

Sunday after Theophany, Octoechos Tone 8
Holy Martyrs Hermylus and Stratonicus (313-24)
James, Bishop of Nisbis (350)

GREAT VESPERS

"Blessed is the man..." is sung.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 8

10. O Christ, during this spiritual service,
we sing to You these evening prayers,
commemorating the mercy You have shown us
by Your resurrection.

9. O Lord, O Lord, do not cast us away from Your face;
but in Your kindness have mercy on us
through Your resurrection.

8. Rejoice, O holy Zion,
the Mother of Churches and the dwelling-place of God;
for you were the first to receive the forgiveness of sins
through the resurrection.

7. Christ the Word was begotten by God the Father before all ages;
yet in these latter times,
He freely willed to take flesh from the Virgin who did not know man.
By His death on the cross and His resurrection,
He saved mankind from the ancient curse of death.

In Tone 4

6. He who covers Himself with light as with a garment
has granted for our sakes to become as we are.
Today He is covered by the streams of the Jordan,
though He has no need to be cleansed by them:
But through the cleansing that He Himself receives –
Wonder! He bestows regeneration on us!
He refashions without shattering,
and without fire, He casts anew,
and He saves those who are enlightened in Him,
Christ our God, the Saviour of our souls.

5. John the Baptist saw You draw near,
Who cleanse the sin of the world by Spirit and by fire.
He cried aloud in fear and trembling, and said:
I dare not touch Your immaculate head.

Sanctify me, Master, by Your epiphany,
only Lover of mankind!

4. Come, like the wise virgins,
let us go and meet the Master Who has appeared:
For as a Bridegroom He has come forth to John.
The Jordan, seeing You, was driven back in fear;
John cried out: I dare not touch Your immortal head.
The Spirit came down in the form of a dove, hallowing the waters,
and a voice called from on high:
This is my Son Who has come into the world to save mankind.
O Lord, Glory to You.

3. The glorious Hermylus and the God-wise Stratonice
were a wondrous pair who professed the uncreated Trinity.
After many wounds and sufferings
they conquered the error of worshipping many gods.
They have been crowned with the crown of victory,
and they pray for peace and great mercy for the whole world.

2. O Martyr, you were a servant of the Word.
O Hermylus, you were chosen as a deacon by the Divine Spirit.
The sacred and splendid robes of your diaconate
were coloured by the flowing of your blood;
having perfected your ministry,
you now pass over into the spiritual kingdom,
and you pray fervently for those who venerate you.

1. Having suffered stoning at the command of the torturer,
you were thrown into a basket and were drowned.
Through your blessed death you drown the most evil enemy.
Now you are living joyously in heaven,
and you pray for everyone, O courageous martyrs.

In Tone 8, Glory...

Today the creation is enlightened!
Today all nature is glad:
Things of heaven, and things on earth.
Angels and men come together,
for where the King is present, there also his army goes.
Let us run, then, to the Jordan;
let us all see how John baptizes a sinless and uncreated Head!
And therefore let us together cry aloud,
echoing the voice of the apostle:
The grace of God bringing salvation to all men has appeared,
shining upon the faithful and granting them great mercy!

Now...

Out of his love for mankind
the King of heaven appeared on earth and dwelt with men,
for He assumed a human body from the pure Virgin
and was seen in the flesh He received from her.
He is the One and only God having two natures but not two persons.
Wherefore we profess and declare the truth
that Christ our God is perfect God and perfect Man.
O Mother, who knew not carnal union,
intercede with Him that He may have mercy on our souls.

Aposticha

In Tone 8

O Jesus, You descended from heaven
so that You might ascend the cross.
O immortal Life, You came to die.
You are the true light to those who live in darkness,
and You are the resurrection of the fallen.
Therefore, O Saviour of all, we glorify You.

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

Let us glorify Christ, the Saviour of our Souls
Who arose from the dead.
For He took upon himself a soul and a body,
and during His passion He separated the one from the other.
His pure soul went down to conquer Hades,
while His holy body lay uncorrupted in the grave.

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

O Christ, we glorify Your resurrection with psalms and hymns.
For by Your victory over death
You delivered us from the sufferings of Hades,
and as God You granted us eternal life and great mercy.

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

O Lord of all, Creator of heaven and earth,
You are above all understanding.
Through Your passion on the cross
You freed us from the sufferings of Hades.
And, after condescending to be buried, You arose in glory;
and with Your mighty arm You also raised up Adam.
O most merciful Lord, we glorify You;
for by Your resurrection on the third day
You granted us remission of sins and eternal life.

Glory... Now...

Today the armies of angels are amazed,
seeing You stand naked in Jordan's waters, Saviour,
bowing Your pure head to be baptized by John!
By Your voluntary poverty
You have filled the universe with riches!
O Lord, glory to You!

Troparia

In Tone 8

You came down from on high, O Merciful One,* and accepted three days of burial* to free us from our sufferings.* O Lord, our life and our resurrection,** glory be to You.

In Tone 1, Glory... Now...

When You, O Lord, were baptized in the Jordan,* worship of the Trinity was revealed;* the voice of the Father bore witness to You,* naming You the beloved Son,* and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed the word's certainty.* Glory to You, O Christ God,* who appeared and enlightened the world.