

6th Sunday after Pentecost
The Holy, Glorious and All-Praised Leaders of the Apostles, Peter and Paul

VESPERS: Tone 5

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried... (Tone 5)

1. Thou hast **shamed** the devil with Thy precious **Cross**, O Christ,/ and hast blunted the sting of sin by Thy Resurre**ction**./ Thou hast saved us from the **gates** of death.// Thou, O only-begotten Son, we **glorify** Thee.
2. He Who granted mankind the Resurre**ction**/ was led like a lamb to the **slaughter**;/ the princes of hell trembled **before** Him,/ the gates of tears were **lifted** up:/ for Christ the King of glory **entered** in,/ declaring to those in **bonds**: "Go forth"// and to those in darkness: "**Show** yourselves."
3. **What** a mighty **wonder**;/ in His **love** for mankind,/ the Maker of things invisible suffered in the flesh and He Who was **immortal** rose./ Come and worship Him, ye kindreds of the **nations**;/ let us, delivered indeed from beguilement by His **compassion**,// learn to sing the praises of the only **God** in three **Persons**.
4. We **offer** up to Thee our evening **worship**,/ O uncreated light, who art to all **eternity**./ For through the flesh as **in** a glass,/ Thou hast shone upon the world, descending even **unto** hell,/ setting free those in **darkness** there/ and showing forth to the nations the light of the Resurre**ction**:// Glory unto Thee, O **Lord**, Giver of light.

Stichera for SS. Peter and Paul (Tone 2)

- 5-6. What garlands of praise shall we weave for **Peter** and Paul,/ who though parted in body were united in **spirit**,/ **and** were the foremost of divine **preachers**?/ The one truly led the **Apostles**,/ while the other labored more than **all** the rest./ Christ our God Who possesses great **mercy**,// most worthily crowns them with diadems of immortal **glory**.
- 7-8 With what songs of beauty shall we praise **Peter** and Paul,/ who on the wings of divine understanding have flown to all the **ends** of the earth,/ **and** have been exalted up to **heaven**,/ whose hands carried the grace of the Gospel, whose feet bore true **preaching**,/ who were rivers of wisdom and the **arms** of the Cross,/ by which Christ Who possesses great **mercy**// brought low the arrogant pride of the **demons**?
- 9-10 With what spiritual songs shall we praise Peter and Paul who slaughtered **godlessness**,/ and whose tongues never **lost** their edge;/ those **fearful** swords of the **spirit**;/ those outstanding ornaments of Rome, who nourished all the **inhabited** earth;/ those living tablets of the New Covenant **written** by God,// whom Christ in His great mercy has proclaimed in **Zion**.

Glory... (Tone 4)

Christ, with His three-fold question: 'Peter dost thou **love** Me?'/ set aright the three-fold **denial**./ And thus **Simon** was initiated into the **mysteries**./ 'O Lord, Thou dost know and **understand** all things,/ Thou knowest that I **love** Thee,' he said,/ and the Saviour replied: 'Feed My sheep, feed My **chosen** ones:/ Feed My lambs that by My **own** blood/ I have preserved unto **salvation**.'// O divinely blessed Apostle, pray Him to give us great **mercy**.

Both... Dogmatikon (Tone 5)

In **times** past,/ the image of the unwedded Bride was inscribed in the **Red** Sea:/ There **Moses** parted the **waters**;/ here, **Gabriel** was the servant of the **wonder**./ Then, Israel rode dry-shod **through** the deep;/ **while**, now, the Virgin hath without seed given **birth** to Christ./ After the **passing** of **Israel**,/ the sea was as ever **impassable**./ After the **birth** of **Emmanuel**,/ the **Virgin** without reproach, **remains** uncorrupt./ Thou, O God, Who art now, hast forever been and hast **appeared** as man, // have **mercy** upon us.

P. Wisdom. Aright!

C. O Joyful Light...

P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...

P. Wisdom!

R. The reading from the First Epistle of Saint Peter: (1:3-9)

Brethren, blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By His great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen Him you love Him; though you do not now see Him you believe in Him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls.

R. The reading from the First Epistle of Saint Peter: (1:13-19)

Beloved, gird up your mind, be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as He Who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you invoke as Father Him Who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

R. The reading from the First Epistle of Saint Peter: (2:11-24)

Beloved, I beseech you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against your soul. Maintain good contact among the Gentiles, so that, in case they speak against you as

wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. For it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God. Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the emperor. Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to the kind and gentle, but also to the overbearing. For one is approved if, mindful of God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it, if when you do wrong and are beaten for it you take it patiently? But if, when you do right and suffer for it, you take it patiently, you have God's approval. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on His lips. When He was reviled, He did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten; but He trusted to Him Who judges justly. He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.

P. Augmented Litany

R. Vouchsafe...

P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya (Tone 2)

Come today, ye fair and praising assembly of the **faithful**,/ as a choir weaving garlands of fitting praises for **Peter** and Paul,/ those **chosen** ones of grace, for, plentifully sowing the **Word** for all,/ they enriched all with the grace of the **Spirit**,/ and as branches of the True Vine, they harvested for us ripe grapes to **gladden** our hearts./ With candid faces and pure consciences, **let** us sing:/ Hail! ye ferrymen guiding those without reason, and serving the **reasoning**:/ Hail! ye pleasing ones chosen by the Maker and **Guardian** of all:/ Hail! advocates of the good, and prosecutors of the **deceitful**./ Let us pray to them ever to intercede with the Creator and **Teacher**,// to give constant peace to the world and to us great **mercy**.

