THE OFFICE OF VESPERS

Great Vespers is served every Saturday evening and on any other evening when the Menaion or Pentecostarion appoints Old or New Testament lessons at Vespers. Daily Vespers is served outside of Lent when there are no Old or New Testament lessons at Vespers in the Menaion or Pentecostarion. This document can be used for both services, noting the rubrical instructions throughout.

Priest: Blessed is our God always, now and ever and unto ages of ages. <<Senior layman: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.>>

Reader: Amen. Glory to Thee, our God, glory to Thee.

O Heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of truth, Who art everywhere and fillest all things; Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (thrice)

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

O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (thrice)

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

Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

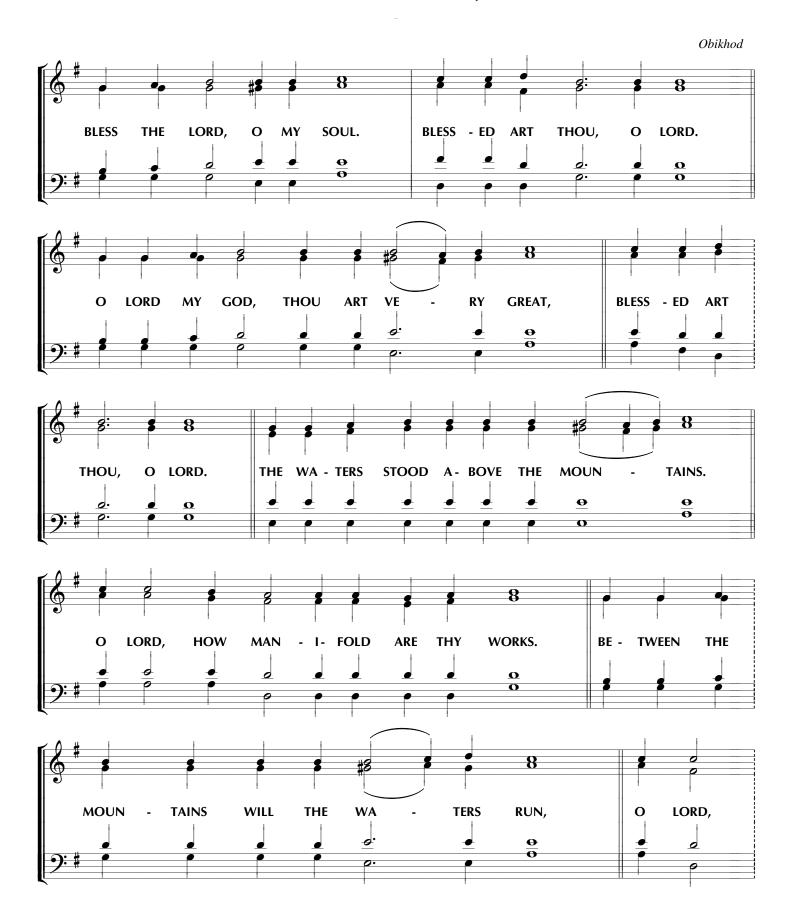
<<Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.>>

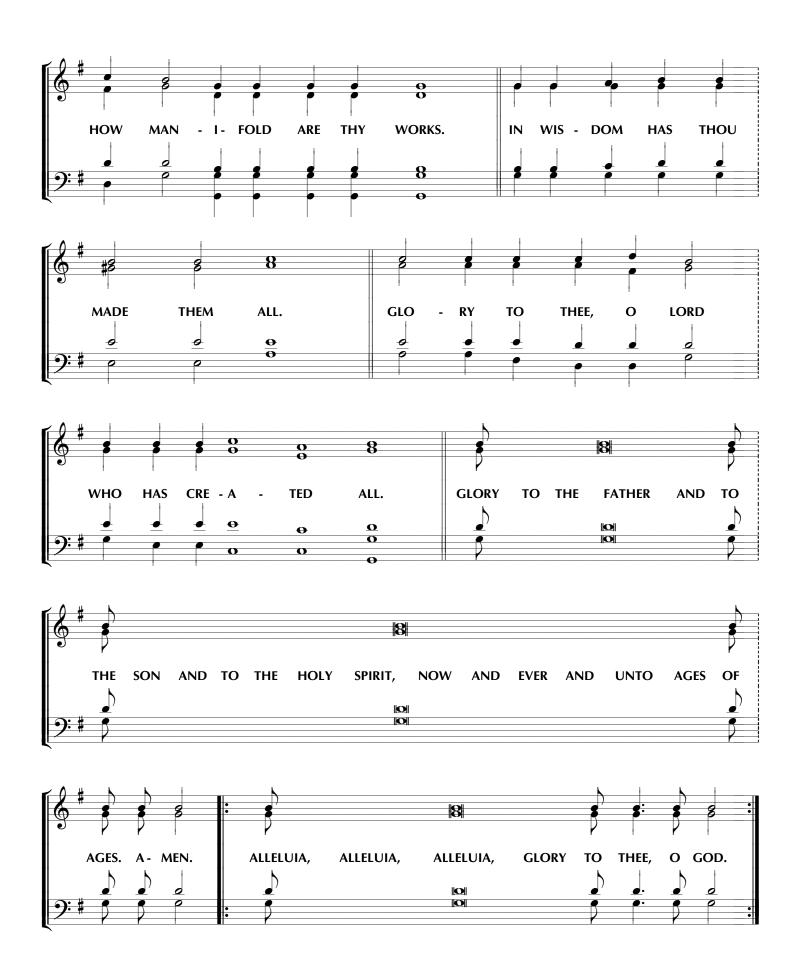
Reader: Amen. Lord, have mercy. (12x)

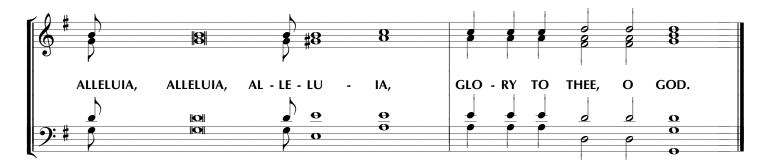
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God. Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God.

