

2 MAY (Paschaltide)
± Relics of Athanásios of Alexandria C4

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 4

O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
 O Lord, listen to me.
 O Lord, I have cried to you, listen to me;
 Note the voice of my plea when I cry to you.
 O Lord, listen to me.

² Let my prayer be directed before you like incense,
 the raising of my hands be an evening sacrifice.
 O Lord, listen to me.

3 sticherá from the Pentecostarion

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord
 and abundant redemption with *him*.

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O venerable Athanásios, O divine preacher, you endured persecutions and withstood perils so firmly that you banished the ungodly error of Arios. You saved the Church from heresy as you proclaimed the true faith that the Son and the Spirit have the same being as the Father.

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
 every people, acclaim him!

You brought light to those in darkness through the brilliance of your teaching. O Athanásios, you banished all error with the courage of a true pastor and as an unshakeable pillar of the Church of Christ, even though you exposed yourself to danger. Therefore we glorify you with joy in our hymns when we assemble.

S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
 and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

O divinely inspired *bishop*, you practised all the virtues with perseverance. You were consecrated by the anointing of the Spirit in the sight of everyone. You became a most holy hierarch, a true shepherd and a defender of the faith. Therefore the whole Church honours your sacred memory and offers glory to the Saviour on this feast.

Glory: Tone 6

Let us all sing hymns to Athanásios, the holy bishop of Christ. He overthrew the teaching of Arios when he declared the Son to be one in being with the Father. He proclaimed the might of the Trinity to the ends of the earth as one God in three indivisible Persons. He prays to God for those of us who celebrate his memory with faith.

Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

Phos Ilarón

P/D: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O Jesus Christ, joyful light of the holy glory
 of the immortal, heavenly, holy, blessed Father,
 when we come to the setting of the sun
 and see the light of evening,
 we praise God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

For it is right at all times to worship you
 with voices of praise,
 O Son of God *and* Giver of life.
 Therefore the world glorifies you.

Prokeimenon
Of the Day

Ektení

Prayer

O Lord, allow us this night to be guarded from sin. Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers! Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. O Lord, let your mercy be on us, for we have hoped in you. Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes. Blessed are you, O Master; make me understand your statutes. Blessed are you, O Holy *One*; enlighten me with your statutes. O Lord, your mercy lasts for ever; do not overlook the work of your hands. To you belongs worship, to you belongs praise, to you belongs glory, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and to ages of ages. Amen.

Plirotiká

Prayer

P: Peace be with you all. R: And with your spirit
 D: Bow down your heads to the Lord. R: To you, O Lord.

P: For blessed and glorified is the power of your Kingdom, of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

Apósticha

Tone 5

Hail, O example of virtue! You fought valiantly for the faith and crushed the heresy of Arios through the power of your sacred words. O Athanásios, you plainly taught about the one power shared by the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity, through which everything spiritual and material have been created in its unique goodness. Therefore you explained what is difficult to understand in the divine creation. Plead with Christ to send great mercy on our souls.

S1: My mouth will speak about wisdom;
 the meditation of my heart will be about understanding. ^{Ps 48}

Hail, O support of patriarchs! *You are* a clear trumpet, a heavenly spirit, a precise tongue, a piercing insight, a ray of just doctrine, a true shepherd, a majestic torch, an axe to sever the weeds and heresy and burn them in the fire of the Spirit, an immovable pillar, and an invincible fortress. You preached about the supreme power of the Holy Trinity. Plead before God to send great mercy on our souls.

S2: Your priests will be clothed with justice
and your holy ones will rejoice.

Hail, for your name means eternal life! Hail, for you are like a beautiful dove which flies with its mate and fledglings from earth to heaven! You rejoice there with the cloud of witnesses in the unfading light and in the unending joy. There the angelic choirs rejoice and the saints shine with splendour. There the sound of festivity echoes in the presence of God. There Christ lives who grants great mercy to our souls.

Glory: Tone 3

Again, the namesake of immortality, the river of the Nile which flows with gold, arrives for his annual commemoration. He pours out golden torrents of immortality in divine floods *and* produces a harvest for eternity. He teaches all to worship the indivisible might of the Trinity as he pours out God's teaching with exalted and divine words. He allows the thoughts of the faithful to drink and continually prays for our souls.

Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace

according to your word,
² for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 which you have prepared before all peoples,
³ a light of revelation for *the* nations
 and *the* glory of your people Israel.

