

# Hymns for Vespers on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2022

## For the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ♦ Sunday before the Nativity of Christ Sunday of the Holy Fathers ♦ Sunday of the Genealogy

**“LORD, I CALL ...”**

**Tone 2**

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!

*V. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.*

**Tone 2 (For the Resurrection)**

Come, let us worship the Word of God  
begotten of the Father before all ages,  
and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!  
Having endured the Cross,  
He was buried as He Himself desired.//  
And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

*V. (9) The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Christ our Saviour  
nailed to the Cross the bond against us,  
He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//  
We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

*V. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

With the Archangels  
let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!  
He is our Saviour, our Redeemer.  
He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//  
to judge the world which He made.

*V. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

The Angel proclaimed Thee,  
the crucified and buried Master.  
He told the women: “Come, see the place where He lay!  
He is risen as He said,  
for He is almighty.”  
We worship Thee, O only immortal One.//  
Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

*V. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

By Thy Cross, Thou didst destroy the curse of the tree.  
By Thy burial, Thou didst slay the dominion of death.  
By Thy rising, Thou didst enlighten the race of man.//  
O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

*V. (5) 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.*

The gates of death opened to Thee from fear, O Lord.  
When the guards of hell saw Thee they were afraid,  
for Thou didst demolish the gates of brass and smash the iron chains.//  
Thou hast led us from the darkness and shadows of death, and hast broken our bonds.

*V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!*

**Tone 6** *(For the Holy Fathers)*

The memory of the Ancestors is revealed to the ends of the world,  
truly filling it with light  
and making known the dawning of grace.  
For Christ shone forth from afar, brighter than the sun,  
the leading rank of stars shining with Him;  
and the divine-human birth was revealed to take place in Bethlehem.  
Therefore with faith let us all gather at this birth,//  
rejoicing in chorus and singing the pre-festal praise!

*V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.*

*Repeat: "The memory of the Ancestors..."*

*V. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!*

Adorned with the glory of divine communion,  
Adam rejoices today,  
as he is the foundation and support of the wise Ancestors.  
With him Abel leaps with joy, and Enoch makes glad;  
Seth dances, and Noah with him;  
the all-praiseworthy Patriarch Abraham sings;  
Melchizedek beholds from afar the birth that is without a father.  
Therefore, as we celebrate the divine memory of the Forefathers of Christ,//  
we pray for the salvation of our souls.

*V. (1) For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

The three Youths, wise in God,  
who shone with joy in the furnace,  
proclaimed the birth of Christ on earth;  
For just as the Lord sent down a precious dew,  
He preserved from the flame her who gave birth,  
keeping her undefiled and enriching her with divine gifts.  
Therefore Daniel, pleasing to God, rejoiced and was glad,  
for having foreseen the Stone from the unquarried mountain,//  
he now prays with boldness in behalf of our souls.

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

### **Tone 6** *(For the Holy Fathers)*

Daniel, the man of desires, beheld Thee, O Lord,  
the Stone cut without human hands from the Mountain.  
Thus, he foretold that Thou wouldst take flesh without seed,  
O Word of God, born of the Virgin, //  
the changeless God and Saviour of our souls!

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

### **Tone 2** *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;  
as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,  
so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.  
The Righteous Sun has risen instead of a pillar of flame. //  
Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

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## **OLD TESTAMENT READINGS**

### **The reading from the Book of Genesis.**

Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. So he divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands."  
(Genesis 14:14-20)

### **The reading from the Book of Deuteronomy**

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers—to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—to give it to them and their seed after them. So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.' So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. You shall not show partiality in judgment; you shall judge the small and the great; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgement is God's.'  
(Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17)

### **The reading from the Book of Deuteronomy**

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes.  
(Deuteronomy 10:14-21)

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## **APOSTICHA**

### **Tone 2** *(For the Resurrection)*

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour,  
has enlightened the whole universe,  
recalling Thy creation.//  
Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!

*V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By the Tree Thou didst destroy the curse of the Tree, O Saviour.  
By Thy burial Thou didst mortify the majesty of death.  
Thou hast enlightened our race by Thy Resurrection.//  
O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

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

When Thou wast seen nailed to the Cross, O Christ,  
Thou didst restore the beauty of Thy creatures.  
The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Thy side with a spear.  
The Hebrews, not knowing Thy power,  
asked that Thy tomb might be sealed,  
but through the mercy of Thy compassion,  
Thou didst accept the tomb  
and didst rise on the third day!//  
O Lord, glory to Thee!

*V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!*

O Christ, the Giver of life,  
for the sake of the dead Thou didst voluntarily endure death,  
descending into hell as the Mighty One  
to save those who awaited Thy coming,  
granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.  
Grant also to us who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day//  
cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

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

### **Tone 2** *(For the Holy Fathers)*

Rejoice, O honoured Prophets,  
who laid well the foundation of the Law of the Lord,  
and were revealed as firm and unshaken pillars of faith!  
You became indeed the mediators of Christ's new covenant.  
Since, therefore, you have been taken up into heaven,//  
intercede with Him to grant peace to the world and salvation to our souls!

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

### **Tone 2** *(Theotokion)*

A new miracle surpasses all ancient miracles!  
Who knows of a Mother who gave birth without a man,  
who carried in her arms her Creator?  
This birth is the will of God!  
Since thou didst carry Him as an infant in thine arms, O most pure one,  
and since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him,  
do not cease praying for us who honour thee,//  
that He may be bountiful and save our souls!

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## **TROPARIA**

### **Troparion or the Resurrection**

#### **Tone 2**

When Thou didst descend to death, O Life immortal,  
Thou didst slay hell with the splendour of Thy Godhead.  
And when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead,  
all the powers of heaven cried out://  
"O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!"

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

### **Troparion of the Holy Fathers**

#### **Tone 2**

Great are the achievements of faith!  
in the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water,  
the three Holy Children rejoiced.  
And the Prophet Daniel proved to be a shepherd of lions as of sheep.//  
By their prayers, O Christ God, save our souls!

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

### **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**

#### **Tone 2**

All of thy most glorious mysteries  
are beyond comprehension, O Theotokos;  
for, thy purity sealed and thy virginity intact,  
thou art known to be a true Mother, having given birth unto God.//  
Him do thou entreat, that our souls may be saved.