

SUNDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2019
+ Sunday of the Prodigal
+ First and Second Discovery of the Forerunner's Head C5
39th Sunday Tone 6 & Eothinón 6

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 6

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.

S10: Lead my soul from prison that I may acknowledge your name.

O Christ, you were victorious over Hades. You ascended the cross and raised with you those who sat in the shadow of death, for you are free among the dead and pour out life from your light. O almighty Saviour, have mercy on us.

S9: The just will wait for me until you reward me.

Today Christ has trampled on death, for he has risen as he said and granted joy to the world, so that we may all sing this hymn, "O unapproachable Light, Source of life, almighty Saviour, have mercy on us."

S8: O Lord, I have cried to you from the depths;

O Lord listen to my voice.

O Lord, where shall we sinners flee from you, for you are in all creation? In Heaven? It is there that you live. In Hades? It is there that you trampled on death. In the depths of the sea? Even there is your hand, O Master. As we flee to you and fall down before you, we pray, "You rose from the dead; have mercy on us."

S7: Let your ears note the voice of my plea.

O Christ, we glory in your cross. We sing and honour your resurrection.
For you are our God and we know no one else apart from you.

Tone 1

S6: O Lord, if you mark offences, who will stand?

But there is forgiveness with you.

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.

The earth allotted to us was rich and fertile, but all we planted were the seeds of sin. We reaped the sheaves of evil with the sickle of laziness. We failed to place them on the threshing-floor of sorrow. Now we implore you, O Lord, eternal Master of the harvest, "May your love become the breeze to winnow the straw of our worthless deeds. Make us like precious wheat to be stored in heaven and save us all." X2

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

O brothers, our purpose is to know the power of God's goodness, for when the Prodigal Son abandoned his sin, he hurried to the refuge of his father. That good man embraced him and welcomed him. He killed the fatted calf and celebrated with heavenly joy. Let us learn from this example to offer thanks to the Father who loves everyone, as also to the Victim, the glorious Saviour of our souls.

Tone 5

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

He will redeem Israel from all his offences.

Hail, holy and light-bearing head which is venerated by the angels! In time past you were cut off by the sword, for you had cut through the shame of impurity with incisive rebukes. Like a fountain which refreshes the faithful with wonders, you declared the saving coming of the Saviour. You perceived the coming of the Spirit who made his home in you as you stood between the grace of the Old and New Covenants. Implore Christ our God to grant our souls great mercy.

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

The head of the Forerunner is revealed. Once it was concealed in an earthen vessel; now it is openly delivered from the depths of the earth and pours out streams of healing. For he washed in the waters the head of the *Lord*, who even now covers the chambers of the firmament with water, and showers divine forgiveness on men. So let us bless this truly praiseworthy head and joyfully celebrate its finding, as we implore Christ to grant our souls great mercy.

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

The head which proclaimed the Lamb of God who had appeared in the flesh, declared to everyone the ways of saving repentance with divine precepts, before it denounced the sin of Herod and was therefore severed from its body. It was concealed for a time and has risen on us like a shining sun. It cries out, “Repent and with contrition of soul submit to the Lord who grants the world great mercy.”

Glory: Tone 6

O Forerunner, your head is a treasury of divine gifts guarded by God and has risen from the depths of the earth. O glorious *prophet*, O Baptist of Christ, while we faithfully receive it and venerate it, we are made rich through you with marvellous wonders and the remission of sins.

Both now: Tone 6

Most holy Virgin, who will not bless you? Who will not sing about your most pure childbearing? O pure *Lady*, the uniquely-fathered Son shone timelessly from the Father, but was ineffably incarnate from you. He was God by nature, but became man for our sake. He was not divided into two persons, but known as one in two natures. O honourable and all-blessed Lady, plead with him to have mercy on our souls.

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.

Prokeímenon

P/D: The Evening Prokeimenon

R: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty.

S1: The Lord has put on power and clothed himself.

S2: He founded the world, which will not be moved.

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.

Aposticha

Tone 6

O Christ our Saviour, the angels in heaven sing hymns to your resurrection. Enable us who are on earth to glorify you with purity of heart.

S1: The Lord reigns *and* is clothed with majesty;
the Lord has put on power and clothed himself. Ps 92

You destroyed the gates of brass, broke the chains of Hades and raised the fallen human race, for you were almighty God. Therefore we cry out in unison, “O Lord, glory to you who rose from the dead!”

