like the individuals
can be built only on the agony of the Cross."

MEDITATION

Hymn *Madrosho of the Cosmic Tree On Wednesday*
This Tree is my eternal salvation.
It is my nourishment and my banquet.
Amidst its roots I cast my own roots deep.
Beneath its boughs I grow and expand,
revelling in their rustling as in the wind itself.

Fleeing from the burning heat I pitch my tent in its shade
and I find a resting place of dewy freshness.
I flower with its flowers. Its fruit brings perfect joy.
Fruit which has been gathered for me from the beginning of time
and which I now freely eat.

This Tree is food, sweet food for my hunger.
This Tree is a fountain to quench my thirst.
It is a clothing for my nakedness.
Away with the leaves of the fig tree from this time on.
With the leaves of this Tree I am clothed in the breath of life.

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If I am afraid of God, this Tree is my protector.
If I stumble, it is my support.
It is the prize for which I enter the race, the reward of my victory.
It is my straight path, the narrow way that leads to life.
It is the ladder of Jacob where angels move up and down
and where the Lord, in very truth, stands at the head.

This Tree is universal salvation. It is vast as heaven itself.
It rises from earth to the skies, a plant immortal, set firm
in the midst of heaven and earth, and the base of all that is,
foundation of the universe, support of this world of human beings,
the binding force of the whole Creation,
holding within itself the mysterious essence of humankind.

The Tree of salvation is fastened with the unseen bolts of the Spirit
so that, secured by the Divine, it may never bend or warp. With foot
resting firm on the earth, it towers to the topmost skies , spanning
with its all embracing arms the boundless gulf of space between.
He is all, and in all, filling all with Himself.

MEDITATION

Hymn *On Thursday*
The Being of all beings and the Life of all that lives
was crucified and lifted up on the Wood.
He was buried in a cave hewn in the rock.
Seals were put and guards were on watch.

He who exists from all times rose from the tomb with power
for the Divine Nature was His from the beginning, and never left Him.
The hands which had been pierced by the nails
snatched from the Evil One the prey he was carrying away.

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

Church born on the Cross from the side of Christ,
dance and exult and intone hymns of praise to the Son,
the Uniquely Beloved Son, the Firstborn of the Father,
the Firstborn of the new creation who made you His bride.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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For you He humbled Himself, becoming a man, one of our race.
He sowed His word into the hearts of His disciples.
He endured the Cross and the Passion and rose with glory.
Blessed is He who made those who crucified Him into a Church,
and behold, now they chant His praise.

MEDITATION

Hymn *On Friday*
Blessed be the wood of the Cross on which the Just One
exposed Himself to the whole Creation, as king Solomon predicted.
The Son of God stretched Himself on the wood of the Cross.
Glory to Him who in His love came to fulfil the symbols.
By the doorway in His side the Holy Church is purified.

Paul the Apostle wrote to the Holy Church that she should not glory
in anything but in the Cross by which Creation is delivered,
the Tree on which the Son of God was lifted up.
Glory to Him who suffered on the Cross for the salvation of Adam.
On the day of the Exaltation of the Cross all the Churches rejoice.

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

On the day of the Exaltation of the Precious and Glorious Cross,
we beseech You, our Saviour, to spread Your peace and calm
in the Churches and monasteries and in the four quarters of the earth.
May the nations redeemed by Your Cross be free from wars, and grow
into freedom and enjoy peace, that they may praise You without ceasing
with the company of those who have been clothed in light.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Glory to You, O God who suffered the Passion for us,
and made the purification of our sins on the Tree of the crucifixion
and exalt the Church of believers who seek protection under the wings
of Your Life-giving Cross. And behold today all over the world,
nations and peoples and tribes revere and adore Your Cross,
by which they are delivered from deceit and untruth.

MEDITATION

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Hymn *On Saturday*

By the Cross the disciples won the victory over the executioners,
with power and strength, the power of the Resurrection,
which confounds us all who stand behind the crucifixion.
By His Resurrection Christ the King rejoices the Creation.

The Church comes to meet the Bridegroom with the Cross.
She carries incense and spices and lighted lamps,
and she greets Him, "From afar I saw You, Living One who die not
who by Your Cross save my people from perdition."

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

"It is not by the blood of a man only that I am saved, but
by the blood of God who tasted death out of love for His Creation,"
says the Church, "I confess that He went to the Cross and to the tomb,
and to the depths of the abyss, while remaining God."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Today David rejoices because, as in the Psalm, the Lord awakes from the tomb like a sleeper, untouched by corruption, clothed in power. The Father has not permitted His Only Son to taste corruption nor to stay long in the tomb. And He rose with glory.

MEDITATION

SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalms

Monday	74 (73)	Why, O God, do You always forget us?...
Tuesday	75 (74)	We give thanks to You, O God...
Wednesday	76 (75)	God is known in Judah...
Thursday	80 (79)	O Shepherd of Israel, hear us...
Friday	85 (84)	O Lord, You have been good to Your land...
Saturday	86 (85)	Give ear, Lord, and answer me...

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RESPONSE
A voice resounded in heaven and the Fiery Ones trembled,
the voice which was heard when Jesus cried out on the Cross,
"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?"
O what a wonder, a marvel for which there are no words,
that God should suffer on the Cross! To Him be glory who came
to such abasement for the salvation of Adam and his children.

"Remember me," cried the thief who was dying on the cross, "Remember me, Christ the King, when You will come into Your Kingdom."
Though he saw You pierced with the nails and fastened on the Cross,
O Jesus, the thief confessed that You are the Son of God and prayed
that he might take his delight with You in the Heavenly Kingdom, and
straightway You said, "Truly, today you shall be with Me in Paradise."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who is the peace of those above...*As on the day of the Feast*, p.686.

Hymn *On Monday*
The Cross is a ladder and on it
the just ascend to the highest heaven.
On the day of the Feast of the Holy Cross
let us offer praise and thanksgiving,
for by it, God is reconciled with us
and He makes peace in the heights and in the depths.

Moses divided the sea with his staff
and made the people cross over.
while the Egyptians were drowned.
Our Lord Jesus Christ with His Cross broke down Sheol.
From within the grave He set out for us
on the path of life and opened Paradise.

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

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The Life-giving Cross of the Son of the King, like the sun,
enlightens the four quarters of the earth.
By it the gloom of false worship is driven away.
Death and Satan are confounded. And today we worship it
because we are saved from deceit and untruth.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Your Cross, our Lord, has vanquished
the Enemy of our race which had been brought low.
The generations which had become corrupted by sin
are renewed by the Cross and they obtain life
By it true hope comes to us.

MEDITATION

Hymn *On Tuesday*
Lord, Your Cross is the pillar
which supports the heaven and the earth.
And the people who take shelter under its wings
draw from it strength, grace and salvation.

For Your martyrs the Cross is the bridge
by which they pass to the Paradise of joy.
And for all the children of the Church of believers
it is the threshold of the heavenly treasure-house

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

The angel showed John the Cross radiant with light.
"I saw the Lord Himself on the Cross,
and a sweet voice, gentle and truly divine, said,
"This Cross of light is grace, it is life, the life of Jesus."

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Truly the Cross is our way to life.
The Cross is the door of God's house.
The Cross is the seed of the Tree of life with its fruits,
the bread of life and the cup of immortality.

