

**30 JUNE (After All Saints)
± Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles**

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.

O Lord, you have given your Church your sacred apostles Peter and Paul as sources of pride. These spiritual torches shine like stars in the Church and enlighten the whole inhabited earth. O almighty Jesus, Lover of the human race, Saviour of our souls, through them you have brought light to the earth when it was sunk in darkness.

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 Lord, you have given for the support of your Church the steadfastness of holy Peter the rock, and the brilliant wisdom and knowledge of holy Paul. The preaching of them both banished the error of those who did not know the true God. O almighty Jesus, Saviour of our souls, since we have been initiated by them, we sing to you.

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

You have given your two apostles to sinners as examples of conversion. One of them denied you at your passion, then later repented and wept bitterly. The other opposed your preaching and persecuted it. O almighty Jesus, Saviour of our souls, you placed them both as heads over the assembly of your friends.

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

Let us bless the honourable disciples; they were the eye-witnesses of the incarnate Word. They shine on the world like flashes of lightning and as spiritual giants they bring sweetness to our souls. They are rivers of Paradise which flow with living water for the refreshment of the churches.

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

Let us honour Christ's fellow-labourers. They are lightning bolts hurled to earth by the might of the Spirit, workers of miracles, witnesses of the mysteries, tablets of divine love written by the hand of God and honourable masters of the divine law.

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

The foolishness of the philosophers is corrected by the rod of the fishermen, the vanity of the orators is put to confusion by divine wisdom. The apostles proclaimed the infinite goodness of the gospel. Now they exult in the communion of eternal blessedness, the joy of the angels and the unfading crown of glory.

Glory: Tone 6

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

Both now:

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.

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.

Prokeímenon

Of the Day

Ekteni

Prayer

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

Plirotiká

Prayer

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

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

Apósticha

Tone 4

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

S1: Their sound has gone out into all the earth

and their words to the ends of the world. ^{ps 18}
 O Paul, you were called not by man, but by God. Mist and darkness covered your bodily eyes when the misery of unbelief was revealed to you. Heavenly light flashed before the eyes of your heart and showed you the beauty of Jesus Christ, our Lord. You came to know the one who brings light from darkness. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls.

S2: The heavens declare God's glory
and the firmament speaks about their handiwork. ^{ps 18}
 O Peter, it is right to call you the rock. The Lord established the unshaken faith of the Church on you. He made you the chief shepherd of his reasonable sheep and has entrusted you with the keys of the heavenly gates. In his goodness he commanded you to open to all who draw near in faith. Your Master counted you worthy to be crucified. Plead with him to enlighten and save our souls.

Glory: Tone 6
 A joyful feast dawns over the earth today: the memorial of Peter and Paul, the wise leaders of the apostles. Let Rome rejoice and be glad with us. O brothers, let us keep feast in songs and hymns. Hail, O apostle Peter, true friend of Christ our God! Hail, O dear Paul, herald of the faith and teacher of the inhabited earth! O chosen pair, you have boldness before him; pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved.

Both now:
 O Theotokos, you are the true vine loaded with the Fruit of life. Therefore, O Lady, plead with him, together with the apostles and all the saints, that he will have mercy on our souls.

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.

Trisagion Prayers

Apolytikia

Tone 4
 O first-enthroned of the apostles and teachers of the inhabited earth, implore the Master of all to grant peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

Tone 3
 O holy apostles, pray to the merciful God that he may grant our souls forgiveness for their failings.

Tone 3
 O Virgin Theotokos, we praise you for mediating the Salvation of our race, for your Son and our God accepted suffering on the cross in the flesh which he took from you. He has freed us from corruption, for he is the Lover of the human race.

Dismissal

ORTHROS

God is the Lord Ps 117

R: God is the Lord and has appeared to us.
 Blessed is the one who comes in the Lord's name. ^{Ps 117}
 S1: Thank the Lord, for he is good,
 for his mercy lasts for ever.
 S2: All the nations surrounded me,
 but I opposed them in the Lord's name.
 S3: This *is* the Lord's doing

and it is wonderful in our eyes.

Apolytikia

Tone 4
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 O Virgin Theotokos, we praise you for mediating the Salvation of our race, for your Son and our God accepted suffering on the cross in the flesh which he took from you. He has freed us from corruption, for he is the Lover of the human race.

Small Litany

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

Kathisma 1

Tone 1
 The choir of the apostles was sent into the world by the most-high God. They healed passions as they preached the one Divinity in three Persons and they proclaimed with wisdom the divine incarnation of Emmanuel.

Glory: Both now:
 O Virgin, we sing about you as the unconsumed bush which was observed by Moses, the holy cloud, the mountain of God, the pure tabernacle, the palace of the great King and the sealed gate which is brilliant with light.

