

THE APOCALYPSE RITE

References:

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Notes For Servants:

- 1.
- 2.

Objectives:

General:

Specific:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Instructions:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Bible Verse:

“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.”

(Psalm 4:5)

Lesson:

See Attached Sheets.

The Apocalypse Rite

After the conclusion of the beautifully-solemn Good Friday rite, the priests and congregation meet once again in the church on Friday evening for a prayerful vigil which lasts all night, and concludes with a liturgy at the dawn of Bright Saturday.

Whoever asks about eternity and everlasting life finds the answers in this night, during which the Church truly ascends to heaven, with all its beauty. The hours of the night pass by as if one is in a beautiful dream, and its rite is full of symbolism, making one truly live the heavenly, angelic life as a departure from death to life.

This night is the border between sorrow and joy, through which one passes from the sorrow of Passion Week, to the joy of the Resurrection. The hymns are changed from the sad tune to a joyous tune, so that half of the hymn is said sorrowfully, and the other half joyfully.

The night is divided up into three sections:

1. Apocryphal Readings

These are a series of selected readings from the Old Testament and the Apocryphal books, and they are:

- The praise of Moses the prophet (the first hoas) and the passing over of the Red Sea (from death to life).
- The prayer of Hannah, the mother of Samuel the prophet (1 Samuel 2:1-11)
- The prayer of Habakkuk the prophet (3:2-19) "He lifts me above to victory through His praise."
- The prayer of Jonah the prophet (2:2-10) who was transferred from the belly of the fish (death) to life.
- The prayer of Hezekiah the prophet and king of Judah, when he fell sick and rose from his illness (Isaiah 38:10-20). The Lord God heard him and gave him an extra fifteen years after the appointed time of his death.
- The prayer of the three holy young men in the furnace. They were transferred from death to life, for Christ was with them (in death)
- The story of Susanna the virgin, who was judged, and was then saved from death.

2. Joyous Saturday Hymns and Praises

The hymns are accompanied by a number of processions. The priests and deacons, with lit candles, icons and crosses in their hands, perform a procession around the altar and church in joy and happiness, and thus the Church takes us to the joyous resurrection.

3. Revelation

The vigil, which is followed by the liturgy, is then concluded at the dawn of Saturday with the reading of the Revelation. The priests, deacons and the whole congregation stand amongst the seven oil flints which resemble:

- the seven spirits before His throne (Rev 1:4),
- the seven lamps of burning fire (Rev 4:5),
- the seven angels standing before God,
- the seven lamp stands of gold (Rev 1:12), and
- the seven stars in His right hand (Rev 1:16).

The seven stars are angels (bishops) of the churches, and the seven lamp stands are the seven churches (Rev 1:20).

Thus, we travel with this marvellous book which reveals the secrets which await us after our resurrection.

It is a night of personal involvement, and no one can give you the understandings of this night except yourself, by personally being involved, and by living in its readings, hymns and beautiful rite.

Conclusion:

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- 2.
- 3.

“Offer the sacrifices of righteousness, and put your trust in the LORD.”

(Psalm 4:5)