BLESS THE LORD, O My SOOL







<<Lord, have mercy. 12x Glory... both now...>><<pre>proceed to Blessed is the Man>>
When the reader has finished the psalm, the deacon (or priest) begins the Great Litany:
Deacon (Priest): In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Ry. Lord, have mercy. (after each petition)

For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. \mathbb{R} .

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. \mathbb{R} .

For our Metropolitan N., for our Bishop [or Archbishop] N., for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. \mathbb{R} .

For this country, its President, for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. R

For this city,² for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord. \mathbb{R} .

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. R





For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. R. [2]

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord. \mathbb{R} [1]

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace. R. [2]

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

₹ To Thee, O Lord.

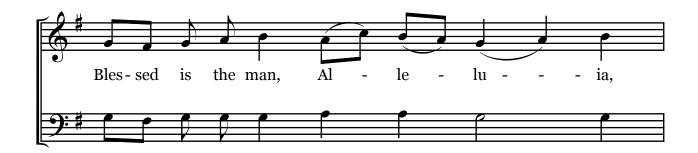
Priest: For unto Thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

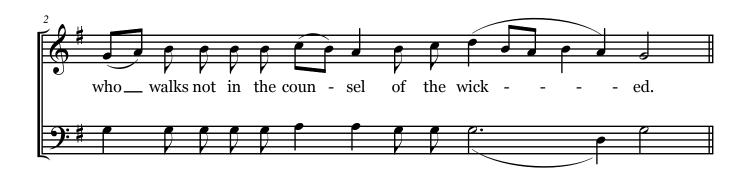
R. Amen.

Blessed is the Man

#1C

Tikhonovsky Chant based on Znamenny Chant





REFRAIN:





St. Tikhon's Monastery





<<Lord, have mercy. 3x Glory... both now...>><<pre>proceed to Lord I Call>>
At the conclusion of the kathisma, the deacon (or priest) says the Little Litany:

Deacon (Priest): Again and again in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

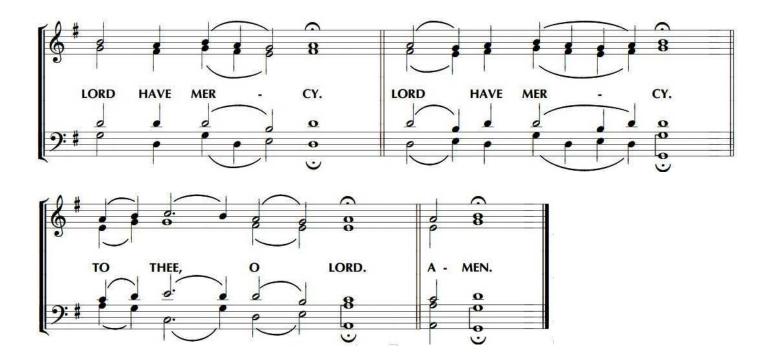
Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

R. To Thee, O Lord.

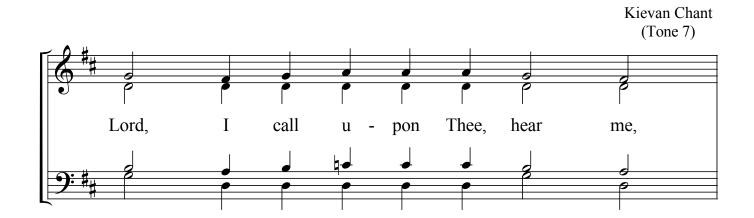
Priest: For Thine is the might, and Thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

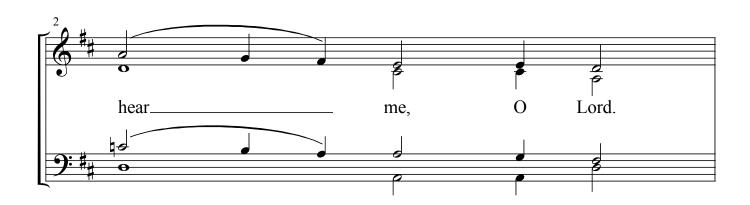
R. Amen.

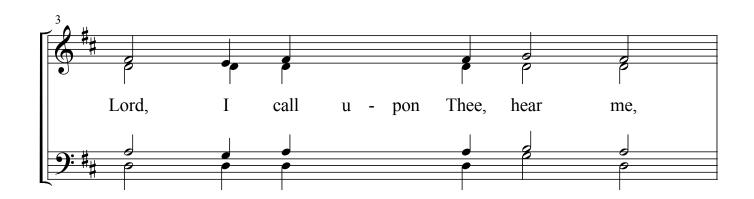
And the choir begins Lord, I Call... in the appropriate tone (the tone of the first sticheron):