Kathisma 2

Tone 3
 O divine trumpets of the Advocate, who made the voice of the Word to be heard, you have sounded salvation for the world. You awoke those who had been sleeping in the darkness of error and led them to the radiant knowledge of God. O apostles of the Light, plead with Christ to grant us great mercy.

Glory: Both now:
 O Virgin, he was not separated from his divine nature when he assumed flesh in your womb and became man. The Lord who preserved your virginity intact after child-bearing as before, remained God. Continually plead with him to grant us great mercy.

Small Litany

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

Psalm 50

O God, have mercy on me in your abundant mercy
 and wipe out my offence through your great compassion.
⁴ Wash me thoroughly from my lawless act
 and cleanse me from my sin.
⁵ For I know my lawlessness
 and my sin is always before me.
⁶ I have sinned against you alone
 and done this evil before you
^{6b} so that you might be justified in your words
 and overcome when you are judged.
⁷ For see, I was conceived in lawlessness
 and my mother gave birth to me in sin.
⁸ For see, you have loved truth
 and revealed to me the hidden and secret *things* of your wisdom.
⁹ You will sprinkle me with hyssop and I will be clean;

- you will wash me and I will become whiter than snow.
- ¹⁰ You will make me hear about joy and gladness;
the humbled bones will rejoice.
- ¹¹ Turn your face from my sins
and wipe out all my lawlessness.
- ¹² O God, create a pure heart within me
and renew an upright spirit within me.
- ¹³ Do not banish me from your presence
or remove your Holy Spirit from me.
- ¹⁴ Restore the joy of your salvation to me
and make me firm with your directing Spirit.
- ¹⁵ I will teach the lawless your ways
and the ungodly will return to you.
- ¹⁶ O God, set me free from the guilt of blood;
O God of my salvation,
my tongue will rejoice in your justice.
- ¹⁷ O Lord, you will open my lips
and my mouth will proclaim your praise.
- ¹⁸ For if you had wanted sacrifice, I would have given it;
you will not be pleased with burnt offerings.
- ¹⁹ Sacrifice for God is a broken spirit;
God will not despise a broken and humbled heart.
- ²⁰ O Lord, be good to Zion in your pleasure
and let the walls of Jerusalem be built.
- ²¹ Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of justice,
with an offering and burnt sacrifices;
then they will offer calves on your altar.

Kontákia

Tone 2

Today Christ the Rock glorifies the rock of faith and leader of the apostles with highest honour, together with Paul and the company of the Twelve, whose memory we celebrate with eagerness of faith. We give glory to the *Lord* who gave glory to them.

Tone 2

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

Íkos

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

Synaxáριον

Today we celebrate the synaxis of the holy, glorious and renowned Twelve Apostles. They were ambassadors of Christ; whoever received them, received him. (Matthew 10:40) They were given authority to heal the sick, expel demons and work miracles. In the age to come they would join the Lord in judging the twelve tribes of Israel. We honour the twelve eye-witnesses, the friends of Christ, the heroes of God. The Thirtieth leads us all to celebrate together the marvellous Twelve.

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

Katavasías

1: I will open my mouth and be filled with the spirit. I will sing a song to the Queen and Mother. I will come, rejoice in the feast and praise all her glory.

3: O Theotokos, living and inexhaustible fountain, in your divine glory spiritually establish your choir which is assembled in chorus. Make them worthy *to receive* crowns of glory in your mercy.

4: The counsel of God cannot be scrutinised. The Most High was incarnate from a Virgin. The prophet Habakkuk foresaw this and cried, "Glory to your power, O God!"

5: O Virgin, all creation was amazed at your divine glory, for you knew no man. You held thee God of all in your womb and gave birth to the eternal Son. You order salvation for all those who praise you.

6: O devout people, come and clap hands while we observe this divine and most precious feast of the Mother of God. Let us glorify God who was born from her.

7: The devout youths worshipped the Creator rather than created things. They courageously trampled on the threatening fire and joyfully sang, "Blessed are you, most praised Lord, the God of our fathers."

8: Let us praise, bless and worship the Lord. The *Lord* who was born from the Theotokos saved the holy children in the furnace. The one who was then prefigured has now been born on earth and gathers the whole inhabited earth to sing, "All you works of the Lord, bless the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

Ode 9

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

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

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: Let every earthborn mortal spiritually rejoice and carry lamps. be radiant and spiritually leap for joy. Let the ranks of angelic powers celebrate as they honour the sacred wonders of the Theotokos and cry, "Hail, O pure and blessed Ever-virgin who gave birth to God!"

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

Let us joyfully praise in unity the twelve apostles of God. Let us say to them, "Hail, you who travelled throughout the whole world and caught an abundance of nations in your nets. They renounced error and received from you the teaching of the true faith.

O divine mother, we possess our glory in you and have you as our advocate before God. Extend your invincible hand to destroy our enemy. May God send us help from the holy place through your prayers.

