

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost, Octoechos Tone 5

Synaxis of the Holy, Glorious , and All-Praiseworthy Twelve Apostles

GREAT VESPERS

“Blessed is the man...” is sung.

At Psalm 140

In Tone 5

10. With Your precious Cross, O Christ,
You have put the Devil to shame.
With Your Resurrection You have deadened the sting of Death.
We, therefore, glorify You, O only-begotten Son of God.

9. O Christ, Who granted resurrection to mankind,
You were led like a lamb to the slaughter.
Then the princes of Hades were struck with terror
as they saw the gates of their tearful domain being lifted up;
for Christ, the King of Glory, entered therein
and exclaimed to those in chains: Go forth from here!
And to those in darkness: Go forth into the light!

8. What a great wonder!
The Creator of invisible beings suffered in the flesh for mankind,
and rose from the dead as immortal.
Come, therefore, all you nations and adore Him;
for through His compassion we have been freed from the snares of the Devil,
and we have learned to praise the one God in three Persons.

7. We offer to You our evening worship,
O Light Whom the darkness of night can never extinguish.
For in these latter days Your radiance has appeared to the world,
shining in Your flesh as light reflected in a mirror.
Your brilliance has descended even to the depths of Hades and dissolved its gloom.
O Lord, Giver of Light, glory to You;
for You have shown the radiance of Your Resurrection to all the nations.

In Tone 4

6. You have given as the pride and glory of Your Church, Lover of mankind,
the holy apostles Peter and Paul.
They shine upon the world as spiritual stars;
through them You have enlightened our darkness,

almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls!

5. You have given two mighty pillars to Your Church, Lord:
Peter the rock and Paul the wise.
They proclaim the truth and chase away the errors of godlessness.
Their words reveal Your glory to us,
almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls!

4. You have given two models of conversion to the faithful, Lord:
your blessed apostles Peter and Paul.
One repented, after denying you at the time of Your Passion;
the other believed, after opposing Your preaching:
now they both stand among the first of Your friends,
almighty Jesus, the Saviour of our souls!

In Tone 4

3. Let us bless the honourable disciples!
They were the eye-witnesses of the Incarnate Word.
They shine upon the world like flashes of lightning;
as spiritual giants they bring sweetness to our souls.
They are rivers of paradise,
flowing with living water for the refreshment of the churches!

2. Let us honour Christ's fellow-labourers!
They are lightning bolts hurled to earth by the might of the Spirit;
workers of miracles and witnesses of the mysteries,
tablets of divine love written by the hand of God,
honourable masters of the divine law!

1. The foolishness of the philosophers is corrected by the rod of the fishermen!
The vanity of the orators is put to confusion by divine wisdom!
The apostles proclaimed the infinite goodness of the Gospel;
now they exult in the communion of eternal blessedness:
the joy of the angels and the unfading crown of glory

In Tone 6, Glory...

Assemble, chosen members of Christ's holy Church!
The feast of the honourable apostles dawns upon the earth,
bringing salvation for us all!
Clap your hands, all peoples; cry out in exultation:
rejoice, twin rays of the sun, enlightening us who sit in darkness!
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, unshakeable pillars of divine doctrine!
Rejoice, friends of Christ and chosen vessels!
Come, and be present with us in spirit:
grant us spiritual gifts as we celebrate your sacred memory in song!

In Tone 5, Now...

A symbol of the undefiled Virgin and bride
was revealed in the Red Sea.
There, Moses divided the waters;
here, Gabriel is the messenger of the miracle.
There, the Israelites crossed the deep and their feet were not even wet;
here, the Virgin gives birth to Christ without human seed.
There, the sea remained uncrossed after the passing of Israel;
here, the immaculate remained incorrupt after giving birth to Emmanuel.
Therefore, O immortal God, who appeared in the flesh as true Man,
have mercy on us!

Aposticha

In Tone 5

O Christ our Saviour,
we lift up our voices to glorify You.
For, in Your love for mankind,
You became incarnate without leaving heaven;
You accepted the Cross and death;
You cast down the gates of Hades;
and on the third day You arose from the dead
for the salvation of our souls.

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

O Giver of Life,
streams of forgiveness, life, and salvation
poured forth from Your pierced side upon us all.
By accepting physical death, You granted us immortality;
by lying in the tomb, You freed us from Hades,
and as God, by rising from the dead,
You raised us with Yourself in glory.
Therefore, we cry out to You:
O Lover of mankind, glory to You!

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

O Lover of mankind,
Your crucifixion and descent into Hades are most wondrous.
For, as God, You thereby conquered the power of Hades,
and raised up in glory, with Yourself, those who were long imprisoned there.
You reopened Paradise and enabled them to enter.
Grant forgiveness of sins to us
who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day,
for You alone are all-merciful.

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

O Lover of mankind,
You accepted suffering in the flesh
and rose from the dead on the third day.
Therefore, heal the passions of our flesh,
raise us from our dreadful iniquities, and save us.

In Tone 6, Glory...

A joyful feast dawns upon the earth today:
the memorial of Peter and Paul, the wise leaders of the apostles.
Let Rome rejoice and be glad with us!
Let us keep feast, brethren, in songs and hymns.
Rejoice, apostle Peter, true friend of Christ our God!
Rejoice, beloved Paul, herald of the faith and teacher of the universe!
You have boldness before Him, chosen pair:
pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

Now...

Theotokos, you are the true vine who blossomed for us the fruit of life:
implore Him, we pray you, Lady, together with the apostles and all the saints,
that He will have mercy on our souls!

Troparia

In Tone 5

Let us, the faithful, acclaim and worship the Word* co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,* and born of the Virgin for our salvation.* For He willed to be lifted up on the cross in the flesh,* to suffer death and to raise the dead,** by His glorious Resurrection.

In Tone 8, Glory...

O saints, your message has spread throughout the world,* for receiving the Spirit in tongues of fire you torched the idols' deceit.* With the net of your words you caught those who were lost and brought them to faith.* Therefore the heavens declare your glory* and the firmament which God created adds its voice* and we with them cry out feasting your memory:* Save us all, O God, by the prayers of your twelve apostles.

In Tone 4, Now...

You are chief apostles and teachers of the world. * Beseech the Lord of all * to grant peace to the world * and abundant mercy to our souls.