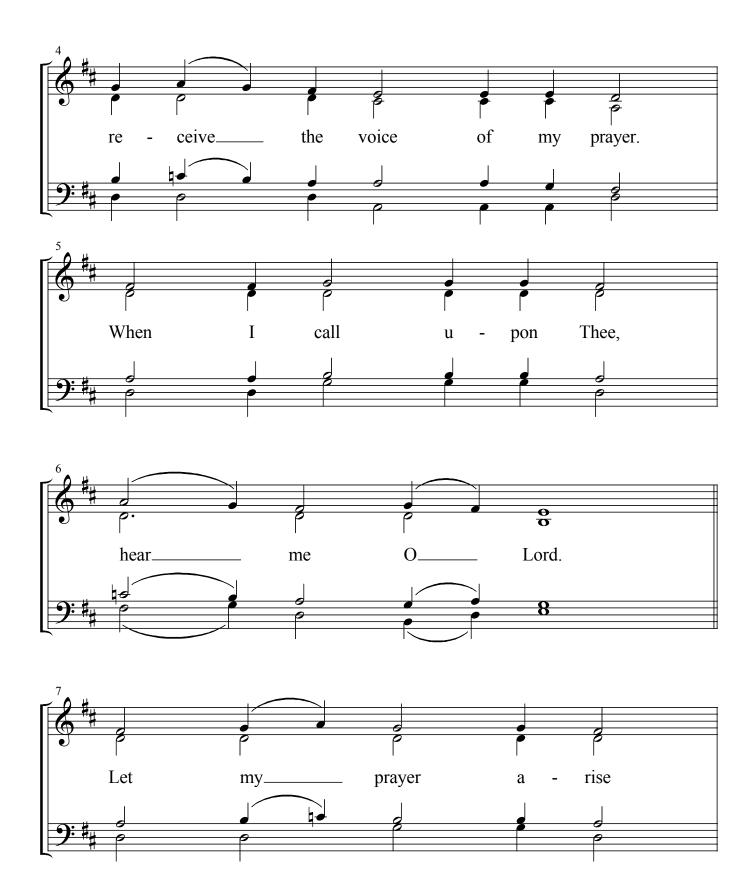


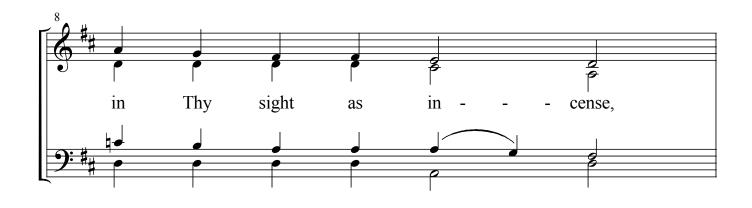
Lord I Call upon Thee -- Tone 7

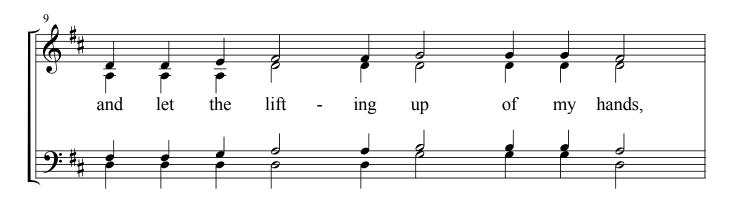


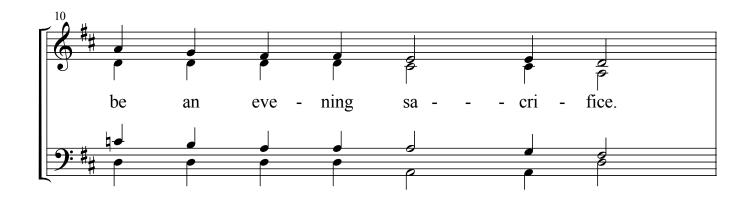


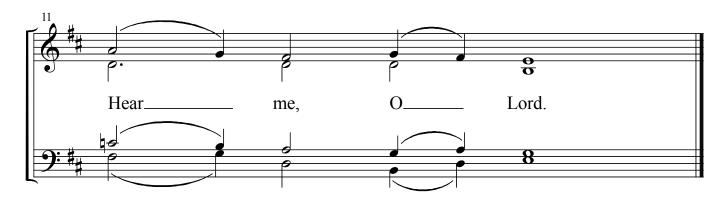












The READER continues:

- * Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips!
- * Incline not my heart to any evil, to busy myself with wicked deeds
- * in company with men who work iniquity; and I will not join their chosen ones!
- * Let a good man strike or rebuke me in mercy, but let the oil of the wicked never anoint my head;
- * for my prayer is continually against their evil deeds. When they are given over to those who shall condemn them, then my words will be heard.
- * As a rock which one cleaves and shatters on the land, so shall their bones be strewn near hell.
- * But my eyes are toward thee, O Lord; Lord, in thee I seek refuge. Do not take away my soul.
- * Keep me from the trap which they have laid for me, and from the snares of evildoers!
- * Let the sinners together fall into their own nets, let me alone pass through.
- * I cry with my voice to the Lord, with my voice I make supplication to the Lord,
- * I pour out my complaint before him, I tell my trouble before him.
- * When my spirit is faint, thou knowest my way!
- * In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me.
- * I look to the right and watch, but there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me, no man cares for me.
- * I cry to thee, O Lord; I say, thou art my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.
- * Give heed to my cry; for I am brought very low!
- * Deliver me from my persecutors; for they are too strong for me!

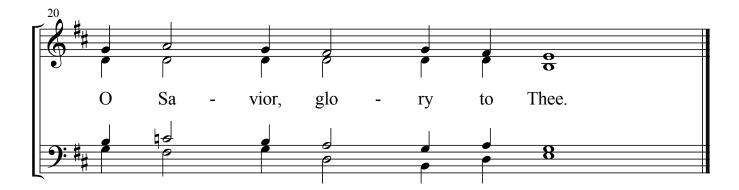
Reader: Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name.





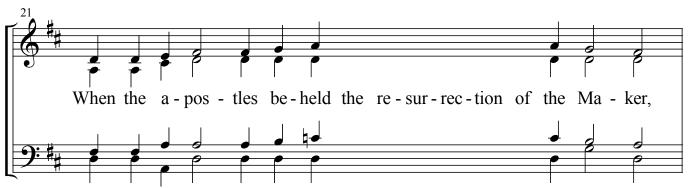
Reader: The righteous await me, until Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

