

**29 JUNE (Pentecost)  
+ Apostles Peter and Paul**

**VESPERS**

**Lord I have cried**

Tone 2

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.

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

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?  
But there is forgiveness with you.  
What garlands of song shall we weave for Peter and Paul? *Although they were* separated in body, they were united by the Spirit. They rank first among preachers: one was the leader of the apostolic army while the other laboured more than all. Truly, Christ our God, who has great mercy, has adorned them with the crowns of immortal glory.

S5: O Lord, I have waited for you for your name's sake;  
my soul has waited for your word,  
my soul has hoped in the Lord.

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S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord  
from morning watch until night,  
from morning watch.

How shall we worthily sing hymns to honour Peter and Paul? Their hands were filled with grace and truth; their feet carried them to the ends of the earth to preach the gospel of peace. *Once they were* driven by the wind of the Spirit, *but* they are now carried up to heaven. Truly they are rivers of wisdom and upholders of the cross. Through them, Christ our God who has great mercy, has cast down the arrogance of demons.

S3: For there is mercy with the Lord  
and abundant redemption with *him*.  
He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

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S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;  
every people, acclaim him!  
What spiritual songs shall we sing for Peter and Paul? They have silenced the sharp tongues of the godless. They are awesome swords of the Spirit. They are the adornment of Rome and have nourished the whole world with the word of God. They are the living tablets of the New Testament written by the hand of God. Christ, who has great and rich mercy, has exalted them in Zion.

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

What spiritual songs shall we sing for Peter and Paul? They have silenced the sharp tongues of the godless. They are awesome swords of the Spirit. They are the adornment of Rome and have nourished the whole world with the word of God. They are the living tablets of the New Testament written by the hand of God. Christ, who has great and rich mercy, has exalted them in Zion.

Glory: Tone 4

Three times Christ asked Peter, "Do you love me?" In this way he reversed the threefold denial of himself. From that time Simon was to lead those who had witnessed God's mysteries. He cried out to the Lord, "You know all things; you know that I love you." "Feed my sheep, tend my chosen ones," the Saviour said. "Feed my lambs whose salvation I bought with my own blood." O blessed Apostle, pray that he may grant us great mercy.

Both now:

*O Virgin*, the prophet David was a forefather of God through you. He spoke beforehand about you in songs to the *Lord* who worked wonders in you, "At your right hand stood the queen." God, who was well-pleased to be incarnate from you without a father, announced you as mother and source of Life. He wanted to renew his fallen image, which had been made corrupt by passion, so he found the lost sheep wandering on the mountain, placed it on his shoulders and brought it to his Father. He joined it to the heavenly powers by his own will. O Theotokos, Christ who has great and rich mercy has saved the world.

*Entrance*

**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**

**Reading 1**

From the First Letter of Peter (1:3-9)  
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and to an inheritance which is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you. <sup>5</sup>By God's power *you* are guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed at the last time. <sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, though now for a little while you may have to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith, more precious than gold which though perishable is tested by fire, may be found to result in praise, glory and honour at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>8</sup>Without having seen him you love him. Although you do not now see him, you believe in him, and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy. <sup>9</sup>You obtain the salvation of your souls as the outcome of your faith.

**Reading 2**

From the First Letter of Peter (1:13-19)  
Brothers, clothe your minds, be sober, set your hope fully on the grace that is coming to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, <sup>15</sup>but as the one who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, <sup>16</sup>since it is written, "You must be holy, for I am holy." <sup>17</sup>If you invoke as Father the one who judges

everyone impartially according to his deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile. <sup>18</sup>You know that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your fathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, <sup>19</sup>but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

### Reading 3

From the First Letter of Peter (2:11-24)

Brothers, I implore you as aliens and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh that wage war against your soul. <sup>12</sup>Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. <sup>13</sup>Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it is to the emperor as supreme, <sup>14</sup>or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to praise those who do right. <sup>15</sup>For it is God's will that by doing right you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. <sup>16</sup>Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; live as servants of God. <sup>17</sup>Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the emperor. <sup>18</sup>Servants, be submissive to your masters with all respect, not only to the kind and gentle but also to the overbearing. <sup>19</sup>For one is approved if, remembering God, he endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup>For what credit is it, if, when you do wrong and are beaten for it, you take it patiently? But if when you do right and suffer for it you take it patiently, you have God's approval. <sup>21</sup>For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for us and left us an example that we should follow in his steps. <sup>22</sup>He committed no sin; no deceit was found on his lips. <sup>23</sup>When he was abused, he did not abuse in return. When he suffered, he did not threaten, but he trusted to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup>He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sin and live to justice. You have been healed by his wounds.

