

*30<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Sunday of the Holy Fathers*

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 Resurrection./ Thou hast saved us from the **gates** of death.// Thou, O only-begotten Son, we **glorify** Thee.
2. He Who granted mankind the Resurrection/ 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 Resurrection:// Glory unto Thee, O **Lord**, Giver of light.
5. **Let** us glorify Christ, the author of our **salvation**,/ for by His rising **from** the dead/ the world is saved from **beguilement**;/ the choir of angels rejoices, the error of demons **takes** flight;// fallen Adam is raised; the **devil** is laid low.
6. The guards were thus instructed by the **evildoers**:/ Keep hid the Resurrection of Christ;/ take the pieces of **silver** and say:/ As we were sleeping, the body was stolen **from** the tomb./ Who has ever heard or seen that a **body**,/ especially a body anointed **and** unclothed,/ was stolen from a tomb and the grave clothes left **lying**?/ Be not led **astray**, O Jews./ Get to know the sayings of the prophets, and **come** to believe// that He verily is the Redeemer of the world and the **Almighty**.

Stichera for the Holy Fathers (Tone 6)

- 7/8. Unto the **ends** of the earth/ hath the memory of the forefathers been **manifest**/ as truly filled with light and shining with **rays** of grace;/ for Christ, the radiant Sun, shining from **afar** on high,/ doth lead forth an assembly of stars which **shineth** with Him,/ and in the midst of Bethlehem a nativity is shown to be that of **God** and man./ Therefore, piously **clapping** our hands,// with faith let us all join chorus to utter pre-festive praise unto His **nativity**.

9. Rejoicing today,/ Adam is adorned with the glory of divine communion,/ as the foundation and confirmation of the wise forefathers;/ and with him Abel doth leap for joy/ and Enoch is glad, and Seth danceth together with Noah;/ the all-praised Abraham doth chant with the patriarchs,/ and from on high Melchizedek doth behold a birth wherein a father had no part./ Wherefore, celebrating the divine memory of the forefathers of Christ,// we beseech Him, that our souls be saved.
10. With gladness hath the assembly of the divinely wise children in the furnace shone forth,/ and it proclaimeth the nativity of Christ on earth;/ for the Lord, descending like a precious dew,/ doth preserve unconsumed her that gaveth Him birth,/ doth keep her undefiled and doth enrich her with divine gifts./ Wherefore, the God-pleasing Daniel rejoiceth in gladness,/ for he hath clearly foreseen the Stone uncut from the mountain,// and with boldness doth he now pray in behalf of our souls.

Glory... (Tone 6)

Daniel, the man of divine desires,/ seeing Thee, the Stone uncut by human hands,/ O Lord, prophetically called Thee a babe born without seed,/ the Word incarnate of the Virgin, the immaculate God,// the Saviour of our souls.

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!

Readings for the Fathers

- R. The reading from Genesis (14:14-20)

And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

- R. The reading from Deuteronomy (4:8-20)

And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day? Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the Lord thy God in Horeb, when the Lord said unto me, Gather Me the people together, and I will make them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children. And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. And the Lord spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice. And He declared unto you His covenant, which He commanded you to perform, even ten commandments; and He wrote them upon two tablets of stone. And the Lord commanded me at that time to teach you statutes and judgments, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go over to possess it. Take ye therefore good heed unto yourselves; for ye saw no manner of similitude on the day that the Lord spake unto you in Horeb out of the midst of the fire: Lest ye corrupt yourselves, and make you a graven image, the similitude of any figure, the likeness of male or female, the likeness of any beast that is on the earth, the likeness of any winged fowl that flieth in the air, the likeness of any thing that creepeth on the ground, the likeness of any fish that is in the waters beneath the earth: And lest thou lift up thine eyes unto heaven, and when thou seest the sun, and the moon, and the stars, even all the host of heaven, shouldest be driven to worship them, and serve them, which the Lord thy God hath divided unto all nations under the whole heaven. But the Lord hath taken you, and brought you forth out of the iron furnace, even out of Egypt, to be unto Him a people of inheritance, as ye are this day.