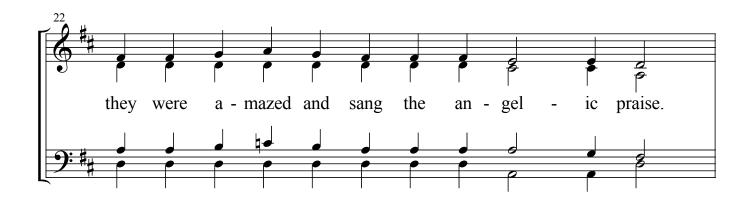


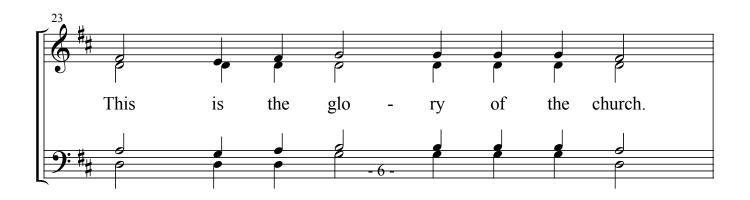


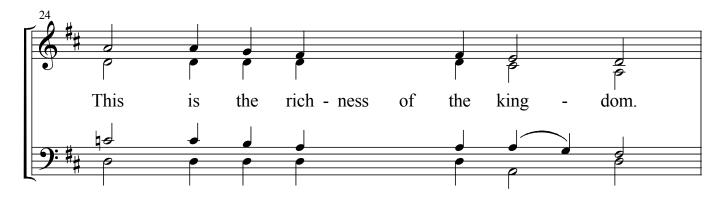
Reader: Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord hear my voice.







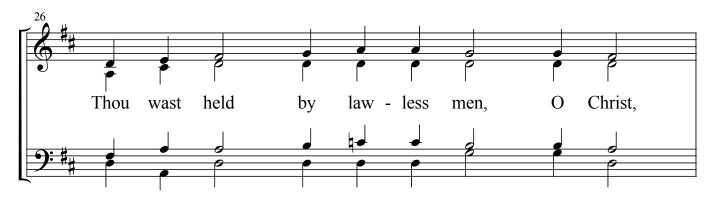


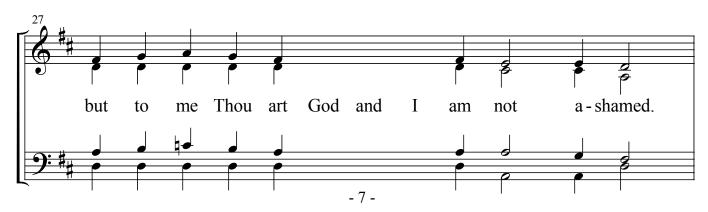


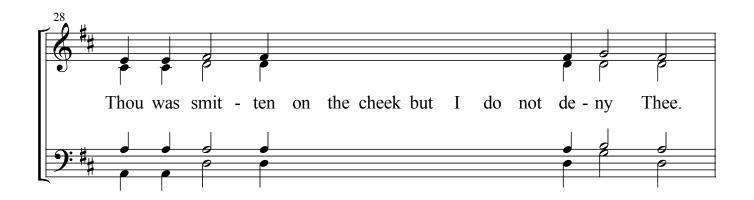


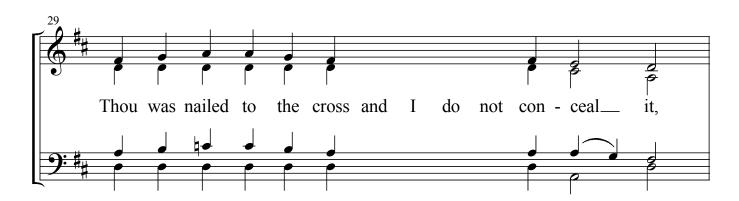
Reader: Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications.

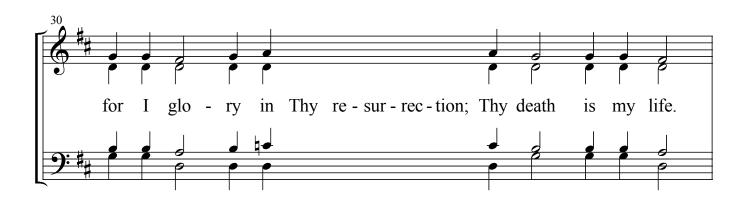
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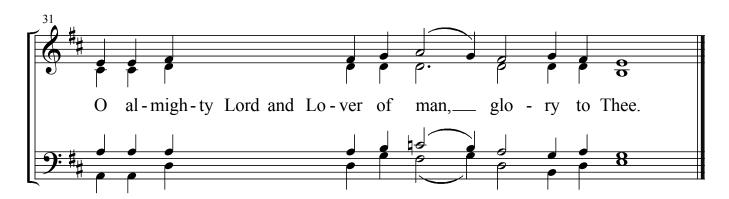












 ∇ . (6) If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 1 *(for the Feast) (Oh, the Marvelous Wonder)*

Today, let us dance, O <u>faithful</u>, singing to the Lord in <u>psalms</u> and hymns and <u>hon</u>oring His sanctified Tabernacle, the <u>living Ark</u>, that contained the <u>Word Who cannot</u> be contained; for in <u>won</u>drous fashion she is <u>offered</u> to the Lord as a young <u>child</u> in the flesh, and Zacha<u>ri</u>ah, the great High Priest, joyfully re<u>ceives</u> her// as the dwelling <u>place</u> of God.

 ∇ . (5) For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

To<u>day</u> the living Temple of the holy glory of <u>Christ</u> our God, the pure Maiden who alone is blessed among <u>wo</u>men, is <u>offered</u> in the <u>Temple</u> of the Law that she may make her <u>dwelling</u> in the <u>Holy Place</u>. <u>Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in <u>spi</u>rit, and choirs of virgins <u>sing</u> to the Lord,// chanting psalms, and honoring His <u>Mother</u>.</u>

 ∇ . (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

You are the <u>preaching</u> of the prophets, O Virgin <u>Mother</u> of God; the glory of the Apostles and the boast of <u>Mar</u>tyrs, and the re<u>newal</u> of all the <u>earth-born</u>, for through <u>you</u>, we are <u>re</u>conciled to God. <u>Therefore</u>, being saved by your inter<u>cessions</u>, we honor your coming into the <u>Temple</u> of the Lord; and with the <u>Angel</u> we all cry out to <u>you</u> in song:// "Rejoice, O all-revered <u>Lady!</u>"

 ∇ . (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 4 (for St. Amphilochius) (You have given a sign)

Endowed with a spirit possessed of <u>free</u> will and a mind self-disciplined against the <u>passions</u>, you <u>wise</u>ly gave supremacy to what is better over what is in<u>fe</u>rior, displaying a most judicious balance, O all-blessed <u>Fa</u>ther. Hence, you came to be well-<u>suited</u> for the <u>vi</u>sion of God,// and the contemplation of Him, O divinely-inspired <u>hi</u>erarch.