### 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.*

### Lití

Tone 5

O Apostles *you are* praised throughout the world. The Wisdom of God, the Word of the Father, foretold in his gospel that you would be his true vines. You carried in your branches the sweet-tasting Fruit of life. Those of us who are faithful partake and are filled with joy. O Peter, rock of faith, and Paul, pride of all the earth, strengthen the flock established through your teachings.

### Apósticha

Tone 1

O glorious Apostle Paul, who can describe your bondage and tribulations in the cities? Who can speak of your endless toil and effort for the gospel of Christ? You laboured to gain the entire human race and lead them into Christ's holy Church. O Paul, apostle and teacher of the churches, pray that she may guard your true confession to the ends of the world.

S1: Their sound has gone out into all the earth  
and their words to the ends of the world. ps 18

O glorious Apostle Paul, who can describe your bondage and tribulations in the cities? You kept vigil in hunger and thirst, *and were* cold, naked and weary; you fled from Damascus for your life and were let down in a basket through the wall. Your back was torn by rods of iron; you were stoned and kept a prisoner under guard. You were shipwrecked and cast adrift in the open sea. Truly you are a spectacle for angels and the human race. You endured all these things for Jesus Christ, your Lord and your strength, so that you might win the whole world for him. We entreat you, as we faithfully keep your memory, "Pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved."

S2: The heavens declare God's glory  
*and* the firmament speaks about their handiwork. ps 18

Let us praise Peter and Paul, the two great stars of the church. They shine brighter than the sun in the sky of faith. Let the nations follow the rays of their preaching and be led from ignorance to divine knowledge. One was nailed to the cross and received the keys of the kingdom from Christ in Heaven. The other was beheaded by the sword and departed to the Saviour; he is worthily counted blessed. Together they proclaim to Israel, "The one who was stretched out on the cross is the Lord of all." By their prayers, O Christ our God, strengthen the Orthodox Faith and destroy our enemies, for you are the Lover of the human race.

Glory: Tone 6

A joyful feast dawns over the earth today for the memorial of Peter and Paul, the wise leaders of the apostles. Let Rome rejoice and be glad with us. O brothers, let us keep feast in songs and hymns. Hail, O apostle Peter, true friend of Christ our God! Hail, O dear Paul, herald of the faith and teacher of the inhabited earth! O chosen pair, you have boldness before him; continually pray that our souls may be saved.

Both now:

O Theotokos of God, you are the true vine loaded with the Fruit of life. Therefore, O Lady, we beg you to intercede, together with the apostles and all the saints, that we may obtain mercy for our souls.

### Song of Simeon

B/P: O Master, now let your servant depart in peace  
according to your word,  
<sup>2</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared before all peoples,  
<sup>3</sup> a light of revelation for *the* nations  
and *the* glory of your people Israel.

### Triságion Prayers

#### Apolytikia

Tone 4

O first-enthroned of the apostles and teachers of the inhabited earth, implore the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Tone 8

Blessed are you, O Christ our God! You have revealed the fishermen to be most wise by sending down to them the Holy Spirit and through them, you drew the world into your net. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

**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.

**Apolytikia**

Tone 4

O first-enthroned of the apostles and teachers of the inhabited earth,  
implore the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great  
mercy to our souls.

Tone 8

Blessed are you, O Christ our God! You have revealed the  
fishermen to be most wise by sending down to them the Holy Spirit  
and through them, you drew the world into your net. Glory to you,  
O Lover of the human race!