Triságon Prayers

Apolytíkiá

Tone 3

O holy father Athanásios, you became a stronghold of Orthodoxy. You strengthened the Church through your divine teaching and opposed the heretical opinion of Arios. You explained and taught that the Son is equal in nature to the Father. Holy father, intercede with Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

From the Pentecostarion

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.

Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. *Ps 117*

S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
 for his mercy lasts for ever.

S2: All the nations surrounded me,
 but I opposed them in the Lord's name.

S3: This *is* the Lord's doing
 and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytíkiá

Tone 3

O holy father Athanásios, you became a stronghold of Orthodoxy. You strengthened the Church through your divine teaching and opposed the heretical opinion of Arios. You explained and taught that the Son is equal in nature to the Father. Holy father, intercede with Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

Glory Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

Small Litany

P: For yours is the might, and yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory of the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kathisma 1

Tone 3

O holy father, you defended the Church with the divine doctrines of Orthodoxy and ended heresy by your teaching. You ran the godly race and kept the faith until the end like Paul. Similarly a just crown was reserved to reward you for your sufferings.

Glory Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

Kathisma 2

Tone 4

O holy hierarch Athanásios, even after your death the assembly of the Orthodox benefits from the light of your radiant teaching, for you are like an unfading sun.

Glory Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

Small Litany

P: For blessed is your name, and glorified is your kingdom, of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen*

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
 and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.

⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
 and cleanse me from my sin.

⁵ For I know my lawlessness
 and my sin is always before me.

⁶ I have sinned against you alone
 and done this evil before you

^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
 and overcome when you are judged.

⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
 and my mother gave birth to me in sin.

⁸ For see, you have loved truth
 and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.

⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;
 you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.

¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
 the humbled bones will rejoice.

¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
 and wipe out all my lawlessness.

¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
 and renew an upright spirit within me.

¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
 or remove your Holy Spirit from me.

¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
 and make me firm with your directing Spirit.

¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
 and the ungodly will return to you.

¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
 O God of my salvation,

my tongue will rejoice in your justice.

¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
 and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
 you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.

¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
 God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.

²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
 and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.

²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
 with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
 then they will offer calves on your altar.

Kontákion

Tone 2

O holy father Athanásios, you planted the doctrine of Orthodoxy and eradicated the weeds of error. You multiplied the seeds of faith which were watered by the Holy Spirit. Therefore we sing you a hymn of praise.

Íkos

O faithful, today let us celebrate the joyful memory of Athanásios with hymns. Through his teaching he caused the collapse of the heresies of Arios, Evnomios and Savellios. He delivered them to the eternal fire to be consumed for blasphemy against the incarnation of Christ which was announced by all the prophets. Therefore we sing him a hymn of praise.

Synaxáριον

Today we remember the transfer of the relics of our father among the saints Athanásios the Great, Patriarch of Alexandria who lived in the Fourth Century. He attended the First Council as a deacon and became a life-long fighter against the Arian Heresy. As a result he was exiled many times from his city. Although he was a giant in theological combat, he was humble, courteous and open to all. On the Second his stored remains were transferred to another tomb.

Together with him we remember:

Holy Gluvias, brother of Cadoc, of the Celtic Lands C6
 Prince Boris of Bulgaria C10
 Patriarch Athanasios of Constantinople C17
 O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasias

Pascha until Saturday before Blind Man, and Pascha Farewell

1: It is the day of Resurrection; O people, let us be radiant. It is Pascha, the Pascha of the Lord, for Christ God has made us pass from death to life and from earth to heaven and we sing the triumphal song.

3: Come and drink a new drink, not one miraculously produced from a barren rock, but from the Spring of incorruption which pours out from the tomb of Christ in whom we are made firm

4: Let the Prophet Habakuk who was inspired by God, stand with us in the divine guard. Let him point out the radiant Angel, who announces with resounding voice, "To-day there is salvation for the world, for Christ has risen as the almighty *Lord*."

5: Let us rise before the dawn and offer praise to the Master instead of myrrh. We shall see Christ, the Sun of justice who makes life dawn for everyone.

6: O Christ, you descended into the deepest parts of the earth and shattered the eternal shackles of those that those who were chained. On the third day you rose from the tomb like Jonah from the whale.

7: The one who set free the children from the furnace, becomes man and suffers as a mortal. The one who is the only blessed and most glorious God of our fathers clothes the mortal through suffering with the splendour of incorruption.