♥. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

You broke the snares and foiled the ambushes of the heretics, O holy <u>Fa</u>ther, by the cor<u>rect</u>ness of doctrines and by the most precise the<u>ology</u>. A<u>void</u>ing both the division and the most wicked con<u>traction</u>, you remained within the bounds of our <u>pi</u>ous faith,// preaching the Trinity in the unity of the <u>God</u>head.

 ∇ . (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

Skillfully instructing him who <u>reigned</u> on earth, you passed by his son without giving him <u>hom</u>age, <u>teaching</u> him cleverly that when the Son is neglected as unworthy of <u>wor</u>ship, the Father is ex<u>ceedingly</u> displeased,
Who, beyond thought and without passion begot Him be<u>fore</u> all e<u>ter</u>nity,// as He Himself knew, O saintly <u>hi</u>erarch.

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

Tone 4 *(for the Feast, by George of Nicomedia)*

Come, all <u>peoples</u>, let us praise <u>her</u> who alone is without <u>blem</u>ish, who was pro<u>claimed</u> by the prophets and now is offered in the <u>Temple</u>: the Mother foreordained before the <u>ages</u>, who in the last days has been shown forth as <u>Theoto</u>kos. By her inter<u>ces</u>sions, O Lord,// grant us Your peace and great <u>mer</u>cy!

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

Dogmatikon





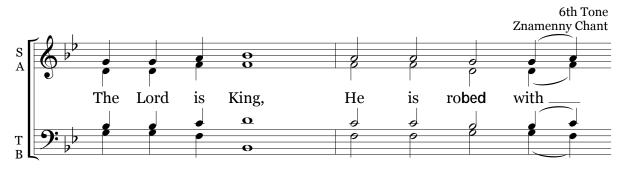
Priest: If it is Great Vespers, there is an entrance, and the deacon, standing before the open Holy Doors, exclaims Wisdom. Stand upright. If it is Daily Vespers, there is no entrance, and the choir proceeds immediately to Gladsome Light.

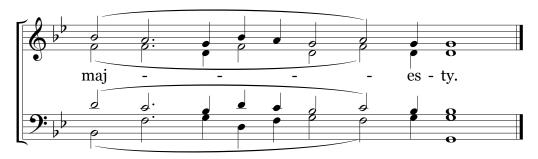




With Priest: The deacon exclaims Let us attend. And the priest: Peace be unto all. And the deacon: Wisdom. The prokimenon in the ____ tone.

Prokeimenon for Saturday Evening





Prokimenon of the Day

Saturday Evening: sixth tone

The Lord is King: * he is robed in majesty.

- W. 1. The Lord is robed, He is girded with strength.
- W. 2. For he has established the world so that it shall never be moved.
- W. 3. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

If it is Great Vespers, when appointed, Scripture Lessons *are now read. The deacon says* Wisdom. *And the reader:* The reading from ____. *And the deacon:* Let us attend.

<<Lord, have mercy. 12x Glory... both now...>><<pre>proceed to Vouchsafe>>

The deacon begins the Augmented Litany:

Deacon (Priest): Let us say with all our soul and with all our mind, let us say:

R. Lord, have mercy. [1]

O Lord almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy. [2]

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Thy great goodness, we pray Thee, hearken and have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy. (thrice) [1]

Again we pray for our Metropolitan N_{\cdot} , for our Bishop [or Archbishop] N_{\cdot} , and for all our brethren in Christ. R. [2]

Again we pray for this country, its President or title of the highest civil authority], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces. R. [1]

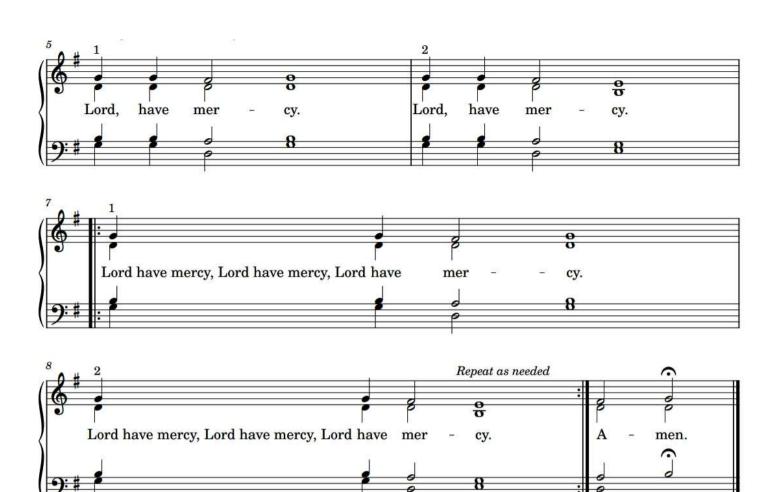
Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable holy Orthodox Patriarchs; and for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (or holy monastery); [for NN.,] and for all our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord. R. [2]

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, and visitation for the servants of God, [NN., and for] the brethren of this holy temple, and for the pardon and remission of their sins. R. [1]

Again we pray for those who bring offerings and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple; for those who labor and those who sing; and for all the people here present, who await Thy great and rich mercy. R. [2]

Priest: For Thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

R. Amen.



Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this night without sin. Blessed art Thou O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy Name forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, make me to understand Thy commandments. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me with Thy precepts.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever: despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

<<Lord, have mercy. 12x Glory... both now...>><<pre>proceed to the Aposticha>>

The deacon (or priest) continues with the Evening Litany:

Deacon (or Priest): Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

R. Lord, have mercy. [1]

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by Thy grace.