**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 8

The Father from heaven showed you the divine revelation of the  
incarnate Word. O Peter, you forsook the depth of the sea filled  
with fish and cried out with great boldness to your Maker, "I  
acknowledge you to be the co-existing Son of the Father."  
Therefore you were truly and rightly revealed as the Rock of faith.  
O Apostle, you are the custodian of grace; intercede with Christ our  
God that remission of sins may be given to those who lovingly  
celebrate your holy memory.

Glory: Both now:

*From the Pentecostarion*

**Kathisma 2**

Tone 8

You were called from heaven by Christ and revealed as the herald  
of light. You illuminated the entire human race with the teaching of  
grace. O Paul, you shine with the radiance of the Spirit and blotted  
out the service of the law by your writing. Therefore you were  
counted worthy of translation to Paradise and the third Heaven.  
Intercede with Christ our God that remission of sins may be given to  
those who lovingly celebrate your holy memory.

Glory:

O apostles of the Lord, like stars you enlighten the ends of the earth  
with brilliant radiance through your teaching and holy preaching.  
You are the initiates of the heavenly mysteries.

Both now:

*From the Pentecostarion*

*Polyeleos*

**Kathisma 3**

Tone 8

Let us praise the leaders of the apostles, those great and radiant  
lights, Peter and the most wise Paul. They glowed with the fire of

the Holy Spirit and burnt up all the darkness of error. They have  
become worthy citizens of the Kingdom above and are seated on  
thrones of grace. Therefore, let us sing to them, "O holy apostles of  
Christ our God, plead with him to grant forgiveness of sins to those  
who lovingly celebrate your holy memory.

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*

**Anaváthmi Ps 128 Tone 4**

1: Many passions have fought against me from my youth,  
but help me and save me, O my Saviour. *X2*

2: Those who hate Zion will be shamed by the Lord;  
they will be withered like grass by the fire. *X2*

Glory:

3: Every soul lives through the Holy Spirit, is exalted in purity  
and illuminated by the Triune Unity in a sacred mystery.

Both now:

4: The streams of grace pour out through the Holy Spirit;  
they water all creation and produce life.

**Prokeímenon Ps 18 Tone 4**

R: Their sound has gone out into all the earth. *Ps 18*

S: The heavens declare God's glory of God.

**Gospel Dialogue**

P/D: Let us pray to the Lord. *Lord have mercy*

P: For you, O God, are holy *and* rest in the Holy Place. We send up  
glory to you, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen*.

R: Let everything with breath praise the Lord. *X3*

Praise God in his saints;

praise him in the firmament of his power. *Ps 50*

P/D: And that we may be counted worthy to listen to the Holy  
Gospel, let us pray to the Lord our God. *Lord have mercy X3*

P/D: Wisdom. Stand up. Let us listen to the Holy Gospel.

P: Peace be with you all. *And with your spirit*

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

P/D: Let us attend

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

**Gospel**

From the Holy Gospel according to John (21:15-25)

At that time Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you  
love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know  
that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." <sup>16</sup> A second  
time he said to him, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said  
to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him,  
"Tend my sheep." <sup>17</sup> He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of  
John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him  
the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you  
know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him,  
"Feed my sheep. <sup>18</sup> Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were  
young, you girded yourself and walked where you would; but when  
you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will gird  
you and carry you where you do not wish to go." <sup>19</sup> (This he said to  
show by what death he was to glorify God.) And after this he said to  
him, "Follow me." <sup>20</sup> Peter turned and saw following them the  
disciple whom Jesus loved, who had lain close to his breast at the  
supper and had said, "Lord, who is it that is going to betray you?"

<sup>21</sup> When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, "Lord, what about this  
man?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus said to him, "If it is my will that he remain until I  
come, what is that to you? Follow me!" <sup>23</sup> The saying spread abroad  
among the brothers that this disciple was not to die; yet Jesus did  
not say to him that he was not to die, but, "If it is my will that he

remain until I come, what is that to you?"<sup>24</sup> This is the disciple who is bearing witness to these things, and who has written these things; and we know that his testimony is true.<sup>25</sup> But there are also many other things which Jesus did; were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

R: Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

### Psalm 50

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

<sup>4</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act  
and cleanse me from my sin.