MEDITATION

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Hymn *Madrosho of the Cosmic Tree. On Wednesday*
He is All, and in all, filling all with Himself,
who is stripped naked for the battle against the powers of the air...
With Him two thieves are stretched out, bearing within themselves
the marks of humankind drawn by both evil and good. For an instant
He calls for a drink revealing that He is also truly man, and then
recalling the Economy He has to accomplish, He exclaims, "Not
My will be done, but Thine." The spirit is willing, the flesh is weak.

When this cosmic combat reaches its climax the heavens quake,
the stars fall from the skies and the light of the sun is extinguished,
rocks split asunder and the entire universe is shattered...
while Great Jesus breathes forth His Divine Soul saying,
"Father into Thy hands I commend My spirit." And lo! Even while
all things shudder and heave in earthquake, reeling for terror,
His Divine Soul ascends, giving life and strength to all.

And again Creation is still. The Divine Crucifixion and Extension has unfolded and spread, penetrating all things, through all and in all. O Jesus who art alone among the alone, and who art all in all, let the heavens hold Thy godhead, and paradise Thy soul, and earth Thy blood. For Thee, Indivisible, hath become divided so that all might be saved and the world below may not remain unaware of the coming of God.

We beseech Thee now, Lord God,
Christ, Eternal King of souls:
stretch forth Thy mighty hands over Thy sacred Church,
and over a holy people for ever Thine.

MEDITATION

Hymn *On Thursday*
Come, O Cross, fountain-head of life, and beseech with us
the Mighty One, who of His own will carried you with honour.
Come, remain with us on the paths of this life
so that seeing you our Lord may be reconciled with us.
For by you, He saves Adam and his children from slavery.
By you, we enter Paradise which had been lost of old, halleluia.
May we be welcome there by His graciousness.

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

Glory to the Living One who tasted death of His own will
and rose from the tomb in glory and ascended to heaven
to sit at the right hand of His Father.
He is worshipped by every creature, halleluia. Blessed is He
who descended to save Adam and to raise Him up to Himself in heaven.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Rejoice and exult, O Church, your Bridegroom is risen from the tomb
and He makes your glory to shine in the four quarters of the earth.
Wicked people crucified Him but you recognised Him on the Cross
and accepted Him and He is with you for all eternity, halleluia.
Glory to Him who by His Resurrection delivers His people from deceit.

MEDITATION

Hymn *On Saturday*
The Testament which God wrote on the summit of the Cross
is always in force, says the Church, the kings of the earth
cannot cancel it, nor the judges nor even the powers of heaven.
Christ who died and rose again dies no more. He wrote the dowry
which He destined for me and sealed it on the Cross,
halleluia, and He has made me His bride.

God has planted the Church and He placed His altar in it.
It is a tree which keeps its leaves in winter as in summer. From it
flows a spiritual spring coming from the side pierced on Golgotha.
The priest is the gardener who distributes the fruit:
the body and blood of Christ which brings us His pardon,
halleluia, and gives us strength and life divine.

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

The Church is like a swallow offering songs and singing praise to God
Most High. She holds the harp of David, a harp
of 150 strings and intones a song with the Watchers in the heights.
She sings glory to God who died on the Cross on Golgotha
and who rose from the tomb untouched by corruption, halleluia.
And He made her inherit His Kingdom.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

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By Christ, Power of the Father, the world was established,
and by Him all things are renewed, as the Apostle has written.
He is the Victim and He is the High Priest.
He was delivered to death for each one of us.
He was nailed on the Cross and His side was pierced with the spear.
Blood and water flowed from it. But He rose from the tomb in glory,
untouched by corruption, halleluia, and He renewed our nature.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
By Your Cross, our Lord, protect Your Churches.
By Your Cross deliver us from all evil.

The Cross did away with the flaming sword whirling and flashing.
The Cross caused the spear of the Winged Creature to be sheathed,
that guarded the way to the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden.

The Cross brings peace to the world.
The Cross renews the whole universe.
The Cross gives life to Adam and his children.

The Cross appears on earth for the new life of all creatures,
and the Church finds refuge in it.
She worships it at all times with her people.

Christ who by Your Cross save us from deceit and untruth,
make Your peace and tranquillity dwell in the whole world.

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In Your Cross, our Lord, we take refuge,
by which You save us from the Evil One and his powers.

Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION
MEDITATION

OCTOBER 4

Francis of Assisi[28]
Evening Prayer

Hymn for the Lighting of the Lamp

Opening Prayer

Grant us, Lord God, to celebrate the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi with true faith and pure love. And make us to join with him, on this day and on all the days of our life, in singing Your praise with the whole Creation, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Psalm 111 (110) I will thank the Lord with all my heart...

RESPONSE

We praise the Lord with all our heart
in the company of the believers in this assembly.
Great and wonderful are the works of the Lord, to be pondered
by His devotees, those who take their delight in Him.
The Lord reminds us of His wonders in the lives of His saints.
He is all graciousness and compassion, His love endures for ever.

An everlasting memorial He makes by His wonders,
the all compassionate and merciful Lord.
He gives food to those who revere Him,
remembering His Covenant of old.
The works of His hands are truth and justice.
He sends deliverance to His people and His Covenant endures for ever.

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O Blessed Father Francis of Assisi, in the pride of your youth
you bent your neck to the yoke of the Lord,
making little in your heart of all the things of this world.
And you cried out and said, "Blessed are You for ever."
Blessed is Your glory, glorious above all,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole Creation.

While fashioning in your mind the image of your Lord,
poor and gentle and humble of heart,
you walked in His glorious footsteps
and you cried out. "Blessed are You for ever."
Blessed is Your glory, glorious above all,
God of our fathers, Lord of the whole creation.

Evening Psalms We call upon You, Lord, hear us...

RESPONSE
"Bring my soul out of this prison, that I may praise Your Name."
As Francis prayed darkness was falling in his cell.
His voice faded away and all was still as death,
a stillness which this voice was never more to break.
He had closed his lips for ever, entering eternity singing.

His life had been a short but tumultuous journey,
from the pride and pleasures of this world to the pure joy
of the love of God and neighbour and of the whole Creation.
When he considered his life and asked himself: "What should I do?"
he longed to be freed from worldly entanglements and from sin.

As he entered a church he fell on his knees.
He held out his arms towards Christ on the Cross.
He could not say a word but gazed at Him, and the gentle Christ
looked back with His angels and His saints.

Francis wept...And in the evening silence the Crucified spoke.
The eyes of Jesus became animated. His mouth moved.
His lips parted and a melodious voice said:
"Francis, rebuild my church which is falling down."

Jesus had spoken to him words of life and of love. The love of Jesus
met the love of Francis and mingled with it. "Jesus", he cried,
falling prostrate on the ground in utter adoration, "I am no longer
my old self, I am You!" And he was sobbing with happiness.

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Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*

Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to the Lord of lords who called Francis of Assisi and led him to give up the allurements of the world and to follow in His footsteps. The Lord set him free to walk joyfully on the path of the little ones, poor and gentle and humble, and to announce the Gospel of peace and reconciliation. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of evening...

Christ our God, You said in Your Gospel to the rich young man who approached You: "Go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you shall have a treasure in heaven." The Blessed Francis hearing these words was pricked to the heart and moved to renounce his possessions and to embrace Holy Poverty as his bride, in imitation of You, Lord, and to preach the Gospel to the poor while possessing nothing, neither staff nor purse, clothed in a simple tunic, that he might follow You according to Your word. Because of his generosity You led him to a life of pure love, and he became a sign of Gospel-life, throughout the world. And when he had come closer to You through great suffering, You revealed to Him the joy of Your Heavenly Kingdom and made him a witness to Your love for all men, as he made Your name to be loved throughout the world, even among people of other faiths.

