

VESPERS SUNG ON SATURDAY 30th MAY 2020

Texts for the Eve of the 7th Sunday of Pascha: 31st May 2020

✕ "LORD I CALL..."

Tone 6

[Music on website]

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.
Hear me, O Lord.
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me.
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee.//
Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer arise
in Thy sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice.//
Hear me, O Lord.

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!

Tone 6

[Music on website]

Possessing victory over hell, O Christ,
since Thou art free among the dead,
Thou didst ascend the Cross
raising with Thyself those who sat in the shades of death.//
Drawing life from Thy light, O almighty Saviour, have mercy on us!

The righteous await me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Today Christ tramples on death,
for He is risen as He said!
Let us all sing this song,
for He has granted joy to the world:
O Light unapproachable, O Fountain of life!//
O Saviour Almighty, have mercy on us!

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Where shall we sinners flee from Thee, Who art in all creation?
In heaven Thou dwellest!
In hell Thou didst trample on death!
In the depths of the sea?
Even there is Thy hand, O Master!
To Thee we flee, and falling before Thee, we pray://
O Thou who didst rise from the dead, have mercy on us!

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Tone 6 (For the Ascension)

[Music on website]

The Lord has ascended into heaven
that He might send the Comforter to the world.
The heavens prepared His throne, and the clouds His mount.
Angels marvel to see a Man high above them.
The Father receives Him Whom He holds, co-eternal, in His bosom.
The Holy Spirit commands all His Angels:
"Lift up your gates, ye princes!"!
All ye nations, clap your hands://
for Christ has gone up to where He was before!"

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquity, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

The Cherubim were amazed at Thine Ascension, O Lord,
beholding Thee, the God Who sittest enthroned upon them,
ascending upon the clouds;
and we glorify Thee, for Thy mercy is good.//
Glory to Thee!

For Thy name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy Word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Beholding Thine Ascension on the holy mountain,
O Christ, Thou brightness of the Father's glory,
we hymn the radiant appearance of Thy countenance;
we worship Thy sufferings,
we honour Thy Resurrection,
as we glorify Thy glorious Ascension.//
Have mercy on us!

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 6 *(For the Holy Fathers)*

Thou wast begotten from the Father before the Morning Star,
but Arius taught wrongfully that Thou wast created:
in his ignorance he designated Thee as a creature,
yet the Fathers of the Council in Nicaea, O Lord,
proclaimed that Thou art the Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

*For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption,
and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

O Saviour, who has torn Thy garment?
Who has challenged the unity of the triune Godhead?
It is Arius, for he denied that Thou art equal to the Father.
Those who follow him do not believe that God took flesh for our sake,
but the Fathers of the Council proclaimed Thee as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Arius fell into the abyss of sin,
pretending blindness that he might not see the Light.
By his purpose he became the image of Judas.
But the Council at Nicaea proclaimed Thee as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

For His mercy is confirmed on us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

The foolish Arius blasphemed the All-holy Trinity,
dividing the Persons into three different unequal substances,
but the God-bearing Fathers denounced his confusion:
they assembled with the zeal of Elijah,
destroying error with the sword of the Spirit, //
as they were directed by the inspiration of God.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 6 *(For the Holy Fathers)*

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,
the God-bearing Fathers,
who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,
praising the changeless Trinity!
They laid low the errors of Arius
and upheld the Orthodox Faith. //
They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 6 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

[\[Music on website\]](#)

Who will not bless thee, O most holy Virgin?
Who will not sing of thy most pure childbearing?
The only-begotten Son shone timelessly from the Father,
but from thee He was ineffably incarnate.
God by nature, yet Man for our sake,
not two persons, but one known in two natures.
Entreat Him, O pure and all-blessed Lady, //
to have mercy on our souls!

✠ **READINGS**

A Reading from the Book of Genesis [14:14-20]
When Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the Most High God. And he blessed him, and said,

Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:
And blessed be the Most High God, which hath delivered thine enemies
into thy hand.