R. The reading from Deuteronomy (10:14-21)

In those days, Moses said to the children of Israel: Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that therein is. Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave, and swear by His name. He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.

P. Augmented Litany

R. Vouchsafe...

P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

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 2)

Rejoice, ye honourable **prophets** / who dedicated yourselves well to the **Law** of the Lord, / and by **faith** revealed yourselves as unshaken and unbreakable **pillars** of Christ; / and, having passed on to **heaven**, // ye beseech Him to grant peace to the world and to **save** our souls.

Both... (Tone 2)

Here is a new wonder greater than all the **miracles** of old, / for who has ever known a mother bear a child without the **help** of man?, / and hold in her arms Him Who encompasseth the whole creation? / It was the will of God to be **born** and thou, / O all-pure Virgin, hast carried Him, an **infant** in thine arms. / The boldness of a mother is **therefore** thine. / Do thou then pray to Him without ceasing for us who **honour** thee, // and entreat Him to save our souls and have mercy **upon** us.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 2) x1

Great are the accomplishments of faith! / In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water, / the three holy children rejoiced; / and the prophet Daniel was shown to be a shepherd of lions, as of sheep. // By their prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3  
 Psalm 33:1-10

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 Fathers (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith!/ In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water,/ the three holy children rejoiced;/ and the prophet Daniel was shown to be a shepherd of lions, as of sheep.// By their prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

Both... (Tone 2)

Thy **m**ystery, O Mother of God, is most glorious and passeth all understanding,/ for stamped with the seal of purity and thy virginity inviolate,/ thou art **a**cknowledged without doubt to be the Mother who indeed hast given birth to the **t**ru**e** God.// Do thou **b**ese**e**ch Him to **s**ave our souls.

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  
 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."

R. Sessional Hymns to the Fathers

With hymns let us all praise Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the meek David, Joshua, and the twelve patriarchs, together with the three youths that quenched the fiery flame with the power of the Spirit. And let us cry out to them: Rejoice, ye that bravely denounced the deception of the mad king! Pray ye to Christ, that He grant remission of offenses unto them that celebrate your holy memory with love.

G/B... Like the widow who gave two mites as an offering, I offer thee the praise of thanksgiving which is thy due, O Mistress, for all thy gifts; for thou art shown to be a shelter and aid, ever rescuing me from temptations and tribulations. Wherefore, delivered from those who afflict me, as from the midst of a burning furnace, I cry out to thee with all my heart: O Theotokos, help me by entreating Christ God to grant me remission of transgressions, for I, thy servant, have thee as my hope.

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 #8

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.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

To Him alone Who of His own will was nailed to the Cross in the flesh and freed him who through the tree fell under the ancient condemnation, let us chant, for He hath been glorified.

To Christ alone, Who raised up the dead man from the tomb, Who resurrected the fallen one with Himself, and adorned him by sitting with the Father, let us chant, for He hath been glorified.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

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.

Prefiguring thee on Sinai of old, the bush which was united with fire was not consumed; for as virgin thou gavest birth and remained a virgin still, in manner past understanding, O Virgin Mother.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Today the assembly of the divine fathers doth radiantly celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ, and most glorious grace doth prefigure it, for Abraham and the children of the Law are an image thereof.

Of old the sacred Abraham received One of the three Persons of the Godhead, and now the Word of the Father, Who is equally enthroned with Him, doth, through the divine Spirit, come to the children, He Who is gloriously praised.

The children that cast down godlessness in the furnace are in number and faith images of the divine Trinity, and they have revealed to the world the hidden mysteries of God.

Glory... Abraham delivered from the hands of the unrighteous, and the divine youths and Daniel the prophet were once saved from the flame of the furnace and from the den of wild beasts. Wherefore, we now celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ.