S2: For he founded the world which will not be moved. Ps 92

Christ who desired to restore us after our fall, was nailed to the cross and placed in a tomb. The myrrhbearing women sought him with tears and cried, “Woe to us, O Saviour! How do you stoop to live in the tomb? What place can hide your life bearing body? Come to us as you promised; take away our lamentation and tears.” Then the angel appeared to them and cried, “End your lamentation. Go and proclaim to the apostles that the Lord has risen; he grants us pardon and great mercy.”

S3: O Lord, holiness is right for your house to length of days. Ps 92

O Christ, you have been crucified as you determined and you captured death by your burial. You rose on the third day as God in glory, and have granted the world eternal life and great mercy.

Glory: Tone 2

O renowned John, the honourable repository of divine thoughts, your head, which had clearly prophesied the mystery of the ineffable *Lord*, came from the caves of the earth as though from a mother's womb. It perfumes the whole world with the myrrh of holiness as you preach the way of repentance and pray for our souls before the Saviour of all.

Both now: Tone 6

I hid my face in shame like a heartbroken man. I have squandered the riches my Father gave me and went to live with senseless beasts. I sought their food and was hungry, for I did not have enough to eat. I will rise and return to my compassionate Father. He will accept my tears as I kneel before him and cry, “Receive me like one of your servants in your tender love for everyone and save me.”

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

Apolytíkiá

Tone 6

The angelic powers were at your tomb; the guards became like dead men. Mary stood beside your grave and sought your most pure body. You took Hades captive and came away from it unscathed. You met the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, you rose from the dead; glory to you!

Tone 4

The head of the Forerunner rose from the earth like a star; *it was* brilliant with rays of healing and immortality. It gathers the choirs of angels in heaven and assembles the human race on earth to sing with one voice about the glory of Christ our God.

Tone 4

O Theotokos, the mystery hidden from eternity and unknown to the angels, is revealed to those on earth through you. God was incarnate from you in a union without confusion and freely endured the cross for us by his own will. He raised the first-formed man and has saved our souls from death.

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

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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 6

When the tomb was opened, Hades lamented and Mary cried to the Apostles *who were* in hiding, “O workers of the vineyard, come out and proclaim the word of the resurrection, ‘The Lord has risen and grants the world great mercy.’”

Glory:

Mary Magdalene stood beside your tomb and, because she thought that you were the gardener, said with loud lamentation, “Where have you hidden the Eternal Life? Where have you laid the one who sits on the throne of the Cherubim? Those who were guarding him have died with fright. Either give me my Lord or cry out with me, ‘Glory to you, for you were among the dead, yet you made the dead rise!’”

Both now:

O Theotokos, Gideon foreshadowed your conceiving and David revealed your childbearing, for the Word descended into your womb like rain on the fleece. O holy *Lady*, full of grace, you brought into flower without seed the Salvation of the world; *he is* Christ our God.

Kathísma 2

Life lay in the tomb and the seal lay over the stone. The soldiers guarded Christ like a sleeping King. When he had invisibly struck his enemies, the Lord rose.

Glory:

O immortal Lord, Jonah prefigured your burial and Simeon foretold your divine resurrection. For you went down as a corpse into the tomb and shattered the gates of Hades. O Christ our God, Enlightener of those in darkness, you rose as Master without corruption for the salvation of the world.

Both now:

O Virgin Theotokos, pray to your Son, Christ our Lord, who was willingly nailed to the cross and rose from the dead so that he might save our souls.

Evlogitária

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The assembly of angels was amazed when it saw you among the dead. O Saviour, by destroying the power of death, you raised Adam with you and freed everyone from Hades.

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The radiant angel cried to the Myrrhbearers from the tomb, "Why do you women mingle myrrh with your tears? Look at the tomb and understand. The Saviour has risen from the tomb."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.

The Myrrhbearers ran sorrowfully to your tomb very early in the morning, but an angel came to them and said, "The time for sorrow has come to an end. Do not weep, but announce the resurrection to the apostles."

Blessed are you, O Lord; teach me your statutes.
The Myrrhbearers were sorrowful as they approached your tomb, but the angel said to them, Why do you number the Living among the dead? As God he has risen from the tomb."

Glory:

We worship the Father, his Son and the Holy Spirit, the Holy Trinity, one in Being. We cry with the Seraphim, "Holy, Holy, Holy are you, O Lord."

Both now:

O Virgin, because you gave birth to the Giver of Life, you rescued Adam from his sin. You gave Eve joy instead of sadness. The Divine Man who was born from you has restored to life those who had fallen from it.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to you, O God. (X3)

O our God and our hope, glory to 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, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Ypakói

Read without note

O Christ, you have shattered the gates of Hades as God and have opened to us the former Paradise by your voluntary and life-giving death. You have saved our lives from corruption by rising from the dead.

