

September 9, 2012

Sunday before the Exaltation of the Cross, Octoechos Tone 6; Post-feast of the Nativity of the Mother of God; the Holy and Righteous Forebears of God Joachim and Anna; the Holy Martyr Severian (321-23); Joseph of Volotsk, abbot and writer (1515)

Great Vespers

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 1

6. Joachim and Anna celebrate the feast,
for they gave birth to the only Theotokos,
the beginning of our salvation!
Together with them we also celebrate today:
We bless the pure Virgin who sprang from the root of Jesse!

5. The Maiden who held God, the pure Theotokos,
the glory of the prophets, the daughter of David,
is born today of Joachim and chaste Anna:
The curse of Adam which lay upon us is annulled by her childbearing!

4. She who before was as a barren field
gives birth to the fertile ground.
She brings forth a holy fruit from her fruitless womb
and nurtures her with milk!
Awesome wonder! The nourisher of life
who received the Bread of heaven in her womb
is fed with milk at her mother's breasts!

In Tone 4

3. Come, lovers of the feasts of the Church,
let us rejoice in song and celebrate in faith
the memory of the blessed ancestors, Joachim and Anna,
the honoured couple who gave birth to the holy Virgin Mother of God for us!
Now that they have left behind this passing life
for the eternal mansions,
they ceaselessly pray that we may be saved!

2. Today all creation rejoices with gladness,
uniting to celebrate the annual memory of your ancestors,
all-praised Theotokos!
Joachim and Anna sing of the wonder together!
They have been filled with joy by your birth!
From them our hope has blossomed:
the Mother of Light and the nourisher of our Life!

1. Today Anna's spirit leaps for joy!
She exults, having attained her desire;
just as her namesake believed and was blest with children of old,
she has borne the fruit of the promise, the divine blessing:
The all-pure Mary, who gave birth to our God!
From her the Sun has risen to those who sat in darkness!

In Tone 5, Glory...

Blessed couple!
You are exalted above all other parents!
She who is above all creation blossomed from you!
Joachim, you are happy indeed
to be called the father of such a child!
Joy is yours, Mother Anna:
From your womb came the Mother of our life!
Blessed are her breasts
which nourish Him Who feeds everything that breathes.
Pray to Him, all-blessed ones,
to have mercy on our souls!

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 8, Glory... Now...

Joachim and Anna, holy couple,
from your barrenness a holy root has sprung!
From her shone Christ our God, the Saviour of the world.
You have gone to dwell in the heavenly mansions,
to join the most pure Virgin, your daughter!
You dance with the angels as you pray for the world!
We gather this day to praise your righteousness in song.
Through all-holy Mary, the child of God,
you became ancestors to Christ!
Intercede with Him to save 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!

In Tone 1, Glory...

Since you were righteous under the law of grace, Joachim and Anna,* for our sake you gave birth to the God-given infant.* The divine Church today therefore feasts radiantly,* joyfully celebrating your honourable memory and giving glory to God* Who has raised up a horn of salvation* from the house of David!

In Tone 4, Now...

Your nativity, O Virgin Mother of God,* has made joy known to all the world,* for from you dawned the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God.* He abolished the curse and gave the blessing;* and by making death of no effect He bestowed on us eternal life.