

GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, MARCH 02, 2024: TONE 6

SUNDAY OF THE PRODIGAL SON

MARTYRS EUTROPIOS, KLEONIKOS, AND BASILIKOS OF
AMASEA; HIEROMARTYR THEODORETOS OF ANTIOCH

AT “O LORD, I HAVE CRIED”

For the Resurrection

Tone 6

Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.

O Christ, Possessor of victory over Hades, Thou hast ascended the Cross that Thou mightest raise with Thee those who sit in darkness. O Free among the dead, overflowing with life from Thine own light. O Almighty Savior, have mercy upon us.

Verse 9. The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.

Today hath Christ trodden down death, and hath risen as He said. He hath given joy to the world that we might all shout in praise, O Fountain of life, O unapproachable Light, and Almighty Savior, have mercy upon us.

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

O Lord, Who art in all creation, whither shall we sinners flee from Thee? To heaven? For Thou dwellest there; or to Hades? For there Thou art the Trampler over death, or to the depths of the sea? For there is Thy hand, O Master. In Thee, therefore, seek we refuge, and Thee do we worship beseechingly; O Thou who didst rise from the dead, have mercy upon us.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

In Thy Cross, O Christ do we glory, and Thy Resurrection do we praise and glorify; for Thou art our God, and beside Thee we know no other.

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

The Lord we bless always, and praise His Resurrection; for in submitting to crucifixion for our sakes, He hath shattered death by Death.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Glory to Thy might, O Lord; for Thou hast put a stop to the possessor of the might of death, and hast renewed us by Thy Cross, bestowing on us life and incorruptibility.

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

Thy Burial, O Lord, hath torn and crushed the bonds of Hades; and Thy Resurrection from the dead did illuminate the world. Wherefore, O Lord, glory to Thee.

For the Prodigal Son in Tone One

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

I have been entrusted with a verdant and faultless region, but I planted evil in its soil and reaped its ears with the scythe of laziness. And I gathered my deeds into sheaves but placed them not on the threshing-floor of repentance. Wherefore, I ask Thee, O divine Husbandman, to winnow the straw of my deeds with the breeze of Thy compassionate love; and fill my soul with the wheat of forgiveness. Store me in Thy heavenly garners and save me.

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.

I have been entrusted with ... (repeat above)

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Our way, O brethren, is to know the power of this mystery; for when the prodigal son ran away from sin, hastening to that fatherly refuge, his all-good father welcomed him and kissed him, granting him signs of glory. He celebrated the mystical joy to the celestial ones when he killed the fatted calf, that we might conduct ourselves becomingly toward the One Who offers sacrifice, the Father and Lover of mankind, and to the sacrificed One, the glorious Savior of our souls.

Doxasticon for the Prodigal Son

Tone 2

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Of what goodly things have I, wretched one, denied myself. And from what sovereignty have I, luckless one, fallen. I have squandered the riches that were given to me, and transgressed the commandment. Woe to thee, wretched soul, when thou shalt be condemned to eternal fire. Wherefore, before the end, cry to Christ God: God receive me as the prodigal son, and have mercy upon me.

Theotokion for the Resurrection

Tone 6

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Who shall not beatify thee, most holy Virgin? Who shall not praise thy birth-giving, free of travailing and pain? For the only Son rising timelessly from the Father, Himself did become incarnate from thee in an inexplicable way. He, Who while God by nature, became for our sakes Man by nature, not divided into two persons, but known by two natures without mixture or confusion. To Him, O noble and most blessed one, plead for the salvation of our souls.

O GLADSOME LIGHT

O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Now that we have come to the setting of

the sun, and behold the light of evening, we praise God: The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For meet it is at all times to worship thee with voices of praise, O Son of God and Giver of life; therefore, all the world doth glorify Thee.

EVENING PROKEIMENON

Saturday Prokeimenon

Tone 6

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (ONCE)

Verse 1. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. (Refrain)

Verse 2. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved. (Refrain)

AT THE APOSTICHA

Aposticha for the Resurrection

Tone 6

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior, the angels in Heaven praise. Make us, who also are on earth, worthy to praise Thee with a pure heart.

Verse 1. The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength.

Thou hast demolished the brazen gates of Hades and crushed its bars; for Thou art an Almighty God, and didst raise fallen mankind. Wherefore, do we cry to Thee in unison, O Thou who didst rise from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 2. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

Christ God, when He wished to raise us from the old fall, was nailed on the Cross and placed in a grave. He it was Whom the ointment-bearing women did seek, wailing with tears, and saying: Woe to us, Savior of all, how didst Thou consent to occupy a grave? And after Thy lying therein willingly, how wast Thou stolen? How wast Thou removed? And what place screened Thy life-bearing body? Yea, appear to us, O Lord, as Thou didst promise us, and put a stop to the shedding of tears. And as they wailed, behold an angel shouted to them, saying, Cease wailing, and say to the Apostles that the Lord is risen, granting the world forgiveness and Great Mercy.

Verse 3. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

O Christ God, Thou wast crucified as Thou willed, Thou ledest death captive, and arose in glory on the third day, for Thou art God, granting the world eternal life and Great Mercy.

Doxasticon for the Prodigal Son

Tone 6

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Having squandered the riches of the fatherly gift, I, wretched one, grazed with the dumb beasts. I desired their food and hungered; for I had not

enough. Wherefore, I shall return to the compassionate Father, crying with tears: Receive me as one of Thy servants, as I kneel to Thy love for mankind, and save me.

Theotokion for the Resurrection

Tone 6

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most pure one, when Christ the Lord, my Creator and Savior, came forth from thy womb, putting me on, He did free Adam from the ancient curse. Wherefore, O most pure one, since thou art the Theotokos and a Virgin in truth, we shout to thee untiringly with the angels, saying: Rejoice, Lady, O thou who art the helper, the cover, and the salvation of our souls.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

DISMISSAL HYMNS

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Tone 6

When Mary stood at Thy grave, looking for Thy sacred body, angelic powers shone above Thy revered tomb; and the soldiers who were to keep guard became as dead men. Thou led Hades captive and wast not tempted thereby. Thou didst meet the Virgin and didst give life to the world, O Thou, Who art risen from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Resurrectional Theotokion

Tone 6

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

Thou Who didst call Thy Mother blessed of Thine own good will and didst come to Thy passion shining radiantly upon the Cross, desiring to recall Adam and saying unto the angels: Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece of silver which was lost. O our God, Who with wisdom hast ordered all things, glory to Thee.