Let us praise the preeminent Peter and Paul as intercessors for the whole world:/ the disciples of Christ and foundations of the Church,/ the pillars and ramparts of truth,/ the divine clarions of the teachings and sufferings of Christ./ For having travelled the breadth of the whole world,/ sowing the Faith as with a plough,/ they planted divine knowledge for all, revealing the word of the Trinity./ O Peter, thou rock and foundation!/ O Paul, thou chosen vessel!/ Yoked together by the bonds of Christ, they have drawn all to the knowledge of God./ Gentiles and Jews, cities and islands, they have led to Christ;// and they pray that our souls be saved.

O Peter, preeminent among the glorious apostles, rock of faith!/ O wondrous Paul, rhetor and luminary of the Holy Churches!/ Standing before the divine throne,// pray ye to Christ for us.

O blessed Paul, mouth of the Lord,/ foundation of doctrines,/ who wast once a persecutor of Jesus the Saviour,/ thou art now among the foremost

enthroned among the apostles./ Wherefore, thou hast seen ineffable things, O wise one,/ ascending even unto the third heaven, and didst cry aloud:// Come with me, and we shall not be deprived of good things!

(Tone 3)

The citizens of the heavenly Jerusalem,/ the rock of faith, the rhetor of the Church of Christ,/ the two servants of the Trinity,/ the fishers of the world:/ Having forsaken that which is here on earth/ and departed unto God with suffering,// beseech Him with boldness that our souls be saved.

Glory... (Tone 5)

O All-praised Apostles,/ ye are the fruitful vines that the **Wisdom** of God,/ **He** that **was** with God,/ the Word of the Father, foretold in the **Gospels**,/ and ye carried upon your branches the ripe, delicious grapes/ which are **sweet** to our taste when we, the faithful, eat them with enjoyment./ O **Peter**, thou **rock** of the Faith,/ and Paul, thou pride of the **whole** earth,// establish the flock ye have obtained by your **teachings**.

Both... (Tone 5)

All-hallowed **Virgin**,/ Thou art the **Temple** and the Gate,/ the **Palace** and the **Throne** of kings./ Christ the Lord Who is my deliverer,/ appeared through thee to those asleep in **darkness**,/ because **He**, the Sun of **Righteousness**,/ wished to give light to the **work** of His hands/ fashioned in His own **image**:/ as **thou** hast the boldness of a mother **towards** thy Son,// we entreat thee whom all men sing, beg Him to **save** our souls.

P. Litya prayers (*in the back of the Church*)

APOSTICHA: (Tone 5)

1. We **lift** up our **voices** in song/ to magnify Thee, O **Saviour**,/ Christ incarnate yet never parted from **heaven**,/ for **Thou** Lord Who **lovest** mankind,/ hast suffered the Cross and death for the **sake** of our kind/ and casting down the **gates** of hell,// Thou hast risen on the third day and thereby **saved** our souls.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious apparel.

2. O **Giver** of Life,/ Thy pierced side poured streams of **remission**,/ life and salvation upon us all./ By taking upon Thyself **death** in the flesh,/ Thou hast granted us **immortality**,/ and taking up Thy **abode** in the tomb,/ Thou hast set us **all** free,/ and as God Thou hast raised us up with Thee in **glory**./ Therefore, we **cry** aloud:// Glory unto Thee, O **Lord**, Who lovest mankind.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it cannot be moved.

3. O **Thou** Wh-o **lovest** mankind/ strange are Thy crucifixion and Thy **descent** into hell./ For after despoiling it, and raising up with Thyself as God in **glory**,/ those who were in times of old held **captive** there,/ Thou hast opened Paradise and vouchsafed that it let man **enter**./ Cleanse us, **therefore**, from sin,/ who glorify Thy Resurrection on the **third**

day/ and vouchsafe that we too may dwell in **Eden://** For Thou alone art **merciful**.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, forever.

4. O **Thou**, Who for our sakes hast accepted suffering **in** the flesh/ and hast risen on the third day **from** the dead,/ heal the passions **of** our flesh/ and raise us from our grievous iniquities and **save** us:// For Thou **alo-ne** lovest mankind.

Glory... (Tone 6)

A joyful feast has enlightened the ends of the **earth** today:/ the most sacred memorial of the wise Apostles and leaders, **Peter** and Paul,/ and therefore Rome, making glad, **rejoices**./ Let us also keep the feast, O **brethren**,/ in songs and hymns, as we celebrate this **holy** day./ Hail! Peter the Apostle, thou true friend of thy Teacher, **Christ** our God./ Hail! Paul, thou well-beloved herald of the Faith and teacher of the **whole** world./ O holy, chosen pair, since ye have **boldness**,// pray unto Christ our God, that our **souls** may be saved.

Both... My Maker and Deliverer, **Christ** the Lord,/ proceeded from thy womb, O All-pure **Virgin**,/ and clothing Himself in me set man free from the original curse of **Adam**./ Wherefore, All-pure **Virgin**,/ we rightly sing without ceasing to Thee as Mother of God and **Virgin**/ in the greeting of the **angel**:// Hail! Lady, defense and protection and **salvation** of our souls.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

C. Troparion of the Feast, (Tone 4)

Ye who are seated on the first thrones of the Apostles/ and are the teachers of all the inhabited earth,/ pray to the Master of all/ that He may give peace to the world// and great mercy to our souls.

P. Blessing of the loaves.

C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3

MATINS: Tone 5

P. Regular Beginning

P. Great Ectenia

C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 5) x2

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word/ co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit/ Born for our salvation from the Virgin,/ for He willed to be lifted upon the Cross in the flesh/ to endure death and to raise the dead/ by His glorious Resurrection.

Glory... Troparion of the Feast, (Tone 4)

Ye who are seated on the first thrones of the Apostles/ and are the teachers of all the inhabited earth,/ pray to the Master of all/ that He may give peace to the world// and great mercy to our souls.

