

**23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Octoechos Tone 6**  
**Our Venerable Father Joannicius the Great (846)**  
**Holy Martyrs Nicander, Bishop of Myra and the Priest Hermas**

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**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.

6. Glory to Your might, O Lord,  
for You have conquered the power of death.  
You have renewed us through Your Cross,  
granting us life and incorruption.

5. We forever bless the Lord and praise His resurrection,  
for by suffering crucifixion,  
He has destroyed death by His death.

4. By Your death and burial, O Lord,  
You broke asunder the bonds of Hades;  
and by Your resurrection from the dead,  
You enlightened the whole world.  
We, therefore, exclaim: Glory to You, O Lord!

*In Tone 4*

3. You were illumined by divine light  
when you lifted up your eyes with purity of mind,  
preferring the things to come eternally  
to those which are perishing.  
Father, you received fire in your heart!  
You panted like a hart for divine love!  
Unmindful of flesh and blood,  
you prepared yourself for ascetic struggles,  
making the passions of your body subject to your soul!

2. You made your dwelling in the heights  
in order to ascend the mountains of God  
without being brought low by the wakeful needs of this lowly body,  
father Joannicius,  
for uniting yourself to the good One by standing whole nights and days in prayer,  
you were illumined,  
receiving the gift of prophecy,  
beholding things afar off as if they were near,  
foretelling to the faithful the things to come.  
Therefore we glorify you as a divine teacher!

1. You mightily blunted the assaults and arrows of the demons  
with the entreaties of your prayers!  
By the power of God, you triumphed over them, all glorious one!  
Therefore, since you were refreshed by the humility of your heart,  
the good One gave you miracles as honours.  
Your precious relics pour forth fragrant myrrh,  
for you have revealed yourself to be the sweet fragrance of Christ,  
father Joannicius!

*In Tone 6, Glory...*

The sound of your teachings has gone out into all the earth,  
venerable Father!  
Therefore you have found the reward of your labours in the heavens.  
You destroyed the hosts of demons  
and reached the ranks of angels whose life you blamelessly followed!  
Since you have boldness before Christ our God,  
entreat peace for our souls!

*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...*

We honour you, Joannicius our father,  
the instructor of a multitude of monks!  
We have indeed learned to walk rightly in your footsteps!  
You are blessed, for having laboured for Christ,  
you denounced the power of the enemy!  
Conversor with the angels,  
companion of the venerable and righteous ones!  
Together with them, entreat the Lord that He may grant mercy to our souls!

*Now...*

O Virgin, You have never known wedlock,  
Yet You conceived God in the flesh  
in a manner which words can never describe.  
You thus became the Mother of God on high.  
O Immaculate Lady, receive the supplication of your servants  
and grant us the cleansing of our sins.  
Accept now our prayers and beseech God to save all of us.

## **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 8, Glory...*

By a flood of tears you made the desert fertile,\* and your longing for God brought forth fruits in  
abundance.\* By the radiance of miracles you illumined the whole universe!\* Our holy father Joannicius,  
pray to Christ our God to save our souls!

*Now...*

O gracious Lord, for the sake of mankind You were born of a virgin;\* through Your death on the cross  
You conquered death;\* and through Your resurrection You revealed yourself as God.\* O merciful Lord,

do not disdain those whom You have created with Your own hands,\* but show forth Your love for mankind.\* Accept the intercession which the Mother, who bore You, makes in our behalf.\*\* O Saviour, save Your despairing people!