



## ***A Reader Service for Blessing Paschal Foods***

***Served by Lay Faithful in extraordinary times when a Priest is unavailable***

*With the Bishop's blessing, in times of extraordinary circumstances such as war, natural disaster or pandemic, when one cannot attend the Holy Paschal Services or the priest is unavailable, this Reader Service may be used by the lay faithful to bless their Paschal foods on the Feast of Pascha.*

*What is given here is the Ukrainian Kyivan-Catholic service for 'The Blessing of Foods on the Radiant Feast of Pascha', as found in The Divine Liturgy – An Anthology for Worship, Ottawa, 2004, but formatted and amended according to the general rubrics of a lay-led Reader Service. May it serve amidst great challenges to fill a great need on the Great Day!*

*After having observed the Paschal Service as best they can at home, the Paschal Basket is placed on a prepared table that is oriented to the East; a lit candle is placed in the Basket; Holy Water and sprinkler (or, if no Holy Water, a Cross or an Icon of the Saviour or the Mother of God) are at hand.*

*When all is ready, the family gathers at the table.*

*The father of the family, or mother, or eldest child, acting as the Leader and standing before the Paschal Basket, either chanting or simply reading, begins...*

### ***Opening Prayers***

***Leader/All:*** ⊕ In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.  
Amen. (3x)

***Leader:*** ⊕ Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, risen from the dead, have mercy on us.

***All:*** Amen.

*We sing the Paschal Tropar alternating between Leader and All...*

***Leader:*** Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling death by death,  
and to those in the tombs, giving life.

***All:*** Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling death by death,  
and to those in the tombs, giving life.

***Leader:*** Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling death by death,

***All:*** and to those in the tombs, giving life.

*The Leader now recites the following Blessing Prayers for the Paschal Foods...*

### ***Blessing of Bread***

*Leader:* O Holy Master, Father almighty, pre-eternal God: be pleased to sanctify this bread by Your holy and spiritual blessing, so that it might be unto salvation of soul as well as bodily health for all who eat of it. May it also protect against all illness and every attack of the enemy. ⊕ Through the mercy and compassion of Your only-begotten Son, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, with Whom You are blessed, together with Your all holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

*All:* Amen.

### ***Blessing of Meat***

*Leader:* O Lord Jesus Christ our God, look upon these various meats, and sanctify them as You sanctified the ram, which Abraham, the faithful one, brought to You, and the lamb which was offered to You by Abel as a total offering of his fruits. Sanctify them also as You sanctified the fatted calf, which You ordered to be slain for Your prodigal son when he returned to You, so that just as he was made worthy to enjoy Your goodness, we too might delight in these foods that You have hallowed and blessed to nourish us all. ⊕ For You are the true Nourishment and Bestower of good things, and we render glory to You, with Your Father Who is without beginning, and Your all holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

*All:* Amen.

### ***Blessing of Cheese and Eggs***

*Leader:* O Master, Lord our God, Creator and Builder of all things: bless these milk products along with these eggs, and preserve us in Your goodness, so that partaking of them we may be filled with Your gifts, which You, because of Your unspeakable goodness, bestow on us so ungrudgingly. ⊕ For Yours is the dominion, and Yours the kingdom, the power, and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and always and for ever and ever.

*All:* Amen.

*Then the Leader recites this Blessing Prayer...*

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ, our God, risen from the dead, may these foods be blessed and sanctified by [the sprinkling of this holy water and] the grace of the Holy Spirit, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

*The Leader then sprinkles the Paschal Foods with Holy Water in cross form + or, if there is no Holy Water, the Leader omits the bracketed parts and signs + the Paschal Foods with a Cross or Icon, while All sing the Paschal Tropar...*

*All:* Christ is risen from the dead,  
trampling death by death,  
and to those in the tombs, giving life.

*After which the Leader/All intone the Dismissal Prayers...*

### ***Dismissal Prayers***

*Leader/All:* ⊕ Christ is risen from the dead, trampling death by death,  
and to those in the tombs, giving life.  
Lord, have mercy. (3x)  
Lord, bless!

*Leader:* ⊕ Through the prayers of our holy fathers, may Christ our true God, risen from the dead, trampling death by death, and to those in the tombs giving life, through the prayers of His immaculate Mother; of the holy, glorious and all-praiseworthy apostles and of all the saints, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.

*Again, the Leader/All may sing the Paschal Tropar: "Christ is risen..." (3x) as before, while the Leader sprinkles each family member with Holy Water or signs + them with the Cross or Icon. And we conclude with:*

*Leader/All:* And to us He has granted life eternal;  
⊕ we bow down before His resurrection on the third day!

⊕ In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen. (3x)

***Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!***