Both... Theotokion (Tone 4)

The mystery hidden from all ages/ and unknown to the angels/ was made manifest to those on earth through Thee, O Theotokos:/ God took flesh in a union without confusion/ and for our sakes willingly accepted the Cross;/ and thereby He raised the **first** formed man// and saved our **souls** from death.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
Glory...

R. Now...
R. Kathisma II
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

We praise the Cross of the Lord, we honour His holy burial with hymns, and we greatly glorify His resurrection, for as God with Himself He raised the dead up from the graves, having captured the dominion of death and the might of the devil; and He shone light upon those in hades.

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

Declared to be dead, O Lord Who didst slay death, Thou wast laid in a tomb, O Thou Who emptied the graves. Above, soldiers kept guard over Thy sepulcher, while below Thou didst raise up the dead from ages past. O almighty and unapproachable Lord, glory be to Thee!

G/B... Rejoice! Thou impassable gateway of the Lord; Rejoice! Thou wall and protection of those who take refuge in Thee; Rejoice! Thou haven untroubled by storms; Rejoice! Thou who hast not known wedlock and who hast borne Thy Son and Maker and God in the flesh. Fail not in thy intercession on behalf of those who sing the praises of and worship thy Son.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

O Lord, after Thy resurrection on the third day and the worship of the apostles, Peter cried out to Thee: "The women showed courage, but I was afraid. The thief uttered theology, but I denied Thee. And dost Thou now call upon me to be Thine apostle still? Or wilt Thou show me again to be a fisher of the deep? Yet do Thou accept me, who repent, O God, and save me!"

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

O Lord, the iniquitous nailed Thee in the midst of condemned criminals, and pierced Thy side with a spear, O Merciful One! Thou didst accept burial, Who broke down the gates of hades, and didst rise again on the third day. The women hastened to behold Thee, and announced Thine arising to the apostles. O supremely exalted Saviour, Whom the angels hymn, O blessed Lord, glory be to Thee!

G/B... O Theotokos, unwedded Bride, who hast transformed the grief of Eve into joy, we, the faithful, hymn and bow down before thee, for thou hast led us out of the ancient curse. And now, pray thou unceasingly, O most hymned and all-holy one, that we be saved.

C. Polyeleos

P. Megalynarion

We magnify you,/ O Apostles of Christ,/ who have enlightened all the world// and brought all the ends of the earth to Christ.

V. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands.

We magnify you,/ O Apostles of Christ,/ who have enlightened all the world// and brought all the ends of the earth to Christ.

V. The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord.

We magnify you,/ O Apostles of Christ,/ who have enlightened all the world// and brought all the ends of the earth to Christ.

Proceed directly to the Evlogitaria

C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)

P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

The myrrh-bearing women, their minds dazzled by the sight of the angel and their souls enlightened by Thy divine Resurrection, preached the good tidings to the Apostles: "O spread among the nations the news of the Resurrection of the Lord, He, Who works wonders and grants us His great mercy."

Sessional Hymns for SS. Peter and Paul

Forsaking the deep sea where thou didst fish, thou didst receive the divine revelation of the incarnation of the Word from the Father in heaven, and didst cry out faithfully with boldness to thy Maker: I acknowledge Thee to be the Son, one in essence with the Father. Therefore thou wast truly and worthily shown to be the rock of faith, holding the keys of grace, Apostle Peter. Intercede with Christ our God to grant remission of sins to those who with love celebrate thy holy memory.

O ye faithful, as is meet, let us praise the most lauded Peter, the ally of Paul, the net of the world, the rock of the Church, in that he holdeth the keys of heaven: for the whole world hath been enlightened by

them with the Faith of the Trinity. Glory to Him Who hath glorified you! Glory to Him Who hath strengthened you! Glory to Him Who because of you hath given us everlasting life!

Having received the heavenly call from Christ, thou hast appeared as the herald of light enlightening all with the teachings of grace. For by thy writings thou hast blotted out the service of the law and thou hast illuminated the faithful with the knowledge of the Spirit. Therefore wast thou also counted worthy to be taken up into the third heaven and thou hast reached Paradise. Pray, Apostle Paul, to Christ our God, to grant remission of sins to those who celebrate with love thy holy memory.

With luminous radiance ye enlighten the ends of the earth like stars with the doctrines of holy preaching, O apostles of the Lord, initiates of the mysteries of heaven.

Glory... Let us praise Peter and Paul the all-wise, who appeared as the chief of the disciples, as great and radiant beacons. For shining with the fire of the divine spirit they burned up the mist of error. And they have been made worthy to become citizens of the Kingdom on high and to sit together on thrones of grace. Let us therefore cry out: O Apostles of Christ our God, ask remission of sins for those who celebrate with love your holy memory.

Both... As the immaculate Bride of the Creator, as the Mother of the Deliverer, who knewest not wedlock, as the vessel of the Comforter, O all-hymned one, haste thou to deliver me, who am the vile abode of iniquity and have become in mind the plaything of the demons, from their machinations; and make me the splendid habitation of the virtues, O radiant and incorrupt one, dispel from me the cloud of the passions, and vouchsafe unto me communion on high and the never-waning light, through thy supplications.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

When I am filled with sorrow, I sing unto Thee like David, O my Saviour: Deliver my soul from a lying tongue.

Blessed is the life of those in the wilderness, who soar aloft on wings of love divine.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit are sustained all things, visible and invisible; for, Himself possessed of dominion, He is truly One of the Trinity.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

Ascend into the mountain, O my soul and go thither from whence cometh our help.

Let Thy right hand, which toucheth me, O Christ, preserve me from all deception.

G/B... Theologizing concerning the Holy Spirit, let us say: Thou art God, Life, Love, Light and understanding! Thou art Goodness and Thou reignest forever!

