

January 15, 2012

31st Sunday after Pentecost, Octoechos Tone 6

Our Venerable Fathers Paul of Thebes and John the Hut-Dweller

GREAT VESPERS

"Blessed is the man..." is sung.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 6

10.

O Christ, You won the victory over Hades,
You ascended the Cross so that You might raise up with Yourself
all those who dwelt in the darkness of death.
Almighty Saviour, You are free from death
and bestow life by Your divine light.
We, therefore, beseech You to have mercy on us.

9.

Today Christ has conquered Death.
He has risen from the grave as He foretold,
bestowing great joy upon the world.
Therefore, let us all lift up our voices and sing:
O Fount of Life, O Light Whom no one can approach,
Almighty Saviour, have mercy on us.

8.

O Lord, where can we sinners flee from You,
for You are present in all creation?
You are present in heaven, for it is Your dwelling place.
Your power prevails in Hades where You conquered Death.
O Master, Your sustaining hand touches even the depths of the sea.
Where, then, can we take refuge except in You?
We, therefore, prostrate ourselves before You and pray:
O Lord, risen from the dead, have mercy on us.

7.

We exult in Your Cross, O Christ,
and we sing the glory of Your Resurrection.
For You are our God, and we have no other Lord but You.

In Tone 2

6.

When by divine inspiration you wisely left the cares of life
and set out on the labors of asceticism,
you went out with joy into the inaccessible wilderness,
inflamed with love of the Lord.
Having overcome the passions,
you lived like an angel by your perseverance in the good, O holy father.

5.

Having renounced all human companionship from your youth, O holy father,
you were the first to seek the absolute solitude of the wilderness.
You surpassed all hermits, O holy Paul,
remaining unknown throughout your whole life.
But at the command of God, Anthony found you like a hidden treasure
and made you known throughout the world.

4.

O holy Paul, as you lived your earthly life,
you dwelt with the wild beasts and were served by a bird at the command of God.
Seeing this when he found you,
Anthony the Great was filled with amazement,
and he ceaselessly magnified the divine Providence of the Master of all.

3.

O blessed Father, when by divine inspiration
you joyfully fled from the pleasures of this world,
you renounced the broad way
and chose the narrow, straight, and rugged road.
You went into a spiritual refuge where you put on the divine habit,
denying yourself and stripping yourself of all passions.

2.

You conceived the amazing plan of your life, your wondrous behaviour,
in your love for Christ, whose ineffable poverty you cherished.
Without a home, living before the threshold of your parents
you endured need and tribulations.
But you were filled with divine graces and you inherited heaven
and the treasure which no one can ever take away.

1.

Having the Holy Gospel before you, O father John,
you fulfilled it when you renounced your family inheritance
and spent your whole life in hardship and repentance.
Thus you now rejoice, O venerable father,
since God has glorified you with divine consolation and endless happiness.

In Tone 2, Glory...

Renouncing the world and all it contains, O venerable father,
you took up the Gospel of Christ and lived it completely.
In the hut where you dwelt as though in a mystic paradise,
treating your body with the utmost severity,
you put to death the murderous dragon.
Now you dwell in heaven, O holy John: ask great mercy for us.

In Tone 6, Now...

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?
Who would not sing a hymn of praise
to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail?
The Only-begotten Son Himself,
begotten of the Father before all ages,
was made flesh out of you in a manner
that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure!
And for our sake, He Who is God by nature
assumed the nature of a man.
He is not divided into two persons;
He is understood to have two natures
without commixion or confusion.
O noble and blessed Woman,
intercede with Him that He may mercy on our souls.

Aposticha

In Tone 6

O Christ our Saviour,
the angels in heaven sing the praises of Your Resurrection;
make us on earth also worthy
to extol You with a pure heart.

The Lord reigns, He is clothed in majesty. Robed is the Lord, and girt about with strength.

Almighty God, You destroyed the brazen gates and bars of Hades,
and raised up fallen mankind.
Therefore, with one accord, we cry out:
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

For He has made the world firm, which shall not be moved.

Christ willed to renew us from our corruption of old
by being nailed to a cross and placed in a tomb.
When the women came to anoint His body they tearfully cried out:
O, what sorrow afflicts us!

O Saviour of All, how could You consent to occupy a grave?
If you truly willed this, then why did You allow Your body to be stolen?
How were You removed?
What place now conceals Your life-bearing body?
O Lord, appear to us as You promised
and put an end to our tears.
As they were lamenting, an angel appeared and cried out to them:
Do not weep, but tell the Apostles that the Lord is risen,
granting sanctification and great mercy to the world.

Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, for length of days.

O Christ, You were crucified of Your free will,
and by Your burial You imprisoned Death.
As God, You rose in glory on the third day,
granting life and great mercy to the world.

In Tone 6, Glory...

Venerable father, the whole world is filled with the fame of your holy deeds;
through them, you have received in heaven the recompense of your labours.
You destroyed hordes of demons and have been united to the choirs of angels,
whose pure lives you imitated.
By your boldness with Christ our God, ask peace for our souls!

Now...

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer,
came forth from your womb, O most pure Virgin.
He clothed Himself in our human flesh
to set us free from the original curse of Adam.
Therefore, O Mary, we praise you, without ceasing,
as the true Virgin Mother of God,
and we sing with the angels:
Rejoice, O Lady, advocate, protector, and salvation of our souls.

Troparia

In Tone 6

Angelic powers were upon Your tomb* and the guards became like dead men;* Mary stood before
Your tomb* seeking Your most pure body.* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.* You
met the Virgin and granted life.* O Lord, risen from the dead,** glory to You!

Glory... Now...

Christ, Who called you "Mother" and "The Blessed One,"* accepted the Passion of His own free will.* In His desire to find the fallen Adam,* He caused light to shine from His cross in order to search him out.* then He said to the angels:* Rejoice with Me, for I have found the lost piece of silver.* Glory to You, O God,** Who accomplished all things in such wisdom.