

February 5, 2012
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Octoechos Tone 1
Holy Martyr Agatha

GREAT VESPERS

Blessed is the man... is sung.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 1

10.

Accept our evening prayer, O holy Lord,
and grant us forgiveness of sins,
for You alone manifested the Resurrection to the world.

9.

O you people, walk around Zion and encompass her.
And there give glory to Him Who is risen from the dead.
For He is our God
Who delivers us from our sins.

8.

Come you people, praise and worship Christ.
Glorify His Resurrection from the dead;
for He is our God Who delivered the world
from the deceit of the enemy.

7.

Rejoice, O you heavens;
sound the trumpets, you foundations of the earth;
cry out with joy, O you mountains.
For behold, Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross;
the Giver of Life has put Death to death;
and the Lover of Mankind
has raised up Adam.

In Tone 1

6.

I was entrusted with a sinless and loving land,
but I sowed the ground with sin and reaped with a sickle the ears of slothfulness;
in thick sheaves I garnered my actions,

but winnowed them not on the threshing floor of repentance.
But I beg You, my God, the pre-eternal husbandman,
with the wind of Your loving-kindness winnow the chaff of my works,
and grant to my soul the corn of forgiveness;
shut me in Your heavenly storehouse
and save me.

5.
Brethren, let us learn the meaning of this mystery.
For when the Prodigal Son ran back from sin to his Father's house,
his loving Father came out to meet him and kissed him.
He restored to the Prodigal the tokens of his proper glory,
and mystically he made glad on high, sacrificing the fatted calf.
Let our lives, then, be worthy of the loving Father who has offered sacrifice,
and of the glorious Victim
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In Tone 4

3.
The Lover of man, fulfilling everything written in the Law,
now is brought into the Temple.
Simeon the elder receives Him in his aged arms,
crying: let me depart now to the blessed life,
for today I behold You, clothed in mortal flesh,
the Lord of life and Master of death.

2.
Lord, the light of revelation for the nations,
You have shone as the sun of righteousness, enthroned upon a radiant cloud.
You have fulfilled the shadows of the Law:
the grace of renewal begins to shine!
When Simeon received You, he cried in joy:
now release me from corruption,
for I have seen You, my Master!

1.

You took flesh in Your good pleasure;
You were carried in arms You Yourself had formed
without leaving the bosom of the Father.
Simeon held You in his hands,
though Your hands had fashioned both him and all the world!
He cried out in joy: let me depart, O Good One,
for today I have seen You, the Lover of mankind!

In Tone 2, Glory...

Of what great blessings in my wretchedness have I deprived myself!
From what a kingdom in my misery have I fallen!
I have wasted the riches that were given to me,
I have transgressed the commandment.
Alas, unhappy soul!
You are henceforth condemned to the eternal fire.
Therefore before the end cry out to Christ our God:
Receive me as the Prodigal Son, O God,
and have mercy upon me.

In Tone 1, Now...

Let us sing a hymn of praise to the Virgin Mary,
glory of the whole world!
She was herself formed by human seed,
yet she became the Mother of the Master, the Gate of heaven,
the theme of the angels' hymn and beauty of the faithful.
She was seen as being heavenly
and the Tabernacle of the Godhead.
She indeed tore down the wall of enmity between God and man,
and brought peace in its place, she opened up the kingdom of heaven.
Let us therefore cling fast to her for she is the anchor of faith,
and let us receive as our stronghold the Lord Who was born of her.
Be of good cheer, then, and have confidence, O people of God,
for He will fight our enemies for us, He is all-powerful!

Aposticha

In Tone 1

O Christ, by Your Passion we have been freed from suffering;
and by Your Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption.
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Let all creation rejoice, let the heavens be glad,
let the nations clap their hands with joy.
For Christ our Saviour, in His love for mankind,
has nailed our sins to the Cross;
He has put Death to death,
and by raising our fallen forefather, Adam,
He has given life to all mankind.

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

O God, You are above all understanding;
You are King and Lord of heaven and earth.
Yet of Your own free will,
You allowed Yourself to be crucified because of Your love for mankind.
When You descended below,
Hades was filled with bitterness as You confronted it;
but the souls of the just received You with great joy.
Adam arose when he saw You, his Creator, down in the depths.
What a wonder this is!
You are the life of all and have tasted death
in order to dispel the darkness of the world with Your light.
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

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

The myrrh-bearing women were filled with grief
as they hastened with spices to Your tomb;
but they did not find Your most pure body.
Instead, they found an angel
who proclaimed Your unique and glorious Resurrection,
and commanded them to announce to Your Apostles:
The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

In Tone 6, Glory...

I have wasted the wealth which the Father gave to me,
and in my wretchedness I have fed with dumb beasts.
Yearning after their food, I remained hungry and could not eat my fill.
But now I return to the compassionate Father
and cry out with tears:
I fall down before Your loving-kindness,
receive me as a hired servant, and save me.

In Tone 4, Now...

Today the holy Mother, above every temple, enters into the Temple,
she reveals to the world its Creator and the Giver of the Law.
Simeon the elder receives Him in his arms.

He worships Him and cries aloud: now let Your servant depart,
for I have seen You, the Saviour of our souls!

Troparia

In Tone 1

Though the stone was sealed by the Judeans* and soldiers guarded Your most pure body,* You arose,
O Saviour, on the third day* and gave life to the world.* And so the heavenly powers cried out You, O
Giver of Life:* Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!* Glory to Your Kingdom!* Glory to Your saving
plan!** O only Lover of Mankind.

Glory... Now...

Rejoice, full of grace, Virgin Mother of God!* From you there dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ
our God,* who enlightens those who dwell in darkness.* And you, O righteous Elder, be glad!* You
received in your embrace* the Liberator of our souls,** who grants us resurrection.