

1 SEPTEMBER
+ New Year
+ Day of Prayer for the Environment
Stylite Simeon (Symeon) of Syria C5

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 1

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.

S8: O Lord, I have cried to you from the depths;
O Lord listen to my voice.

Let us cry out every day to the Creator with the very words of Christ himself. He taught this prayer to his disciples, "Our Father in heaven, give us today our daily bread and overlook our many sins."

S7: Let your ears note the voice of my plea.
The Lord who wrote the law on Mount Sinai in days of old came incarnate to the town of Nazareth. Christ our God took the scroll of the prophet in his hands. After he had read from it, he rolled it up and taught the people that the scriptures reach their fulfilment in him.

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?
But there is forgiveness with you.
O Lover of the human race, keep the environment which clothes the earth unharmed so that we may be rescued from destruction and ruin, for we, your unworthy petitioners who inhabit the earth by your will, live, move and have our being in it.

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.
O Christ our Saviour, surround the whole creation with the powerful strength of your love for the human race. Rescue the earth in which we live from the corruption that threatens it, for we, your servants, have hoped in you.

S4: Let Israel hope in the Lord
from morning watch until night,
from morning watch.
O Saviour, put an end to the evil schemes which are being devised against us with irrational intention. Turn away from the earth every destructive work of human handiwork which engineers corruption and leads to loss.

Tone 5

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

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

O venerable father, if it were possible for your pillar to speak, it would continually sing about your pains, your labours and lamentations. For it did not merely bear you, but it was itself borne like a tree and watered with your tears. The angels were amazed and men marvelled. O venerable Simeon, the demons feared your patience; pray that our souls may be saved.

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

O venerable father, you emulated your Master through the power of the Divine Spirit when you mounted your pillar as though it were a cross. He tore apart the handwriting of all our sins, while you put down the uprisings of the passions. He was like a lamb, while you were like a sacrifice. He ascended the cross, while you ascended the pillar. O venerable Simeon, pray that our souls may be saved.

1

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

O venerable father, your memory and the humility of your heart remain for ever. O good pastor, you are the blessed favourite of Christ, for although you have departed from us, yet in spirit you do not leave us. You intercede in love before God, as you join the chorus with the angels in heaven. Pray with them that our souls may be saved.

Glory: Tone 6

O holy Simeon, divine grace overshadows the chest which contains your relics. Therefore we are drawn to the perfumed fragrance of your relics to receive healing for our ills. O holy father, pray to Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Both now:

O Holy Spirit, one in Being with the Son, who is the eternal Word, you create and sustain all visible and invisible matter together with him. Bless the crown of this year, and bring peace to your Orthodox people through the prayers of the Theotokos and all the saints.

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

Prophecy 1

From the Prophecy of Isaiah (61:1-10a)
The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me; he has sent me to preach joyful news to the poor, to heal the broken in heart, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; ² to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of recompence to our God; to comfort all who mourn; ³ that glory instead of ashes should be given to those who mourn in Sion, the oil of joy to the mourners, the clothing of glory for the spirit of heaviness. And they will be called generations of justice, the planting of the Lord for glory. ⁴ Those who build the old waste places, will raise those that before were deserted. They will renew the desert cities, even those that had been desolate for many generations. ⁵ Strangers will come and feed your flocks, and foreigners will be your ploughmen and vine-dressers. ⁶ But you will be called priests of the Lord, ministers of God. You will eat the strength of nations, and be admired because of their wealth. ⁷ Thus they will inherit the land a second time, and everlasting joy will be on their head. ⁸ For I am the Lord who loves justice, and hates robberies of injustice. I will give their labour to the just, and will make an everlasting covenant with them. ⁹ Their seed will be known among the nations, and their offspring in the midst of peoples. Every one who sees them will take notice of them, that they are a seed blessed by God, ¹⁰ and they shall greatly rejoice in the Lord.

