

Seventh Sunday of Pascha
After Feast of the Ascension
Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Commemoration of the Holy Methodius & Cyril, Equals of the Apostles

VESPERS: Tone 6

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried...

1. O Christ, triumphant **over** hell,/ Thou hast ascended **upon** the Cross,/ to raise up with Thyself those dwelling in the **darkness** of death./ Free **among** the dead,/ Thou pourest forth life from **Thine** own light:// O almighty Saviour, have mercy **upon** us.
2. Christ, having trampled upon **death** today,/ according to His word, rose up bestowing **joy** upon the world,/ that all of us shouting this **hymn** might say:/ O Fount of life, O Light that no **man** can approach,// O almighty Saviour, have mercy **upon** us.
3. Whither shall we sinners fly from **Thee**, O Lord,/ Who art everywhere in the **creation**?/ Into heaven? Thy **abode** is there./ Into hell? Thou hast trampled **upon** death./ Into the uttermost **parts** of the sea?/ Thy hand reaches thither, O **Master**./ We run to Thee and falling before **Thee** we pray:// O Thou, risen from the dead, have mercy **upon** us.

Stichera of the Holy Fathers (Tone 6)

4. Ere the **morning** star/ from the womb wast Thou born from the **Father**/ motherless ere the **ages**,/ though Arius held Thou wast created and **thus** not God,/ boldly and mindlessly identifying thee, the **Creator**,/ with things created, thus storing up fuel for the **eternal** fire./ But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that **Thou**, O Lord,// art truly the Son of God, one with the Father and the **Spirit** in rank.
5. O My Saviour, Who hath thus rent Thy **raiment**?/ Thou didst say: It was Arius who sundered the Trinity's **headship**,/ which is one in rank and **honour**./ That Thou art One of the Most Holy Trinity he **disputed**;/ and he taught Nestorius the godless not to say Theotokos./ But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that **Thou**, O Lord,/ art truly the **Son** of God,// one with the Father and the **Spirit** in rank.
6. Keeping his eyes shut, that he might **not** see light,/ into sin's deep pit Arius fell **headlong**./ His bowels were torn by a **divine** hook/ that he gave up violently all his **substance** and his soul/ and became in this wise through his most evil purpose and his manner another **Judas**./ But the Council gathered in Nicaea proclaimed that **Thou**, O Lord,// art truly the Son of God, one with the Father and the **Spirit** in rank.
7. Mindless, foolish **Arius**/ once divided the All-holy Trinity's one **dominion**/ and made thus three essences, dissimilar and **foreign**./

Hence, the God-bearing Fathers gathered together in their **fervor**,/ burning with zeal like to Elias the **Thesbite**,/ and they cut down with the sharp sword of the Holy **Spirit**/ the vile blasphemer, who taught doctrine of **shamefulness**.// Thus did the Spirit **reveal** to them.

Stichera for SS Methodius & Cyril (Tone 2)

8. With what wreaths of praise shall we crown the divinely wise **teachers**/ who illumined with the light of the Gospel the Slavic **nations**/ who sat in the darkness of ignorance and the **shadow** of death?/ By them have we been grafted onto the right fruitful root of Orthodoxy like a wild **olive-tree**,// and have received from Christ God peace and great **mercy**.
9. With what hymns of praise shall we bless the divinely wise **teachers**:/ Methodius, the lover of the **wilderness**,/ who was enriched with the fruits of the Spirit during his solitary **sojourn**,/ and Cyril of golden **eloquence**,/ who through his love of philosophy acquired higher **wisdom**/ and put to shame the vain belief of the foolish Moslem **sages**?// For their sake hath Christ our God granted us great **mercy**.
10. With what beauties of hymnody shall we praise the divinely wise **teachers**:/ Methodius, who for love of Christ spurned all the beauties **of** the world/ and fought mightily for the King of heaven in the angelic **habit**,/ and Cyril, who from childhood chose wisdom as his **companion**/ and increased the talents given him by God unto His **glory**?/ Having come, through them, to know the one God, the ever-existing **Trinity**-/ the Father, the Son and the Holy **Spirit**-,// we have received great mercy from **Christ** God.