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
 This is the chosen and holy day, the first of Sabbaths, the Queen and Lady, the Feast of Feasts, and the Festival of Festivals on which we bless Christ for ever.

Ode 9

My soul glorifies the Lord
 and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. **R**

R: *You are* more honourable than the Cherubim
 and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim.
 You gave birth to God the Word without defilement;
 O true Theotokos, we glorify you.

²For he has regarded his servant's humility;
 see, from now all generations will call me blessed. **R**

³For the Almighty has accomplished great *things* for me
 and his name is holy.

His mercy is from generation to generation
 on those who fear him. **R**

⁴He has accomplished strength with his arm
 and scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. **R**

⁵He has put down the mighty from *their* thrones
 and exalted the humble.

He has satisfied the hungry with good *things*
 and dismissed the rich with nothing. **R**

⁶He has helped his servant Israel
 in remembering his mercy,
 as he spoke to our fathers,
 to Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**

9: The Angel cried to her who is full of grace, "Rejoice, O pure Virgin, rejoice!" And again I say, "Rejoice!" for your Son has risen from the tomb on the third day.

Shine, shine, O new Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has dawned on you. O Sion, dance now and rejoice and you, O pure Theotokos, also rejoice at the resurrection of the one whom you bore.

Katavasias

Blind Man Sunday until Tuesday before Pascha Farewell

1: Let us praise our God and only Saviour, who led his people with dry feet in the sea, drowning Pharaoh and all his soldiers, for he is glorified.

3: O Christ, strengthen my mind by the power of your cross, so that I may praise and glorify your saving ascension.

4: O Lord, I have truly heard about the might of your cross, through which Paradise was thrown open. Therefore I cried, "Glory to your might, O Lord."

5: O Lord, we come to you early in the morning. Save us, for you are our God, and we know no other except you.

6: O Lord, the deep has surrounded me, and the whale has become my tomb. But, O Lover of the human race, I cried to you, and you saved me with your right hand.

7: You saved the youths, who praised you, from the midst of the consuming fire. Blessed are you, O God of our fathers!

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
 O priests, praise God the Son, begotten from the father before the ages, who was born from a Virgin Mother in these last days. O nations, exalt him more and more until the end of time.

Ode 9

Above

9: Let us believers glorify you with one voice, for you gave birth in time to the timeless Word. You became the Theotokos in a way that transcends every understanding and speech.

Small Litany

P: For all the powers of heaven praise you, and to you we send up glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Exaposteilária

Let us sing a hymn about the great Athanasios. He is the glory of bishops, the son of Egypt and a jewel of immortal life. He overthrew Arios and is the helper of the faithful.

From the Pentecostarion

Praises

Tone 4

Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
 praise him in the heights.
 To you, O God, is due a song.

Praise him, all his angels;
 praise him, all his powers.
 To you, O God, is due a song.

S4: Praise him with cymbal and dance;
 praise him with strings and flute.

All-glorious *father*, the dead wood of heresy is consumed by the fire of your teaching. O blessed *saint*, the evil army of disobedience is drowned in the sea of your thinking. O venerable Athanasios, the

Church of the faithful is daily adorned by your teaching and cries out in your honour.

S3: Praise him with tuneful cymbals;
praise him with joyful cymbals.
Let everything with breath praise the Lord.

All-glorious *father*, the dead wood of heresy is consumed by the fire of your teaching. O blessed *saint*, the evil army of disobedience is drowned in the sea of your thinking. O venerable Athanasios, the Church of the faithful is daily adorned by your teaching and cries out in your honour.

S2: My mouth will speak about wisdom;
the meditation of my heart will be about understanding. Ps 48

All-wise *father*, you drove the spiritual wolves from the Church of Christ with the staff of your teaching. You have defended it, encircled it with the strength of your words and presented it to Christ unshaken and immovable. Pray to him that those who celebrate your most honourable memory with faith may be rescued from corruption and misfortune.

S1: Your priests will be clothed with justice
and your holy ones will rejoice.

O venerable *father*, the whole Church is adorned with the splendour of your divine preaching. It is faithfully clothed with beautiful virtue and rightly honours the feast of your memory. O Athanasios, you are the glory of priests, the great and shining preacher of the faith, and champion of the Trinity.