We therefore beseech You that by imitating his faith and love, we may be conformed to Your likeness, in the self-surrender of Your Passion and the joy of Your Resurrection. Let us join him to praise You for all Your gifts, on earth as in heaven, and to meet You with joy whenever You manifest Yourself to us. And we will offer praise and thanksgiving to You and to Your Father and to Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn of the Creation

Most High Almighty Good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honour and all blessings.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy even simply to utter Your Name.

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Be praised, my Lord, with all Your creatures,
especially Sir Brother Sun,
by whom You give us the light of the day.
And he is beautiful and radiant with great splendour.
Of You, Most High, he is a reflection.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon and for the Stars.
In the sky You formed them bright and lovely and fair.
Be praised, My Lord, for Brother Wind
and for the air, cloudy or clear and for all weather,
by which You give sustenance to Your creatures.

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
who is very useful and humble and lovely and chaste.
Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Fire,
by whom You light up the darkness.
And he is beautiful and mighty and strong.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Mother Earth,
who sustains and governs us and produces
various fruits with colourful flowers and leaves.
Praise and bless my Lord, and thank Him
and serve Him with great humility.

Be praised, my Lord, for those who forgive for love of You
and endure infirmities and tribulations.
Happy are those who accept them in peace,
for by You, Most High, they will be crowned.

Be praised, my Lord, for our Sister Bodily Death,
from whom no living creature can get free...
Happy are they who find themselves in Your most holy will,
for the second death will not be able to harm them.

Prayer for the Burning of Incense
Lord of lords, may this incense which we offer to You
in commemoration of Your servant Blessed Francis of Assisi,
be pleasing to You and may our praises and thanksgivings
win the favour of Your Godhead.

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May they be joined with the prayers of the saint of Assisi,
the most Christ-like saint and ardent lover of Your Passion,
brother of every living being and lover of the whole Creation,
that they may be acceptable in Your sight.
May we offer You praise with Your Father and Your Holy Spirit,
in peace and tranquillity, with love, sweetness and joy.

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
May your prayer be with us, O Blessed Francis of Assisi.
May your prayer always be with us. May the Lord hear your prayers
and be gracious to the whole creation.

By your prayers may the Lord remove all harm and evil
from all who take refuge in you with faith.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.
Where there is hatred may we bring love.
Where there is offence may we bring forgiveness.
Where there is rivalry may we bring unity in humility.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.
Where there is discord may we bring concord.
Where there is deceit may we bring truth.
Where there is doubt may we bring faith.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.
Where there is despair may we bring hope.
Where there is darkness may we bring light.
Where there is sorrow may we bring joy.

Lord, make us instruments of Your peace.
Grant that we may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand.

Lord, we wish to be instruments of Your peace.
We wish to give rather than to receive
for it is in giving pardon that we are pardoned,
it is in dying that we are born to life.

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By your prayers, O Blessed Francis, may the Lord
remove all harm and evil from the whole creation.

PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL

Acclamations
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
The just flourish like the palm tree,
as the cedar of Lebanon extending its branches.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.
Planted in the house of the Lord,
they grow vigourously in the courts of God.
Halleluia, halleluia, halleluia.

Lk 6:12-13A, 17-23 The Perfect joy.

Intercessions As we offer prayers to the Lord let us give heed to the intercessions and answer all together with joy and earnestness: "Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation."

Christ our God, who made Francis of Assisi to overcome the enticements of the senses, the glamour of life and the pride of this world by embracing the miserable brother leper, and by espousing Lady Poverty, strengthen us all to be at the side of those who are rejected or made to suffer discrimination or deprivation, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who prompted Francis to be Your disciple by becoming small and poor, to renew the deteriorating structures of a Church of wealth and power, make us also work with You, like him, to remove from this world and from our Churches all pride and oppression: where there is glamour and domination, fraud and untruth, make us proclaim by our lives Your message of justice with love, peace and joy with simplicity, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, who taught Your disciples to recognize Your Father's goodness in the freedom from care of the birds in the heaven and in the beauty of the flowers of the field, by the intercession of Your

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servant Francis, make the whole Creation to be for us, as it was for him, a true hierophany: sun and moon and the earth, water and the ocean, rock and mountain, and all living beings, that our hearts may feel the sacredness of the Creation and be awakened to the mystery of Your all-pervading presence, we beseech You:

Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Christ our God, we pray that justice with love may reign all over the world and universal brotherhood be strengthened among all human beings, beyond distinction of race, caste and belief, we beseech You:

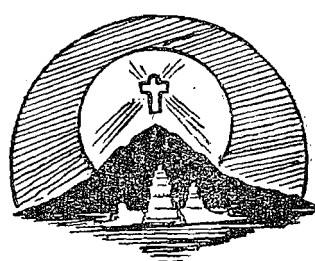
Hear us, Lord, and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Concluding Prayer

Christ our God, who sent Your servant Francis to make the hearts of all to burn anew with the fire of Your love, and who impressed on his flesh the sacred marks of Your Passion, help us to imitate him, and like him, daily to live the mystery of the Cross joyfully, and so always to walk in Your footsteps, we beseech You and we will cry and say three times:

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

TRISAGION
MEDITATION



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FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Night Vigil

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, one true God to whom be glory.

And on us mercy and compassion for ever and ever. Amen.

AWAKENING SERVICE

Opening Prayer Awaken us, Lord, from our sleep...p.7

Night Psalms Bless, Lord! Bless the Lord, all you who serve the Lord...

RESPONSE

As we awake from sleep we offer praise and exaltation,
to the Hidden Father who is without beginning
and to the Adorable Son who comes forth from Him
and to the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.

Watcher of the watchers, we minister to You,
and the angels sing Your praise
and the Winged Creatures bless Your Name.
Awaken us to sing glory with them at all times.

Blessed and Glorious Saint Francis, so human and so holy,
fair lover of Lady Poverty and model of evangelical perfection,
be with us as we are gathered here, this night,
to keep vigil in commemoration of you.

Stand well, simple and humble and true hero,
at the head of the ranks of your devotees, and help us
with the gentle power of the Spirit who dwelt in you,
to celebrate with pure hearts the glorious day of your feast.

Glory to the Father who chose you,
and to the Son who called you to become so beautifully like Him,
and to the Holy Spirit who magnifies and extols the great day
of your passover, Blessed and Glorious Saint Francis.

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FIRST WATCH

Psalm 1 Blessed is the man who does not walk the way of the wicked...

RESPONSE
Blessed is the man whose delight is in the law of the Lord
and who ponders over it day and night.
He is like a tree planted near flowing waters.
Its fruits come in due season and its leaves never fade.

Heaven and earth and all that is in them
call you blessed, O Chosen Father Saint Francis,
who adorned the Church with your great labours for the Gospel.
And now you exult in the Kingdom.