Both... O joyous and unwedded Mother, incorrupt Virgin, we bless thee, for thou didst blossom forth from the generation of Abraham and the tribe of David, and gavest birth unto Christ, Who of old was foretold by the prophets.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)



Christ is born, glorify Him./ Christ is from heaven receive Him./  
 Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up./ Sing unto the Lord, all the earth./  
 And praise Him with joy, ye people; // For He hath glorified Himself.

### 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.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst arise from the tomb, O Christ, delivering from the  
 corruption of death those who hymn Thy voluntary crucifixion, O Bestower of  
 life.

The myrrh-bearing women strove to anoint Thy body with myrrh, O Christ;  
 but not finding it, they turned back, hymning Thine arising.

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 Fathers, pray to God for us!

Faithfully preserving the glory of the image and likeness of God, with  
 the fire of the Spirit the children, as champions, extinguished the fire of  
 the golden image, chanting: We know but one Lord!

The captive children, clothed with the wisdom and power of the Spirit, put to shame the wise men of Babylon and boldly cried out: None is holy save Thee, O Lord, Lover of mankind!

Glory... The law doth rejoice and joineth chorus with the children and the prophets and doth exult today before the divine advent of the Lord. And Abraham doth rejoice, for from his seed hath the incarnate Lord appeared.

Both... A conception without pain, an acceptance of thy birthgiving hath transpired in manner beyond recounting, O Theotokos, for the Word of God, Who is God and was proclaimed by the prophets, hath shown Himself to be a mystery beyond nature.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

To the Son Who was begotten of the Father/ without change before all ages,/ and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin,/ to Christ our God let us cry aloud:// Thou hast raised up our horn, holy art Thou, O Lord.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Ypakoe (Tone 8)

An **Angel** bedewed the children in the **furnace**,/ and hath now put an end to the lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women, **saying**:/ Why bring ye myrrh? Whom seek ye **in** the tomb?/ Christ God is **risen**,// for He is the life and salvation of the **human** race!

#### 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.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

When the Cross was planted in the ground on Golgotha, the everlasting bars were shattered; and the gatekeepers cried out: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

When as One dead the Saviour descended unto those bound, he raised up with Himself those who had died in times past; and they cried aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

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.

Isaiah called thee the staff from whence Christ God, the beautiful Flower, budded forth for us, unto the salvation of those who with faith and love have recourse to thy protection.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let us honour Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the firstfruits of the fathers, for from their seed hath Christ shone forth incarnate of the Virgin, in that He is almighty.

Indicating the coming events of the descent of Christ unto all, Daniel clearly showed forth lions as sheep, for, as a prophet of God, he foresaw the future.

Glory... Not attracted by the poison of sin, O children, ye were delivered from the flame; for, being of wisdom more pure than gold, ye were not melted in the furnace of deception.

Both... O honoured and all-pure one, thine Offspring, Who surpasseth nature, is proclaimed aloud to be the expectation of the nations and the salvation of the world. And today the multitude of the fathers doth hymn Him.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A rod from the root of Jesse/ and blossom therefrom, O Christ,/ Thou didst spring forth from the Virgin;/ from the mountain overshadowed and densely wooded hast Thou come,/ incarnate of her who knew not man,/ O Thou praised and immaterial God.// 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.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

By Thy burial Thou didst capture hades, O my Saviour, and by Thy resurrection Thou hast filled all with joy.

Rising from the tomb on the third day, O Bestower of life, Thou didst pour forth imperishable immortality upon all.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

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.

God Who dwelt within thee, in that He alone is compassionate, loved thee with a pure love, as the one who, good, immaculate and sealed with virginity, was close to Him.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let us honour today the divine Daniel, of the race of Abraham, the firstfruit of the fathers, as a leader of the Law and of grace; for, as a prophet of God, he foretold the advent of Christ from the Virgin and goeth forth to meet His divine nativity.

