

**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**when we commemorate Mary of Egypt**  
**Octoechos Tone 1**

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**GREAT VESPERS**

**Kathisma Reading**

*Blessed is the man...* is sung.

**At Psalm 140**

*In Tone 1*

10. Accept our evening prayer, O holy Lord,  
and grant us forgiveness of sins,  
for You alone manifested the Resurrection to the world.

9. O you people, walk around Zion and encompass her.  
And there give glory to Him Who is risen from the dead.  
For He is our God  
Who delivers us from our sins.

8. Come you people, praise and worship Christ.  
Glorify His Resurrection from the dead;  
for He is our God Who delivered the world  
from the deceit of the enemy.

7. Rejoice, O you heavens;  
sound the trumpets, you foundations of the earth;  
cry out with joy, O you mountains.  
For behold, Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross;  
the Giver of Life has put Death to death;  
and the Lover of Mankind  
has raised up Adam.

6. Let us praise the Lord  
Who for our sake was willingly crucified in the flesh.  
He suffered, was buried, and rose from the dead.  
Therefore, let us sing to Him:  
O Christ, keep Your Church in the orthodox faith  
and bring peace to our lives;  
for You are gracious and love mankind.

5. O Christ our God, as we stand unworthily before Your life-bearing grave,  
we offer a hymn of praise to Your ineffable tenderness of heart.  
For You, O Sinless One,  
in Your loving-kindness have accepted the Cross and death  
in order to grant  
resurrection to the world.

*In Tone 6*

4. The pollution of past sins  
prevented you from entering the church  
to see the elevation of the Holy Cross;  
but then my conscience and the awareness of your actions  
turned you, O wise in God,  
to a better way of life.  
And, having looked upon the icon of the blessed Maid of God,  
You have condemned all your previous transgressions,  
O Mother worthy of all praise,  
and so have gone with boldness to venerate the precious Cross.

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2. Having worshipped at the holy places with great joy,  
you have received saving grace for the journey of virtue,  
and with all haste you have set out upon the good path you have chosen.  
Crossing the stream of the Jordan,  
with eagerness you have gone to live  
in the dwelling place of the Baptist.  
you have tamed the savagery of the passions  
through your ascetic way of life,  
and boldly you have broken the rebelliousness of the flesh,  
O Mother ever-glorious.

1. Having gone to dwell in the wilderness,  
you had blotted out from your soul the images of your sensual passions,  
and marked upon it the God-given imprint of holiness.  
You attained such glory, blessed Mother,  
as to walk upon the surface of the water,  
and in your prayers to God you were raised up from the earth.

And now, all-glorious Mary,  
standing before Christ with boldness,  
entreat Him for our souls.

*In Tone 4, Glory...*

The power of Your Cross, O Christ,  
has worked wonders,  
for even the woman who was once a harlot  
chose to follow the ascetic way.  
Casting aside her weakness,  
bravely she opposed the devil;  
and having gained the prize of victory,  
she intercedes for our souls.

*In Tone 1, Now...*

Let us sing a hymn of praise to the Virgin Mary,  
glory of the whole world!  
She was herself formed by human seed,  
yet she became the Mother of the Master, the Gate of heaven,  
the theme of the angels' hymn and beauty of the faithful.  
She was seen as being heavenly  
and the Tabernacle of the Godhead.  
She indeed tore down the wall of enmity between God and man,  
and brought peace in its place, she opened up the kingdom of heaven.  
Let us therefore cling fast to her for she is the anchor of faith,  
and let us receive as our stronghold the Lord Who was born of her.  
Be of good cheer, then, and have confidence, O people of God,  
for He will fight our enemies for us, He is all-powerful!

### **Aposticha**

*In Tone 1*

O Christ, by Your Passion we have been freed from suffering;  
and by Your Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption.  
O Lord, glory to You!

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

Let all creation rejoice, let the heavens be glad,  
let the nations clap their hands with joy.  
For Christ our Saviour, in His love for mankind,  
has nailed our sins to the Cross;  
He has put Death to death,  
and by raising our fallen forefather, Adam,

He has given life to all mankind.

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

O God, You are above all understanding;  
You are King and Lord of heaven and earth.  
Yet of Your own free will,  
You allowed Yourself to be crucified because of Your love for mankind.  
When You descended below,  
Hades was filled with bitterness as You confronted it;  
but the souls of the just received You with great joy.  
Adam arose when he saw You, his Creator, down in the depths.  
What a wonder this is!  
You are the life of all and have tasted death  
in order to dispel the darkness of the world with Your light.  
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

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

The myrrh-bearing women were filled with grief  
as they hastened with spices to Your tomb;  
but they did not find Your most pure body.  
Instead, they found an angel  
who proclaimed Your unique and glorious Resurrection,  
and commanded them to announce to Your Apostles:  
The Lord is risen, granting great mercy to the world.

*In Tone 2, Glory...*

The desire of your soul and the passions of your flesh  
you have cut down with the sword of abstinence;  
your sinful thoughts you have choked with the silence of the ascetic life.  
With the streams of your tears you have watered all the wilderness,  
and caused the fruits of repentance to spring up for us:  
therefore, O saint, we celebrate your memory.

*Now ...*

We now behold a new wonder,  
greater than the wonders of old.  
For who has ever known a mother to bear a child without the help of man?  
Who has known a mother to hold in her arms the Source of all Creation?  
It was God's own will to be born in this manner;  
and you, O most pure Virgin, carried Him as an infant in your arms.  
Because of this, you can approach God with the boldness of a mother.  
Therefore, we venerate you, and ask you to always beseech Him  
to have mercy on us and save our souls.

## **Troparia**

### *In Tone 1*

Though the stone was sealed by the Judeans\* and soldiers guarded Your most pure body,\* You arose, O Saviour, on the third day\* and gave life to the world.\* And so the heavenly powers cried out You, O Giver of Life:\* Glory to Your Resurrection, O Christ!\* Glory to Your Kingdom!\* Glory to Your saving plan!\*\* O only Lover of Mankind.

### *Glory... Now...*

O Holy Tabernacle, when Gabriel called out to you:\* Rejoice, O Virgin, full of grace,\* the Lord of All became incarnate of you,\* as the righteous David had foretold.\* In bearing your Creator, you have shown yourself to surpass the vastness of the heavens.\* We, therefore, cry out: Glory to Him Who dwelt in you!\* Glory to Him Who came forth from you!\* Glory to Him Who has set us free\* through your life-giving birth!