

Second Sunday After Pentecost
Octoechos Tone 1
Our Holy Father Nicephorus the Confessor

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.

4. Let us praise the Word
Who is without beginning and co-eternal with the Father.
For our sake He was born of the Virgin;
He freely accepted the Cross and death, and rose in glory.
Therefore, let sing to Him:
Glory to You, O Lord,
the Giver of Life and Saviour of souls.

In Tone 4

3. Your divine inspiration was revealed by your sanctity!
We know you as the ground of truth,
the confirmation of the faith, the teacher of dogmas,
the advocate of devotion,
the dwelling of purity, chosen vessel, sweet savour of the Spirit,
great treasury of teachings,
the foundation of the Church of Christ!

2. All-wise, blest and holy hierarch,
we praise you, the successor of the apostles,
who shared in the ways of the martyrs,
imitating the ascetics,
the seal of teachers, a model of divine life,
the initiate of the mysteries of Christ,
divinely flowing river of understanding,
drowning the thoughts of the evil and blaspheming one!

1. You increased the talent of wisdom, most wealthy one,
and were given the joy of your Lord.
Adorned with the grace of the radiance of God
and shining spiritually with the light of the Spirit,
you now stand at the right hand of the Giver of life,
ever enlightened, glorious one, with His divine brightness!

In Tone 1, Glory... 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.

Glory... Now...

O Mother of God, the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled,
since you remained a virgin both before and after giving birth.
For it was God Who was born of you to restore our human nature.
Therefore, do not overlook your servants who supplicate you in your temple.
Since you have held the merciful Lord in your arms,
be compassionate toward your servants,
and beseech Him to 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.

In Tone 4, Glory...

The truth of your deeds made you for your flock a rule of faith* and an image of meekness,* a teacher
of continence.* And so you gained the heights through humility,* riches through poverty,* father and
bishop, Nicephorus.* Intercede with Christ, our God,* for the salvation of our souls.

Now...

O Mother of God, the mystery hidden from all eternity* and unknown even to the angels,* was
revealed through you to those on earth:* God took on our human nature* and united it to His divine
nature in a perfect but unconfused union.* Then, He willingly accepted the cross for our sake* and
thereby raised again the first created man,** and saved our souls from death.