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Him who magnifies in heaven and on earth the memory of our Great Father Francis of Assisi, whom during his earthly pilgrimage He fashioned into the fairest image of His Gospel of love. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

While we sing to you with earnest praises of the Holy Spirit, O Blessed Francis, we meditate on the perfect joy which you taught to your beloved disciples, how above all the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit which Christ bestows on His friends is that of willingly bearing sufferings and injuries, reproaches and failures with patience and joy for the love of Him and of the whole Creation. In this, you explained to your first companions, is perfect joy, because in all other gifts of God, as they are His, not ours, we cannot glory, but in the cross of tribulation we may glory because this is our response to His love.

Therefore we dare say with the Apostle: "God forbid that we should glory in anything but in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." There indeed lies the perfect joy, the joy of the new creation in Him. May we bear all things patiently, without disquieting ourselves and without murmuring, with cheerfulness, for His love, and thinking

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humbly and charitably that the sufferings we now endure for Christ bear no comparison with the joys of the Kingdom. To Him be praise, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn *He who sinned, let him sin no more.*

Glory to Him who magnifies the day of your commemoration
in heaven and on earth, O Chosen Saint Francis of Assisi.
Make supplication and beg from your Lord all graciousness
for the Churches and their children who rejoice on the day of Your feast,
halleluia, halleluia, that by your prayers and supplications,
they may be strengthened against the Evil One and his powers.

Astounding Confessor, Chosen One, full of spiritual beauty,
stand with us now, at this time of the night vigil,
to lead us in the praise and adoration of the Lord of Creation.
When we see the heavens, the work of His hands, and the moon
and the stars which He has created, halleluia, halleluia,
what is Man that He should think of him?

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

Confessor of the truth and lover of Christ, who embraced
in your compassion all human weaknesses and afflictions,
of young and old, of poor and rich, of servants and masters,
of men and women, of races and peoples of every region on earth,
halleluia, halleluia, ask from the Lord goodness and graciousness,
that all may take their delight with you at His feast of gladness.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

Your reward is kept in highest heaven, O Blessed Saint Francis,
who made your way to the Kingdom through the labours and joys
of daily life, beseech the Lord whom you followed and loved
with all your heart, all your soul and all your strength,
halleluia, halleluia, to strengthen us and to make us all worthy
to rejoice with you in the Kingdom.

MEDITATION

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SECOND WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Psalm 15 (14) Lord, who shall live in Your tent?...

RESPONSE
Lord, who shall live on Your holy mountain?...
He who speaks the truth from his heart,
he who does no wrong to his brother
and who keeps his pledge, come what may.

The Watchers in heaven rejoice on account of you, poor Francis, father of the poor who made yourself like unto the poor in all things. The earth grieved at your departure but cried out, "You are blessed, Lord, the Strong, God of our fathers and Lord of the whole Creation."

Eucharistic Prayer *Sedro*
Let us lift up our hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us offer praise to the Lord...Compassionate Lord, we praise...

Praise...to Jesus Christ, the Lord who accepted death on the cross and whom God raised to the heights to bestow on Him the Name above all names, who in His turn was pleased to give honour to His Chosen Saint Francis of Assisi, impressing on his body the wounds of His passion on Golgotha. To Him belongs glory, honour and adoration, at this time of the night vigil...

Lord, our God, our mouth is powerless to tell the glories of the Poverello of Assisi who gave away all his goods to follow You in poverty and in ardent love for God and for the whole Creation, the Chosen One who was found worthy to bear in his own body the sacred wounds of Your passion, having his hands and feet pierced with nails of fire, and his side as by a spear, in response to the Fiery One who kindled his consuming love for You. Blessed One who taught his disciples to become like his Master! Shining Lamp whose light was kindled by the oil of humility and fearlessness and with the fire of divine love.

We, therefore, beseech the Lord, our Lord, that while sharing in the mystery of this transforming love we may celebrate its festival in a generous way and be zealous in the labours of perfection and attain,

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with Francis, the heavenly bliss, and with him praise You and exalt You, and Your Father and Your Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever. Amen.

Hymn

On Alverno, at night, while Francis was praying
suddenly light flashed from the sky all around him.
The heavens burst open pouring forth all their glory
in millions of waterfalls of colours and stars.

In the centre of that bright, blazing whirlpool
was a core of blinding light that flashed down
from the depths of the sky with terrifying speed
until it rested, hovering motionless with great awe,
above the rock at the foot of which Francis was praying.

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

It was a figure, all fire, nailed to a cross of fire.
Two flaming wings rose straight upwards, two others
were spread in flight and still two others covered its face.
While the wounds in the hands and feet and heart were blazing rubies,
the face breathed heavenly beauty and indescribable human grief.

From age to age and for ever. Amen.

It was the face of Jesus. And Jesus spoke words of love,
when suddenly arrows of fire shot from His wounds
piercing the hands and feet and the side of Francis.
And he uttered a mighty shout of pain and joy
while the fiery image impressed itself into his body,
a reflection of itself with all its love, beauty and grief.

MEDITATION

THIRD WATCH

Acclamations Blessed be the glory of the Lord from His place...p.8

Service of the Resurrection Give rest, Lord, to our departed...p.9

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FOURTH WATCH

Service of the Communion of Saints Halleluia, halleluia,...p.11

The Cosmic Praise Praise the Lord from the heavens...

Supplication Song Lord, be gracious to us and help us.
Our Lord, be gracious to us,
by the prayer of Saint Francis.

By the prayer of him who loved You so much
pardon us and be gracious to the whole Creation.

Touched in the heart and moved by the Holy Spirit
Francis embraced a life of poverty, wandering in solitude.
And hearing what Christ said to His disciples in the Gospel
when He sent them out to establish the Kingdom,
he set aside staff, bag and shoes and put on the garb of the poor.

Lover of Lady Poverty and zealous preacher of the Gospel,
the Saint of Assisi taught his disciples:
"Do not keep gold or silver or money in your girdles.
If any one would go to law with you and take your tunic,
let him have your cloak as well. And be all goodness to all."

"Sell your possessions and your goods
and distribute them to the needy.
Live and work together, holding all things in common.
Together praise God in the memory of His Son Christ crucified
and let the precious chalice of His Passion inebriate your hearts."

"And when you are tempted to abandon Him on account
of the bitterness and darkness of human existence,
remember the wounds of the Lord and His boundless love.
Cling to Him more bravely, embrace Him with greater ardour."

"God gave me so great confidence in the churches
that I love to pray in them, simply saying: "Lord Jesus Christ,
here and in all Churches, all over the world,
we praise You, we bless You, because with Your Holy Cross
You have redeemed our poor race and the whole Creation?"

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Glory to You from the heavenly ones who gained peace by Your Cross.
Glory to You from the earthly ones who obtain life by Your death.
Thanksgiving from the dead who are awaked by Your Resurrection.
A shout of joy to You and to Your Father and to the Holy Spirit.
And on our troubled world Your peace with graciousness
and compassion, and tenderness, at all times. Amen. Amen.

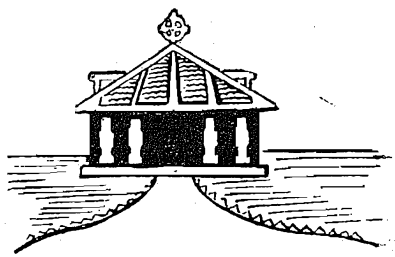
Concluding Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, do not close the door of Your mercy...p.6

TRISAGION

MEDITATION

With this we have completed,
with the help of our Lord,
the services of the feast of saint Francis of Assisi,
the seal of the Crown of the Year,
the Seven Seasons of Seven Weeks.
To Him be glory.