Anaváthmi Tone 6

Antiphon 1 Ps 122

O Word, I raise my eyes to you in heaven;
have pity on me so that I may live for you.

O Lord, have mercy on us who are of no worth
and restore your vessels for service.

Glory: Both now:

The cause of salvation is in the Holy Spirit;
if he decides to breathe on one of these,
he quickly raises him from earthly things, gives him wings, makes him grow and gives him standing above.

Antiphon 2 Ps 123

If the Lord had not been among us,
 none of us could have firmly struggled with the enemy,
 but the victors will be exalted.

O Word, do not let my soul be taken like a sparrow in their teeth.
 Alas! How can I, a lover of sin, be set free from the enemies?

Glory: Both now:

Everyone is made divine
 and given joy, peace and blessing through the Holy Spirit,
 for he is equally active with the Father and the Lord.

Antiphon 3 Ps 124

Those who trust in the Lord are fearful to their enemies
 and objects of wonder to everyone,
 for their vision is above.

O Saviour, the land of the just has you for helper
 and will not extend its hands to do wrong.

Glory: Both now:

The power over everyone is vested in the Holy Spirit;
 the hosts of heaven worship him as also every earthly breath.

Prokeímenon Ps 79

R: O Lord, stir up your power and come to save us.

S: O Shepherd of Israel, listen.

Small Litany

For you are the King of Peace and Saviour of our souls, and we send up
 glory to you, to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, always, now and
 for ever, and to the ages of ages. *Amen*

Kontákion

Without note

O Father, I have recklessly forgotten your glory and wasted in sin the
 riches which you gave me. Now I cry to you like the Prodigal, “O
 merciful Father, I have sinned before you. Receive me as a penitent and
 make me as one of your hired servants.”

Íkos

Every day our Saviour teaches us with his own voice, so let us listen to the Scriptures on the Prodigal Son who regained wisdom. Let us follow the good example of his repentance with faith. Let us cry out with humility of heart to the *Lord* who knows all secrets, “O merciful Father, we have sinned against you and are unworthy ever again to be called your children as before. But since you are the Lover of the human race by nature, receive me as a penitent, and make me as one of your hired servants.”

Synaxáron

Today we celebrate the first and second discoveries of the head of the renowned Forerunner in the Fifth and Seventh Centuries. O Forerunner, you once fell beneath the executioner’s sword. On the Twenty Fourth you revealed your head.

Together with him we also remember:
 Monk Erasmus of the Kiev Caves C12
 Relics of Prince Romános of Uglich C15

Ypómнима

Today we commemorate the parable of the which comes in the noble gospel and which our divine Fathers placed in the Triodion. O you, who are a prodigal, like me, come forward with confidence and tranquillity, for the door of divine mercy has been opened for everyone. Therefore, O Christ our God, in your ineffable love for the human race, have mercy on us. Amen.

Katavasías

1: My soul, take up the song of Moses and cry aloud, “The Lord is my Helper and Protector and has become my Salvation. He is my God and I will glorify him.”

3: O God, O Cultivator of every good tree and fruit, make my infertile mind fruitful in your compassion.

4: When he foresaw your birth from a virgin, the Prophet cried aloud, “O Christ, I have heard the report about you and was afraid, for you have come from Teman. You are the holy *Lord* from the overshadowed mountain.”

5: The night is far spent; the day is at hand. The Light has shone over the world. Therefore, O Christ our God, the ranks of angels sing your praises and glorify you.

6: O Saviour, I am held fast in the depth of sin and overwhelmed by the sea of life, but, as you brought Jonah from the belly of the whale, draw me away from the passions and save me.

7: The children sang together in the furnace like Cherubim in heaven, “Blessed are you, O God, for you have brought all this on us in truth and judgment because of our sins. You are praised and glorified above all for ever.”

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
Let us praise the *Lord* who in the past foreshadowed the miracle of the Virgin to Moses on Sinai at the burning bush. Let us bless and exalt him above all for ever!

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 his mighty firmament. 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 John.

P/D: Let us attend

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

Eothinón Gospel 6

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (24:36-53)

At that time, when Jesus rose from the dead, he stood in the midst of his disciples, and said to them, “Peace be with you!”³⁷ But they were startled and frightened, and supposed that they saw a spirit.³⁸ And he said to

them, "Why are you troubled, and why do questionings rise in your hearts?
³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself; handle me, and see; for a
spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴¹ And while they
still disbelieved for joy, and wondered, he said to them, "Have you
anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he
took it and ate before them. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words
which I spoke to you, while I was still with you, that everything written
about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be
fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶
and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on
the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of
sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning from
Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I send the
promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed
with power from on high." ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and
lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted
from them, and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they returned to
Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing
God. Amen.

