

21 MAY (Ascensiontide)
+ Constantine and Eléni, Equals to the Apostles C4

VESPERS

Lord I have cried

Tone 4

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

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

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.

You gave your precious cross as a most powerful weapon to the emperor;
he reigned justly on earth with its aid and shone with godliness. He was
counted worthy through your compassion to receive your heavenly
Kingdom. Therefore, O almighty Jesus, Saviour of our souls and Lover
of the human race, together with him we glorify your dispensation. X2

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

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

O Lover of the human race, as the King of kings and the Lord who reigns
over all, you granted your servant the wisdom of Solomon, the humility
of David and the Orthodox faith of the apostles. Therefore, almighty
Jesus, Saviour of our souls and Lover of the human race, we glorify your
dispensation. X2

S2: Every nation, praise the Lord;
every people, acclaim him!
S1: For his mercy is strengthened over us
and the truth of the Lord remains for ever.

O emperor of eternal memory, first you willingly submitted the purple to
Christ. You recognised him as true God and King of all, the great
Benefactor and Source of victory. Then you saw him seated above every
principality and power. Therefore, O lover of virtue, Jesus made the
kingdom prosper for you, for he is the Saviour of our souls and Lover of
the human race. X2

Glory: Tone 2

O Constantine the Great, most powerful emperor, you received the finest
rich gifts from God which made you pre-eminent. You were enlightened
by the rays of the most Holy Spirit through baptism and appeared
invincible while you reigned. You received the world as a free gift from
the Creator and ruled the city with faithfulness. Since therefore you have
boldness before him, continually pray to Christ that all who celebrate
your memory with faith may be granted forgiveness of sins and great
mercy.

Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

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 Third Book of Kingdoms (8:22-23, 27-30)
Solomon stood up in front of the altar before all the assembly of Israel,
he spread out his hands towards heaven,²³ and said: O Lord God of
Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on the earth below. If
the heaven of heavens will not suffice you, how much less even this
house which I have built for your name?²⁸ Yet, O Lord God of Israel,
regard my plea, to hear the prayer which your servant prays to you in
your presence this day,²⁹ so that your eyes may be open towards this
house about which you said: My name will be there, to listen to the plea
which your servant prays at this place by day and night.³⁰ And you will
listen to the plea of your servant, and of your people Israel, which they
will pray towards this place. You will hear in your heavenly dwelling-
place; you will act and be gracious to them.

Prophecy 2

From the Prophecy of Isaiah (61:10-62:5)
Let my soul rejoice in the Lord, for he has clothed me with the outer robe
of salvation and the inner garment of joy. He has put a crown on me like
a bridegroom, and adorned me with ornaments like a bride.¹¹ And like
the earth producing her flower, and like a garden its seed, so will the
Lord, make justice to spring up, and gladness before all nations.¹ For
Sion's sake I will not be quiet, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until my justice goes out like light, and my salvation burns like a torch.²
The nations will see your justice, and kings your glory. And he will call
you by a new name, which the Lord will determine.³ You will be a
beautiful crown in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand
of your God.⁴ You will no longer be called Forsaken, and your land will
no longer be called Desert, for you will be called My Pleasure, and your
land Inhabited, for the Lord has taken pleasure in you, and your land will
be inhabited.⁵ As a young man lives with a virgin, so will your sons live
with you. It will come to pass that as a bridegroom rejoices over a bride,
so the Lord will rejoice over you.

Prophecy 3

From the Prophecy of Isaiah (60:1-16)
Be enlightened, be enlightened, O Jerusalem, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen over you.² See, darkness will cover
the earth, and gross darkness the nations, but the Lord will appear to you,
and his glory will be seen over you.³ Kings will walk in your light, and
nations in your brightness.⁴ Lift up your eyes round about, and see your
children gathered. See, all your sons have come from far, and your
daughters will be carried on shoulders.⁵ Then you will see, fear and be
amazed in your heart, for the wealth of the sea will, together with nations
and peoples, will come to you. Herds of camels will come to you,⁶ and
the camels of Midian and Ephah will envelop you. All from Sheba will
come, bearing gold, and bringing incense and precious stones. They will
announce the good news of the Lord's salvation.⁷ All the flocks of
Kedar will be gathered to you, and the rams of Nebaioth will come to
you. Acceptable sacrifices will be offered on my altar, and my house of
prayer will be glorified.⁸ Who are these *that* fly like clouds, and like
doves with their young?⁹ The islands have waited for me, and the ships
of Tarshish among the first, to bring your children from far, and their
silver and their gold with them, for the sake of the holy name of the
Lord, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified.¹⁰ Strangers will
build your walls, and their kings will wait on you, for because of my
anger I struck you, but because of mercy I loved you.¹¹ Your gates will
always be opened; they will not be shut by day or night, in order to bring
to you the power of the nations, and their kings as captives.¹² For nations
and kings who will not serve you will perish, and *those* nations will be
made utterly desolate.¹³ The glory of Lebanon will come to you, with the
cypress, pine and cedar together to glorify my holy place.¹⁴ The sons of
those who humbled and provoked you will come to you in fear. You will
be called City of *the* Lord, Sion of the Holy One of Israel.¹⁵ Because
you have become desolate and hated, and there was no helper, I will
make you a perpetual joy, a gladness for generations of generations.¹⁶
You will suck the milk of nations, and eat the wealth of kings. You will

know that I am the Lord who saves you and delivers you, the God of Israel.