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NOTES TO THE INTRODUCTION

ABBREVIATIONS Pq Penqitho Nt V Night Vigil
Eg P Evening Prayer Eu P Eucharistic Prayer

1 The *pentecontad* is a time unit of fifty days – seven weeks concluded with a festival - the core of the ancient semitic calendar in which the year was divided into seven seasons of seven weeks. The Semitic Christians organized their yearly festivals inherited from Israel according to this pattern. The central pentecontad begins at the Resurrection of our Lord and concludes with Pentecost. The seasons which lead to it, as well as those that follow it, consist also of seven weeks each. In the course of the centuries this perfect pattern has suffered alterations but even then the seven weeks can still be perceived in the arrangement of the prayers, for example the Sedros at the Nt V. What we have done by adopting the seven weeks pattern for the whole year is a restoration, and a meaningful one too, because the climax of each season is a major feast of our Lord.

2 Friday of the Confessors, Nt V, 1st Watch, Hymn, p. 74.

3 Monday, Eg P, p. 17.

4 Tuesday, Eg P, p. 29.

5 Wednesday, Eg P, Common Response, p. 42.

6 Eg P, Hymn, p. 43.

7 Eg P, Response to the Psalm, p. 42.

8 Eg P, Conclusion of the Eu P, p. 55.

9 p. 61.

10 p. 64.

11 5th Saturday of the Great Fast, Eg P, Eu P, Vol. II, p. 294.

12 Friday of the Confessors, Prayer of Incense, p. 69.

13 Saturday of Repose, Eg P, Eu P, p. 79.

14 New Sunday, Eg P, Opening Prayer, p. 89.

15 2nd Sunday after the Resurrection, Eg P, Eu P, p. 110.

16 New Sunday, Eg P, Eu P, p. 91.

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17 Ascension of our Lord, Eg P, Concluding Prayer, p. 156.

18 Ascension of our Lord, Eg P, Opening Prayer, p. 150.

19 Great Sunday of Pentecost, Eg P, Response, p. 188.

20 Great Sunday of Pentecost, Eg P, Hymn, p. 191.

21 Intercessions, p. 194.

22 Feast of the Twelve Apostles, Nt V, 2nd Watch, Hymn, p. 551.

23 1st Sunday of the Apostles, Nt V, 2nd Watch, Eu P, p. 237.

24 1st Sunday of the Apostles, Nt V, 2nd Watch, Hymn, 3rd Stanza, p. 238. 3rd Sunday of the Apostles, Eg P, Hymn, 5th Stanza, p. 266.

25 The Orthodox Lectionary, Pambakuda, 1956, has two Sundays after the Tabernacles - Transfiguration - and five after the Assumption of the Mother of God. The Calendar of Feasts of the Syro-Malankara Catholic Church, 1986, has five Sundays after the Transfiguration called in Malayalam, *Thejaskaram,* Radiant Light. Rev. Father P. T. Givergis Paniker, whom we consulted on the meaning of this alternative name for the feast, wrote back very kindly: "This name is found in late Lectionaries and Calendars. As the feast of the Baptism of our Lord in the river Jordan is called *Deneho,* Epiphany, or also Feast of Lights, similarly His Transfiguration on the Mount is also called *Thejaskaranam,* Feast of the Radiant Light." (Letter dated October 7, 1986)

In spite of diverse divisions of this season in the Orthodox Lectionary and the Catholic Malankara Calendar, we felt entitled to preserve the seven weeks pattern for the Sundays of the Transfiguration: a season of seven weeks of the Transfiguration beginning immediately after the Seven Sundays of the Apostles. The fact that the actual feast comes only after several Sundays of the Transfiguration should not create any difficulty. It is the case also with the Season of the Apostles. But we will indicate it as the Season *of* the Transfiguration, as we speak of the Season *of* the Apostles.

When the Feast of the Resurrection falls early, after the season of the Transfiguration. There will remain several Sundays before the Feast of the Cross. In this case, as indicated in the

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Pq, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Sunday of the Transfiguration are repeated. In fact the Pq starts repeating from the 7th Sunday. We have however provided Eg P for the 7th and the 8th Sunday. It may not be out of place to observe that we find here a confirmation of the existence of a seven weeks season in the distribution of the *Sedros* at the Nt V. Indeed, during the Seven Weeks of the Apostles the *Sedros* of the two watches of the Nt V. are repeated from the First Sunday, but on the 8th Sunday - the first of the new season called in the Pq Summer Season, and by us Season of the Transfiguration - two new *Sedros* are given, and are similarly repeated during the six following Sundays.

26 Days after the Transfiguration, Nt V, 2nd Watch, Eu P, p. 592

26A Do, Eg P, Hymn, 2nd stanza p. 571.

27 Transfiguration of our Lord, Nt V, 1st Watch, Eu P, p. 576.

28 Transfiguration of our Lord, Nt V, 2nd Watch, Eu P, p. 579.

29 1st Sunday after the Exaltation of the Cross, Eg P, Eu P, p. 397.

30 Mt 24:30

31 Exaltation of the Cross, Eg P, Response to the Psalm, p. 675

32 Exaltation of the Cross, Eg P, Eu P, p. 677

33 Exaltation of the Cross, Eg P, Eu P, p. 677. On the Centre of the Earth see M. Eliade, A History of Religious Ideas, vol. 2, Chicago 1982, p. 399 and ff.

34 3rd Sunday after the Feast of the Cross, Eg P, Eu P, p. 422.

35 Days after the Exaltation of the Cross, Eg P, Friday, Hymn, p. 696.

36 The Saint Thomas Christians Encyclopedia of India, vol. 2: Apostle Thomas, Kerala, Malabar Christianity, Trichur, 1973, p. 113.

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NOTES TO THE PRAYER SERVICES

ABBREVIATIONS

Pq	Penqitho	Nt V	Night Vigil
Eg	Evening Prayer	Eu P	Eucharistic Prayer

1 The Psalms of the Common Evening and Night Prayers here printed at the beginning of our book, as in Volume II, are a new translation from the original Syriac. The Psalm numbers are those of the Peshitta Version, as found in the Liturgical Psalter published by H. H. Ignatius Ephrem II, Patriarch of Antioch of the Syrians, at Beyrouth, in 1911. They are the same as in the Hebrew Psalter until 114/115. From 116 to 150 they correspond to the numbers of the Vulgate Version which, in other places, when they differ from the Peshitta, are given within brackets.

2 In this fourth volume we have corrected this Acclamation to bring it in conformity with the Syriac text: Blessed be the Glory of the Lord from His place for ever. *From His place...* is the correct translation of the Syriac MEN ATHREH. The Glory of the Lord stands for the Lord, as we say, Your Majesty. The assembly of the worshippers here on earth then echoes the Acclamation uttered by the heavenly ones to their Lord, and by this acknowledgement expresses its communion with the heavenly liturgy. We have found a confirmation of our interpretation in the Anchor Bible, Ezekiel 1—20, A New Translation with Introduction and Commentary, by Moshe Greenberg, Ch. 3, verse 12, p. 61.