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

Full of great Joy, I send up supplications for those who have said to me: Let us enter into the courts of the Lord.

Awesome things are wrought in the house of David; for there is found the fire which burneth up every shameful thought.

G/B... To the Holy Spirit, by Whom every living thing is made animate, is due the dignity of the Bestower of life, as to the Father and the Word.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 5)

Arise, O Lord, my God, let Thy hand be lifted high;/ for Thou shalt be King forever.

V. I will confess to Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #6

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...

Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Bringing battles to naught with His upraised arm,/ Christ hath overthrown horse and rider/ in the Red Sea,/ and hath saved Israel,// who chanteth a hymn of victory.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The thorny assembly of the Jews, devoid of maternal love for Thee, their Benefactor, O Christ, crowned Thee with thorns, Who lifted the thorny sentence of our first father.

Bending down, O Bestower of life, Thou raised me up who had fallen into the pit; and having endured my fetid corruption without partaking thereof, O Christ, Thou hast made me fragrant with the myrrh of the divine Essence.

Theotokion

The curse hath been annulled; grief hath ceased! For she who is blessed and full of grace hath shone joy forth upon the faithful, causing Christ to blossom forth as a blessing upon all the ends of the earth.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O all-pure one, entreat Christ, the Light Who abode within thee and illumineth the world with the rays of His divinity, that He enlighten all who hymn thee, O Virgin Mother.

As one adorned with the beauty of the virtues, O most pure one who art full of grace, through the effulgence of the Spirit thou didst receive the majesty of Him Who adorneth all things, and which createth beauty.

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

With divinely inspired songs let us hymn today the preeminent of the apostles as the first called of Christ.

Having foreknown thee, O most blessed Peter, the Pre-eternal One ordained thee from of old as the leader of His Church, the first-enthroned.

Neither flesh nor blood, but the Father inspired thee to theologize Christ as the true Son of God Most High, O apostle.

Theotokion

We hymn thee, the holy mountain, the most exalted chariot, the Mother of God and true Virgin.

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

When Christ called things into being out of non-existence, O most blessed Paul, He chose thee from thy mother's womb to carry before the nations His divine name, which is above every name; for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Declaring to thee the imminent outpouring of piety and the cleansing away of falsehood, O Paul, Christ, Who showed Himself to be as bright as lightning on the mountain, dimmed thy bodily eyes while enlightening the eyes of thy soul with the understanding of the Trinity: for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Glory... Performing circumcision on the eighth day, as a zealot of the traditions of thy fathers, O Paul, and showing thyself to be a law-bound pharisee, a Jew by birth, of the tribe of Benjamin, thou didst come to consider all such things as but dung, and didst acquire Christ: for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Both... O Mistress, pure Mother of almighty God, who sprang forth from royal stock and gavest birth in the flesh, in manner transcending nature, to God Who alone reigneth over all: Save me from misfortunes, who chant unto thy Son: For gloriously hast Thou been glorified!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

I shall open my mouth/ and the Spirit will **inspire** it,/ and **I** shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and **Mother**:/ I shall be seen radiantly **keeping** feast// and joyfully praising her **wonders**.

Canticle Three

Irmos: O Christ Who by Thy command fixed the earth upon naught/ and suspended its weight unsupported;/ establish Thou Thy Church/ upon the immovable rock of Thy commandments,// O Thou Who alone art good and lovest mankind.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

They who sucked honey from a rock when Thou didst work a miracle in the desert, O Christ, gave Thee gall to eat; the ungrateful children of Israel gave Thee vinegar in return for manna, repaying thus Thy benefactions.

They who of old were covered by the cloud of light placed Christ, our Life, in the tomb; yet He hath arisen through His own power and from on high hath given to all the faithful the effulgence of the Spirit, which mystically overshadoweth them.

Theotokion

Thou, O Mother of God, gavest birth without knowing union, and without the pangs of motherhood, unto Him Who shone forth from the incorrupt Father; wherefore, in Orthodox manner we proclaim thee the Theotokos, for thou gavest birth unto the incarnate Word.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O pure one, thou art now manifestly seen by all to be the ladder whereby the Most High hath descended unto us to set aright our nature, which had become corrupt; for through thee was the All-good One well pleased to enter into fellowship with the world.

The mystery which was ordained of old and foreseen before time began by God Who knoweth all things, hath now, in the latter days been made manifest, fulfilled in thy womb, O most immaculate one.

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

The sweet mouth of Christ God showed thee to be blessed and a sure treasure of the kingdom; wherefore, we hymn thee, O Apostle Peter.

On the rock of thy theology hath Jesus the Master established the Church unshakably, and therein we glorify thee, O Apostle Peter.

How greater than the angels was Peter in the body! For Christ God said that at His radiant coming he would be a judge and would be equally enthroned.

Theotokion

O thou who knewest not wedlock, who gavest birth unto God in the flesh: Render me steadfast and unshaken by the assaults of the passions, for we have none other helper than thee, O pure one.

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

Thou hast been set as a precious foundation stone for the souls of the faithful, a corner-stone of the Saviour and Lord.

O most blessed Paul, pray thou that on thy foundations the splendors of most laudable virtues may be set firmly.

Glory... Ever perfectly bearing the mortality of Jesus on thy body, O Paul, thou wast vouchsafed true life.

Both... Thee have we all of us Christians acquired as our rampart and refuge, and glorify thee without ceasing, O thou who knewest not wedlock.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O **M**other of God,/ thou living and **p**lentiful fount,/ give **s**trength to those united in spiritual **f**ellowship,/ who sing hymns of **p**raise to thee:/ And in thy divine **g**lory// vouchsafe unto them crowns of **g**lory.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion, (Tone 2)

Thou, O Lord, hast received into the enjoyment of Thy good things and into Thy rest,/ the steadfast preachers who spoke of God,/ the chiefs of Thy disciples,/ accepting their sufferings and death as greater than any holocaust,// O Thou Who alone knowest what is in the heart of men.