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy [1:8-11, 15-17]
In those days, Moses said unto the sons of Israel: Behold, I have set the
land before you, go in and possess the land which the Lord sware unto
your fathers, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give unto them and to their
seed after them. And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I am not able
to bear you myself alone: The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and,
behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. (The Lord
God of your fathers make you a thousand times so many more as ye are,
and bless you, as He hath promised you!) So I took the chief of your
tribes, wise men, and known, and made them heads over you, captains
over thousands, and captains over hundreds, and captains over fifties,
and captains over tens, and officers among your tribes. And I charged
your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren,
and judge righteously between every man and his brother, and the
stranger that is with him. Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; but
ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the
face of man; for the judgment is God's.

A Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy [10:14-21]
In those days, Moses said unto the sons of Israel: Behold, the heaven and
the heaven of heavens is the Lord's thy God, the earth also, with all that
therein is. Only the Lord had a delight in thy fathers to love them, and He
chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day.
Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiff-
necked. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great
God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh
reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and
loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore
the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear
the Lord thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave,
and swear by His name. He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath
done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have
seen.

✠ APOSTICHA

Tone 6

[Music on website]

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,
the Angels in heaven sing!
Enable us on earth//
to glorify Thee in purity of heart!

v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Destroying the gates of hell,
breaking the chains of death,
Thou didst resurrect the fallen human race as almighty God!//
O Lord Who didst rise from the dead, glory to thee!

v. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Desiring to return us to Paradise,
Christ was nailed to the Cross and placed in a tomb.
The Myrrhbearing Women sought Him with tears, crying,
“Woe to us, O Saviour!
How dost Thou deign to descend to death?
What place can hold Thy life bearing body?
Come to us as Thou didst promise!
Take away our wailing and tears!”
Then the Angel appeared to them:
“Stop your lamentations!
Go, proclaim to the Apostles:
“The Lord is risen,//
granting us purification and great mercy!”

v. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

Having been crucified as Thou didst will,
by Thy burial Thou didst capture death, O Christ,
rising on the third day as God in glory,//
granting the world unending life and great mercy!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Tone 4 *(For the Holy Fathers)*[\[Music on website\]](#)

Today we celebrate the annual memory
of the God-bearing Fathers who assembled in Nicaea.
They laid low the godless doctrines of Arius,
driving him from the unity of the Catholic Church,
and teaching us how to confess the consubstantial and co-eternal Son of God.
They expressed this clearly in the Symbol of Faith,
and we follow their divine doctrines,
believing in and serving the Son with the Father and the all-Holy Spirit, //
the consubstantial Trinity and one Divinity.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 *(For the Ascension)*[\[Music on website\]](#)

Fulfilling, O Lord, in Thy goodness,
the mystery hidden from ages and generations,
Thou camest with Thy Disciples to the Mount of Olives,
together with the Mother who bore Thee, the Maker and Creator of all;
for it was fitting that she who as a mother had been grieved beyond all at
Thy Passion,
should also be filled with exceeding joy at the glory of Thy flesh.
In this joy we also partake
at Thine Ascension into heaven, O Master, //
and we glorify Thy great mercy that has come upon us.

✠ TROPARIA**Troparion of the Resurrection**[\[Music on website\]](#)**Tone 6**

The Angelic Powers were at Thy tomb;
the guards became as dead men.
Mary stood by Thy grave,
seeking Thy most pure body.
Thou didst capture hell not being tempted by it.
Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life.
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, //
glory to Thee.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

Troparion of the Holy Fathers[\[Music on website\]](#)**Tone 8**

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God,
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith. //
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion of the Ascension[\[Music on website\]](#)**Tone 4**

O Christ God Thou hast ascended in glory,
granting joy to Thy disciples by the promise of the Holy Spirit.
Through the blessing, they were assured
that Thou art the Son of God, //
the Redeemer of the world!