

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Octoechos Tone 2
Transfer of the Precious Relics
of our Father Among the Saints John Chrysostom

GREAT VESPERS WITH POLYELEOS ON PRE-LENTEN SUNDAY

At Psalm 140

In Tone 2

10. Come, let us adore God the Word,
Who was born of the Father before all ages,
and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary;
for of His own free will He suffered the Cross
and submitted Himself to burial,
and arose from the dead to save me, a sinful one.

9. Christ our Saviour cancelled the decree that was written against us,
by nailing it to the Cross;
and He abolished the dominion of Death.
Let us glorify His Resurrection on the third day.

8. Let us, together with the archangels, sing of Christ's resurrection;
for He is the Redeemer and Saviour of our souls.
He will come again in awesome glory and mighty power
to judge the world which He has fashioned.

In Tone 1

7. I was entrusted with a sinless and loving land,
but I sowed the ground with sin and reaped with a sickle the ears of slothfulness;
in thick sheaves I garnered my actions,
but winnowed them not on the threshing floor of repentance.
But I beg You, my God, the pre-eternal husbandman,
with the wind of Your loving-kindness winnow the chaff of my works,
and grant to my soul the corn of forgiveness;
shut me in Your heavenly storehouse
and save me.

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5. Brethren, let us learn the meaning of this mystery.
For when the Prodigal Son ran back from sin to his Father's house,
his loving Father came out to meet him and kissed him.
He restored to the Prodigal the tokens of his proper glory,
and mystically he made glad on high, sacrificing the fatted calf.
Let our lives, then, be worthy of the loving Father who has offered sacrifice,
and of the glorious Victim
who is the Saviour of our souls.

In Tone 4

4. Let us joyfully sing the praises of Chrysostom, the golden trumpet,
the divinely-inspired organ, the inexhaustible sea of doctrine,
the pillar of the Church, the heavenly mind,
the abyss of wisdom, the gilded vase.
He pours forth sweet streams of dogma like honey
for the refreshment of the world.

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2. Let us worthily honour John Chrysostom,
he is the ever-shining star all nations with the rays of true teaching.
He is the preacher of repentance;
the golden sponge wiping away the despair of sadness.
His words are a refreshing dew
reviving hearts which are worn by sin.

1. With joyful hymns let us praise Chrysostom:
an earthly angel and a heavenly man.
He is a sweet and well-tuned harp, a treasury of virtues;
an immovable rock, a model of the faithful,
an imitator of the martyrs, a dweller with the holy angels,
and a companion of the apostles.

In Tone 2, Glory...

Of what great blessings in my wretchedness have I deprived myself!
From what a kingdom in my misery have I fallen!
I have wasted the riches that were given to me,
I have transgressed the commandment.
Alas, unhappy soul!
You are henceforth condemned to the eternal fire.
Therefore before the end cry out to Christ our God:
Receive me as the Prodigal Son, O God,
and have mercy upon me.

In Tone 2, Now...

O Virgin, the shadow of the Law passed away
with the realization of grace.
For as the bush had burned without being consumed,
so you gave birth while a virgin
and you remained a virgin.
Instead of the pillar of fire there rose the Sun of Justice.
Instead of Moses, Christ God came forth,
the Saviour of our souls.

Readings

Proverbs 10:6-8; 8:6-21

Wisdom 8:17-21; 9:1-4

Wisdom 4:1, 6-20

Aposticha

In Tone 2

Your Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,
has enlightened the whole universe;
and, through it, You call back to Yourself all Creation.
Almighty God, glory to You!

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

By the wood of Your Cross, O Saviour,
You have abolished the curse of the tree;
by Your burial You have destroyed the power of death;
and by Your Resurrection You enlightened the human race.
We, therefore, cry out to You:
O Christ our God, Giver of Life, glory to You!

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

O Christ, when You were nailed to the Cross,
the distorted nature of creation was made manifest.
The soldiers showed their inhumanity by piercing Your side with a lance,
and the people showed their ignorance of Your power
by asking that Your tomb be sealed.
But, in Your mercy, You accepted burial
and then arose on the third day.
O Lord, glory to You!

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

O Christ, Giver of Life,
You freely endured the Passion for the sake of mortals.
In Your power You descended into Hades;
and snatching, as from a mighty monster, the souls of those who awaited Your coming,
You placed them in Paradise.
Therefore, show Your great mercy to us who glorify Your Resurrection,
and cleanse our souls.

In Tone 6, Glory...

Holy father, as a loyal pastor you suffered unjustly,
you drank the bitter cup of tribulation and exile.
You received a blessed death, glorifying God for all things.
As a courageous soldier, you overcame the crafty enemy.
Chrysostom, offer our prayers to Christ our God,
who glorified you with the crown of victory.

In Tone 6, Now...

I have wasted the wealth which the Father gave to me,
and in my wretchedness I have fed with dumb beasts.
Yearning after their food, I remained hungry and could not eat my fill.
But now I return to the compassionate Father
and cry out with tears:
I fall down before Your loving-kindness,
receive me as a hired servant, and save me.

Troparia

In Tone 2

When You went down to death, O Life Immortal,* You struck Hades dead with the blazing light of Your divinity.* When You raised the dead from the nether world,* all the powers of heaven cried out:** "O Giver of Life, Christ our God, glory be to You!"

In Tone 8, Glory...

The divine Church rejoices* and the whole world keeps feast with radiance* at the transfer of your relics, O venerable hierarch John Chrysostom.* Your life as a bishop was godly* and you willingly became a martyr.* Therefore we cry to you, O martyr, passion-bearer and hierarchs' companion:* Pray to Christ God that our souls may be saved.

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!