3 White Monday and the Week of the Resurrection. The Pq gives the prayers for every day of the week, yet with quite a few duplications. We have provided new psalms for the Eg P and the Nt V, also Intercessions for every day, at the Eg P, and *Sedros* for every day and every watch at the Nt V. For this, on the last three days we have made use (as we did on the Days after the Nativity of our Lord) of Orations of Gregory Nazianzen: here, Orations on Easter 1 and 45 as they are found in, Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers of the Christian Church, 2nd Series, Volume VII, p. 203 and ff. All through the week we have selected our pieces so as to bring out a dominant theme for each day. For

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this purpose we have exchanged some pieces and occasionally we have retouched some of the prayers, in order to enhance the celebration of the Services given in the Pq.

4 Pentecost has not a full octave in the Pq, only a triduum: the feast is celebrated also on Monday and Tuesday with a proper Eg P. However these two services have no Gospel Proclamation. We have provided Gospels, with Acclamations, Intercessions and Concluding Prayer. The other hours, including the Nt V, are borrowed from Pentecost Sunday. But Friday, the second day of the week in dignity for the Syrian Churches and often set apart for the celebration of the feasts of saints of a season, we celebrate the feast of two apostles, revealing thereby the new orientation of the Crown of the Year: the Season of the Apostles, a celebration of the first healing miracle of Peter and John, when they experienced in them the power of the Spirit, actually performed in the name of Jesus.

It is worth observing that in the Pq, on the day of Pentecost, the Intercessions at the Eg P are addressed to "the Holy Spirit, our Great God". We have preserved this practice throughout the Season of the Apostles, for the Intercessions, as it witnesses beautifully to the experience of the Holy Spirit in the life of the early Church.

5 The First Sunday of the Apostles. The Pq calls the Sundays of this season, Sundays after Pentecost or Sundays of the Apostles, literally: of the Seven Weeks of the Apostles (Pq VI, p. 414). We have opted for the second way, not only because we believe that it is the original one but also because it is more meaningful, once we have adopted the division of the Year of Grace into seven seasons of seven weeks. These Sundays are rightly called of the Apostles because, after Pentecost, the Church, on Sundays, celebrates the Resurrection of our Lord in the light of the mission of the Holy Spirit carried out by the apostles, a celebration that culminates in the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, heads of the apostles, followed by the Feast of the Twelve Apostles and three days later the Feast of St. Thomas. On this see the Introduction to Vol. II., The Ecclesiastical Year of Grace, p. 20. However the first two Sundays of this season bear a marked influence of the Roman liturgy which, as already observed, readily replaces the celebration of the Saving Acts of God in the Economy of Salvation,

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by the celebration of dogmatic truths: the Immaculate Conception, the Trinity, or by devotional expressions of the faith, as the Body of Christ, the Sacred Heart etc. Pope John XXIII of blessed memory had even introduced a celebration of the Precious Blood of Christ, but it did not survive the liturgical reform of the Second Vatican Council. In the Syrian Liturgy the Mystery of the Trinity is very meaningfully celebrated on Pentecost, which is the communication of the Holy Spirit, sent by the Father as the fruit of the Redemption of humankind made by the Son. To make the following Sunday into a Sunday of the Trinity is a duplication. And when it is celebrated in terms of philosophical speculations on person and nature, besides being a departure from the celebration of the Saving Acts of God, it mars the commemoration of the apostolic ministry initiated by the descent of the Holy Spirit. The *Sedro* of the Eg P of the First Sunday is quite remarkable. It recalls the return of the Spirit to humankind, putting an end to the withdrawal recounted in Gn 6:3. The Holy Spirit returns to the human family when He descends on the apostles to equip them for the proclamation of the Gospel, the planting of Churches and the celebration of the Holy Mysteries, ultimately for the divinization of humankind, seminally realized in the Risen Christ.

6 The Second Sunday of the Apostles. On the previous Thursday the Pq has the Roman Feast of Corpus Christi, with a full octave, an octave as extensive as that of the Resurrection! We have left the feast out altogether, as such a celebration does not fit with the Syrian tradition of the Holy Mysteries. The practices and devotions associated with this feast: exposure of the Blessed Sacrament, outdoor processions with the golden monstrance, benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Holy Hours of Adoration etc...do not suit, and even go counter the oriental perception of the eucharist, always deeply rooted in a sense of Mystery - an action of God in time and space reaching us through the sacramental signs. But this Second Sunday of the Apostles, falling within this octave, is still permeated by the Feast of the Body of Christ. By selecting the pieces commemorating the apostles, and by introducing new references to their apostolic charisms, we could restore to some extent this Sunday as a celebration of the mission of the Holy Spirit carried out by the apostles,

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7 The Friday of the Sacred Heart, came to the Syrian Catholics from Rome. It celebrates the unsearchable riches of the love of Jesus made accessible to us through the opening of His heart pierced on the Cross when the soldier's lance opened His side. Though such a feast is unusual in the Syrian liturgical tradition which concentrates on God's saving acts in the Economy of Salvation, the symbolism of the open side is found very early in the Syrian tradition, to begin with Ephrem, "By the side pierced by the lance I have entered the garden barred by the lance. Let us enter by the wounded side...The Merciful One took a body that was wounded, that by the opening of His side He might open a way to Paradise." Quoted from R. Murray, The Lance which reopened Paradise, Orientalia Christiana Periodica, XXXIX 1973, p. 224.

8 Third Sunday of the Apostles. With this Sunday we return to a full celebration of the apostles' experience and mission, which is in reality a celebration of the life of the early Church, as it was first experienced by the apostles after their Master returned to Him who sent Him.

9 Fourth Sunday of the Apostles. At the Eg P we have used the first hymn, but we have upgraded it by including a stanza of the apostles. The reference to Samson in the Supplication Song comes from Judges 14:11. The same allusion is found on the 7th Sunday of the Transfiguration. At the Nt V the *Madrosho* of the 2nd Watch is found in the Pq, 1st Watch, p. 418.

10 The Fifth Sunday of the Apostles. We have replaced the *Madrosho* of the Gardener at the 2nd Watch, as we have already used it during the season of the Resurrection, by the Hymn of the 2nd Watch of White Thursday, Pq V, p. 416.

11 The Seventh Sunday of the Apostles. We have preserved two hymns at the Eg P, one before and one after the Prayer for the Burning of Incense, with a view to enhancing the celebration of the concluding Sunday of the Season of the Apostles.

12 First Sunday of the Season of the Transfiguration. We have brought out the unique significance of this season in our Introduction, and explained our choice of the Transfiguration for the

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season following that of the Apostles in note 20 to the Introduction. The Church's motivation in her celebration of the Sundays remains always the Resurrection of our Lord, as the core and climax of the saving acts of God, but this celebration takes additional and varying features, according to the seasons of the year...Such special feature are given here by the mystery of the Transfiguration, praised as a prefiguration of the Lord's Resurrection and of the consummation of time, when the whole Creation will be called to share in His glory. Hence the Church on these Sundays also prays, "Transfigure the body of our present humble state and give it a form like that of Your own resplendent body". In the Supplication Song of the day of the feast, the Transfiguration is praised as, "The feast that surpasses all feasts."

13 Fifth Sunday of the Transfiguration. The Sedro at the Eg P provides a beautiful example of the Syrian Eu P celebrating the Economy of Salvation. Yet we felt the need of upgrading the concluding petitions.

