

**June 17, 2012**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 2; Holy Martyrs Manuel, Sabel and Ismael; Venerable Father Hypatius, Hegumen of Ruphenia (446)**

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**GREAT VESPERS**

**Kathisma Reading**

*Blessed is the man...* is taken

**At Psalm 140**

*In Tone 2*

10.

Come, let us adore God the Word,  
Who was born of the Father before all ages,  
and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary;  
for of His own free will He suffered the Cross  
and submitted Himself to burial,  
and arose from the dead to save me, a sinful one.

9.

Christ our Saviour cancelled the decree that was written against us,  
by nailing it to the Cross;  
and He abolished the dominion of Death.  
Let us glorify His Resurrection on the third day.

8.

Let us, together with the archangels, sing of Christ's resurrection;  
for He is the Redeemer and Saviour of our souls.  
He will come again in awesome glory and mighty power  
to judge the world which He has fashioned.

7.

Although You died and were buried,  
the angel yet declared You as Master.  
He said to the women: Come and see where the Lord was placed;  
for He is risen as He foretold,  
because He is almighty.  
Therefore, we worship You, the only Immortal One,  
and we beseech You to have mercy on us, O Giver of Life.

6.

O Christ, You have abolished the curse of the tree by Your Cross;  
You have destroyed the power of Death by Your burial,  
and You enlightened the human race by Your Resurrection.  
Therefore, we cry out to You:  
O God and Benefactor, glory to You!

5.

O Lord, the gates of death opened before You in fear,  
and the gatekeepers of Hades were filled with dread at the sight of You.  
You smashed the gates of brass and crushed the posts of iron.  
Then You burst our chains asunder,  
and led us out from the darkness, away from the shadow of death.

4.

Let us all come and prostrate ourselves in the house of the Lord,  
singing this hymn of salvation:  
O Christ, You were crucified on the tree and rose from the dead;  
and You now abide in the bosom of the Father.  
Please cleanse us of our sins.

*In Tone 4*

3.

Prize-winners, you are worthy of all praise!  
Like brilliant stars you illumine the ends of the world with divine brightness!  
You cast away the deep darkness of demons,  
corrupting passions and dangers.  
Therefore, glorious ones, as we assemble today,  
we celebrate your radiant, light-bearing, joyful and holy feast!

2.

Let wonderful Manuel, blessed Sabel and all-wise Ismael  
be honored with the most sacred hymns:  
They openly preached the uncreated Trinity in holiness  
in the presence of the enemies.  
By an outpouring of blood they extinguished the delusion of idolatry.  
They have received unfading glory!

1.

You are great in name, Manuel, Ismael and Sabel:  
You reasonably shamed the lawless king  
when he lawlessly commanded you to bow down, blessed ones,  
and offer unreasonable worship to lifeless gods!  
You contended courageously and lawfully,  
weaving crowns of victory for yourselves.  
Now you intercede on behalf of the world!

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

The glorious martyrs desired You, Word of God,  
with singleness of mind!  
They did not trouble themselves to worship fire.  
The glorious Manuel, the ever-memorable Sabel and thrice-blessed Ismael  
left the land of the Chaldeans:  
They were enlightened by Your light  
and were armed with the weapons of the faith!  
They shamed the despotic Julian, singing hymns to you

together with the Father and the Spirit.  
Now they intercede that our souls may be saved!

*In Tone 2, Now...*

O Virgin, the shadow of the Law passed away  
with the realization of grace.  
For as the bush had burned without being consumed,  
so you gave birth while a virgin  
and you remained a virgin.  
Instead of the pillar of fire there rose the Sun of Justice.  
Instead of Moses, Christ God came forth,  
the Saviour of our souls.

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 2*

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,  
has enlightened the whole universe;  
and, through it, You call back to Yourself all Creation.  
Almighty God, glory to You!

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

By the wood of Your Cross, O Saviour,  
You have abolished the curse of the tree;  
by Your burial You have destroyed the power of death;  
and by Your Resurrection You enlightened the human race.  
We, therefore, cry out to You:  
O Christ our God, Giver of Life, glory to You!

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

O Christ, when You were nailed to the Cross,  
the distorted nature of creation was made manifest.  
The soldiers showed their inhumanity by piercing Your side with a lance,  
and the people showed their ignorance of Your power  
by asking that Your tomb be sealed.  
But, in Your mercy, You accepted burial  
and then arose on the third day.  
O Lord, glory to You!

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

O Christ, Giver of Life,  
You freely endured the Passion for the sake of mortals.  
In Your power You descended into Hades;  
and snatching, as from a mighty monster, the souls of those who awaited Your coming,  
You placed them in Paradise.  
Therefore, show Your great mercy to us who glorify Your Resurrection,

and cleanse our souls.

*Glory... Now...*

We now behold a new wonder,  
greater than the wonders of old.  
For who has ever known a mother to bear a child without the help of man?  
Who has known a mother to hold in her arms the Source of all Creation?  
It was God's own will to be born in this manner;  
and you, O most pure Virgin, carried Him as an infant in your arms.  
Because of this, you can approach God with the boldness of a mother.  
Therefore, we venerate you, and ask you to always beseech Him  
to have mercy on us and save our souls.

### **Troparia**

*In Tone 2*

When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,\* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.\* When You raised the dead from the nether world,\* all the powers of heaven cried out:\*\* "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!"

*In Tone 4, Glory...*

Your holy martyrs, O Lord,\* through their sufferings have received their incorruptible crowns from You, our God!\* For having Your strength, they laid low their adversaries,\* and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.\*\* Through their intercessions, save our souls!

*Now...*

O Mother of God, the mystery hidden from all eternity\* and unknown even to the angels,\* was revealed through you to those on earth:\* God took on our human nature\* and united it to His divine nature in a perfect but unconfused union.\* Then, He willingly accepted the cross for our sake\* and thereby raised again the first created man,\*\* and saved our souls from death.