\overline{\mathbb{R}} \text{ Lord, have mercy. [2]}

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

R. Grant this, O Lord. (after each petition) [1]

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord. R. [2]

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord. R. [1]

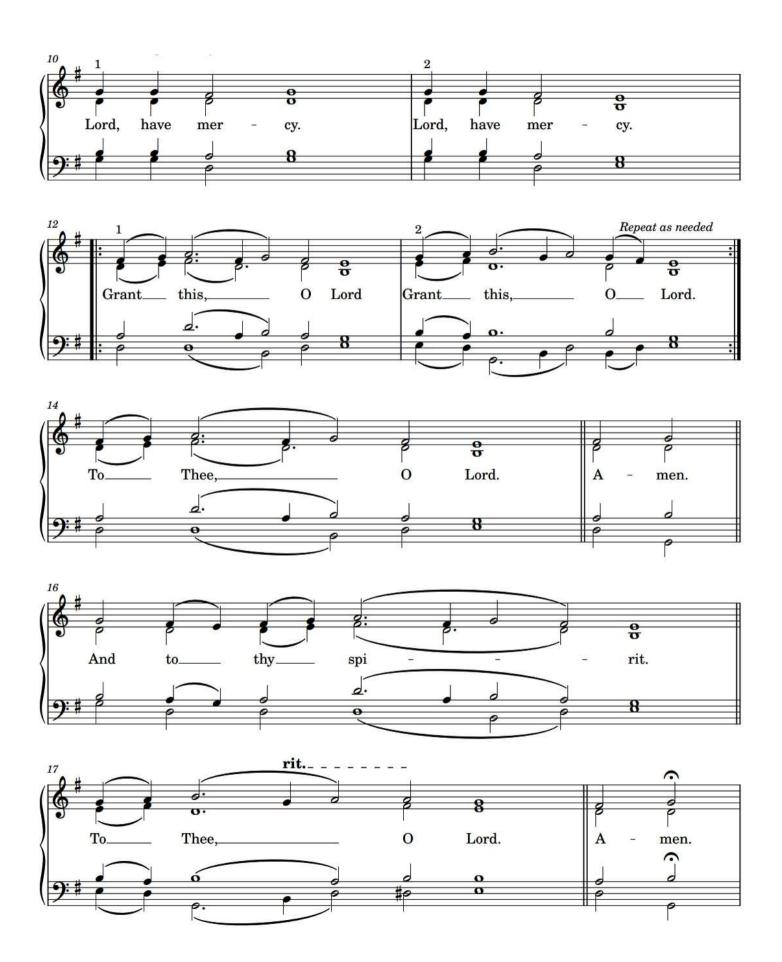
All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord. R. [2]

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord. R. [1]

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask. R. [2]

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

R. To Thee, O Lord.



Priest: For Thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto Thee do we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

R. Amen.

Priest: Peace be unto all.

R. And to thy spirit.

Deacon (or Priest): Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

R. To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and come down...

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy Kingdom: of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

R. Amen.

Aposticha

₩ we sing (or read) the first APOSTICHA hymn.

The READER says the festal verses after each hymn.

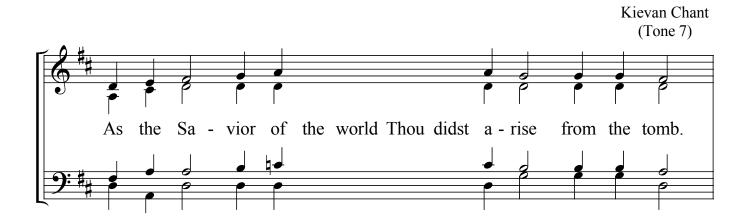
♥ On most Sundays, these verses are used:

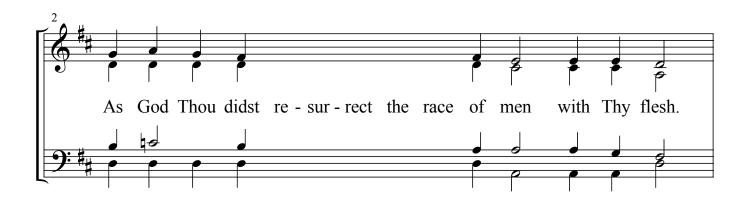
- W. The Lord is King; he is robed in majesty.
- W. For he hath made the world so sure that it shall not be moved.
- W. Holiness becometh thine house, O Lord, unto length of days.

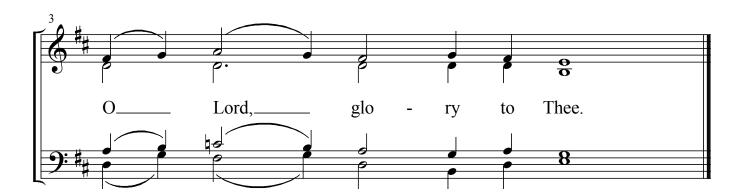
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. \mathcal{I}