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

Resurrection Ode

P/R: Now that we have seen the resurrection of Christ, let us worship the
holy Lord Jesus, the only sinless one. O Christ, we venerate your cross,
and praise and glorify your holy resurrection; for you are our God, and we
know no one else apart from you. We address your name. All you
faithful, come and venerate Christ's holy resurrection. For see, joy has
come into all the world through the cross. Let us always bless the Lord
and praise his resurrection. For he has destroyed death by death by
enduring the cross for us.

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
and wipe out my offence through your great pity.
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 what is evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be right in your words
 and overcome when you are judged,
⁷ for see, I was conceived in lawlessness
 and my mother desired me in sin,
⁸ for see, you have loved truth
 and shown me the mysteries and secrets 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;
 humbled bones will rejoice.
¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
 and wipe out all my lawlessness.
¹² O God, make 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 your saving joy to me
 and strengthen me with your directing Spirit.
¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
 and the ungodly will return to you.
¹⁶ O God, God of my salvation, free me from bloodshed,
then my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
 and my mouth will announce 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 just sacrifice,
 with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
 then they will offer calves on your altar.

Glory: Tone 6

O Life-giver, open the doors of repentance to me, for my spirit rises early to pray towards your holy Temple, as I carry the temple of my body all

defiled. But purify me by the loving kindness of your mercy in your compassion.

Both now:

O Theotokos, lead me along the paths of salvation, for I have profaned my soul with shameful sins and wasted my life in laziness. But release me from every impurity through your intercessions.

Have mercy:

When I think about the many evil things which I have done, wretch that I am, I tremble at the fearful day of judgment. But since I trust in your loving kindness, I cry to you like David, “O God, have mercy on me according to your great mercy.”

Intercession

Short form

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 Forerunner, 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.*

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: Who among those born on earth has seen or heard of such a thing? A
virgin conceives and bears a child without the pain of labour. O Mary, O
pure Theotokos, we see your wonder 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*

Holy is the Lord

Holy is the Lord our God. X3
Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool.
for he is holy.

Exaposteilária

Tone 6

O Saviour, when you rose from the grave, you revealed yourself as human by nature. You stood in the midst of the disciples, ate with them, and taught them about the baptism of repentance. Then you ascended to your heavenly Father after promising to send them the Advocate. Glory to your resurrection, most divine and incarnate God!

O Saviour, I set off on a foolish journey; I wasted all your precious gifts of grace. I lived in luxury and the devils were my friends. O loving Father, I return to you empty-handed. Receive me in repentance, as you accepted the Prodigal. Restore to me my baptismal robe of purity and save me.

O Lord, I am wretched and have destroyed your riches, squandering them and submitting myself to evil demons. Therefore, O most compassionate Saviour, pity me and purify me, the polluted one, and restore to me the first robe of your kingdom.

O Forerunner John, your precious and light-bearing head has shone out from the damp bosom of the earth as a lamp of the immaterial Light. All-praised Baptist of the Saviour, as we celebrate its finding with love, we beg you that we may obtain remission for our sinful deeds, so that we may complete successfully the time of the fast through your prayers.

O Virgin, the assembly of believers finds its consolation and joy in serving you and correctly acknowledging you as the Theotokos. Allow us reverently to complete the time of the Fast. Let us arrive to adore the cross and saving passion of your Son and our God.

Praises

Tone 6

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.

S8: This glory will be for all his holy ones.

O Lord, your cross is life and resurrection for your people. We place our trust in it and praise you as our risen God. Have mercy on us.

S7: Praise God in his saints;
praise him in his mighty firmament.

O Master, your burial has opened Paradise for the human race. We have been rescued from corruption and praise you, our risen God. Have mercy on us.

S6: Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him for the abundance of his majesty.

Let us praise Christ, together with the Father and the Spirit, *for he* has risen from the dead. Let us cry to him, “You are our Life and Resurrection, have mercy on us.”

Tone 3

S5: Praise him with the trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp.

O compassionate *Master*, I come before you like the Prodigal Son. I have abandoned you for many years and now you are a stranger to me. O Lord, restore to me the first love which I wasted. Receive me in repentance and save me.

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

O merciful Lord, I come to you like the Prodigal Son. I have wasted all my life in a foreign land. O Father, I have scattered the riches which you gave me. O God, receive me in repentance and have mercy on me.