R. Ikos

Fill my tongue with light, O my Saviour, and having expanded my mouth and filled it, have pity on my heart, that I may speak, follow, and teach that which I first do: for Thou didst say that he who doeth and teacheth is great. For if I speak only, and do not act, I am accounted as sounding brass. Wherefore, grant that I may speak fitting things and do that which is profitable, O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of men.

R. Ypakoe

What jail did not have thee as its prisoner? and what church has not thee as orator? Damascus takes pride in thee, O Paul! For it saw thee falling before the light. Rome also boasts, for it received thy blood. But Tarsus rejoices yet more, and honours thy grave-clothes. Therefore, Apostle Paul, boast of the whole world, go before us and establish us.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Perceiving Thy divine condescension prophetically, O Christ,/ Habakkuk cried out to Thee with trembling:/ Thou art come for the salvation of Thy people,// to save thine anointed ones!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Good One, with a tree Thou didst sweeten the bitter waters of Marah, prefiguring Thine all-precious Cross, which doeth away with the taste of sin.

O my Saviour, Thou didst receive a Cross in exchange for the tree of knowledge and gall for sweet food, and thou didst pour forth Thy divine blood for the corruption of death.

Theotokion

Without physical joining thou didst incorruptibly conceive within thy womb, and gavest birth without pain; and having given birth unto God in the flesh, thou wast preserved a virgin even after birthgiving.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

With heart and mind, with soul and mouth I most piously confess thee to be the true Theotokos, O pure one; and laying hold of the fruit of salvation, I am saved by thy supplications, O Virgin.

He Who created all things out of nothingness was well-pleased, as our Benefactor, to be formed of thee, O pure one, for the salvation of those who with faith and love hymn thee, O most immaculate one.

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

As He promised, Christ made thee a divine fisher of men for His Church, entrusting its helm to thee first.

Entreated by thee, O Peter, may Jesus, the Bestower of life, Who gaveth thee the authority to bind and to loose, be merciful unto me.

Pray thou earnestly, O Peter, that the kingdom of Christ be opened unto those who honour thy divine memory with unwavering faith.

Theotokion

O most hymned Lady Theotokos, having cleansed away mine evil thoughts by thy supplications, show me forth as fruitful, O Mother of the God of all.

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

Once Saul crouched like a lion, wrathfully destroying the Church of Christ; but he was seized by the divine voice of the Lamb of God, Whom he had persecuted, and Who entrusted His flock to him as shepherd.

He who would enlighten the whole world was struck blind; but Ananias was sent to him, imparting unto him enlightenment of soul and body through divine revelation, and showing him to be a chosen vessel.

Glory... As is meet, Damascus is given drink by Paul; for from him, as from the garden of paradise, a great well-spring of divine waters once issued forth and irrigated the whole earth abundantly with knowledge divine.

Both... The Lord hath cast down the mighty from their thrones, as the Virgin Mother said, and with divine good things hath filled the hungry, who cry aloud with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

He Who sits in glory upon the throne of the **Godhead**,/ Jesus the **true** God,/ is **come** in a **swift** cloud,/ and with His pure hand He has saved **those** who cry:// Glory to Thy **power**, O Lord.

Canticle Five

Irmos: O Thou Who art clothed in light as with a garment:/ I rise at dawn unto Thee, and to Thee do I cry:/ Enlighten Thou my gloom-enshrouded soul, O Christ,// in that Thou alone art compassionate!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Of His own will the Lord of glory hangeth ignominiously upon the Tree in inglorious form, ineffably taking thought of divine glory for me.

Having tasted of the corruption of death in the flesh without suffering corruption, O Christ, Thou didst clothe me in incorruption, having shone forth from the tomb on the third day.

Theotokion

Having seedlessly given birth for us to Christ, our righteousness and deliverance, O Theotokos, thou didst rid the nature of our first father of the curse.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

All the prophets manifestly proclaimed thee beforehand as the one to become the Mother of God, O pure Theotokos; for thou alone, O pure and immaculate one, wast found to be perfect.

O pure one, we recognize thee as the radiant cloud of the Water of life, which raineth Christ, the Torrent of incorruption, upon us, the despairing.

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

He Who through love received boldness before God hath fittingly become wondrous, though he was an ignorant fisherman, and he now worketh all-glorious wonders through grace.

Thy godly apostle, O Christ, having acquired neither gold nor silver for Thy sake, but rather virtue, hath been enriched by the power of miracles.

By thine effective word the feet and joints of the lame were set aright, for all-glorious things were accomplished by the divine Spirit.

Theotokion

God became incarnate, O pure one, hypostatically united to the flesh He received from thee, yet remaining immutable, incorporeal in His divine nature.

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

Thou didst choose true praise, O Apostle Paul, ever bearing the Cross of Christ the King as a trophy.

For thee to live is Christ, and to die is an excellent acquisition; for through love thou wast crucified with Him Who was crucified for our sake, O all-glorious Paul.

Glory... Thou truly rejoicest in the Lord, O honourable Paul, having departed from the body and passed over to Christ God, the Bestower of life.

Both... Ever beseech thy Son and our God, O pure Mary who knewest not wedlock, that He send forth His mercy upon us, the faithful.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The whole **world** was amazed at thy divine **glory**,/ for **thou**, O Virgin who hast not known **wedlock**,/ hast **held** in thy womb the **God** of all,/ and hast given birth to an **eternal** Son,// Who rewards with salvation all who sing thy **praises**.