Clearly prefiguring through the Angel's descent the coming of the Lord unto us, the children of Abraham extinguished the furnace; and, rendering the flame dewy with their faith, they consumed the splendor of the golden image therein.

Glory... Through the Spirit, Daniel closed the mouths of the wild beasts in the pit; and, through grace, the children of Abraham quenched the strength of the fire. And, saved from corruption, they proclaim Christ Who is born of the Virgin, entreating Him as the Deliverer of our salvation.

Both... Revealing through the divine Spirit Thy painless assumption of our nature, and keeping vigil in the Law of grace, O Lord, Isaiah cried out: From the race of Abraham and the tribe of Judah doth a Virgin come, giving birth in the flesh without seed.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

God of peace, the Father of mercies,/ Thou hast sent unto us an Angel of Thy great council,/ Who giveth us peace./ Therefore having been led unto the light of godly wisdom,/ waking early from the night// we do sing praises of Thee, O Lover of mankind.

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.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst stretch forth Thine arms, gathering together through Thy Life-bearing Cross the assemblies of Thy nations scattered afar, O Christ our God, in that Thou lovest mankind.

Thou madest death captive and didst break down the gates of hades; and bound Adam, released from his bonds, cried out to Thee: Thy right hand hath saved me, O Lord!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

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.

For us didst thou give birth unto the Bestower of life, the Author of salvation, Who giveth everlasting deliverance unto us who confess thee to be the true Theotokos.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Hospitable was the nature and exalted was the faith of Abraham the forefather. Wherefore, receiving in image the divine mystery, he rejoiced, and, running before Christ, he now maketh merry.

The faith of the youths now holdeth creation subject by the gift of the Creator, for the all-devouring and shameless fire stood in awe of them that honour Jesus Christ, the Creator of fire.

Glory... Daniel the prophet, once closing the mouths of the lions in the pit, showed in godly manner that through the coming of Christ the savagery of the world is in harmony with divine peace.

Both... O Mary, Mother who knewest not man, from a virgin womb didst thou give birth unto Christ, Whom the prophets beheld in the Spirit; and the fathers who begot Him now join chorus before His nativity.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The sea monster spat forth Jonah/ as it had received him, like a babe from the womb;/ while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh,/ came forth from her yet kept her uncorrupt./ For being Himself not subject to decay,// He preserved His Mother free from harm.

## P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Fathers (Tone 6)

O thrice-blessed ones, who did not honour an image wrought by hands,/ but were defended by the indescribable Essence, ye were glorified in your ordeal by fire;/ and, standing in the midst of unbearable flame,/ ye called upon God, saying: Make speed and hast Thou to help us, O Compassionate One, in that Thou art merciful;// for what Thou willest, Thou canst do!

R. Ikos of the Fathers

Stretch forth Thy hand whereby of old the warring Egyptians and the embattled Hebrews were tested. Forsake us not, lest death, which thirsteth after us, swallow us up; and spare our souls, as Thou once didst spare Thy three children in Babylon, who glorified Thee unceasingly and were cast for Thy sake into a furnace, from whence they cried out to Thee: Make speed and haste Thou to help us, O Compassionate One, in that Thou art merciful; for what Thou willest, Thou canst do!

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!

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Blessed is the God of our fathers, Who by the Tree of the Cross abolished the deception of the idols.

O Christ, Thou blessed God of our fathers, by Thy death Thou didst destroy the dominion of death.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

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!

Having clothed Himself in flesh through thee, O all-pure Mother of God, the Lord saved me. Unto Him do we all sing: Blessed art Thou, O God!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

O father Abraham, founder of thy race, having begotten Christ in the flesh, thou art clearly revealed by the Spirit as the father of nations, unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

The hymn of the inspired ones hath put to shame them that utter soulless noises, for the youths, bodily trampling down unharmed the furnace which burned with fire, chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Glory... Of old, the prophet Daniel, gazing with spiritual vision, revealed the second coming of Christ, and he foretelleth the dreadful things which shall come to pass therein, crying out: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Both... O strange wonder, known among the prophets and revealed of old to the fathers: a pure Virgin is come, wishing to give birth unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The youths who were brought up together in godliness,/ despising the command of the unrighteous infidel,/ were not terrified by the threatening fire,/ but standing in the midst of the flames they did sing:// O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