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.

Liti

Tone 5

O Emperor, today the Church, which has been clothed by your power, spiritually rejoices and keeps a festival in your memory. She cries out with correct praise, "Hail, for you emulated Paul in taking up the cross of Christ and breaking the nets of the enemy! Hail, most courageous Emperor! O blessed Constantine, *you are* the equal of the apostles, support for the faithful and stronghold of emperors. O jewel of rulers, never stop pleading before the Lord, for you possess the boldness to do this.

Apósticha

Tone 2

O Constantine, first emperor of the Christians, you received the sceptre from God, for the hidden symbol of salvation appeared to you on earth. O blessed saint, you had the life-giving cross as an invincible weapon, brought all the nations to the feet of Rome and were yourself led to God.

S1: I have exalted someone chosen from my people.

I have discovered David, my servant
and anointed him with my holy oil. *Ps 88*

O divinely crowned Constantine, loved by the world and joy of Christians, the womb which bore you is truly blessed and sanctified. You are the glory, wealth and champion of orphans and widows, the protector of the lowly and those in need; you restore the afflicted and rescue those in chains.

S2: Therefore God your God has anointed you

with the oil of gladness. *Ps 44*

Eléni, the mother of a sweet child rushed with longing and love for Christ to come to holy Zion, to the sacred place where our Saviour was crucified in his desire to save us. As she raised the cross there, she cried with rejoicing, "Glory to the one who has given me what I desired!"

Glory: Tone 8

O brightly shining moon and evening star, you were turned from unbelief to faith in the true God; you were led to sanctify the people and city. As you saw the sign of the cross in the sky, you heard from above, "Conquer with this cross, for through it victory will be achieved over your enemies." O father of Orthodox emperors and equal to the apostles, Constantine whose relics pour out healing, when you received wisdom from the Holy Spirit, you were anointed as holy emperor, then you anointed and supported the Church of God. Continually pray for our souls.

Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

O Virgin, you did not experience the union of the flesh, but ineffably carried God in the flesh. O Mother of the all-powerful God, O spotless Woman, receive the prayers of your servants. You procure the cleansing of sins for all of us, so accept our pleas at this time and pray for the salvation of us all.

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 8

O Lord and only Lover of the human race, your servant Constantine saw the sign of the cross in the Heavens. Like Paul he did not receive his call from men, but as an apostle among rulers, established by your hand over the royal city; he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

From the Pentecostarion

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

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

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

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

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

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

Apolytikia

Tone 8

O Lord and only Lover of the human race, your servant Constantine saw the sign of the cross in the Heavens. Like Paul he did not receive his call from men, but as an apostle among rulers, established by your hand over the royal city; he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

From the Pentecostarion

Small Litany

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

Kathisma 1

Tone 3

You became like another David because of your gifts and talents; you received the oil of royal anointing from above. O wise Constantine, the transcendent Word and Lord anointed you with the Holy Spirit. Therefore you received the royal sceptre; pray for us all.

Glory: Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

Kathisma 2

Tone 6

The Creator of the sun and the entire world, who was wounded on the cross for us, drew you to himself like a star rising among the stars. He established you as the first Christian emperor, therefore, O Constantine, we praise you, together with your devout mother Eléni.

Glory: Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

Kathisma 3

Tone 4

O divinely-inspired Constantine, your joyful memorial has dawned for us; it brings the light of God's knowledge to the ends of the earth. You were the first emperor to worship the true God and observe the laws of the heavenly kingdom. Pray that we may be rescued from every temptation.

Glory: Both now:

From the Pentecostarion

Small Litany

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

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 88 & 44 Tone 4

R: I have exalted someone chosen from my people.

I have discovered David, my servant
and anointed him with my holy oil. *Ps 88*

S: Therefore God your God has anointed you
with the oil of gladness. *Ps 44*

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 (10:1-9)

The Lord said to those who followed him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; ² but the one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. ⁹ I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

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 crowned rulers.

Both now:

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

Have mercy: Tone 2

The memorial of holy Constantine has dawned for us today with a sweet fragrance. He desired Christ and rejected idolatry. He erected a temple on earth to the *Lord* who was crucified for us. Therefore he obtained the desired crown in the heavens.