Glory... (Tone 6)

Let us **acclaim** today/ those mystical trumpets of the **Spirit**,/ namely the God-bearing Fathers, who, in the **midst** of the Church,/ sang a harmonious song of the **ology**,/ teaching that the **Trinity** is one,/ unchanging in essence and **Godhead**;/ they are the refuters of Arius, and the foremost warriors of the **Orthodox**.// And they ever intercede with the Lord that our souls find **mercy**.

Both now & ever... Dogmatikon Tone 6

Who does not call thee **blessed**,/ O all-hallowed **Virgin**?/ Who does not sing the praises of thy **giving** birth,/ which was not according to the laws of **nature**;/ for the only-begotten **Son** Himself,/ timelessly having shone out of the **Father**,/ came forth from thee who **art** pure;/ and having been ineffably made flesh, He, Who by **nature** is God,/ for our sakes became also by **nature** man,/ not in two divided **persons**, /but in two natures without **confusion** is He known./ O thou, honoured and greatly **blessed**,// beseech Him to have **mercy** on our souls.

- P. Wisdom. Aright!
 C. O Joyful Light...
 P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
 P. Wisdom! (And readings, if any)

The reading from Genesis (14:14-20)

And 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.

The reading from Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17)

In those days, Moses said to 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.

The reading from Deuteronomy (10:14-21)

In those days, Moses said to 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 stiffnecked. 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.

The Reading from Proverbs

The memory of the just is praised, and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom, and the mortal who knoweth prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious

stones: no precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory: out of her mouth righteousness proceedeth, and she carrieth law and mercy upon her tongue. Hearken to me, O children, for I will speak solemn truths. Blessed is the man who shall keep my ways; for my outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Ye, O men, do I exhort; and utter my voice to the sons of men. I, wisdom, have built up; upon counsel, knowledge and understanding have I called. Counsel and safety are mine; prudence is mine, and strength is mine. I love those that love me; they that seek me shall find grace. O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, imbibe knowledge. Hearken unto me again; for I will speak solemn truths. For my throat shall meditate truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those that understand, and right to those that find knowledge. For I will instruct you in truth, that your hope may be in the Lord, and ye may be filled with the Spirit.

The Reading from Proverbs 10:31-11:12

The mouth of the righteous droppeth wisdom: but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. The lips of just men drop grace: but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. False balances are an abomination before the Lord: but a just weight is acceptable unto Him. Wherever pride entereth, there will also disgrace: but the mouth of the humble doth meditate wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the overthrow of the rebellious shall spoil them. Possessions shall not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness will deliver from death. When a just man dieth, he leaveth regret: but the destruction of the ungodly is speedy and causeth joy. Righteousness traceth out blameless paths: but ungodliness encountereth unjust dealing. The righteousness of upright men delivereth them: but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. At the death of a just man his hope doth not perish: but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. A righteous man escapeth from a snare, and the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. In the mouth of ungodly men is a snare for citizens: but the understanding of righteous men is prosperous. In the prosperity of righteous men a city prospereth, but at the destruction of the wicked there is exultation. At the blessing of the upright a city shall be exalted, but by the mouths of ungodly men it is overthrown. A man void of understanding sneereth at his fellow citizens: but a sensible man is quiet.

The Reading from Wisdom 4:7-15

Though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. For honorable age is not that which standeth in length of time, nor that is measured by number of years. But wisdom is the gray hair unto men, and an unspotted life is old age. He pleased God, and was beloved of Him; so that, living among sinners, he was translated. Yea, speedily was he taken away, lest that wickedness should alter his understanding, or deceit beguile his soul. For the bewitching of naughtiness doth obscure things that are honest; and the wandering of lust doth undermine the simple mind. He, being made perfect in a short time, fulfilled a long time; for his soul pleased the Lord: therefore hastened He to take him away from among the

wicked. This the people saw, and understood not, neither laid they up this in their minds: that His grace and mercy is with His saints, and that He doth visit His chosen.