Prophecy 2

From the Book of Leviticus (26:3-12, 14-17, 19-24)
The Lord spoke to the sons of Israel, saying: If you walk in my ordinances, keep my commandments and do them, ⁴ then I will give you the rain in its season, the land will produce its fruits and the trees of the field will yield their fruit. ⁵ Your threshing time will overtake the vintage and your vintage will overtake your seed time. You will eat your bread to the full, live safely on your land, terror will not be with you and I will destroy the evil beasts from your land. Warfare will not pass through your land and enemies will fall before you. ⁸

Five of you will pursue a hundred and a hundred of you will pursue tens of thousands. ⁹ I will regard you, bless you, increase you, multiply you and establish my covenant with you. ¹⁰ You will eat what is old and very old, bring out the old to make way for the new and my soul will not loathe you. ¹² I will walk among you, be your God, and you will be my people. ¹⁴ But if you will not listen to me, nor keep these my ordinances, ¹⁵ but disobey them, and your soul loathes my judgments, so that you will not keep all my commandments, ¹⁶ then I will do this to you: I will bring on you discomfort. You will sow your seeds in vain and your enemies will eat your products. ¹⁷ I will set my face against you, you will fall before your enemies and they will pursue you. You will flee, although no one pursues you. ¹⁹ I will break down the insolence of your pride and make heaven for you like iron and your earth like brass. ²⁰ Your strength will be in vain, your land will not yield its seed and the trees of your field will not yield fruit. ²² I will send on you the wild animals of the earth and consume your cattle. I will make you few in number with the marching sword, your land will be a desert and your dwellings will be desolate, ²³ for you walk crookedly towards me, ²⁴ so I will walk in fury from the side towards you, says the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel.

Prophecy 3

From the Wisdom of Solomon (4:7-15)

Although the just may be overtaken with death, yet he will be at rest. ⁸ For honourable age is not in length of time, nor what is measured by the number of years. ⁹ But wisdom is the gray hair to people, and an unspotted life is old age. ¹⁰ He pleased God, and was loved by him, so that living among sinners he was taken up. ¹¹ He was snatched, in case evil should alter his understanding, or deceit charm his soul. ¹² For the bewitching of waywardness obscures things that are honest, and the wandering of desire undermines the simple mind. ¹³ Since he was made perfect in a short time, he completed long years, ¹⁴ for his soul pleased the Lord, therefore he hurried to take him away from among the wicked. ¹⁵ The people saw, and did not understand, neither did they perceive that grace and mercy is with his saints, and that he has visited his chosen ones.

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 4

O Lord, you hold the circle of the earth and establish its foundations, as the prophet says, so accept our fervent petitions, as our Guardian, Protector and Saviour, for we are your people and the sheep of your pasture. Through your infinite mercy we will be saved from expected dangers. Therefore, O Master, do not completely destroy us, but let your goodness overcome the abundance of our offences, so that we may all glorify the ocean of your compassionate deeds.

Apósticha

Tone 1

See, the beginning of the year has come! It invites us to sing about Evodos, Ermogenis and Kallisti, brother and sister by blood who are brilliant athletes, Simeon who is equal to the angels, Joshua, the son of Nun, the seven sleepers of Ephesus and the choir of holy women who are forty torches. O feast-lovers, let us sing fervently, "O Lord, bless the work of your hands and allow us to go through the course of the year with success.

S1: O God, praise is due to you in Zion.

and a vow will be repaid to you in Jerusalem. Ps 64

O Christ our God, you created all things in wisdom; you brought everything into being from nothing. Bless now the beginning of the new year. Surround your Church with the impregnable wall of your protection. Show your power and fill the hearts of the faithful with joy. Grant us victory in battle against our visible and invisible enemies; shower mercy on the whole world through the Theotokos.

S2: We will be filled with the goodness of your house;

your temple is holy, wonderful in justice. Ps 64

O God, you are wonderful and your works are marvellous; all your ways are unsearchable. O Wisdom, co-eternal and co-active with the Father, you came to live in the world in your almighty power and sought to recall the image which you had created. You were born most wonderfully from your mother without human seed, yet did not forsake your divinity. You have planned the seasons and times to accomplish our salvation. Therefore we continually cry to you, "Glory to you, good Lord!"

Glory: Tone 5

O holy father, you found the ladder to heaven on which you climbed to the heights like Ilias who ascended in the chariot of fire. He left no path for others to find, but after your death, O heavenly man and earthly angel, your pillar remains as a sign for us all. O vigilant light of the world, Simeon the just, pray that our souls may be saved.

Both now:

O King, you remain unchanged throughout all ages without ceasing. Receive our humble prayers and save us poor sinners. Cause the earth to yield fruit in abundance. O Lover of the human race, send gentle showers to water the fields. Grant your faithful people victories over their adversaries as you upheld your dear David in battle. For you, O Christ our God, are the joy of the Orthodox people. Save us through the prayers of the Theotokos.

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.