Tone 4

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

O Forerunner John, your precious and light-bearing head has shone out from the damp bosom of the earth as a lamp of the immaterial Light. All-praised Baptist of the Saviour, as we celebrate its finding with love, we beg you that we may obtain remission for our sinful deeds, so that we may complete successfully the time of the fast through your prayers.

S2: The death of his saints

is precious in the sight of the Lord. Ps 115

O Forerunner, the forecourts of the fast are opened by your honourable head; it offers God's graces as a pleasant food for all. When we receive it, the severity and austerity of the Fast are sweetened for us all. As we praise you, we sing to Christ our God, "All-powerful Jesus, you are the Saviour of our souls."

S1: The just *person* will flourish like a palm tree

and grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Ps 91

The head of the Forerunner pours out myrrh in perpetual streams as it is placed on a mystic and divine table today. It releases a spiritual fragrance, banishes the smell of affliction and brings joy to all those who cry aloud with love, "O all-powerful Jesus, you are the Saviour of our souls."

Glory: Tone 6

O good Father, even though I have abandoned you, do not forsake me. Do not cast me out of the kingdom. The most evil enemy has stolen my fortune and left me naked. I have loved riotous living more than spiritual gifts, but now I return to you with tears and sighs, "O Lord, receive me back as one of your hired servants. You stretched your pure hands on the cross for my sake. You saved me from the grasp of the wicked enemy, restored the wedding garment of purity to me, for you alone are the merciful Lover of the human race.

Both now: Tone 2

O Virgin Theotokos, you are most blessed, for through the One who was born of you, Hades has been captured and Adam recalled. The curse has been annulled, and Eve set free. Death has been slain, so we are given life. Blessed is Christ our God, whose good will it was. Glory to you!

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

Resurrection Troparion

Today salvation has come to the world. Let us sing to the one who rose from the dead, the Author of our life. After he had destroyed death by death, he gave us victory and great mercy.

LITURGY

Antiphon 1 Ps 91

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

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 arose from the dead
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

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

S3: Your throne *was* made ready in the past;
you are from eternity.

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 94

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

R: The angelic powers were at your tomb; the guards became like dead men. Mary stood beside your grave and sought your most pure body. You took Hades captive and came away from it unscathed. You met the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, you rose from the dead; glory to you!

S2: Let us enter his presence with thanksgiving
and gladly cry to him with psalms,

S3: For the Lord is a great God
and a high king over all the earth.

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God.
You arose from the dead.
We sing to you, “Alleluia!”

Apolytikion

Tone 6

The angelic powers were at your tomb; the guards became like dead men. Mary stood beside your grave and sought your most pure body. You took Hades captive and came away from it unscathed. You met the Virgin and granted life. O Lord, you rose from the dead; glory to you!

Tone 4

The head of the Forerunner rose from the earth like a star; *it was* brilliant with rays of healing and immortality. It gathers the choirs of angels in heaven and assembles the human race on earth to sing with one voice about the glory of Christ our God.

Of the Church

Kontáktion

Tone 3

O Father, I have recklessly forgotten your glory and wasted in sin the riches which you gave me. Now I cry to you like the Prodigal, “O merciful Father, I have sinned before you. Receive me as a penitent and make me as one of your hired servants.”

Triságion

Prokeimenon Ps 63 Tone 7

R: The just will rejoice and hope in the Lord;
all the upright in heart will be praised.
S: O God, listen to my prayer when I plead with you;
rescue my soul from *the* fear of the enemy.

Apóstolos of the Forerunner

From the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:6-15)

Brothers, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. ⁷But we have this treasure in earthenware vessels to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. ⁸We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed. ¹⁰We always carry in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our bodies. ¹¹For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be revealed in our mortal flesh. ¹²So death is at work in us, but life in you. ¹³Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believe, and so we speak. ¹⁴We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people, it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

Alleluia Ps 91 Tone 4

S1: The just *person* will flourish like a palm tree
and grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

S2: Those who are planted in the house of the Lord
will blossom in the courts of our God.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to Luke (15:11-32)

The Lord spoke this parable: There was a man who had two sons; ¹² and the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that falls to me.' And he divided his living between them. ¹³ Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. ¹⁴ And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. ¹⁵ So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. ¹⁶ And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸ I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him,

"Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.'" ²⁰ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; ²³ and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; ²⁴ for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to make merry. ²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. ²⁷ And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.' ²⁸ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹ but he answered his father, 'Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!' ³¹ And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'

Communion Ps 148

Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise him in the heights. Alleluia!