### 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.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Christ God, Who of His own will stretched forth His hands upon the Cross and destroyed the bonds of death, do ye hymn, O ye priests! Ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Christ God, Who shone forth from the tomb like a bridegroom, and appeared to the myrrh-bearing women, and proclaimed joy unto them, do ye hymn, O ye priests! Ye people, exalt Him supremely for all ages!

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.

O Virgin, we confess thee to be the truly divine and Light-bearing throne and the tablets of grace, in that thou didst receive within thee the Word of the Father; and we exalt Him supremely for all ages.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Prefiguring Thy sacrifice, O Christ, Abraham, obedient to Thee, O Master, went forth with faith, wishing to sacrifice on the mountain the son whom he had begotten; but he returned with him, rejoicing and glorifying and exalting above all Thee, the Deliverer of the world.

When Thou didst clothe Thyself in ever-blazing flame as in a divine robe, O Christ, thou didst utterly extinguish the fire for the three holy children, and by Thy descent the dew hath cried out unto them that chant: Ye priests hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

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

The prophet Daniel is given to the lions as an unjust trial, but, through the precept of abstinence, in his piety he had the wild beasts as fellow fasters in the depths of the pit. Through his prayers and those of Abraham and the children, save them that hymn Thee in the world, O Christ!

Both... The voices of the prophets faithfully proclaimed Him as Jesus Immanuel, Who cometh in human form, God and man; and the Virgin Mary, without having known man, giveth birth in the city of Bethlehem unto a Son, the co-unoriginate Word, through the Holy Spirit.

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

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The furnace moist with dew/ was the image and figure of a wonder past nature./ For it burnt not the Children whom it had received,/ even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which it had descended./ Therefore in praise let us sing:// Let the whole creation bless 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.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

In Orthodox manner we, the faithful, magnify Thee, Who didst undertake to suffer upon the Cross and broke the power of hades by Thy death.

In oneness of mind we, the faithful, magnify Thee, Who arose from the tomb on the third day, made hades captive, and hast enlightened the world.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

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

Past understanding is thy birthgiving, O Mother of God; for thou didst conceive within thee without knowing man, and thy birthgiving was virginal, in that it is God Who was born of thee. And magnifying Him, we bless thee, O Virgin.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Celebrating the feast of the fathers that were before the law, let us honour Christ, Who, in godly manner, is begotten of them in the flesh; for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who, through faith, are proclaimers of the Spirit and grace, are shown to be the foundation of the prophets and the law.

God, Who by the fire in the bush showed to Moses the godly mystery in manner past understanding, having descended into the fire for the children, showed the flame of the furnace to be dew through the fire of the Essence of His divinity.

Glory... The all-holy children, assembling with Abraham, and Daniel, the wondrous prophet of God, Isaac and Jacob, with Moses and Aaron, faithfully join chorus before the nativity of Christ, praying unceasingly that we be saved.

Both... All of creation doth rejoice in thy birthgiving, O Virgin, for Bethlehem hath opened Eden unto us. And, lo! delighting in the Tree of Life, we all earnestly cry out in faith: Thou hast fulfilled our prayers, O Mistress!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A **strange** and most wonderful mystery do I **see**; / the cave is **heaven**; / the **Virgin** the throne of the **cherubim**; / the manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can **contain**, is laid. // Him do we praise and **magnify**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Eight (John 20:11-18)

Seeing two angels inside the tomb, Mary was struck with wonder and not knowing Christ, she asked Him supposing Him to be the gardener: 'Where O Lord, hast thou laid the body of my Jesus?' And recognizing by His call that He was the Saviour Himself, she heard: 'Touch me not; tell the brethren I go to my Father.'