<sup>5</sup> For I know my lawlessness  
and my sin is always before me.

<sup>6</sup> I have sinned against you alone  
and done this evil before you

<sup>6b</sup> so that you might be justified in your words  
and overcome when you are judged.

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

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

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

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

<sup>11</sup> Turn your face from my sins  
and wipe out all my lawlessness.

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

<sup>13</sup> Do not banish me from your presence  
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.

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

<sup>15</sup> I will teach the lawless your ways  
and the ungodly will return to you.

<sup>16</sup> O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;  
O God of my salvation,  
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.

<sup>17</sup> O Lord, you will open my lips  
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.

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

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

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

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

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the apostles.

Both now:

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Have mercy: Tone 2

O Peter, you are the leader of the apostles and the rock of faith. O Paul, you are the speaker and light of the churches of God. Now that you stand before the throne of God, plead with Christ for us.

### Intercession

P/D: O God, save your people and bless your inheritance. Visit your world with mercy and compassion; exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians and send down on them your rich mercy,

through the prayers of our all-pure Lady, Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary, by the power of the honourable and life-giving cross, through the protection of the honourable bodiless powers of heaven, through the prayers of the honourable, glorious, prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John, of the holy, glorious, all-praised apostles, of the holy, all-praised and victorious martyrs, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of the holy and just forebears of God, Ioachim and Anna, of the holy apostles Peter and Paul, and of all the saints. We ask you, only merciful Lord, "Listen to us sinners as we pray to you, and have mercy on us."

*Lord have mercy. XI2*

Through the mercy, compassion and love for the human race of your uniquely-fathered Son, with whom you are blessed, together with the all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and to the ages of ages. *Amen.*

### Kontáktion

Tone 2

O Lord, only Searcher of the hearts of men, you have taken up to eternal rest and to the enjoyment of your blessings the two preachers of divine truth and leaders of the apostles, for you have accepted their labours and deaths as a sweet-smelling sacrifice.

### Ikos

O Saviour, give my tongue speech and open my mouth. Fill it with your Spirit and grant my heart contrition, so that I may be the first to stick to what I say and accomplish what I teach, for you have said that whoever does what he teaches is truly great among men. For if I do not do what I say, then I am merely resonant brass. Therefore, only Searcher of the hearts of men, teach me what to say and allow me to do what is right.

### Synaxáριον

Today we remember the holy, glorious and renowned leaders of the apostles, Peter and Paul. Peter was the son of a fisherman, yet became a leader among the Twelve. Paul was a Roman citizen, yet turned his back on privilege to labour for the Gospel. As he preached about Christ, Peter was sent to the cross. Paul was the executioner of error and felt the edge of the sword on his neck. On the Twenty Ninth their blood bathed the earth at Rome.

O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

### Katavasías

1: Let us praise the one who overwhelmed Pharaoh and his chariots in the sea, and who crushed the enemy with a mighty hand, for he has been glorified.

3: O Christ, you said to your disciples, "Remain in Jerusalem until you are endowed with the Power from above, for I will send you another Advocate like myself. *It is my Spirit and that of the Father, in whom you will be established.*

4: O Christ, when the prophet saw your coming in the last days, he cried out, "O Lord, I have heard about your power, for you have come to save your anointed *people.*"

5: O Lord, O Spirit of salvation, the fear of you was conceived in the womb of the prophets and born on earth. It purifies the hearts of the apostles and, as an upright Spirit, it is renewed in the faithful, for your statutes are light and peace.

6: I travel on the sea of earthly cares, am thrown to the soul-destroying beast and drown in my sins. O Christ, I cry to you like Jonah, "Lead me from the abyss of death."

7: When they were cast into the fiery furnace, the God-fearing youths transformed the fire into dew. O Christ, they cried out in song to you, "Blessed are you, O Lord, God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord. The bush on Sinai, which the fire could not consume, revealed God to Moses, the one who was slow of speech. In a similar way the zeal for God of the three youths in the furnace has revealed them as unharmed by the fire. They sing, "Every work of the Lord, praise the Lord and exalt him throughout all the ages."