14 The Seventh Sunday of the Transfiguration, 14th after Pentecost. The number of Sundays remaining after the season of the Transfiguration, before the season of the Cross, varies according to the date of the Sunday of the Resurrection. From the seventh Sunday of the Transfiguration - 14th after Pentecost - the Pq repeats the first Sundays of this season, for us the Sundays of the Transfiguration, according to their order: 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, giving only a proper Psalm and Gospel for the Eg P. Using available material, with some new compositions, we have composed an Eg P for the first two Sundays, the 7th and the 8th. Except for the Eg P of these two Sundays, the Services follow the reference of the Pq, as indicated here below.

7th Sunday of the Transfiguration, 14th after Pentecost, Services from the 1st Sunday of the Transfiguration.

8th Sunday of the Transfiguration, 15th after Pentecost, Services from the 2nd Sunday of the Transfiguration.

9th Sunday of the Transfiguration, 16th after Pentecost, Services from the 3rd Sunday of the Transfiguration.
Evening Prayer Mt 18: 1–14.

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10th Sunday of the Transfiguration, 17th after Pentecost, Services from the 4th Sunday of the Transfiguration.
Evening Prayer Mk 7: 1–8.

11th Sunday of the Transfiguration, 18th after Pentecost, Services from the 5th Sunday of the Transfiguration.
Evening Prayer Lk 19:41–48.

15 April 23, George the Glorious Martyr. Probably the most popular saint in Kerala, with Thomas the Apostle, and patron saint of some of the most ancient churches. He is venerated under a variety of names, variations of its Syrian form, Geevarghese: Varghese, Varkey, besides its English form George. The Pq refers to the Common of One Martyr, yet it gives a Eu P, Hymn and Supplication Song. We have used some of these pieces, but we felt the need of pruning and amending them, in order to make them more meaningful for our times. As often the Gospel Acclamations, Intercessions and Concluding Prayer are our composition. It seems that Saint George, so popular in all oriental Churches and still patron saint of England, has suffered at the hands of the reformers of the Roman Calendar of Saints, after Vatican II. Yet he has not been discarded as some other saints. He is given an optional memorial. It is true that his identity has been almost completely obliterated, during the early Middle Ages, in the process of assimilation of local religious traditions and mythological heroes, by Christianity. As M. Eliade observes in his History of Religious Ideas, Vol. 2, p. 204. "The countless dragon-slaying heroes and gods, from Greece to Ireland and from Portugal to the Urals, have become the same saint: Saint George," imitator of Him who slew the great dragon with the Cross. In spite of this, George the Glorious Martyr can still be reliably identified as one of the last victims of Diocletian's persecution, at Lydda-Diospolis, in Palestine, around 300 AD.

16 May 8, John the Evangelist. This feast celebrates Saint John as the Disciple whom Jesus loved, but also the disciple whom He gave to His Mother, at the time of His death on the Cross. At the Nt V the Pq refers us to the Common of One Apostle, an office which celebrates the apostles for their daring missionary

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enterprises which led to their martyrdom. We found this unsuited for our feast and we have provided new pieces. The 1st Watch celebrates the Mother of God. The Hymn of St. Ephrem at this Watch is borrowed from S. Brock. The Harp of the Spirit, London, 1983, p. 59, slightly amended to suit the style of our prayer and for the sake of consistency.

17 May 15, Apa Pachomios. On this day the Pq celebrates the Mother of God, Mother of Ears of Corn, with a simple commemoration of Apa Pachomios. We have reversed this order and given priority to the monastic father whose influence on early monastic life has become so widely known in our century. We have however kept the Commemoration of the Mother of the Ears of Corn at the 1st Watch of the Nt V. For Pachomios we have used the framework of the Common of One Father, but most of the pieces are our own compositions. All are inspired by Pachomian literature recently made available in English by Father, now Abbot, Armand Veilleux, Pachomian Koinonia, 3 vol., Cistercian Publications Inc., Kalamazoo, Michigan, U.S.A, 1980-1981. The author to whom we submitted our text before sending it to the printing press wrote back very kindly, "Thank you very much for sending me a copy of your Office for the Feast of St. Pachomios. It is a beautiful piece of work, and I am very happy you did it! I am sure St. Pachomios is also happy. You have been able to integrate a lot of the Pachomian literature into a very prayerful office. There is there a wealth that is typically oriental. Fraternally in the Lord. F. Armand Veilleux."

18 June 9. This feast of St. Ephrem is not found in the Pq, neither in the Orthodox nor in the Catholic Pq. We celebrate him on January 28. This is the Roman feast, which was fixed on this day after Pope Benedict XV, in 1920, proclaimed Deacon Ephrem of Nisibis Doctor of the Church, a title he had long enjoyed in his own Church. June 9, seems to be the date of his death, probably in 373. For this feast, we refer to January 28, our Syrian Calendar feast, in Prayer with the Harp of the Spirit, Vol. II, p. 574.

19 June 24, the Birth of John the Baptist. This feast is a duplication of the Sunday of the Birth of John, very appropriately celebrated in the Season of the Annunciation in preparation for the Nativity of Jesus, according to the yearly unfolding of the saving acts of

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God. Like the feast of the Annunciation on 25th March, also a duplication, the date of the birth of John was calculated after the birth of Jesus had been conventionally fixed, at Rome, on 25th December, as a Christian substitute for the festival of the Unconquered Sun, of the then very popular cult of Mithra. The present feast is not found in the Orthodox Pq. Though our Pq gives some proper pieces, it sends us back, often, to the Common of One Confessor. This is not suited, as this Common celebrates primarily those who have witnessed to Christ by their sufferings. On account of this we have composed several new pieces celebrating rather the wonder and joy which accompanied the birth of this child of miracle, and its significance for the Economy of Salvation of which it marked a turning point.

20 June 29, Peter and Paul. The material available for this very ancient feast in the Pq is considerable. It is indeed a major festival of the year, a beautiful celebration of the apostolicity of the Church, in the person of the two heads of the company, yet with a pre-eminence given to Peter. In the Eu P of the 1st Watch we find the symbolism of the Centre of the World, a very ancient religious myth traced back to pre-historic times. In later agricultural religions this myth is enriched by the Cosmic Tree, which grows at the Centre of the World. This Tree unites the three Cosmic regions, for it sends its roots down into the underworld while its branches reach out to the sky. This symbolism is abundantly used in our liturgy of the Cross, from 14th September onwards. On this, see Mircea Eliade, A History of Religious Ideas, Vol. I, University of Chicago, 1978, Index, ad verbum, Centre of the World, p. 482.

21 July 3, Thomas the Apostle. The Pq refers to the Common of One Apostle mainly for the Psalms and their responses, but it has also a good number of pieces proper to Thomas. We have of course used them, yet we had to upgrade some of the prayers and even some Hymns to recall his mission to India.

22 August 6, the Transfiguration of our Lord. In the Orthodox Pq the feast is called, Feast of Tabernacles, with the sub-title: The Transfiguration of the human form of our Lord before His disciples. On the relation of the Jewish feast with the Transfiguration, see J. Danielou, The Bible and the Liturgy, Notre

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Dame, 1956, the whole chapter 20, where he writes, "The most important fact supporting the relationship of these two feasts is that of the tents that Peter proposes building for the Lord, for Moses and Elijah. It seems certain that we should see in these tents an allusion to the Feast of Tabernacles...The manifestation of the glory of Jesus appears to Peter to be the sign that the times of the Messiah have come. And one of the qualities of these messianic times was to be the dwelling of the just in the tents signified by the huts of the Feast of Tabernacles. This detail is explained still more clearly if the Transfiguration actually took place at the time of the feast of Tabernacles. Then it would show that the realities prefigured by the Feast were accomplished: the Transfiguration represents the true Feast of Tabernacles. This eschatological significance is still clearer if we admit...that the exclamation of St. Peter: 'It is good for us to be here' is the expression of the rest, of the eschatological rest. The Feast of Tabernacles prefigures in this way the rest of the life to come." p. 340.