Triságion Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 2

O Creator of the inhabited earth, you appointed times by your own power. O Lord, bless the crown of this year with your goodness. Preserve your rulers and cities in safety and save us through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Tone 4

O Lord our Saviour, as God you brought everything into existence by a word. You established laws and governed it precisely for your glory. At the prayers of the Theotokos keep safe and unharmed every element which supports the world and save the inhabited earth.

Tone 1

O holy one, you became a pillar of patience and emulated the ancestors. You became Job in sufferings, Joseph in trials and the public appearance of the bodiless powers while you were still in the body. O just father Simeon, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Tone 7

Hail Full of Grace, ever-virgin Theotokos, harbour and protector of the human race! The Saviour of the inhabited earth received flesh from you, for you are the only *woman* to be both mother and virgin; you are blessed and glorified for ever. Plead with Christ our God to grant peace to the whole inhabited earth.

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 2

O Creator of the inhabited earth, you appointed times by your own power. O Lord, bless the crown of this year with your goodness. Preserve your rulers and cities in safety and save us through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Tone 4

O Lord our Saviour, as God you brought everything into existence by a word. You established laws and governed it precisely for your glory. At the prayers of the Theotokos keep safe and unharmed every element which holds the earth together and save the inhabited earth.

Tone 1

O holy one, you became a pillar of patience and emulated the ancestors. You became Job in sufferings, Joseph in trials and the public appearance of the bodiless powers while you were still in the body. O just father Simeon, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Tone 7

Hail Full of Grace, ever-virgin Theotokos, harbour and protector of the human race! The Saviour of the inhabited earth received flesh from you, for you are the only *woman* to be both mother and virgin; you are blessed and glorified for ever. Plead with Christ our God to grant peace to the whole inhabited earth.

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

You grant weather which is favourable for crops and rain from heaven. Today receive the prayers of your servants. Rescue your faithful people from every misfortune, for all your works cry out for your compassion. O Lord, bless our endeavours at their beginning and end; direct the works of our hands. O all-powerful God, grant us remission for all our wrongdoing, for you are the one who has brought everything from non-existence into being.

Glory: Both now: Tone 1

O Lord, as God you maintain all things by a word and keep them in perfect harmony. Since you are compassionate, keep unchanged the environment which clothes creation. Through your ineffable power banish every harm from the earth.

Kathisma 2

Tone 5

You trained your soul in a godly manner through abstinence, labours and prayers. O blessed *saint*, you became a companion of the

martyrs. You truly received gifts of miracles to heal the infirmities of those who honour you in faith. You cast out demons by the authority which was given to you against them from above. O blessed Simeon, plead with Christ our God to grant remission of sins to all those who lovingly celebrate your holy memorial.

Glory: Both now:

O Virgin, hurry to receive the prayers which we pour out to you. All-holy Lady, present them to your Son and God. Bring peace to those who resort to you in distress. Frustrate the schemes of the Evil One and overthrow the madness of the enemy who attacks your servants.

*Polyeleos***Kathisma 3**

Tone 4

O Master of the inhabited earth, we fall down before you in faith, for you grant us every good thing. We fervently sing to you, "O Saviour, be moved with compassion and accept the pleas of the mother who gave birth to you, and of all the just people who have pleased you at any time. In your goodness allow those who honour you in two natures and who glorify you in faith, to offer a year acceptable in your sight.

Glory: Both now: Tone 8

O Lord, Lover of the human race, King of all creation, you bring everything into existence from nothing, so keep the order which you established unharmed and grant your servants favourable weather. O almighty Giver of life, spread also mild air and disperse every poisonous pollution from the earth. Grant your peace to every nation, so that we may all sing the praise of your goodness.

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, 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 115

R: The death of his saints is precious in the sight of the Lord.

S: What shall we give back to the Lord
for everything which he has given us?

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 Luke (18:2-8)

The Lord spoke this parable: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I do not fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she will not eventually wear me out with her coming!' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly."

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.
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.

Glory: Tone 6

O merciful *Lord*, blot out the abundance of our offences through the prayers of your holy one.

Both now:

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

Tone 6

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
O Word of God, you exist before all time and have created everything in wisdom. You organised the whole created earth by your almighty word. O Lord, bless the crown of the year which you have permitted us to commence in your goodness. O Lover of the

human race, demolish all heresies through the prayers of the Theotokos.

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 Simeon the Stylite, Joshua, son of Nun, 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 only-begotten 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.*

Kontákia

Tone 4

O holy father, you sought the things above and conversed with men below. You made your pillar a chariot of fire and became a companion of the angels. Together with them you continually intercede for us before Christ our God.