- P. Augmented Litany
- R. Vouchsafe...
- P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya Prayers (Tone 3)

Ye have become exact keepers of the apostolic traditions,/ O Holy Fathers;/ for in setting forth in council the dogma of the consubstantiality/ of the Holy Trinity in Orthodox fashion,/ ye cast down the blasphemy of Arius./ Then, after censuring Macedonius, the enemy of the Holy Spirit,/ ye condemned Nestorius, Eutyches, Dioscorus,/ Sabellius, and Severus the headless./ Wherefore, make ye entreaty that we be delivered from their error,// and that our life be preserved blameless in the Faith, we pray.

Stichera for SS Methodius & Cyril (Tone 8)

Ye shone forth in the firmament of the Church like the stars of heaven/ in the radiance of your life, O teachers,/ ye peers of the apostles,/ and, ensnaring many nations for Christ in the net of our teachings,/ ye hastened to the unapproachable light,/ where, dwelling now with the angels,// ye make supplication for us who celebrate your sacred memory in the Lord.

Come, ye who love the feasts of the Church,/ let us magnify the teachers who were the peers of the apostles,/ the glory of the Slavs;/ for having been freed from the deception of the demons by them,/ we have received the light of the glad tidings of Christ/ and have come to know the pre-eternal Word// Who hath delivered us from the darkness of sin.

O divinely wise Cyril and God-loving Methodius,/ apostles and first teachers of the Slavs,/ helpers of the faithful and lovers of piety,/ melodious instruments of the Holy Spirit,/ who now have great boldness before Christ, the Chief Shepherd:/ pray for us who celebrate your honoured memory,/ that He may lead our life up from corruption,// in that He is greatly merciful.

Glory... (for SS Methodius & Cyril) (Tone 8)

Rejoice, O sacred twain who have illumined us with the light of the knowledge of God:/ Cyril, thou life-bearing wellspring of spiritual wisdom,/ who gavest drink to the Slavic peoples who were perishing of thirst,/ and Methodius, the pure abode of prayer./ Pray ye earnestly to Christ, before Whom ye stand in glory,/ that, with you, we also may magnify// and exalt Him supremely for all ages.

Both now and ever... (Tone 6)

O Lord, when Thou didst fulfill the mystery of Thy dispensation,/ Thou didst take Thy disciples and ascend the Mount of Olives;/ and behold, Thou didst pass through the firmament of heaven./ O Thou Who for my sake became poor like unto me,/ and Who didst ascend thither whence Thou wast not separated,// send forth Thine All-holy Spirit to enlighten our souls.

P. Litya (O Lord, save Thy people...) (*In the back of the Church*)

APOSTICHA: (Tone 6)

1. Angels in heaven sing the **praises**/ of Thy Resurrection, O Christ our **Saviour**./ Vouchsafe that we **too** on earth// may from pure hearts give Thee **glory**.

V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious apparel.

2. After breaking in pieces the **gates** of brass/ and crushing the bolts and **bars** of hell,/ Thou, being almighty God, didst raise **fallen** man./ Therefore, with one **accord**, we cry:// Glory unto Thee, O Lord, **risen** from the dead.

V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it cannot be moved.

3. Wishing to lift us out of the ancient **corruption**,/ Christ was nailed upon the Cross and **laid** in the tomb./ As in tears the women bearing myrrh **searched** for Him,/ they said, lamenting: Woe are we, O **Saviour** of all:/ How comes it that Thou wast pleased to **dwell** in the tomb?/ How comes it, if that was Thy wish, that Thou hast now been **stolen**?/ How comes it that Thou hast been taken **elsewhere**?/ In what place have they laid Thy life-bearing **Body**?/ But, O Master, as Thou hast **promised**,/ appear to us and dry up the **fountain** of our tears./ Upon which, as they wept, an angel **came** to them and cried:/ Cease your weeping and tell the apostles that the Lord is **risen**// giving the world purification and great **mercy**.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, forever.

4. Crucified according to Thy **Will**, O Christ,/ despoiling death by Thy **entombment**,/ Thou hast risen up on the third day as God in **glory**// granting the world life without end and great **mercy**.