### Ode 9

**M**y 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.

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

<sup>3</sup>For 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**

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

<sup>5</sup>He 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**

<sup>6</sup>He has helped his servant Israel  
in remembering his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his seed for ever. **R**

9: Hail, O Queen, glory of mothers and virgins! No mouth however sweet or fluent is eloquent enough to praise you worthily. Every mind is overawed by your childbearing. Therefore with one voice, we glorify you.

### 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*

### Exaposteilaria

Tone 2

I sing about the leaders of the apostles, Peter and Paul. They are lights of the inhabited earth, heralds of faith, trumpets sounding with truth, preachers of belief, pillars of the Church and destroyers of error.

All Holy Spirit, you proceed from the Father and came through the Son to the uneducated disciples. Save those who acknowledge you as God and have mercy on us.

### 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.

The Saviour asked the twelve apostles, "Who do men say that I am?" Then Peter, the leader of the disciples, received heavenly grace and cried out with a clear voice, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." He is worthy of our highest praise, for he was given this revelation from the Father in Heaven. He has justly won the power of binding and loosing.

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

O Peter, it is right to call you the rock. The Lord established the unshaken faith of the Church on you. He made you the chief shepherd of his rational sheep and has entrusted you with the keys of the heavenly gates. In his goodness he commanded you to open to all those who approach with faith. Your Master counted you worthy to be crucified. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls.

S2: Their sound has gone out into all the earth  
and their words to the ends of the world. ps 18

O Paul, you were not called by man, but by God. Mist and darkness covered your bodily eyes when the misery of unbelief was revealed to you. Heavenly light flashed before the eyes of your heart and revealed to you the beauty of Jesus Christ, our Lord. You came to know the one who brings light from darkness. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls.

S2: The heavens declare God's glory  
and the firmament speaks about his handiwork. ps 18

O Paul, you boldly proclaimed Christ and proudly carried his cross. You treasured his love above everything. Because you were captivated by your cherished *Lord*, you rejoiced to be called his slave. You chose danger and death for his name as being sweeter than all this world's delights. Now you have been released from your labours and have won the Master's praise. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls.

Glory: Tone 6

Assemble, O chosen members of Christ's holy Church! The feast of the honourable apostles dawns on the earth and brings salvation for us all. Clap your hands, all you peoples! Cry out with festivity, "Hail, O twin rays of the sun which enlighten us who sit in darkness! Hail, O Peter and Paul, unshakeable pillars of divine doctrine! Hail, O friends of Christ and chosen vessels! Come and be present with us in spirit. Grant us spiritual gifts as we celebrate your sacred memory with song.

Both now:

O Theotokos, you are the true vine who bloomed for us with the Fruit of life. O Lady, plead with him, we pray you, together with the apostles and all the saints, to have mercy on our souls.

### Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!  
glory to God in the highest!

Peace on earth and goodwill to men!

<sup>2</sup>We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,  
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,

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

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>Receive our prayer,  
*for* you sit on the right of the Father,  
and have mercy on us.

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

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

<sup>8</sup> O Lord, allow us this day  
to be guarded from sin.

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

<sup>10</sup> O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,  
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.

<sup>16</sup> Blessed are you, O Lord!  
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118

<sup>12</sup> 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

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

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

<sup>16</sup> Stretch out your mercy  
to those who know you. Ps 35

### Triságion

### Apolytikion

Tone 8

Blessed are you, O Christ our God! You have revealed the fishermen to be most wise by sending down to them the Holy Spirit and through them, you drew the world into your net. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

### LITURGY

#### Antiphon 1 Ps 18 Tone 2

S1: The heavens declare the glory of God  
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

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

S2: Day to day pours out speech  
and night to night proclaims knowledge.

S3: There are no tongues or words  
in which their voices are not heard.

S4: Their sound has gone out into all the earth  
and their words to the ends of the world.

S5: Glory: Both now:

#### Antiphon 2 Ps 19 Own Tone

S1: May the Lord hear you on the day of affliction  
and the name of the God of Jacob defend you.