Tone 2

O God, you formed everything visible and invisible through your almighty strength. We plead with your goodness to keep unharmed the environment which surrounds the earth.

Íkos

O loving Saviour, we praise the revelations of your providence as well as your abundant saving power, because you have established laws and unchangeable rules for everything with ineffable wisdom, order and harmony, in order to protect us, your royal creation. O Lord, keep us unshaken from every corrupting activity, change and devastation, for you are the Guardian, Protector and Redeemer of all things. Preserve the essential power in them without change and especially guard the environment which surrounds the earth.

Synaxáron

You are the Ancient of Days and the New Adam. O Christ bless the beginning of our New Year. Let us improve our environment during its course.

On the same day we commemorate our renowned father Simeon the Stylite of Syria who lived in the Fifth Century. He lived for thirty six years on his pillar of rock and gradually increased its height from ten to sixty feet. He made himself available for advice every afternoon. On the First Simeon went from height to height and was united to his Creator.

Together with him we remember:

Joshua the Just, Son of Nun C16 BC

Holy Forty Women Martyrs of Iráklia C4

Martha the Mother of Simeon C5

Monk Drithelm of Melrose C8

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

Katavasías

1: Moses inscribed the invincible weapon of the cross on the waters and marked a straight line before him with his staff. He divided the Red Sea and opened a path for Israel who went over dry shod. Then he marked a second line across the waters, united them in one and overwhelmed the chariots of Pharaoh. Therefore let us sing to Christ our God, for he has been glorified.

3: The rod of Aaron is an image of this mystery; it comes into bud to show who should be priest. So also the wood of the Cross has now flowered in the Church that once was barren. It has filled her with strength and steadfastness.

4: O Lord, I have heard the mystery of your dispensation. I have considered your works and glorified your divinity.

5: O three times blessed tree, on which Christ the King and Lord was stretched, the beguiler who tempted the human race with the tree fell because of you. He was caught in the trap set by God who was crucified on you in the flesh and grants peace to our souls.

6: Jonah stretched out his hands in the form of a cross within the belly of the whale and plainly prefigured your redeeming passion. He was cast out after three days and foreshadowed the mighty resurrection of Christ our God who was crucified in the flesh and enlightened the world by his rising on the third day.

7: The senseless decree of the wicked tyrant confused the people and breathed out threats and blasphemy hateful to God. Yet neither the fury of wild beasts nor the roaring of the fire could frighten the three children. As they stood together in the flame and were fanned by the wind which brought refreshment like the dew, they sang, "Blessed are you and praised above all, our God and the God of our fathers!"

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
O children, equal in number to the Trinity, bless God the Father and Creator. Sing the praises of the Word who descended and changed the fire to dew and exalt above all for ever the most Holy Spirit who gives life to all.

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.

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

³ 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:

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

⁵ 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:

⁶ 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: O Theotokos, you are a mystical Paradise in which Christ blossomed. Through him the life-bearing wood of the Cross was planted on earth. Now at its elevation we bow in worship before it and glorify you.

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

Tone 2

O Lord and God of gods, three persons yet unapproachable, the uncreated almighty Creator and Ruler of all, we fall down before you and pray, "O good *Lord*, bless this start of a new year. O

compassionate *Master*, preserve Orthodox Christians and all your people in peace.

O venerable Simeon, your life shone like a radiant beacon; it illumines all the world with rays of miracles. O blessed *saint*, you prayed for us who honour you as you ascended to God on your pillar as though by a ladder, to the place where there is true fulfilment of all desires.

O Maker and Ruler of all creation, you have fixed the times and seasons in your authority; O compassionate *Lord*, crown the cycles of the year with blessings of goodness. Preserve your people in peace, unharmed and whole, through the prayers of the angels and the mother who gave you birth.

O Lord and Master, you once stretched out the heavens at your command, as the Prophet says, and founded the unformed mass of the earth. Keep the constitution of the inhabited earth in harmony and preserve every element in creation from contamination.

Praises

Tone 3

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.

O pre-eternal Word of the Father, being in the image of God, you have fixed the times and seasons by your authority. Bless the crown of the year with your goodness, grant peace to your Churches, victory to Orthodox Christians, abundance to the earth and great mercy to our souls.

Tone 4

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

O Christ our God, your Kingdom is the kingdom of all ages. Your dominion endures through all generations, for you have fashioned everything in wisdom and established the times and seasons for us. We give thanks for all things and cry out to you, "Bless the crown of the year with your goodness and allow us to cry out to you without condemnation, "Glory to you, O Lord!"