The material given in our Pq is quite remarkable, yet to remain sensitive to the signs of the times we felt the need of upgrading some of the prayers, including the Intercessions as we often do. This material is also considerable. We have been able to extend the celebration over seven days after the feast, as it is done in the Pq for the Assumption of the Mother of God and the Exaltation of the Cross. But we had to introduce new *Sedros* for which we have used, Anastasius of Sinai, Sermon on the Transfiguration of Christ, Greek text in, A. Le Guillou, Le Monastere de La Theotokos au Sinai, Melanges d'Archeologie et d'Histoire, Paris 1955, p. 238-241. Anastasius was Abbot of Sinai ca 680 and has left sermons which communicate his enthusiastic view of faith. Also John of Damascus, quoted from the french Dominican Patristic Lectionary, Drovilliers, 1969, Vol. 2, p. 2 and following.

23 August 15, the Assumption of Mary Mother of God. The word *shounoio* used to designate this feast of the Mother of God does not mean directly assumption. The root *shno* means to change from one place to another, to depart. And the other word used most frequently in the Pq, *'oundono,* also means departure. But we find in some instances, *masqo,* from the root *slq,* to ascend,

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The name used by the Greek and Russian Orthodox Churches is Dormition. On the other hand the faith of the Church in the bodily assumption of the Mother of God is clearly expressed in several prayers of the feast, for instance this 4th stanza of the 2nd Hymn of the Eg P:

> On this day the whole Creation is in gladness
> for the pure body of the Holy Virgin is taken to heaven.
> Angels and men sing glory and offer thanksgiving
> to Him who took it to the Paradise of Light
> and placed her whole being in the Dwelling of Life.

For the Service of the Seven Days after the Feast we have upgraded some of the prayers. We have also provided a Gospel reading for each day at the Eg P, with Intercessions, and at the Nt V, two new *Sedros*.

24 August 29, The Beheading of John the Baptist. Here also we have upgraded some of the prayers and provided new Intercessions as well as two new *Sedros* at the Nt V.

25 Festival of Onam and Commemoration of St. Thomas the Apostle. The Feast of Onam, the great Festival of Kerala, celebrated unanimously by all communities and religious groups, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, is fixed according to the lunar calendar. Its date therefore varies with the date of the full moon closest to the end of August. We were emboldened to include the Festival of Onam in the celebration of the Economy of Salvation, because this feast has been celebrated from time immemorial by all the families and communities of Kerala irrespective of their religion. To observe it as a purely secular celebration reduces it to a cultural event, a piece of folklore, while its significance is far deeper. In the light of Vatican II which exhorts us, "to acknowledge, preserve and promote the spiritual and moral goods found among the nations as well as the values in their society and culture", we were led to have a liturgical celebration of Thiru Onam. We see in this feast one of the seeds of the Word now acknowledged by the Church in the living faiths of the human family, and therefore as part of God's Saving Economy. In this respect the feast finds its origin in the Cosmic Covenant illustrated in the Bible by Noah's salvation from the flood and the restoration of man's relationship with God (Gen. 6:5–8:22).

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Closer to us, at the time of a mutation of the Cosmic Covenant into the Sinaitic Covenant, the time of God's promises to Abraham, we see Melchizedek, Canaanite king and priest of God Most High, to whom the Bible relates Christ's priesthood, calling God's blessings on his chosen servant Abraham. The memory of the legendary king of Kerala, Mahabeli, is preserved by our people as a messianic figure, that of a king offering even his life for the well-being of his people. We have strengthened the salvific quality of the feast by associating with it the Commemoration of Saint Thomas, apostle of the New Covenant to India.

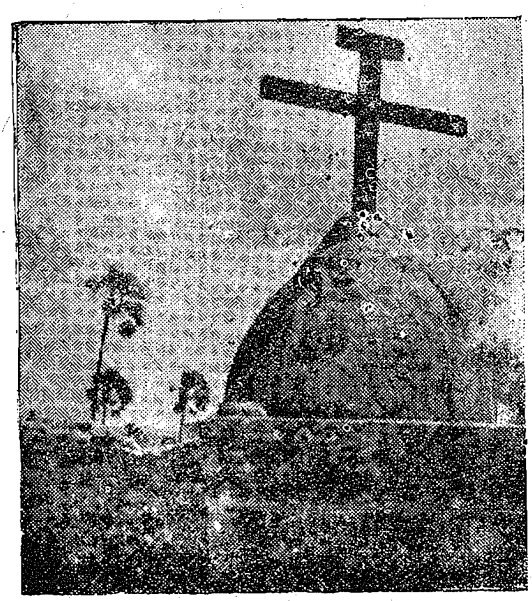
26 September 2, Simeon the Pillar Saint. Though Simeon is entered in the Year's Calendar of Saints of the Pq, on September 2, Vol. I, p. 35, as a feast of first rank, in Vol. VII, on September 2, his feast is not mentioned any more. We have made use of the Common of One Confessor, Pq Vol. I, pp. 256-266. Yet we had to upgrade several pieces and to provide also new compositions as the *Sedros*.

27 September 14, Exaltation of the Cross. The Orthodox Pq has today the Finding of the Cross by Queen Helen. This event celebrated also on May 4, is commemorated in some of our prayers, for instance: Days after the Feast, Eg P, Supplication Song, but only as part of the much more comprehensive celebration of the Mystery of the Cross in its glorious manifestations, which are the object of our feast. Though the Roman usage has changed the name into The Triumph of the Cross, it is felt that the Exaltation retains its full meaning for us, for on this day we offer unceasing praise to the Lord for this unfathomable Mystery. In fact a manual exaltation of the Cross, a Service of the Cross with exaltation and blessing to the four quarters of the earth, is part of our celebration on most of the feasts of the year. On this feast and on the six days that follow it, the Church celebrates with praises the glory of the Cross which she contemplates as the power of Christ in His death and Resurrection, as the symbol of the cosmic dimension of salvation and as the sign of her eschatological expectation, as we have already brought out in our Introduction, pp. XVIII and XIX. On this, see J. Danielou, The Theology of Jewish Christianity, Darton, Longmans & Todd, London, 1964, pp. 265-292. For the expansion of both our

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Eg P and Nt V of the Days after the Feast, besides material available in the Pq, we have used a number of ancient texts quoted by Danielou, while making them into hymns suited for our celebration. For the same purpose we have used, R. Murray, Symbols of Church and Kingdom, Cambridge U.P., 1975, p. 247; also de Lubac Catholicism, London 1950, p. 282. The Hymn of Friday Eg P is from Mahatma Gandhi's writings.

28 October 4, Francis of Assisi. This is our own composition, for which we have used as framework the Common of One Confessor, Pq pp. 250–266. We have also taken inspiration from some scenes of the Perfect Joy of Saint Francis, by Felix Timmermans, Image Books, New York, 1955. We further have drawn on Francis himself, at the Ev P, by using his hymn to the Creation, while our Supplication Song is the prayer for becoming instruments of peace, attributed to him and illustrating so beautifully his life message.



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