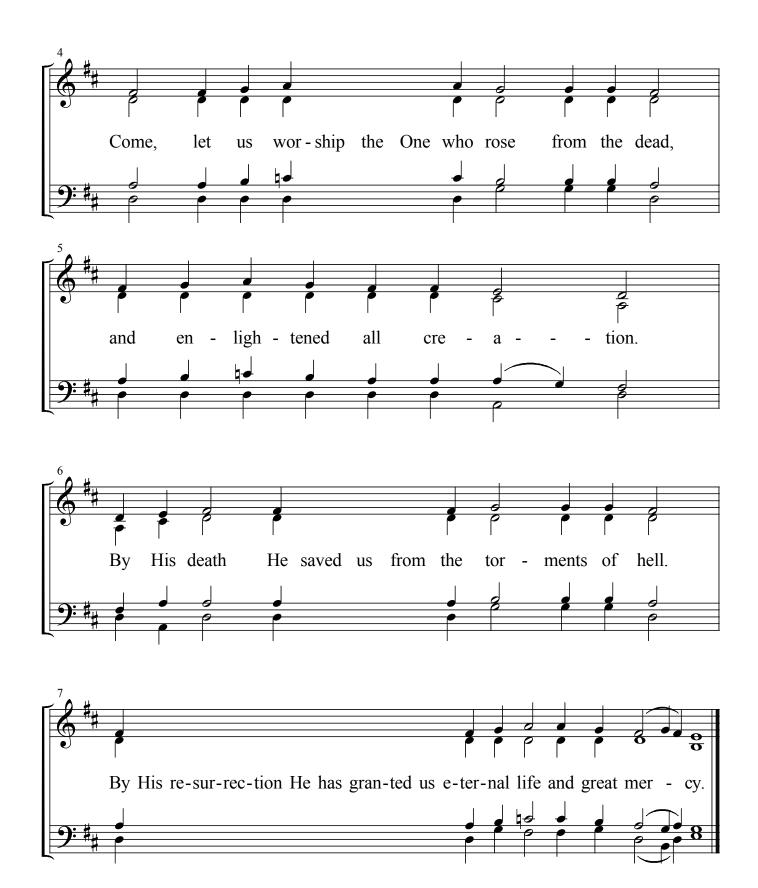
The Apostikha -- Tone 7





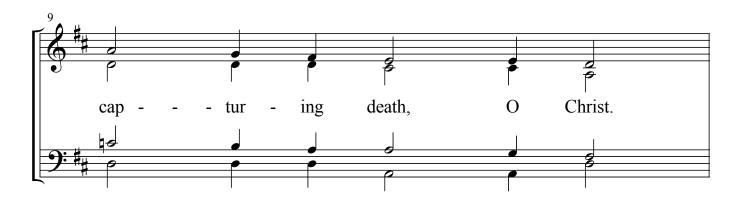


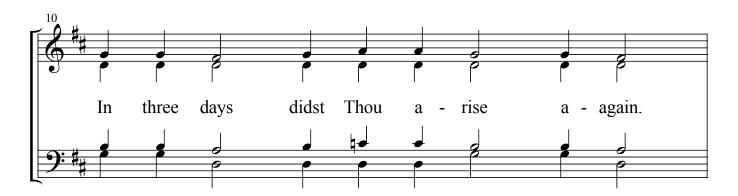
Reader: The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty.

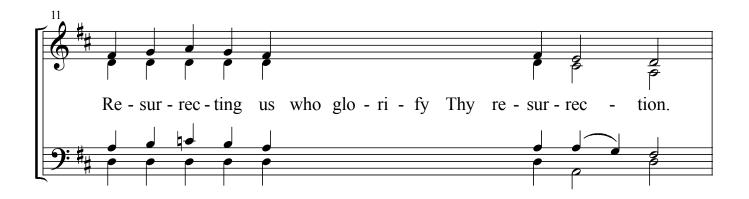


Reader: For He has established the world so that it shal never be moved.





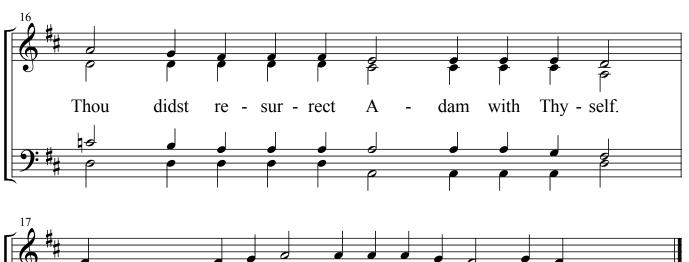


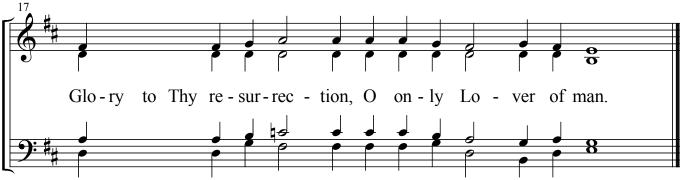




Reader: Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forever more.







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







St. Simeon's Prayer

St. Romanos Monastery













Reader: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us. (thrice)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. O Most Holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for Thy Name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. *(thrice)* Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The PEOPLE say:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

<>Senior layman: "Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us." IX Amen.>><< proceed to the troparia for the day>>

Priest: For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

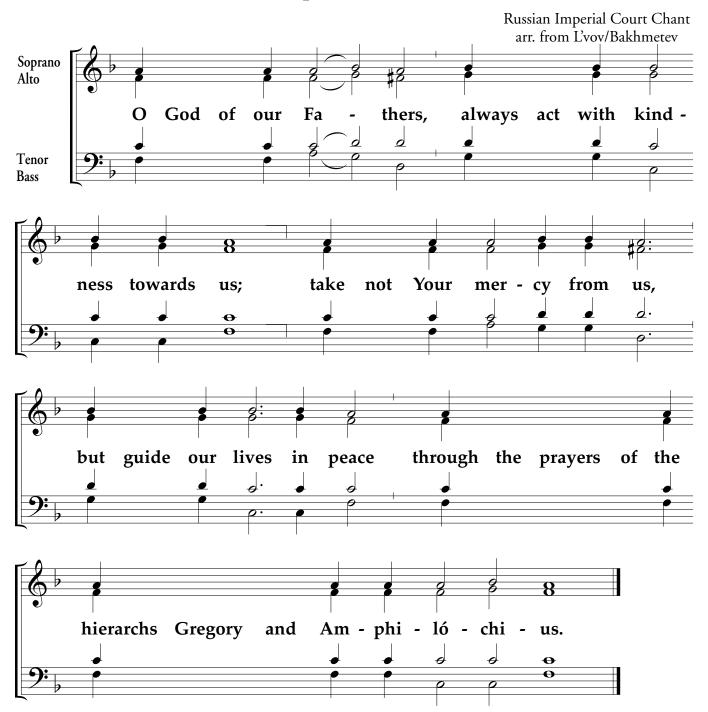
R. Amen.