Glory... Exapostilarion of the Fathers

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the elect of the patriarchs, the fathers before the Law, have shone forth like beacons, for all the prophets and the righteous shone forth from them like radiant lamps. With rays of honourable prophecy have they illumined all creation; and they earnestly pray to God in behalf of the world.

Both... Theotokion of the Fathers

Wondrous hath this been! The unblemished ewe-lamb, the granddaughter of Adam and David, giveth birth unto the Lamb, the all-unoriginate Word, in the latter days, as is meet. The forefeast of her ineffable birthgiving doth the multitude of the fathers celebrate fittingly.

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

Stichera for the Fathers (Tone 5)

5/6. **Lift** up thy voice, O **Zion**,/ thou truly divine **city**,/ and **proclaim** the divine memory of the **fathers**,/ honouring **Abraham**, Isaac and the ever-memorable **Jacob**;/ for, lo! we all magnify Judah and Levi, the great **Moses**/ **and** the wondrous Aaron, and we honour David, Joshua and **Samuel**./ And **weaving** divine hymns into **godly** praise/ on the forefeast of Christ's **nativity**,/ we **ask** that we receive **grace** from Him,// and that He grant the **world** great mercy.

V. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages!

7. O-o **Elijah**,/ who once rode upon a divine **chariot** of fire,/ come thou **forth**, and thou, O divinely wise **Elisha**;/ and **joining** with Ezekiel and **Hosea**, rejoice!/ O ye honoured and divinely inspired twelve **prophets**,/ join **chorus**, and all ye **righteous**,/ **chant** in hymns unto the **nativity** of Christ;/ ye most blessed youths that quenched the flame of the furnace with the dew of the **Spirit**,/ entreat **Christ** in **our** behalf,// that He send down upon our **souls** great mercy.

V. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

8. The **Virgin** Theotokos,/ she who through the ages hath been **preached** on earth/ by the **prophets** in their **utterances**,/ **she** whom the wise patriarchs and the assemblies of the **righteous** proclaim,/ with whom the comeliness of women joineth **chorus**:/ **Sarah**, Rebecca, Rachel and **Hannah**,/ **together** with the glorious Miriam, the sister of **Moses**./ With them all the ends of the **world** rejoice/ and all creation rendereth **honour**,/ for the Creator and God of all cometh to be **born** in the flesh// and to **grant** us great **mercy**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

The **compilation** of the **teachings** of the Law/ doth reveal the divine birth of **Christ** in the flesh/ as being from them that, **before** the Law,/ proclaimed the glad tidings of grace to them that lived **beyond** the Law./ Wherefore, in that this birth is the means of deliverance from **corruption**,/

for the sake of the resurrection they declared to the souls held fast in Hades:// O Lord, **glory** be to Thee!

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captive**,/ 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

C. G/B... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 8)

The **tears** of Mary are not warmly **shed** in vain./ For behold, she was held worthy of the angels' **teaching**/ and vouchsafed the sight of Thee, **Thyself**, O Christ./ But again her thoughts were earthly thoughts as those of a weak **woman**./ Therefore she was dismissed and told not to **touch** Thee, O Christ./ But she was also sent as herald to the **disciples**,/ and she affirmed to them the good tidings proclaiming the Ascension to the portion of the **Father**./ With her do Thou also make us worthy of Thy manifestation, O **Master** and Lord.

R. Hours:  
Tropar: Resurrection & Fathers  
Kontak: Fathers

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:

Tropar Sunday  
Tropar Fathers  
G/B... Kontak Fathers

Prokimenon for the Fathers (Tone 4)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers,/ and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages!

V. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

Epistle(s): Heb 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40

Alleluia for the Fathers (Tone 4)

V. O God, with our ears have we heard, for our fathers have told us.

V. For Thou hast saved us from those who afflict us, and those who hate us hast Thou put to shame.

Gospel(s): Matt 1:1-25

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & Rejoice in the Lord...