Canticle Six

Irmos: O Christ Master,/ still Thou the sea of the passions/ which rageth with a soul-destroying tempest,/ and lead me up from corruption,// in that Thou art compassionate.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The progenitor of our race stumbled headlong into corruption, having tasted of the forbidden food, O Christ our Master; but he hath been led up to life, through Thy suffering.

Thou, O our Life, didst go down into hades, and having become corruption for the corrupter, O Christ our Master, Thou didst pour forth resurrection through corruption.

Theotokion

The Virgin gave birth, and having given birth hath remained pure. The Virgin Mother hath truly borne in her arms Him Who holdeth all things.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

When He Who is the cause of all, and Who hath brought all into being, became incarnate, He had thee as His human cause, O most immaculate Mother of God.

O most immaculate Mistress, we know thee to be a soul-nurturing wellspring pouring forth healings upon those who with faith have recourse unto thy right glorious protection.

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

As of old with Thy right hand Thou didst save Peter who walked on foot upon the waters, O Christ, so do Thou save me, who am drowning amid the storm of cruel perils, in that Thou art full of loving-kindness.

Thou didst forsake things which were not essential, O Peter, and didst attain unto those things which are essential; and as a certain merchant thou didst manifestly search for Christ: the Pearl beyond price.

O Peter, thou didst slay those who mindlessly strove to tempt the all-holy Spirit, Whom before thou hadst theologized, openly confessing Him as God, O most blessed one.

Theotokion

Thou gavest birth for us to the incarnate Word of God Who transcendeth all nature; wherefore, with lips and soul we profess thee to be the Theotokos.

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

Spurning all the beautiful things of the world, thou wast wounded by the love of the Master and by desire for the common salvation of man, wishing to bear witness unto Him, O blessed Paul. Pray thou now in behalf of the whole world.

As an excellent emulator of the Master, clothed in Him, O Paul, thou wast truly all things to all men, that thou mightest acquire and save all the people, and pursuing the ends of the world for Christ, thou didst truly save them.

Glory... As is meet Christ hath given thee life in the heavens, O Apostle Paul; For thou didst not desire a city which abideth here, O blessed one, but wast a faithful minister and celebrant of His mysteries.

Both... The Lord looked down upon thee, restoring my nature, in that He is mighty; and doing mighty works, O most immaculate one, through thee my God hath saved me from corruption, in that He is full of loving-kindness.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

As we **celebrate**/ this sacred and solemn feast of the **Mother** of God,/ **let** us come, **clapping** our hands,/ O people **of** the Lord,/ and give **glory** to God// Who was **born** of her.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion (Tone 5)

Thou didst descend into hell, O my Saviour,/ shattering its gates as Almighty;/ resurrecting the dead as Creator/ and destroying the sting of death,/ Thou hast delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,// and we all cry to Thee, O Lord, save us.

R. Ikos

When the women heard the words of the angel, they put aside their lamentation, and full of joy and trembling they gazed in awe. And, lo! Christ drew nigh to them, saying: "Rejoice! Be of good cheer! I have vanquished the world and freed the captives! Make haste, therefore, to My disciples, telling them that I go before you to preach in the city of Galilee." Wherefore, we all cry out to Thee: Save us, O Lord!

Canticle Seven

Irmos: The supremely exalted Lord of our fathers/ quenched the flame and bedewed the children,/ who sang together:// Blessed art Thou, O God.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Clad in flesh like bait on a hook, by Thy divine power thou didst draw the serpent down, leading up those who cry: Blessed art Thou, O God!

The Infinite One, Who brought the immense structure of the earth into being, in the flesh is covered in the tomb. Unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Theotokion

O most immaculate one, thou gavest birth to the incarnate God, one Hypostasis in two natures, unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Together we glorify thee, the most immaculate Bride and throne of thy Creator, O Mistress Theotokos. And unto Him do we all chant: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Having been purified by the Spirit, O Virgin, thou becamest the Mother of the King of all, Who had created thee. Unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

Chastised by the divine providence of Christ, thou wast permitted to emulate the Merciful One, O Peter, that thy distress over denying Him before His suffering might be assuaged.

Having risen from the dead, Christ appeared to thee, the first-called and exceeding beloved, as the right glorious one who was first to preside over the apostles.

The Master, healing thy threefold denial before His suffering, O Peter, confirmed His love by a threefold divinely uttered question.

Thou didst call the all-seeing God the Word as witness to thy love for Christ, O Peter; wherefore, He entrusted the beloved flock to thee.

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

He who in latter times was called and surpassed all others in zeal became the seal and crown of Thine apostles, O Christ. With him the people of the Church chant unto thee: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Even though Paul the prisoner first persecuted Thy Church, O Christ, yet did he later replace his former ferocity with zeal for Thee; and he hath gathered together the nations, who chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Glory... Caught up in awe, thou didst attain unto the third heaven, O thou who art all-rich; and hearing ineffable words, thou didst cry aloud: Glory to the transcendent Father and the Son, and to the equally-enthroned effulgence of the Spirit of God Who trieth the depths!

Both... Like rain upon the fleece did Christ God descend upon thee, O Virgin, and He issued forth from thee in the flesh, uniting those things that before were separate, and granting peace on earth and in heaven. O God of our fathers, blessed are Thou!

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Holy** Children bravely trampled upon the **threatening** fire,/ preferring not to worship created things rather than the Creator,/ and they **sang** in joy:/ 'Blessed art Thou and **praised** above all,// O Lord God of our **fathers.**'

Canticle Eight

Irmos: The children, forming a universal chorus in the furnace,/ chanted to Thee, the Creator of all:/ Hymn the Lord, all ye works,// and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst pray concerning Thy voluntary and saving passion as though it were a cup which Thou didst not desire; for Thou bearest two wills, according to each of Thy two natures, O Christ, forever.