Glory: Tone 3

Let us reverently honour Athanasios who is the glory of priests and the invincible hierarchy. When he had scattered the heretical forces through the power of the Spirit, he established the triumph of Orthodoxy throughout the world. He gave us the correct words to speak about the mystery of the Holy Trinity. These were concerned with the Persons and their various attributes and how they were joined in a unity without confusion through their identity of Being. He sings to God in company with the Cherubim and pleads for the salvation of our souls.

Both now:
From the Pentecostarion

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!

⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.

⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.

⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144

⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.

⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3

¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy be on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.

¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!

Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89

I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40

¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142

¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35

¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 3

O holy father Athanasios, you became a stronghold of Orthodoxy. You strengthened the Church through your divine teaching and opposed the heretical opinion of Arius. You explained and taught that the Son is equal in nature to the Father. Holy father, intercede with Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 65 Tone 2

S1: All the earth, shout with joy to the Lord;

R: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us.

S2: Make melody to his name
and give glory in his praise.

S3: Say to God, "How fearful are your works!
Your enemies will cringe before you
because of the greatness of your power."

S4: Let all the earth worship you and sing to you;
O Most High, let them make melody to your name.

S5: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 66 Own Tone

S1: May God be compassionate to us and bless us;
may he cause his face to shine on us
and be merciful to us.

R: Save us, O Son of God.
You arose from the dead.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: May we know your way on earth,
your salvation among all the nations.

S3: O God, let the peoples acknowledge you
and all the peoples thank you.

S4: May God bless us
and all the ends of the earth fear him.

S5: Glory: Both now:
Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 67 & 117 Tone 8

S1: Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered;
let those who hate him take flight from his presence.

R: Christ is risen from the dead! He has trampled down death by death and granted life to those in the tombs.

S2: As smoke vanishes, so let them vanish,
as wax melts before the fire,

S3: So let sinners perish at the presence of God;
let the just be festive.

S4: This *is* the day which the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

S5: Glory: Both now:

Entrance Ps 67

Bless God, in *the* assemblies,
the Lord from the springs of Israel.
Save us, O Son of God.
You have risen from the dead.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikia

From the Pentecostarion

Tone 3

O holy father Athanasios, you became a stronghold of Orthodoxy. You strengthened the Church through your divine teaching and opposed the heretical opinion of Arius. You explained and taught that the Son is equal in nature to the Father. Holy father, intercede with Christ our God to grant us great mercy.

Of the Church

Kontakion

Pascha to Farewell, except below

Tone 8

O immortal *Lord*, although you descended into the grave, yet you overthrew the power of Hades; O Christ *our* God, you rose as conqueror. You greeted the women bearing myrrh, saying, "Rejoice!" As you grant resurrection to the fallen, you give peace to your apostles.

Kontakion

Thomas Week

Tone 8

O Christ *our* God, Thomas touched your life-giving side with an eager hand when you came to your apostles through closed doors. He cried out to all, "You are my Lord and my God!"

Kontakion

Mid-Pentecost Week

Tone 4

Christ God, the Creator and Master of all cried to all in the midst of the feast of the law, "Come and draw the Water of immortality. We fall before you and faithfully cry, "Grant us your bounties, for you are the Source of our Life."

Prokeimenon Dan 3 Tone 4

R: Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers.

S: For you are just in everything that you have done to us.

Apóstolos

From the Letter of Paul to the Hebrews (13:7-16)

Brothers, remember your leaders, men who spoke to you the word of God, and considering the results of their conduct, imitate their faith. ⁸ Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. ⁹ Do not be carried away by various and strange teachings, for it is good that the heart be established by grace, not by food, through which those who were so occupied were not benefited. ¹⁰ We have an altar from which those who serve the holy tabernacle have no right to eat. ¹¹ For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the holy place by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside of the camp. Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people through his own blood, suffered outside of the gate. ¹³ Let us therefore go forth to him outside of the camp, bearing his reproach. ¹⁴ For we do not have here an enduring city, but we seek what is to come. ¹⁵ Through him, then, let us offer up a sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of lips which make confession to his name. ¹⁶ But do not forget to be doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

Alleluia Ps 131 Tone 1

S1: Your priests, O Lord, will clothe themselves with justice

And your holy ones will rejoice.
S2: For the Lord has chosen Zion.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (5:14-19)

The Lord said to those who followed him: You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. ¹⁷ "Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil them. ¹⁸ For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Communion

The just will be in everlasting remembrance. Alleluia!

Post Communion

Christ is risen from the dead!

He has trampled death with death
and granted life to those in the tombs.