Glory... (Tone 4)

O ye assemblies of the **Orthodox**,/ let us celebrate today with faith and **piety**/ the annual memorial of the God-bearing **Fathers**/ who, in the illustrious city of **Nicaea**,/ came together from the whole **inhabited** world./ For with pious mind they refuted the godless dogma of the grievous **Arius**,/ and by synodal decree banished him from the **Cath'lic** Church./ And they instructed all to openly confess the consubstantial and co-eternal **Son** of God,/ Who existed before the **ages**./ This, in exactness and piety, did they set forth in the **Symbol** of Faith./ Wherefore, following their divine doctrines and believing with **assurance**,/ we worship, in One Godhead, the Father, Son and All-holy **Spirit**,// the Trinity one in **essence**.

Both now and ever... (Tone 4)

O **Lord**, having fulfilled the mystery that was hidden from before the **ages**/ and from all generations,/ as Thou art **good**, Thou didst come with Thy disciples to the Mount of **Olives**,/ having together with Thyself her that

gave birth **unto** Thee,/ The Creator and Fashioner of **all** things;/ for it was meet that she who, as Thy **Mother**,/ suffered at Thy Passion **more** than all,/ should also enjoy the surpassing joy of the glorification of Thy flesh, O **Master**,/ to which we have attained by Thine Ascension to the **Heavens**,// and we glorify Thy great mercy **toward** us.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer
 R. Trisagion
 C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

C. Troparion for SS Methodius & Cyril (Tone 4)
 In that ye share the ways of the apostles,/ O divinely wise Cyril and Methodius,/ ye teachers of the Slavic lands, entreat the Master of all,/ that He confirm all the Slavic nations in Orthodoxy and oneness of mind,// grant peace to the world and save our souls.

P. Blessing of the loaves
 C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord...

MATINS: Tone 6

P. Regular Beginning
 P. Great Ectenia
 C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 6) (once only)
 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.

Troparion of the Fathers, (Tone 8)
 Most glorified art Thou, O Christ our God,/ Who hast established our holy Fathers as luminous stars upon the earth,/ and through them didst guide us all to the true Faith.// O Most Merciful One, glory be to Thee.

Glory... Troparion for SS Methodius & Cyril (Tone 4)
 In that ye share the ways of the apostles,/ O divinely wise Cyril and Methodius,/ ye teachers of the Slavic lands, entreat the Master of all,/ that He confirm all the Slavic nations in Orthodoxy and oneness of mind,// grant peace to the world and save our souls.

Both... Theotokion (Tone 4)
 The mystery hidden from all ages/ and unknown to the **angels**/ was made manifest to those on earth through Thee, O Theotokos:/ God took flesh in a union without **confusion**/ and for our sakes willingly **accepted** the Cross;/ and thereby He raised the **first** formed man// and saved our **souls** from death.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
 Glory...

R. Now...
 R. Kathisma II
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

When the tomb was opened and hades wept, Mary cried out to the apostles, who had hidden themselves: "Come forth, ye laborers of the vineyard! Proclaim the tidings of the resurrection! The Lord hath risen, granting the world great mercy."

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

O Lord, Mary Magdalene stood before Thy tomb and wept aloud; and supposing Thee to be the gardener, she said: "Where hast Thou hidden our eternal Life? Where hast Thou laid Him Who sitteth upon the throne of the cherubim? For those who guarded Him have become as dead through fear. Either give me my Lord, or cry out with me: O Thou Who wast among the dead and hast raised up the dead, glory to Thee!"

G/B... He Who called thee Mother and blessed went up of His own will to suffer, and wishing to search out Adam, He made light shine with the Cross, saying unto the angels: Rejoice with Me, for I have found the lost piece of silver. Glory unto Thee, O God, Who hast ordered all things wisely.

R. Kathisma III
 P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Life lay in the tomb, and a seal was affixed to the stone. Soldiers guarded Christ as they would a sleeping king, and the Lord arose, invisibly smiting His enemies.

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

By Thy voluntary death have we found immortal life, O Almighty one and only Savior of all; for by Thine august arising Thou hast recalled all men, O Thou Who didst destroy the victory of Hades and the sting of death."

G/B... O Virgin Theotokos, entreat thy Son, Christ our God, Who of His own will was nailed to the Cross and arose from the dead, that our souls be saved.

P. Megalynarion for SS Methodius & Cyril (Clergy only) x1

We magnify you,/ O holy Methodius and Cyril,/ ye peers of the apostles,/ who illumined all the Slavic lands/ with your teachings and led them to Christ.

