

November 14

The Holy and All-Praiseworthy Apostle Philip

GREAT VESPERS FOR POLYELEOS

“Blessed is the man” is sung.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 6

8. Having established action, blessed one, as an entrance into true vision, and vision as the end of divine action, you implored Christ to show you the ineffable glory of the Father, for every reasonable creature desires witness of God. You received the desired, glorious one, of which the Son is the image! Pray to Him boldly for our souls!

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5. As Moses of old, you were instructed by divine ascent. Desiring to see God you spiritually saw His image. You accepted the Son as knowledge and testimony of the Father, for they are known as one Being: the Unity honourably exalted by all, the kingdom, power, glory and worship!

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2. God-seer Philip, you proclaimed with divine inspiration
and the teaching of the Holy Spirit,
sounding the Saviour's heavenly Gospel in the world with a fiery tongue.
You burned all deceit to ashes like dried grass.
You proclaimed the Lord Christ in the universe,
Who is master over all.

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Glory...

You burn with the brilliance of a great light, O Philip,
shining as a light of the universe.
Seeking the light of God you found illumination in the Son,
whose image is equal to the first image.
Implore Him, Apostle, to save those sealed by divine blood.

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.

Readings

1 Peter 1:1-2:6

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To the exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappado'cia, Asia, and Bithyn'ia, chosen and destined by God the Father and sanctified by the Spirit for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who by God's power are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may redound to praise and glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. As the outcome of your faith you obtain the salvation of your souls. The prophets who prophesied of the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired about this salvation; they inquired what person or time was indicated by the Spirit of Christ within them when predicting the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glory. It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things which have now been announced to you by those who preached the good news to you through the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look. Therefore gird up your minds, be sober, set your hope fully upon the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct; since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." And if you invoke as Father him who judges each one impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was made manifest at the end of the times for your sake. Through him you have confidence in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God. Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere love of the brethren, love one another earnestly from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for "All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord abides for ever." That word is the good news which was preached to you. So put away all malice and all guile and insincerity and envy and all slander. Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation; for you have tasted the kindness of the Lord. Come to him, to that living stone, rejected by men but in God's sight chosen and precious; and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and he who believes in him will not be put to shame."

1 Peter 2:21-3:9

Dearly Beloved: For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he trusted to him who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls. Likewise you wives, be submissive to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the word, may be won without a word by the

behavior of their wives, when they see your reverent and chaste behavior. Let not yours be the outward adorning with braiding of hair, decoration of gold, and wearing of fine clothing, but let it be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable jewel of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. So once the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves and were submissive to their husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are now her children if you do right and let nothing terrify you. Likewise you husbands, live considerately with your wives, bestowing honor on the woman as the weaker sex, since you are joint heirs of the grace of life, in order that your prayers may not be hindered. Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love of the brethren, a tender heart and a humble mind. Do not return evil for evil or reviling for reviling; but on the contrary bless, for to this you have been called, that you may obtain a blessing.

1 Peter 4:1-11

Dearly Beloved: Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same thought, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer by human passions but by the will of God. Let the time that is past suffice for doing what the Gentiles like to do, living in licentiousness, passions, drunkenness, revels, carousing, and lawless idolatry. They are surprised that you do not now join them in the same wild profligacy, and they abuse you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to the dead, that though judged in the flesh like men, they might live in the spirit like God. The end of all things is at hand; therefore keep sane and sober for your prayers. Above all hold unfailing your love for one another, since love covers a multitude of sins. Practice hospitality ungrudgingly to one another. As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who utters oracles of God; whoever renders service, as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Aposticha

In Tone 6

Your heavenly proclamation, O blessed one,
has resounded throughout the world,
filling it with divine dogmas,
mystically blessing the Father, Son and Spirit!
apostle, we glorify the one essence.
Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth,
and their words to the ends of the universe!

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Thrice-blessed Philip,
as the light-bearer of Christ's apostles,
you possess the bright light of the honourable church.
Our souls, all-praised one, are enlightened by your prayers,
and delivered from fierce calamities.

The heavens are telling the glory of God, and the firmament proclaims his handiwork!

Worthy Philip,
having finished your task by suffering on the cross,
you were given the crown of victory.
Therefore you have entered the heavenly kingdom!
Apostle, as you stand before Christ, implore him to save us!

In Tone 2, Glory...

Apostle Philip, your mouth is a vessel of sweet spices,
pouring out a life-giving drink for the faithful.
Entering by action into vision, you welcomed and followed Christ.
You adorned the barren and childless church of the pagans,
by teaching and increasing her children.
You can do much since you are near to God:
pray that the church may be saved from need and distress!

Now...

O wondrous event exceeding every miracle that ever happened!
who has ever heard that a mother could conceive without a man,
and that she would hold in her arms the One who contains the whole universe
This was the will of the One who was born of you.
Woman most pure,
Never cease to intercede for those who honour you,
Together with the One you carried in your arms as a child.
You have the power of a Mother:
Therefore intercede with Him that
He may have mercy on us
And save our souls.

Troparia

In Tone 3

O holy apostle Philip,* pray to the merciful God* that he may grant to our souls* remission of our transgressions!

Glory... Now...

We sing your praises, O Virgin;* for, as the Mother of God, you always intercede for the salvation of the human race.* It is from you that our God and Your Son took flesh. * Then, by suffering the passion on the Cross,** and out of love for mankind, He delivered us from corruption.

Note:

Texts of hymnography taken from a variety of sources.

Scripture used from the [Revised Standard Version](#).

Troparia taken from *The Divine Liturgy: An Anthology for Worship* ([Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky Institute of Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University](#); Ottawa, 2004. Used with permission.