At Thine all-accomplishing descent, O Christ, hades, mocked, spewed forth all whom it had lured by deceit into death from of old, and they exalt Thee supremely for all ages.

Theotokion

All of us, the works of the Lord, bless and supremely exalt thee for all ages, as her who, in manner past understanding, gave birth to the Lord as God and man at the word of the archangel, and doth remain a virgin.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The grief of the forefathers ceased when thou didst receive joy, O Mother of God; wherefore, we unceasingly hymn thee, O Virgin, and exalt thee supremely for all ages.

The Lord of all, the limpid Stream of immortality, hath issued forth from thee, O Maiden, washing away the defilement of those who with faith hymn and exalt thee supremely for all ages.

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

"They shall stretch forth thine arms and bind thee to a cross," the Master foretold, commanding thee to follow Him; and thou criest aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Working wonders, by the word of grace thou didst heal Aeneus who was grievously paralyzed, and didst raise up Tabitha from the dead; and they cried: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

O Christ Who announced unto Peter that the nations were cleansed, by spiritual radiance purify my thoughts, for I cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion

O most holy Virgin who gavest birth to God the Word in the flesh, driving the darkness away from my soul by thy supplications, illumine me who cry: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

Paul was bound to Thee by Thy love and underwent a goodly change; for the glorious one lived not for himself, O Compassionate One, but had Thee living within him forever.

Thou didst betroth the Church unto Christ, presenting it to Him as a bride; for thou wast shown to be its wedding-escort, O God-bearing Paul. Wherefore, it glorifieth thee for all ages.

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

Thou didst fight the good fight, and finishing thy race lawfully, thou didst preserve the treasure of the Faith. Wherefore, thou hast been vouchsafed crowns of righteousness, O Paul.

Both... Rejoice, O fiery throne of the Lord! Rejoice, O Virgin, unwedded Bride! Rejoice, cloud who shone forth the Sun of righteousness, Whom we exalt supremely for all ages!

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Off**spring of the Theotokos/ saved the holy Children in the **furnace**./ **He** Who was then prefigured has since been **born** on earth,/ and He gathers together all the creation to sing:/ O all ye **works** of the Lord,// bless ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: Rejoice, O Isaiah!/ The Virgin hath conceived in her womb/ and borne a Son, Immanuel,/ both God and man./ Orient is His name;// and magnifying Him, we call the Virgin blessed.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst take up fallen man, O Christ, through the Virgin's womb uniting Thyself wholly unto him without partaking of the least sin; and by Thine all-pure sufferings Thou didst free him wholly from corruption.

By the divinely flowing blood poured forth from Thine all-pure and life-creating side, O Christ our Master, the sacrifices of the idols were brought to an end, and the whole earth offereth Thee the sacrifice of praise.

Theotokion

It is not the incorporeal God nor a simple man whom the pure and undefiled Maiden brought forth, but a perfect Man and the truly perfect God. Him do we magnify with the Father and the Spirit.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

By thy pure blood was flesh with mind and soul supernaturally formed for the Creator of all, the only-begotten Son of the Father, O Ever-virgin Theotokos, not by man, but seedlessly.

In giving birth in the flesh truly unto Life eternal, in manner past understanding, thou didst cause the encircling and unrestrained siege of death to cease. And hades, striking against Him with its bitter maw, was abolished, O all-holy Virgin Mother

Holy Apostle Peter, pray to God for us.

Thine excellent grace is rightly glorified, for thy very shadow dispelleth the sufferings of the sick, O Peter; wherefore, we magnify thee.

Blessed is Peter, who with ineffable divine power cast down Simon Magus, who through sorcery had soared aloft into the air.

By thy supplications grant remission of offenses, enlightenment of heart and gladness of spirit unto those who hymn thy memory, O apostle.

O Peter, all thy words, relics and dust are full of glory, sanctity and miracles for those who with faith bow down with love before thy divine chains.

Holy Apostle Paul, pray to God for us.

We bow down before thy chains, which thou didst bear for Christ like a malefactor, O Paul, and we kiss the wounds which thou didst bear on thy glorious and victorious body.

Now thou hast departed unto Him Whom thou didst unceasingly desire, O apostle; and dwelling with him as a servant, with unceasing entreaties draw thou thy servants to thyself.

Glory... No longer is Christ visible to thee in shadows or in a reflection, but thou dost gaze upon Him face to face, and He perfectly revealeth to thee the understanding of the Godhead.

Both... O all-holy Mother of God, thou wast the boast of the apostles of Christ, the glory of the martyrs and the foundation of the prophets: wherefore, we all magnify thee as is meet.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Let every mortal **born** on earth, / radiant with light, in spirit **leap** for joy; / and **let** the hosts of the angelic powers **celebrate** / and honour the holy feast of the **Mother** of God, / and **let** them cry: // Hail! Pure and blessed ever-Virgin, who gavest **birth** to God.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Six (Luke 24:36-53)

Showing that Thou art man in essence, O Saviour, Thou hast risen from the tomb. And Thou hast partaken of food and hast stood in their midst to preach repentance. And Thou hast straightway ascended to the Father and promised to send the disciples the Comforter.

Glory... Exapostilarion for the Holy Apostles

Let us hymn the leaders of all the Apostles, the divine Peter and Paul, the beacons of the whole earth, the heralds of the Faith, the trumpets speaking of God, the revealers of doctrine, the pillars of the Church, the destroyers of evil.

Both... Theotokion

The Maker of the creation and God of all, has taken mortal flesh from thine undefiled blood, O all-holy Virgin. And my nature corrupt throughout has He made new, leaving thee the same after as before childbirth. Therefore we all praise thee with faith crying: Rejoice! Queen of the World.