C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)

P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

Having, as God broken down the gates of hades by Thy voluntary and life-creating death, O Christ, Thou didst open ancient paradise unto us; and rising from the dead, Thou hast delivered our life from corruption.

R. Sessional Hymns for SS Methodius & Cyril:

Standing now in unapproachable light before the life-creating Trinity, Whom the angelic hosts unceasingly glorify, and Whom ye proclaimed aloud among the nations, pray ye earnestly, O Cyril and Methodius, that He deliver from eternal damnation and grant remission of debts to those who honour your memory with love.

Let the generations of the Slavs rejoice today, celebrating the sacred memory of the divinely wise teachers with splendor; for through them did the divine liturgy and all the services of the Church begin to be celebrated for us in our native tongue, and thereby an inexhaustible well of water pouring forth unto eternal life hath been given us, drinking from which we never cease to magnify you, O Cyril and Methodius. Rejoicing in the glory of the saints, pray ye earnestly, that our souls be saved.

Glory... Come ye, and with praises let us honour aloud our enlighteners, for with the manna of their divinely wise teaching they fed the Slavic peoples who were perishing out of hunger for the word of God, and illumined them, as with the rays of the sun, by translating the Gospel of the son of thunder into their native tongue. And, having received effulgence therefrom, we cry out in thanksgiving: Rejoice, O ever-glorious Cyril and Methodius!

Both... from the Feast of the Ascension (Tone 5)

Having come **down** from Heaven unto the things of **earth**, O Christ,/ as God, with Thyself, Thou didst resurrect **Adam's** form,/ which lay **prostrate** in the nether holds of **Hades'** vault;/ in Thine **Ascension** to the heights Thou didst lead it up unto the **Heavens**/ and Thou didst seat it upon the throne of Thy **Father**,// since Thou, the Lover of man, art **merciful**.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

I lift up mine eyes to heaven, to Thee, O Word. Have pity, that I may live in Thee.

Have mercy upon us who are downcast, O Word, making us vessels useful to Thee.

G/B... The Holy Spirit is the Cause of all salvation. And if He blow upon anyone as is meet, He quickly taketh him away from among the things of earth: He giveth him wings, maketh him grow and setteth him on high.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

If the Lord were not among us, none of us would be able to combat the warfare of the enemy; for they who conquer are lifted upon from hence.

Let not my soul be seized like a bird by the teeth of the enemy, O Word. Woe is me! How shall I, who love sin, escape them?

G/B... From the Holy Spirit come deification, goodwill, understanding, peace and blessing for all; for He worketh equally with the Father and the Word.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

They that hope in the Lord are fearsome to the enemy and wondrous to all; for they direct their gaze on high.

He who hath Thee, O Saviour, as his Helper, the Portion of the righteous, doth not stretch out his hands toward iniquities.

G/B... The dominion of the Holy Spirit is over all. Him do the armies on high worship, as doth every creature here below.

P. Prokimenon:

O Lord, stir up Thy might/ and come to save us.

V. O Shepherd of Israel, attend, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #10

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...

Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Traversing the deep on foot/ as though it were dry land,/ and seeing the tyrant Pharaoh drowned,/ Israel cried aloud://
Let us chant unto God a hymn of victory.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Jesus the Good, by Thine arms outspread upon the Cross, Thou hast filled all things with the good pleasure of the Father. Therefore shall we all sing Thee a triumphal song.

For fear of Thee, the end that is death became like a servant and was ordered to approach the Master of Life, whereby He awarded us life without end and the Resurrection.

Theotokion

Having received thine own Creator incarnate of thy seedless womb in manner past understanding, O pure one, as He Himself desired, thou wast truly shown to be the Mistress of creation.

Holy Equal-of-the-Apostles Methodius & Cyril, pray to God for us.

At a loss how to traverse the waters of life's tumult, O venerable Methodius, thou didst abandon all the beauties of this world and, fighting

the invisible foe in the angelic habit, thou didst serve the one God, joyously singing: to Him alone let us chant, for He hath been glorified!

