

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**Octoechos Tone 1**  
**The Priest-Martyr Gregory, Bishop of Great Armenia**

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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.

6. Let us praise the Lord  
Who for our sake was willingly crucified in the flesh.  
He suffered, was buried, and rose from the dead.  
Therefore, let us sing to Him:  
O Christ, keep Your Church in the orthodox faith  
and bring peace to our lives;  
for You are gracious and love mankind.

5. O Christ our God, as we stand unworthily before Your life-bearing grave,  
we offer a hymn of praise to Your ineffable tenderness of heart.

For You, O Sinless One,  
in Your loving-kindness have accepted the Cross and death  
in order to grant  
resurrection to the world.

4. Let us praise the Word  
Who is without beginning and co-eternal with the Father.  
For our sake He was born of the Virgin;  
He freely accepted the Cross and death, and rose in glory.  
Therefore, let sing to Him:  
Glory to You, O Lord,  
the Giver of Life and Saviour of souls.

*In Tone 6*

3. You dyed your sacred robe in the blood of your martyrdom,  
hastening to enter the holy of holies, admirable martyr,  
where there is divine glory, ineffable light, and the voices of those who feast!  
There you received the reward of your labours:  
an unfading crown, eternal glory and a dwelling in paradise!  
wise Gregory, pray with boldness on behalf of our souls!

2. Threefold waves of torture, most wise Gregory,  
did not overcome your soul, glorious athlete,  
nor did your long imprisonment, hidden in a gloomy pit!  
You shone like light on those languishing in the darkness of emptiness,  
revealing them to be children of the day through the font of baptism,  
through higher rebirth and a divine and saving way of life,  
as a God-pleasing bishop!

*In Tone 1*

1. As a most righteous priest  
you first offered the unbloody sacrifice to God,  
with your own blood you then offered yourself  
like first fruits, as a pleasing sacrifice,  
As a true martyr, you followed after Christ  
O honourable Teacher,  
pray to Him for those who sing to you.

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

Who can fitly describe the trophies of your virtues?  
What lips can express plainly your perseverance in martyrdom?  
For you, Gregory, have won distinction in both of these things!  
But hieromartyr, well pleasing to Christ,  
since you have great boldness before Him,  
ever beseech Him that our souls may be saved!

*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...*

The martyr and pastor was taught the secret things of the mysteries of God,  
having spiritually entered the inaccessible darkness of ineffable light,  
being enlightened as a martyr and instructed as a pastor!  
Therefore he was crowned with double wreaths of heavenly glory.  
He ever intercedes with Christ on behalf of 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 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.

*In Tone 4, Glory...*

You participated in the ways of the apostles,\* and were enthroned as their successor!\* You discovered  
action an entrance into vision, inspired one of God.\* Therefore directing the word of truth,\* you  
suffered for the faith to the shedding of your blood!\* Bishop and martyr Gregory,\* pray to Christ God  
that our souls may be saved

*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.