C. Lauds: Tone 5 Stichera

Let every bre-ath **praise** the Lord/
 Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
Praise Him in the **highest**/
 To **Thee** is due a **hymn**, O God/
 Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**;/
Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts.//
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.

Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
 Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,

The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,

The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,

Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,

Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.

Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.

The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,

To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to all His saints.

1. After the tomb was sealed by the evildoers,/ Thou, Lord, didst proceed from it,/ just as Thou didst come forth from the **Virgin**./ Thy bodiless angels had no knowledge of the manner of Thine Incarnation:/ Neither were the watch who guarded Thee aware of the moment of Thy Resurrection./ For both the one and the other were concealed from those who **questioned** these things,/ but were made manifest as miracles to those who acclaimed with faith the **Mystery**./ Grant us, who praise it, **joy** and great **mercy**.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His power.

2. After **breaking** the **eternal** chains/ and bursting the bonds **asunder**./ Thou didst rise, O **Lord**, from the tomb,/ leaving Thy grave clothes behind Thee as **witness**/ to Thy having been truly buried for **three** days;/ and Thou, Who wast in the cave with a guard watching **over** Thee/ didst go forward into **Galilee**./ Great is Thy mercy, O incomprehensible **Saviour**:// Have **mercy** upon us.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

3. The **women**, O Lord, hastened **to** the tomb,/ so as to see Thee, O Christ, Who **suffered** for us,/ and when they reached it they found an angel seated upon the stone,/ who cried out to them, as they started **back** with dread:/ The Lord is risen, tell the **disciples**// that He is risen from the dead, **saving** our souls.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

4. As **Thou** didst go forth from the **sealed** tomb,/ so didst Thou, O Lord, enter when the **doors** were closed/ and stand in the midst of Thy disciples/ showing them the marks of Thy Passion, O long-suffering **Saviour**./ Born of the seed of David, having **endured** the stripes,/ Thou as Son of God hast set the **world** free./ Great is Thy mercy, O ineffable Lord:// Have **mercy** upon us.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with strings and flute.

Stichera for SS. Peter and Paul (Tone 4)

5. When the **Saviour** questioned the disciples, He spoke to the Apostles, twelve in number, **saying**:/ Who do men **say** that I am?/ Then **Peter**, the foremost of Christ's disciples, receiving grace from **heaven**./ divinely proclaimed, crying aloud: 'Thou art Christ the Son of the **living** God.'/ therefore he is rightly called blessed for having received a revelation **from** on high// and he justly received the right to **bind** and loose.

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

6. **Thou** wast called from on high and **not** by men,/ when the darkness of the earth obscured thy bodily eyes, rendering manifest the gloom of impiety;/ then heavenly light irradiated the eyes of thy mind revealing the beauty of piety./ Therefore thou didst come to know **Christ** our God/ Who brought light out of **darkness://** Pray to Him to save and enlighten our souls.

V. Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world

7. **Thou** wast rightly called the rock upon which the **Lord** made fast/ the unshakable faith of the Church and He appointed thee the chief shepherd of the **rational** sheep./ Thereupon He entrusted thee with the keys of the heavenly gates,/ and being good, He ordered thee to open them to all who approach with faith./ Therefore thou wast counted duly worthy to be crucified like thy **Master.//** Pray Him to save and enlighten our souls.

V. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament proclaimeth the work of His hands

(Tone 6)

8. The most honoured feast of the apostles hath arrived for the **Church** of Christ,/ bringing salvation unto us all./ Wherefore, mystically plaiting hymns for them, **let** us say:/ Rejoice, O lamps unto those who are in **darkness,**/ shedding forth rays of the noetic Sun!/ Rejoice, O Peter and Paul, ye unshakable foundations of the divine **doctrines,**/ friends of Christ, precious **vessels!**/ Come ye into our midst, vouchsafing immaterial gifts// unto those who praise your **feast** with hymns.

Glory... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 6)

Thou, O Christ, art **peace** indeed/ Who givest the peace of **God** to men,/ and after the Resurrection, Thou hast shown terrible things to the disciples/ who supposed they saw a **spirit.**/ But Thou hast calmed the tumult of their souls,/ by showing them Thine **hands** and feet./ To those who nevertheless still **disbelieved,**/ Thou hast opened their minds to understand the **Scriptures**/ by partaking food with them and reminding them of Thy **teachings.**/ And having assured them of the promise of the **Father,**/ and having blessed them, Thou hast gone away to **heaven.//** With them we therefore worship Thee, glory to **Thee,** O Lord.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captiv**e,/ Adam recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

The Great Doxology
Dismissal Tropar:

Today is salvation come unto the world; let us sing to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He hath given us the victory and great mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

R. Hours
Tropar: Resurrection & Apostles
Kontak: Apostles/Resurrection alternating

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:
Tropar Sunday
Tropar SS Peter & Paul
Kontak Sunday
Glory... Kontak SS Peter & Paul
Both... Protection of Christians

Prokimenon for Tone 5

Thou, O Lord, shalt keep us and shalt preserve us from this generation and for evermore.

V. Save me, O Lord, for a righteous man there is no more.

Prokimenon for SS Peter & Paul

Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world

Epistle(s): Rom 12:6-14 & IICor 11:21-12:9

Alleluia for Tone 5

V. Of Thy mercies, O Lord, will I sing forever; unto generation and generation will I declare Thy truth with my mouth.

V. For Thou hast said: Mercy shall be built up for ever; in the heavens shall Thy truth be established.

Alleluia for SS Peter & Paul (Tone 1)

Gospel(s): Matt 9:1-8 & Matt 16:13-19

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & Their sound hath gone forth into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world