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 equal-to-the-apostles Constantine and Eléni, 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. X12

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.*

Kontákion

Tone 3

Today Constantine and his mother Eléni reveal the precious cross, the weapon of Orthodox Christians against their enemies, for it is revealed to us as a great and fearful sign in warfare.

Íkos

O faithful, let us honour Constantine together with his mother, Eléni. They listened to the words of the prophet, “by the cedar, the pine and the cypress,” and have discerned the cross which was made from three parts, from which follows the saving passion. They laid all these matters before the Jews so that they could prepare to show the people the great justification which had been hidden for such a long time. They revealed what they had found, so they are observed by everyone as bearers of victory. They carry an invincible weapon as a great and fearful sign in warfare.

Synaxáριον

Today we remember the holy renowned and great sovereigns Constantine and Eléni, who were crowned by God and equals-to-the apostles. They lived in the Fourth Century. In 312 he caused the cross to be painted on the shields of his army and then won the battle at Milvian Bridge. He entered Rome in triumph and established Christianity as the religion of the Empire. He founded Constantinople as a new Christian city. His mother was instrumental in building churches throughout the Holy Land. On the Twenty First Constantine was united to his holy mother Eléni in a common destiny.

Together with them we remember:

Wonderworkers Constantine and Children of Murom C12
O God, have mercy on us through their holy prayers. Amen.

Katavasías

1: *The man* who had been slow in speech proclaimed the Law written by God when he was covered with divine darkness. He shook the dust away from the eyes of the wise as they saw the Existing *Lord*. After they had attained the knowledge of the Spirit, they praised him with divine songs.

3: Hannah, the prophetess of old, was drawn with a contrite spirit to the mighty God of wisdom; she undid the bonds of an infertile womb and the rebukes of her rival, for she gave birth to a child by her prayer alone.

4: O King of kings, unique Word coming from the only Father without beginning, O Lord, as Benefactor you have sent the Holy Spirit who is equal to you in might, to the disciples who glorify your power.

5: O renowned children of the Church, receive the fiery dew of the Spirit which brings perfect purification from sin, for now the Law has come from Sion. The grace of the Spirit is like tongues of fire.

6: O Master Christ, you are our purification. You have appeared to us from the Virgin and come like the prophet Jonah from the belly of the whale. You rescue all the fallen sons of Adam.

7: Instruments once resounded in harmony in honour of the lifeless golden idol, but the life-bearing grace of the Advocate moves believers to cry, “Blessed are you, O Trinity in Unity! You are without beginning and equal in power!”

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord.
The three-fold radiance of the Divinity moistened the flames with dew and loosened the bonds. Therefore the youths sang to the Creator of all, “Blessed is our only Benefactor and Saviour.”

Ode 9

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.

your soul glorifies the Lord

Mand my spirit has rejoiced in God my Saviour. **R**

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: Hail, O Queen! You are the 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 we glorify you in unison.

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

The great Constantine did not receive imperial power from men, but divine grace crowned him from heaven. He saw the divine trophy of the cross radiant with light; it became his weapon for destroying the enemy. He set aside the delusion of idolatry and strengthened the Orthodox faith in the world.

From the Pentecostarion

Praises

Tone 8

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.

Hail, most wise Constantine! *You are* the fountain of Orthodoxy which perpetually flows for the thirst of every created thing! Hail, O root from which a fruit sprang to feed the Church of Christ! Hail, all glorious boast of the ends of the earth! Hail, O Christian ruler! *You are* the joy of the faithful.

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

All-wise Constantine, the *Lord* who rules the creation foresees the ready obedience of your heart and hunts you through reason, while you are held fast in lack of reason. All-glorious saint, he illuminates your mind with the knowledge of godliness, reveals you to the world as a sun shining with light and sends out the radiant splendour of your deeds.

S2: His sound has gone out into all the earth. Ps 18
O Eléni, worthy of all praise, you received the teaching of the Lord like a select field, and produced the fruit of just deeds in wisdom. You give food to our understanding through your way of life. Therefore in joyful triumph we celebrate your memory today.

S1: The heavens declare God’s glory.
O Christ, you have anointed your chosen saints, Eléni and Constantine, with the oil of gladness. They turned away from every delusion and longed for the excellence of your heavenly kingdom. Therefore, O Word, they were chosen to rule justly on earth in obedience to your commands.

Glory:

O Constantine, our God, the Lord of lords who adorns the worthy with gifts, chose you like Paul with the sign of the cross in heaven. He helped you to conquer your enemies with it. O Eléni, after you had sought him, together with your godly minded mother, you discovered what you desired and powerfully put the adversary to rout. Pray, together with her, to the Lover of the human race to preserve us from anger.