And the choir sings the appointed Troparia.

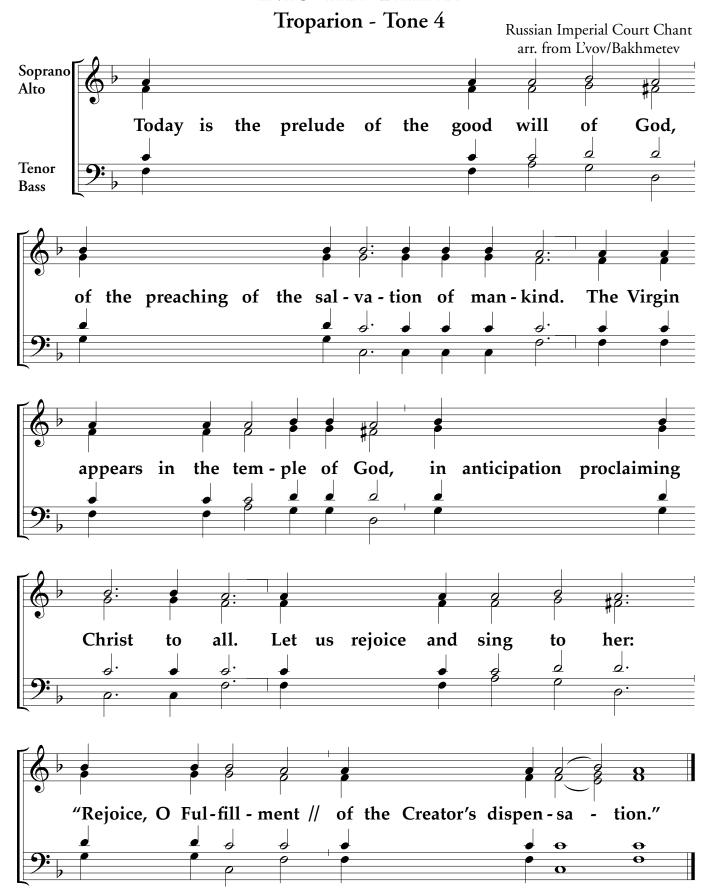
Resurrectional Troparion Tone 7



SAINT AMPHILOCHIUS, BISHOP OF ICONIUM (394) SAINT GREGORY, BISHOP OF AGRIGENTUM (6TH – 7TH C.) Troparion - Tone 4



ENTRANCE OF THE MOST-HOLY THEOTOKOS INTO THE TEMPLE



Deacon (or Priest): Wisdom.

R. Father, bless.

Priest: Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

R. Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most holy Theotokos, save us.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, who without stain bearest God the Word and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to Thee.

☼ Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (thrice). Father, bless.

The priest pronounces the appropriate Dismissal, after which the choir responds:

R. Amen.

<< Preserve, O God, the Holy Orthodox faith and all Orthodox Christians unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim; who without stain bearest God the Word, and art truly Theotokos, we magnify thee.

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

Lord, have mercy. 3x Bless, O Lord.

The SENIOR LAYMAN says: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

The PEOPLE *respond:* Amen.>>

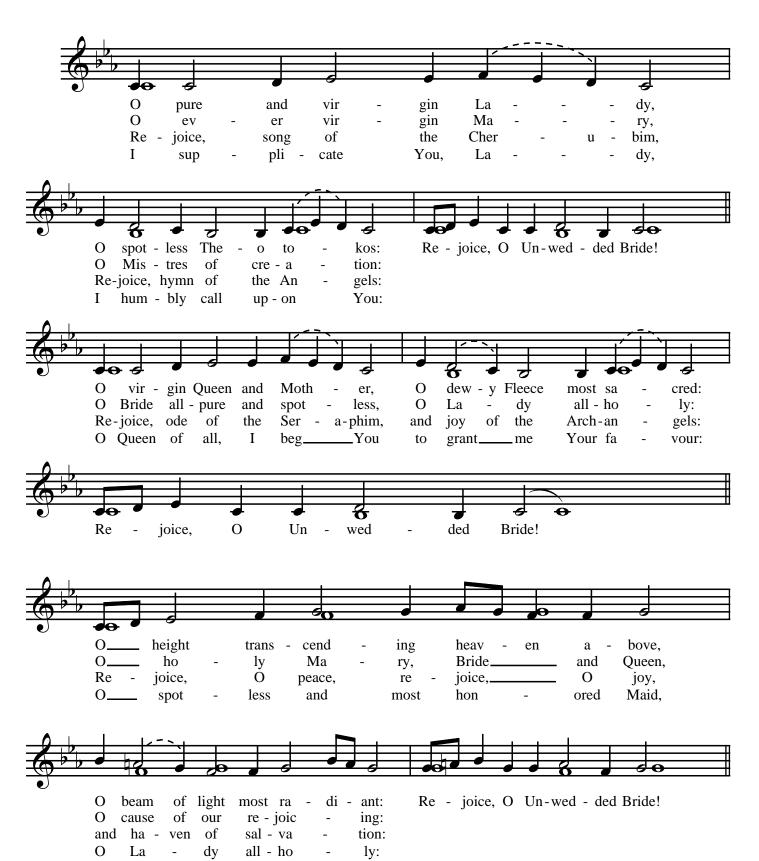
THE END OF VESPERS



O Pure Virgin Non-Liturgical Hymn

by St. Nektarios of Aegina

Translated and transcribed by Bishop Basil





Many Years - OCA Diocese of the South

