

## Seventh Sunday after Pentecost, Tone 6; Our Venerable Father Thomas of Maleum; and Acacius mentioned in The Ladder of Divine Ascent of Saint John Climacus

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### GREAT VESPERS

*“Blessed is the man...” is sung.*

#### At Psalm 140

*In Tone 6*

10. O Christ, You won the victory over Hades,  
You ascended the Cross so that You might raise up with Yourself  
all those who dwelt in the darkness of death.  
Almighty Saviour, You are free from death  
and bestow life by Your divine light.  
We, therefore, beseech You to have mercy on us.

9. Today Christ has conquered Death.  
He has risen from the grave as He foretold,  
bestowing great joy upon the world.  
Therefore, let us all lift up our voices and sing:  
O Fount of Life, O Light Whom no one can approach,  
Almighty Saviour, have mercy on us.

8. O Lord, where can we sinners flee from You,  
for You are present in all creation?  
You are present in heaven, for it is Your dwelling place.  
Your power prevails in Hades where You conquered Death.  
O Master, Your sustaining hand touches even the depths of the sea.  
Where, then, can we take refuge except in You?  
We, therefore, prostrate ourselves before You and pray:  
O Lord, risen from the dead, have mercy on us.

7. We exult in Your Cross, O Christ,  
and we sing the glory of Your Resurrection.  
For You are our God, and we have no other Lord but You.

6. Glory to Your might, O Lord,  
for You have conquered the power of death.  
You have renewed us through Your Cross,  
granting us life and incorruption.

5. We forever bless the Lord and praise His resurrection,  
for by suffering crucifixion,  
He has destroyed death by His death.

4. By Your death and burial, O Lord,  
You broke asunder the bonds of Hades;  
and by Your resurrection from the dead,  
You enlightened the whole world.  
We, therefore, exclaim: Glory to You, O Lord!

*In Tone 1*

3. We have come to know you, Father,  
as a divinely radiant beacon,  
enlightening the world with shafts of spiritual light,  
dispelling the darkness of the evil tumult of demons!  
Therefore we celebrate your brilliant memory with faith, blessed one!

2. You were resplendent in your former life, Father Thomas,  
with riches and power.  
You clothed yourself in the monastic habit, venerable one,  
emulating the poverty of Him  
Who became incarnate for our sake!  
Therefore He made you rich with many spiritual gifts!

1. God openly guided you to salvation, Father,  
with a pillar of fire leading you to the calm harbour;  
to the mountain of dispassion.  
By your prayer, you caused water to spring forth,  
you made the blind to see and the lame to walk!

*In Tone 6, Glory... Now...*

Who would not call you blessed, O Virgin most holy?  
Who would not sing a hymn of praise  
to the glory of your giving birth without pain or travail?  
The Only-begotten Son Himself,  
begotten of the Father before all ages,  
was made flesh out of you in a manner  
that cannot be explained, O Woman most pure!  
And for our sake, He Who is God by nature  
assumed the nature of a man.  
He is not divided into two persons;  
He is understood to have two natures  
without commixion or confusion.  
O noble and blessed Woman,  
intercede with Him that He may mercy on our souls.

## **Aposticha**

*In Tone 6*

O Christ our Saviour,  
the angels in heaven sing the praises of Your Resurrection;  
make us on earth also worthy  
to extol You with a pure heart.

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

Almighty God, You destroyed the brazen gates and bars of Hades,  
and raised up fallen mankind.  
Therefore, with one accord, we cry out:  
O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You!

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

Christ willed to renew us from our corruption of old  
by being nailed to a cross and placed in a tomb.  
When the women came to anoint His body they tearfully cried out:  
O, what sorrow afflicts us!  
O Saviour of All, how could You consent to occupy a grave?  
If you truly willed this, then why did You allow Your body to be stolen?  
How were You removed?  
What place now conceals Your life-bearing body?  
O Lord, appear to us as You promised  
and put an end to our tears.  
As they were lamenting, an angel appeared and cried out to them:  
Do not weep, but tell the Apostles that the Lord is risen,  
granting sanctification and great mercy to the world.

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

O Christ, You were crucified of Your free will,  
and by Your burial You imprisoned Death.  
As God, You rose in glory on the third day,  
granting life and great mercy to the world.

*Glory... Now...*

Christ the Lord, our Creator and Redeemer,  
came forth from your womb, O most pure Virgin.  
He clothed Himself in our human flesh  
to set us free from the original curse of Adam.  
Therefore, O Mary, we praise you, without ceasing,  
as the true Virgin Mother of God,  
and we sing with the angels:

Rejoice, O Lady, advocate, protector, and salvation of our souls.

### **Troparia**

#### *In Tone 6*

Angelic powers were upon Your tomb\* and the guards became like dead men;\* Mary stood before Your tomb\* seeking Your most pure body.\* You captured Hades without being overcome by it.\* You met the Virgin and granted life.\* O Lord, risen from the dead,\*\* glory to You!

#### *In Tone 8, Glory...*

The divine image was faithfully preserved in you, O fathers,\* for taking up the Cross you followed Christ.\* By your deeds you have taught us to see beyond flesh, which passes,\* and care for the soul, a thing immortal.\* and so, O Venerable Thomas,\* your spirits rejoice with the angels.

#### *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!