R: O Holy Advocate, save us who sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: May he send you help from his sanctuary  
and assist you from Zion.

S3: May he remember all your sacrifices  
and fatten your offering.

S4: Glory: Both now:  
*Monogenes*

#### Antiphon 3 Ps 20 Tone 8

S1: O Lord, the king will be glad in your strength  
and greatly rejoice in your salvation.

R: Blessed are you, O Christ our God! You have revealed the fishermen to be most wise by sending down to them the Holy Spirit. Through them, you drew the world into your net. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

S2: You have granted him his heart's desire  
and not denied him the requests of his lips.

S3: For you went before him with the blessings of goodness  
and set a crown of precious stones on his head.

S4: He asked life from you  
and you gave him length of days for ever and ever.

### Entrance Ps 20

O Lord, be exalted in your strength;  
we will sing and make music to your power.

O Holy Advocate,  
save us who sing to you, "Alleluia!"

### Apolytikia

Tone 8

Blessed are you, O Christ our God! You have revealed the fishermen to be most wise by sending down to them the Holy Spirit and through them, you drew the world into your net. Glory to you, O Lover of the human race!

Tone 4

O first-enthroned of the apostles and teachers of the inhabited earth, implore the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

*Of the Church*

### Kontákion

Tone 8

When the Most High came down and confused the tongues, he divided the nations, but when he distributed the tongues of fire, he called all to unity. Therefore with one voice we glorify the all Holy Spirit.

### Triságion

#### Prokeímenon Ps 18 Tone 8

R: Their sound has gone out into all the earth.

S: The heavens declare God's glory of God.

### Apostolos

From the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (11:21-12:9)  
Brothers, however anyone is bold (I speak in foolishness), I am bold also. <sup>22</sup> Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they the seed of Abraham? So am I. <sup>23</sup> Are they servants of Christ? (I speak as one beside himself) I am more so; in labours more abundantly, in prisons more abundantly, in stripes above measure, in deaths often. <sup>24</sup> Five times from the Jews I received forty stripes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I suffered shipwreck. I have been a night and a day in the deep. <sup>26</sup> I have been in travels often, perils of rivers, perils of robbers, perils from my countrymen, perils from the Gentiles, perils in the city, perils in the wilderness, perils in the sea, perils among false brothers; <sup>27</sup> in labour and travail, in watching often, in hunger and thirst, in fasting often, and in cold and nakedness. <sup>28</sup> Besides those things that are outside, there is what presses on me daily, anxiety for all the churches. <sup>29</sup> Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is caused to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? <sup>30</sup> If I must boast, I will boast of the things that concern my weakness. <sup>31</sup> The God and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ, the one who is blessed forevermore, knows that I do not lie. <sup>32</sup> In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king guarded the city of the Damascenes desiring to arrest me. <sup>33</sup> Through a window I was let down in a basket by the wall, and escaped his hands. It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. For I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. <sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ, fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I do not know, or whether out of the body, I do not know; God knows), such a one caught up into the third heaven. <sup>3</sup> I know such a man (whether in the body, or outside of the body, I do not know; God knows), <sup>4</sup> how he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. <sup>5</sup> On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own

behalf I will not boast, except in my weaknesses. <sup>6</sup> For if I would desire to boast, I will not be foolish; for I will speak the truth. But I forbear, so that no man may account of me above what he sees in me, or hears from me. <sup>7</sup> By reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, that I should not be exalted excessively, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, that I should not be exalted excessively. <sup>8</sup> Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me. <sup>9</sup> He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me.

**Alleluia Ps 88 Tone 1**

S1: O Lord, the heavens will acknowledge your wonders.

S2: God is glorified in a council of the saints.

**Gospel**

From the Holy Gospel according to Matthew (16:13-19)

At that time when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" <sup>14</sup> They said, "Some say John the Baptist, some, Elijah, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup> I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you release on earth will be released in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he charged the disciples that they should tell no one that he is Jesus the Christ.

**Communion Ps 18**

Their sound has gone out into all the earth  
and their words to the ends of the world. Alleluia!