S2: We will be filled with the goodness of your house;
your temple is holy, wonderful in justice. Ps 64

O God, your paths are great and wonderful beyond all ways. We glorify the power of your dispensation, for being Light of Light, you were well pleased, O Word, to come to your wretched world in order to destroy the primeval curse of ancient Adam. In your wisdom you have appointed times and seasons for us so that we may glorify your goodness which accomplishes everything. Glory to you, O Lord!

Tone 2

S1: O God, praise is due to you in Zion.

and a vow will be repaid to you in Jerusalem. Ps 64

O Lord, when you strengthened the inhabited earth with your power, those who were stumbling clothed themselves with might. Women revealed manly courage in the face of the cruellest tyrants. They overcame the defeat of the mother of the human race, they regained the delights of Paradise and were able to glorify you, for you were born from a woman and saved the human race.

Glory: Tone 2

The holy Simeon came like good fruit from healthy stock; he was nurtured from infancy more by grace than by milk. As he lifted his holy body on the pillar of stone and raised his mind to God, he fashioned a heavenly home with his virtues. He danced in the chorus

with the hosts of God and became a dwelling place for Christ, the Saviour of our souls.

Both now: Tone 8

O Christ, O Word of God, O God, you created everything in your ineffable wisdom and appointed times and seasons for us. Bless the work of our hands by your power, give joy to all faithful Orthodox Christians and grant them victories over their enemies, for you alone are good and the Lover of the human race.

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 2

O Creator of the inhabited earth, you appointed times by your own power. O Lord, bless the crown of this year with your goodness; preserve your rulers and cities in safety, and save us through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91 Tone 5

S1: It is good to thank the Lord
 and make melody to your name, O Most High.

R: At the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us!

S2: To announce your mercy in the morning
 and your truth by night.

S3: For the Lord our God is upright
 and there is no injustice in him.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 92 Tone 2

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;

the Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

R: Save us, O Son of God. You are wonderful in your saints.
 We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved.

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house
 to length of days.

S4: Glory: Both now:

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 94 Tone 2

S1: Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
 and shout with joy to God our Saviour.

R: O Creator of the inhabited earth, you appointed times by your own power. O Lord, bless the crown of this year with your goodness; preserve your rulers and cities in safety, and save us through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
 and gladly cry to him with psalms,
 for the Lord is a great God
 and a high king over all the earth.

Entrance Ps 47

Great is the Lord and highly praised
 in the city of our God *and* on his holy mountain.
 Save us, O Son of God.
 You are wonderful in your saints.
 We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikia

Tone 2

O Creator of the inhabited earth, you appointed times by your own power. O Lord, bless the crown of this year with your goodness; preserve your rulers and cities in safety, and save us through the intercessions of the Theotokos.

Tone 4

O Lord our Saviour, as God you brought everything into existence by a word. You established laws and governed it precisely for your glory. At the prayers of the Theotokos keep safe and unharmed every element which holds the earth together and save the inhabited earth.

Tone 7

Hail Full of Grace, ever-virgin Theotokos, harbour and protector of the human race! The Saviour of the inhabited earth received flesh from you, for you are the only *woman* to be both mother and virgin; you are blessed and glorified for ever. Plead with Christ our God to grant peace to the whole inhabited earth.

Tone 1

O holy one, you became a pillar of patience and emulated the ancestors. You became Job in sufferings, Joseph in trials and the public appearance of the bodiless powers while you were still in the body. O just father Simeon, intercede with Christ our God to save our souls.

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 4

O Creator and Master of time and the ages, triune and merciful God of all, bless the course of this year and in your boundless mercy save those who worship you and cry out in fear, "O Saviour, grant blessings to the whole human race."

Triságion

Prokeímenon Ps 146 & 134 Tone 4

R: Great is our Lord and great is his strength!
 There is no reckoning of his understanding.

S: Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good;
make melody to his name, for it is pleasant.

Apostolos

From the First Letter of Paul to Timothy (2:1-7)

My son Timothy, first of all, then, I urge that pleas, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all men, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. ³ This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴ who desires that all men should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For "There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all." The testimony to this was made at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a preacher and apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Alleluia Ps 64 Tone 4

S1: O God, praise is due to you in Zion.

S2: We will be filled with the goodness of your house.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (4:16-22)

At that time, Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read. The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.

Communion Ps 64

You will bless the crown of the year with your goodness;
your plains will be filled with richness. Alleluia!