

Sunday of Meatfare - Sunday of the Fearful Judgement
Octoechos Tone 3
Post-feast of the Encounter
Holy and Just Simeon Who Received God and the Prophetess Anna

GREAT VESPERS

At Psalm 140

In Tone 3

10. By Your Cross, O Christ our Saviour,
the power of Death has been vanquished
and the deceit of the devil has been destroyed.
Therefore, mankind, saved by faith,
offers You hymns of praise forever.

9. O Lord, all creation has been enlightened by Your resurrection,
and Paradise has been reopened;
therefore, all creation extols You
and offers You hymns of praise forever.

8. I glorify the powers of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;
and I praise the dominion of the undivided Divinity,
the consubstantial Trinity,
Who reigns forever and ever.

In Tone 6

7. When you shall come, O righteous Judge, to execute just judgment,
seated on Your Throne of glory,
a river of fire will draw all men amazed before Your judgment seat;
the powers of heaven will stand beside You,
and in fear mankind will be judged
according to the deeds that each has done.
Then spare us, Christ, in Your compassion,
with faith we entreat You,
and count us worthy of Your blessings
with those that are saved.

6. The books will be opened
and the acts of men will be revealed
before the unbearable judgment-seat;
and the whole vale of sorrow
shall echo with the fearful sound of lamentation,
as all the sinners, weeping in vain, are sent by Your just judgment to everlasting torment.
Therefore, we beseech You,

O compassionate and loving Lord:
spare us who sing Your praise,
for You alone are rich in mercy.

5. The trumpets shall sound and the tombs shall be emptied,
and all mankind in trembling shall be raised.
Those that have done good shall rejoice in gladness, awaiting their reward;
those that have sinned shall tremble and bitterly lament,
as they are sent to punishment and parted from the chosen.
O Lord of glory, take pity on us in Your goodness,
and count us worthy of a place with them that have loved You.

4. I lament and weep when I think of the eternal fire,
the outer darkness and the nether world, the dread worm and the gnashing of teeth,
and the unceasing anguish that shall befall those who have sinned without measure,
by their wickedness arousing You to anger,
O Supreme in love.
Among them in misery I am first:
but O Judge compassionate, in Your mercy save me.

In Tone 1

3. Our Redeemer, the Creator of all,
is carried to the Temple by his Virgin Mother.
The Elder received him, crying out with joy:
Now Your servant may depart, O good One,
according to Your word, in peace.

2. Simeon received in his arms from the Virgin
our Saviour, begotten before all ages.
He cried: Behold, the ends of the earth are enlightened by Your glory!
Now Your servant may depart, O good one,
for I have seen You, and am at peace.

1. Simeon, you bear the Saviour in your arms;
He was born in these last times to save the human race.
Joyfully you cry aloud:
Behold the nations' Light and Israel's glory!
Lord, now let Your servant depart in peace,
as You have commanded!

In Tone 8, Glory...

When the thrones are set up and the books are opened,
and God sits in judgment,
O what fear there will be then!
When the angels stand trembling in Your presence and the river of fire flows before You,
what shall we do then, guilty of many sins?
When we hear Him call the blessed of His Father into the Kingdom,
but send the sinners to their punishment,

who shall endure His fearful condemnation?
But Saviour, who alone love mankind, King of the ages,
before the end comes turn me back through repentance
and have mercy on me.

In Tone 3, Now...

O Lady most honourable,
how can we but be rapt in wonder
at you giving birth to the Incarnate God
who, without a mother, was born of the Father before all ages?
You gave Him birth in the flesh without a father,
without a man instrumentality.
He is God and man whose two natures are intact,
neither one losing any of its properties.
Therefore, O Virgin Mother,
intercede with Him to save the souls
of those who believe and confess in true faith
that you are the Mother of God.

Aposticha

In Tone 3

O Christ, Who darkened the sun by Your passion
and enlightened all creation by Your resurrection,
accept our evening prayer; for You love mankind.

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

O Lord, Your life-giving Resurrection has enlightened the entire universe
and has revived Your creation which lay in corruption.
Therefore, we, who have been released from the curse of Adam, cry out to You:
Almighty Lord, glory to You!

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

O God, although in Your divine nature You are unchangeable,
yet in Your human nature You underwent change by suffering in the flesh.
All creation was prostrate with fear
when it saw You hanging on the Cross,
and it groaned in sorrow as it sang the praises of Your long-suffering.
But You descended into Hades and arose on the third day,
granting life and great mercy to the world.

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

You suffered death, O Christ, to deliver mankind from death.
And when You arose from the dead on the third day,

You enlightened the world
and resurrected all who acknowledge You as God.

In Tone 8, Glory...

Alas, black soul!
How long will you continue in evil?
How long will you lie in idleness?
Why do you not think of the fearful hour of death?
Who do you not tremble at the dread judgment-seat of the Saviour?
What defence will you make, or what will you answer?
Your works will be there to accuse you:
your actions will reproach you and condemn you.
O my soul, the time is near at hand;
make haste before it is too late, and cry aloud in faith:
I have sinned, O Lord, I have sinned against You;
but I know Your love for man and Your compassion.
O good Shepherd, deprive me not of a place at Your right hand
in Your great mercy.

In Tone 1, Now...

The ancient of days, who gave Moses the law on Sinai in former times,
today appears as a Child.
As Maker of the law, He fulfils the law,
being brought into the Temple according to the law,
He is given over to the Elder.
Simeon the righteous receives Him,
and beholding the fulfilment of the divine order now brought to pass,
rejoicing aloud, he cries:
My eyes have seen the mystery hidden from the ages,
made manifest in these latter days:
The Light that disperses the foolishness of the faithless gentiles,
and the glory of the newly-chosen Israel!
Therefore let Your servant depart from the bonds of this flesh
to the life filled with wonder that knows no age or end,
for You grant the world great mercy!

Troparia

In Tone 3

Let the heavens be glad, let the earth rejoice,* for the Lord has done a mighty deed with His arm.* He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead;* He saved us from the abyss of Hades** and granted great mercy to the world.

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

Rejoice, full of grace, Virgin Mother of God!* From you there dawned the Sun of Righteousness,
Christ our God,* who enlightens those who dwell in darkness.* And you, O righteous Elder, be
glad!* You received in your embrace* the Liberator of our souls,* who grants us resurrection.