Both now:
From the Pentecostarion

Great Doxology

Glory to you who have shown us the light!
glory to God in the highest!
Peace on earth and goodwill to men!
² We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,
we glorify you, we thank you for your great glory,
³ O Lord King, heavenly God, almighty Father,
O Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
and you, O Holy Spirit!
⁴ O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us,
for you take away the sin of the world.
⁵ Receive our prayer,
for you sit on the right of the Father,
and have mercy on us.
⁶ For only you are holy, only you are Lord,
O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
⁷ I will bless you every day
and always praise your name for ever and ever. Ps 144
⁸ O Lord, allow us this day
to be guarded from sin.
⁹ Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers!
Praised and glorified be your name for ever. Amen. Daniel 3
¹⁰ O Lord, let your mercy *be* on us,
for we have hoped in you. Ps 32.
¹⁶ Blessed are you, O Lord!
Teach me your statutes. X3 Ps 118
¹² O Lord, you have been our refuge
from generation to generation. Ps 89
I said, "O Lord, have mercy on me;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you." Ps 40
¹⁴ O Lord, I have fled to you;
teach me to do your will, for you are my God. Ps 142
¹⁵ For with you is the source of life
and in your light we will see light. Ps 35
¹⁶ Stretch out your mercy
to those who know you. Ps 35

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 8
O Lord and only Lover of the human race, your servant Constantine saw the sign of the cross in the Heavens. Like Paul he did not receive his call from men, but as an apostle among rulers, established by your hand over the royal city; he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

LITURGY

Antíphon 1 Ps 46 Tone 2

S1: All you nations, clap your hands;
shout to God with *the* sound of rejoicing.
R: Through the prayers of the Theotokos, Saviour, save us.
S2: For the Most High Lord is terrible
and a great King over all the earth.
S3: He has subdued *the* peoples under us
and *the* nations under our feet.
S4: Glory: Both now:

Antiphon 2 Ps 47 Own Tone

S1: Great is the Lord and highly praised

in the city of our God
and on his holy mountain.

R: Save us, O Son of God.
You ascended in glory from us to the heavens.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

S2: God is known in her great houses
when he comes to help her.
S3: For see, the kings of the earth have been assembled;
they came together.
S5: Glory: Both now:
Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 48 Tone 4

S1: All you nations, listen to these words;
all who live in the world, be attentive,

R: O Christ *our* God, you have ascended in glory and granted joy to your disciples through the promise of the Holy Spirit. They were assured through the blessing that you are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world.

S2: My mouth will speak about wisdom;
the meditation of my heart will be about understanding.
S3: I will incline my ear to a parable
and unfold my enigma with the lute.
S5: Glory: Both now:

Entrance Ps 46

God has gone up with a shout,
the Lord with the sound of *the* trumpet.
Save us, O Son of God.
You ascended to heaven in glory from us.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikia

From the Pentecostarion, then:

Tone 3

O Lord and only Lover of the human race, your servant Constantine saw the sign of the cross in the Heavens. Like Paul he did not receive his call from men, but as an apostle among rulers, established by your hand over the royal city; he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

Of the Church

Kontákion

Tone 8

O Christ our God, when you had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake and united things on earth with things in heaven, you ascended in glory. You are not separated from any place, are constant without being removed and cry to your loved ones, "I myself am with you and no one will be against you."

Triságion

Prokeímenon Ps 18 Tone 8

R: His sound has gone out into all the earth.
S; The heavens declare God's glory.

Apóstolos

From the Acts of the Apostles (26:1, 12-20)
In those days Agrippa said to Paul, "You have permission to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and made his defence: ¹²"I journeyed to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests. ¹³At midday, O king, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining round me and those who journeyed with me. ¹⁴And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' ¹⁵And I said, 'Who are you, Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. ¹⁶But rise and stand upon your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and bear witness to the things in which you have

seen me and to those in which I will appear to you, ¹⁷ delivering you from the people and from the Gentiles -- to whom I send you ¹⁸ to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me. ¹⁹ "Wherefore, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, ²⁰ but declared first to those at Damascus, then at Jerusalem and throughout all the country of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and perform deeds worthy of their repentance.

Alleluia Ps 88 Tone 1

S1: I have exalted someone chosen from my people.

S2: For my hand will be an ally for him.

Gospel

From the Holy Gospel according to John (10:1-9)

The Lord said to those who followed him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the one who does not enter the sheepfold by the door but climbs in by another way, that man is a thief and a robber; ² but the one who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep. ³ To him the gatekeeper opens; the sheep hear his voice, and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. ⁴ When he has brought out all his own, he goes before them, and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice. ⁵ A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers." ⁶ This figure Jesus used with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them. ⁷ So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before me are thieves and robbers; but the sheep did not heed them. ⁹ I am the door; if anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."

Communion Ps 18

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