Praises

Tone 4

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

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

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

The chief foundation of the apostles left everything behind and followed the Teacher. He cried to him, "I die with you, that I may live the blessed life." Therefore you were blessed, O Peter, and revealed as the glory and fame of the greatest of cities. You are a foundation of the Church and the gates of Hades have not prevailed against it as Christ truly prophesied. Plead with him to save and enlighten our souls.

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

O Paul, you were set apart from your mother's womb and fled from the burden of every material reflection. You flew in truth and desire to the inspired height of divine love. There like one who was bodiless, you entered secretly into the all-bright darkness of divine light. You were sent out to those who were blind and revealed the Light, Christ our God. Plead with him to save and enlighten our souls.

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

O Light existing before the ages, O Saviour, when you were well pleased in your love for the human race to live with me, a human creature, and to become flesh in your goodness, then you revealed your apostles and disciples as second lights who shine brightly with your brilliance and lightning. They were sent out into the entire creation to illuminate it with your divine light; they plead with you to save and enlighten our souls.

S1: The heavens declare God's glory
and the firmament speaks about their handiwork. Ps 18

O Peter and Paul, cultivators for the Word, O Andrew, James and wise John, O Bartholomew and Philip, O Thomas, Matthew, Simon, Jude and divine James, all-honourable disciples common to all the world, you preached in the world the all-holy Trinity, the eternal God by nature. You are truly the unshakable pillars and hewn ramparts of the Church. Plead with the Master of all to save us.

Glory: Tone 8

O disciples of the Saviour, you passed through the whole creation. You enlightened it and burnt the dead wood of idolatry's delusion. You gathered the Gentiles with the net of your teaching, saved them and brought them to the knowledge of God from the depths of ignorance. Intercede now with Christ that he may be gracious to us on the day of judgment.

Both now:

O unwedded Virgin, O Mother of God most high, you ineffably conceived God in the flesh. O blameless Lady, accept the cries of your servants. Grant cleansing from offences to us all. Receive our prayers and pray for the salvation of our souls.

Great Doxology

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

Triságion

Apolytikion

Tone 3

O holy apostles, pray to the merciful God that he may grant our souls forgiveness for their failings.

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 94 Tone 2

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

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

S2: Let us enter his presence with gratitude
and shout with gladness to him in psalms.
For the Lord is a great God

and an exalted king over all the earth.

S3: For the ends of the earth are in his hand
and the summits of the mountains are his.
For the sea is his and he made it;
his hands have formed the dry land.

Monogenes

Antiphon 3 Ps 18 Tone 3

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

R: O holy apostles, pray to the merciful God that he may grant our
souls forgiveness for their failings.

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

Entrance Ps 94

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ.
Save us, O Son of God.
You are wonderful in your saints.
We sing to you, "Alleluia!"

Apolytikia

Tone 4

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

Tone 3

O holy apostles, pray to the merciful God that he may grant our
souls forgiveness for their failings.

Of the Church

Kontáktion

O unfailing protection of Christians and unchanging mediator
before the Creator, do not despise the prayers of us sinners, but in
your goodness extend your help to those of us who faithfully cry to
you, "O Theotokos, you always protect those who honour you, so
hurry to intercede for us and hasten to plead for us."

Triságion

Prokeímenon Ps 18 Tone 8

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

Apóstolos

From the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (4:9-16)
Brothers, I think that God has shown us apostles to be last of all,
like men sentenced to death; because we have become a spectacle to
the world, to angels and to men. ¹⁰ We are fools for Christ's sake,
but you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You
are held in honour, but we in disrepute. ¹¹ To the present hour we
are hungry and thirsty, we are poorly clothed, beaten and homeless;
¹² we labour and work with our own hands. When reviled, we bless;
when persecuted, we endure; ¹³ when slandered, we try to conciliate;
we have become, and are now, like the refuse of the world, the
dregs of all things. ¹⁴ I do not write this to make you ashamed, but
to warn you as my dear children. ¹⁵ For although you have countless
guides in Christ, you do not have many fathers. For I became your
father in Christ Jesus through the gospel. ¹⁶ I urge you, then, be
imitators of me.

Alleluia Ps 88 Tone 1

S1: O Lord, the heavens will acknowledge your wonders.
S2: God is glorified in a council of the saints.

Gospel

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

.At that time when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for
them, because they were weary and helpless, like sheep without a
shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful,
but the labourers are few; ³⁸ pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to
send out labourers into his harvest." ¹ And he called to him his
twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to
cast them out, and to heal every disease and every infirmity. ² The
names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called
Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zébedee, and John
his brother; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax
collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the
Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him¹⁶. ⁵ These twelve
Jesus sent out, charging them, "Go nowhere among the Gentiles,
and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep
of the house of Israel. ⁷ And preach as you go, saying, 'The
kingdom of heaven is at hand.' ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse lepers, cast out demons. You received without paying, give
without pay.

Communion Ps 18

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