

**GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024:  
TONE 8 | SUNDAY OF FORGIVENESS (CHEESE FARE)**

VENERABLE ALEXIOS THE 'MAN OF GOD,' PATRICK, BISHOP OF  
ARMAGH AND ENLIGHTENER OF IRELAND

**AT "O LORD, I HAVE CRIED"**

**For the Resurrection**

*Tone 8*

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

Evening praise and spoken worship do we offer Thee, O Christ; for Thou didst consent to have mercy upon us by Thy Resurrection.

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

O Lord, O Lord, cast us not from before Thy face, but consent to have mercy upon us by Thy Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Zion, mother of the churches, the abode of God; for thou didst first receive forgiveness of sins by His Resurrection.

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

Verily, the Word, born of the Father before the ages, hath Himself been incarnate in the last times by His own will, of one who knowest not wedlock. He did suffer crucifixion and death; and by His Resurrection He hath saved man dead of old.

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

Let us glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ, by which Thou didst free the race of Adam from the usurpation of Hades. And since Thou art God, Thou hast granted the world eternal life and the Great Mercy.

*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 Thee, O Christ Savior, only Son of God, Who wast nailed upon the Cross, and Who didst rise from the tomb on the third day.

For Sunday of Forgiveness in Tone 6 (\*\*Having laid up all their hope\*\*)

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

After taking me as dust \* out of the earth, my Creator \* and my Lord, with quick'ning breath, \* made me live, gave me a soul, \* and he honored me \* as the prince of all things \* visible upon earth, \* with a life that rivalled Angel-kind. \* But Satan, full of guile, \* making of the serpent his instrument, \* enticed me with the bait of food, \* rent me from the glory of God therewith, \* and through nethermost death, \* he gave me back again unto the earth. \* But as the Master and merciful, \* do Thou call me back again.

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

That divinely-woven robe, \* I stripped clean off, disobeying \* Thy divine command, O Lord, \* through the counsel of the foe, \* wretched as I am. \* And now I have been clothed \* all about with fig leaves \* and with coats of skin, and am condemned \* in the sweat of my face \* here to eat the bread of my wearied toil. \* The earth doth bring forth unto me \* thorns and thistles, having been cursed through me. \* Thou Who, of a Virgin \* becamest flesh for us in these last times, \* call me again and conduct me back \* into blessed Paradise.

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

O most honored Paradise, \* thou fairest summit of beauty, \* God-created dwelling-place, \* never-ceasing joy of heart, \* glory of the just; \* gladness that hath no end, \* sweet delight of prophets, \* habitation of the saints of God, \* with the sound of thy leaves \* pray to the Creator of all for me, \* to open up to me the gates \* that I by transgression closed up before, \* that I be deemed worthy \* of full partaking of the Tree of Life \* and of the joy I delighted in \* in thee in the days of old.

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

For his disobedience, \* aforetime Adam was banished\* from sweet Paradise and cast \* from delight, being deceived \* by the woman's words; \* he sat opposite that place, \* naked and lamenting \* and bewailed his sorrow: Woe is me! \* Let us then all with zeal \* welcome this whole time of the holy fast, \* obeying the traditions of \* the all-holy Gospels without reproach, \* that through them becoming \* well pleasing unto Christ, we might again \* receive the dwelling in Paradise \* in that place of all delight.

### **Doxasticon for Sunday of Forgiveness**

*Tone 6*

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

Verily, Adam sat opposite paradise bewailing his nakedness and crying, Woe is me, the robbed one, who hearkened to the evil deception, and was driven away from glory. Woe is me, who through simplicity of heart became naked, and am now perplexed. Wherefore, O paradise, I shall no more attain thy bliss, nor behold my Lord, my God, and my Creator; for I shall return to the earth from which I was taken, and I shall cry to Thee, O compassionate One, have mercy upon me who am fallen.

### **Theotokion for the Resurrection**

*Tone 8*

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

Verily, the King of heaven, for His love to mankind, did appear on earth; and with men did He deal; for He took unto Himself a body from the pure Virgin. And from her did He issue in the adopted body, He being one Son, dual in Nature, not dual in Person. Wherefore, do we confess, preaching

the truth that Christ our God is perfect God and perfect Man. Therefore, O Mother who hast no groom, beseech thou Him to have mercy upon 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 8*

Thou didst ascend the Cross, O Jesus, Who didst descend from heaven. Thou didst come to death, O Life that dieth not, and to those who are in darkness, O true Light, and to the fallen, O Resurrection of all. Wherefore, O our Light and Savior, glory to Thee.

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

Let us glorify Christ risen from the dead; for He did take unto Himself a soul and a body; and He separated one from the other in the Passion, when His pure soul went down to Hades which He led captive; and the holy body saw no corruption in the grave, the body of the Redeemer, Savior of our souls.

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

With psalms and with songs of praise, O Christ, do we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, by which Thou didst deliver us from the rebellion of Hades. And since Thou art God, Thou didst grant us eternal life and the Great Mercy.

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

O Lord of all, O incomprehensible One; O Maker of heaven and earth, when Thou didst suffer in Thy Passion on the Cross, Thou didst pour out for me passionlessness; and when Thou didst submit to burial and didst rise in glory, Thou didst raise Adam with Thee by a mighty hand. Wherefore, glory to Thy third-day Resurrection by which Thou didst grant us eternal life and forgiveness of sins; for Thou alone art compassionate.

## **Doxasticon for Sunday of Forgiveness**

*Tone 6*

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

Verily, Adam for eating was driven from paradise. Wherefore, he sat opposite thereto, wailing and mourning in a pitiful voice, saying: Woe is me; what hath befallen me, wretched man? I transgressed one commandment of my Lord and was denied all kinds of good things. Wherefore, O most-holy paradise, which for me wast planted, and for the sake of Eve was closed, implore Him Who made thee that I may contemplate the flowers of thy gardens. Therefore, the Savior cried out to him, saying: I desire not the loss of My creation, but that it be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth; for he that cometh to Me, I shall not cast out.

## **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 8*

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

#### **Resurrectional Theotokion**

*Tone 8*

*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 for our sake wast born of a Virgin, and didst suffer crucifixion, O good One, and didst despoil death through death, and as God didst reveal resurrection. Despise not those whom Thou hast created with Thine own hand, show forth Thy love for mankind, O merciful One. Accept the intercessions of Thy mother, the Theotokos, for us, and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.