

Holy Week at Home: Paschal Nocturne on Saturday Night

On Saturday night, before bedtime, gather in a quiet room and dim the lights. Sing or chant the Paschal Nocturne together.

Leader: Through the Prayers of our holy Fathers and Mothers, Lord Jesus Christ, son of God, have mercy on us.

All: Amen.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us. (3x)

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Your Name's sake.

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

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Leader: Amen. Come let us worship God our king. Come let us worship and fall down before Christ, our king and our God. Come let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our king and our God.

Psalm 50

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy, and according to the multitude of Your compassions blot out my transgression. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my iniquity, and my sin is ever before me. Against You only have I sinned and done this evil before You, that You might be justified in Your words and prevail when You are judged. For behold I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me. Behold, You have loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made known to me. You shall sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; You shall wash me, and I shall be made whiter than snow. You shall make me to hear joy and gladness; the bones that are humbled, they shall rejoice. Turn Your face away from my sins and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence and take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and establish me with Your governing Spirit. I shall teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly shall turn back to

You. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation; my tongue shall rejoice in Your righteousness. O Lord, You shall open my lips, and my mouth shall declare Your praise. For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole-burnt offerings You will not be pleased. A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit; a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise. Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure unto Sion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built. Then will You be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings. Then shall they offer young bulls upon Your altar.

THE CANON in tone 6

Ode 1

All: Of old You buried the pursuing tyrant
beneath the waves of the sea.

Now the children of those who were saved

bury You beneath the earth,

but like the maidens let us sing to the Lord, //

for gloriously has He been glorified.

Reader: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Beholding You upon the throne on high and in the grave below, the things of heaven and the things beneath the earth trembled at Your death; for in a manner past understanding were You, the very source of life, seen dead.

Ode 3

All: You suspended the earth
immovably upon the waters.

Now creation beholds You

suspended on Calvary.

It quakes with great amazement and cries: //

“None is holy but You, O Lord.”

Reader: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

You stretched out Your hands, O Savior, and united what before had been divided; and by clothing Yourself in a winding sheet You saved even those held captive by the tomb, who cry: “None is holy but You, O Lord.”

Ode 4

All: Foreseeing Your divine humiliation on the cross,

Habakkuk cried out trembling:

“You shattered the dominion of the mighty//

by joining those in hell as the almighty Lord.”

Reader: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

By the overwhelming strength of Your divine nature You won the victory, O Word; for Your soul was parted from the flesh, sundering by Your might the bonds of hell and death.

Ode 5

All: Isaiah saw the never-setting light

of Your compassionate manifestation to us as God, O Christ.

Rising early from the night he cried out:

“The dead shall arise.

Those in the tombs shall awake.//

All those on earth shall greatly rejoice.”

Reader: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

Through death You transform what is mortal, and through burial You transform what is corruptible; for in a manner befitting God You make incorrupt and immortal the nature which You have assumed, since Your flesh did not see corruption, and in a wondrous manner Your soul was not abandoned in hell.

Ode 6

All: Jonah was caught but not held fast

in the belly of the whale.

He was a sign of You,

who have suffered and accepted burial.

Coming forth from the beast as from a bridal chamber,

he called out to the guard://

By observing vanities and lies you have forsaken your own mercy.

Reader: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

The fall of Adam resulted in the death of man, not God; for even though the earthly substance of Your flesh suffered, Your divinity remained passionless. In Yourself You transformed the corruptible to incorruption, and by Your resurrection You revealed a fountain of incorruptible life.

The Kontakion in tone 6

All: He who shut in the depths is beheld dead,

wrapped in fine linen and spices.

The immortal One is laid in a tomb as a mortal man.

The women have come to anoint Him with myrrh,

weeping bitterly and crying:

“This is the most blessed sabbath//

on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day.”

Reader: He who holds all things together has been lifted up upon the cross, and all of creation weeps at seeing Him hanging, naked, upon the wood. The sun hid its rays and the stars cast aside their splendor. The earth shook with great fear, the sea fled, and the rocks were split asunder. Many tombs were opened, and the bodies of holy men arose. Hell groaned below and the Jews considered how to slander the resurrection of Christ, but the women cried:

“This is the most blessed Sabbath//

on which Christ has fallen asleep to rise on the third day.”

Ode 7

All: Inexpressible wonder!

In the furnace You saved the holy youths from the flame.

Now You are placed in the grave as a lifeless corpse,

for the salvation of us who sing://

“Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Reader: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.*

In accordance with the law of the dead, the Life of all accepts burial in the tomb, and the tomb becomes the source of resurrection, unto the salvation of us who sing: “Blessed are You, O God, our Redeemer!”

Ode 8

All: Be amazed, O heavens!

Be shaken, O foundations of the earth!

Behold, He that dwells in the highest

is numbered among the dead and sheltered in a lowly tomb.

Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O Leaders!//

O people, exalt Him above all forever!

Reader: *Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

The pure Temple has been destroyed, yet He raises with Himself the tabernacle that had fallen; for the Second Adam, who dwells in the highest, has descended to the first Adam, even to the lowest chambers of hell. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O Leaders! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

*Let us bless the Lord: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.
Amen.*

What new wonders! What great goodness! What ineffable forbearance! For He Who dwells in the highest is willingly sealed beneath the earth, and God is slandered as a

deceiver. Bless Him, O youths! Praise Him, O Leaders! O people, exalt Him above all forever!

All: We praise, bless and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

Ode 9

All: Do not lament me, O mother,
seeing me in the tomb,
the Son conceived in the womb without seed.

For I shall arise
and be glorified with eternal glory as God!!!
I shall exalt all who magnify you in faith and in love.

Reader: *Glory to You, our God, glory to You.*

“I escaped sufferings and was blessed beyond nature at Your strange birth, O Son who are without beginning. But now, beholding You, my God, dead and without breath, I am sorely pierced by the sword of sorrow. But arise, that I may be magnified.”

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

“By my own will, the earth covers me, O mother, but the gatekeepers of hell tremble at seeing me clothed in the blood-stained garments of vengeance; for when I have vanquished my enemies on the cross, I shall arise as God and magnify you.”

RESURRECTIONAL TROPARION in tone 2

All: When you descended to death, O Life immortal,
You slew hell with the splendor of Your Godhead.

And when from the depths You raised the dead,
all the powers of heaven cried out: //

“O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

After the canon concludes, all rest until the agreed-upon time for the morning Paschal service at home.