Thou wast shown to be a chosen vessel from thine infancy, O blessed Cyril, in nowise desiring to receive milk from a stranger's breasts, thereby showing that thy mind would not be deceived by a strange doctrine, but would be illumined by the teaching of the holy Orthodox Church, and that thou thyself wouldst become the teacher and enlightener of many.

Bedewed by the waters of your teachings, even to this day the Slavic lands bring forth fruit right pleasing unto Christ the Master; wherefore, the Holy Church doth bless you, crying aloud: Deliver us from tribulations, for ye have been glorified!

Theotokion

The waters of sin have entered in unto my soul, O Mistress, and I am sunk in the mire of the passions. To thee do I flee, O most immaculate one: still thou the turmoil of impure thoughts and grant me peace of mind.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

While acclaiming the all-holy Council of the holy Fathers, I entreat Thee, O Christ, crying: Preserve in me its all-holy oracle.

The God-bearing Fathers, coming together like flashes of lightning on this day, clearly confessed Thee, O Christ, as the Only-begotten Son, co-beginningless and consubstantial with the Father.

Glory... Having clearly set forth the boundary of the Faith of Thy Bride, the Church, O Master, these glorious bridesmen have adorned it as with a majestic golden adornment.

Both... Adorned with the divine glory, the august Queen doth stand in the presence of her Son and God, entreating Him for the salvation of our souls.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Covered by the **d**ivine cloud,/ he that was slow of tongue proclaimed the Law **w**ritten by God;/ For having **s**haken off the impurity from the **e**ye of his mind,/ he beholdeth **H**im That Is,/ and he is initiated into the knowledge of the **S**pirit,// while giving praise with God-**i**nspired songs.

Canticle Three

Irmos: There is none as holy as Thee,/ O Lord my God,/ Who hast uplifted the horn of Thy faithful/ and established us// on the rock of the confession of Thee, O Good One.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The creation, looking upon God crucified in the flesh was dissolved by fear but was strongly held together by the firm hand of Him Who was crucified for us.

Death having been destroyed by death, the wretch lay lifeless; For, not able to bear the divine assault, he who was strong was put to death and the Resurrection was bestowed upon all.

Theotokion

The miracle of thy divine birthgiving transcendeth every order of nature, O pure one; for thou didst supernaturally conceive God in thy womb, and having given birth thou dost ever remain a virgin.

Holy Equal-of-the-Apostles Methodius & Cyril, pray to God for us.

O venerable Methodius, hearing with the ear of thy heart: "He who would come after Me, let him take up his cross and follow after Me," thou didst follow Christ, shouldering the cross of the monastic life. Him do thou entreat, that in His love He establish me, who am cold.

He Who of old showed Jacob, in a dream, a ladder which extended up into the heavens, O holy Cyril, when thou wast a boy also in a wondrous dream betrothed thee to a maiden more lovely than all others, Sophia by name. And, behold! the wisdom which sitteth at His throne hath established thee in the love of the Most High.

He Who hath brought all things out of nonexistence, O right wondrous fathers, sanctified you for Himself as chosen vessels from your mother's womb, that ye might bring His name before the nations. Wherefore, celebrating your honoured memory, we entreat you, O Cyril and Methodius, to establish our wavering mind in the confession of the right Faith.

Theotokion

O pure one, who hast given peace to the world and given birth to the Origin of tranquility, still the waves of my passions and establish me upon the rock of dispassion.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The foolish, ungodly Arius, impiously attributing change and passion and division unto Thy divine Nativity, is cut off by the cutting sword of the Fathers.

Like divine Abraham of old, all the august heralds of God, in waging war against Thy raving enemies, O Good One, have mightily destroyed them by Thy might.

Glory... The first gathering of Thy priests, O Saviour, piously proclaimed Thee to be begotten and consubstantial with the beginningless Father and Creator of all.

Both... Neither the speech nor the tongue of mortals can acclaim thee worthily, O Virgin; for without seed Christ, the Giver of life, was well-pleased to be incarnate of thee, O all-pure One.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Only the prayer of the Prophetess **Anna**,/ who of old brought a broken spirit unto the Mighty One and God of **knowledge**,/ loosed the fetters of a **childless** womb// and the unruly rebuke of her with **children**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of SS Methodius & Cyril (Tone 3)

Let us honour our two sacred enlighteners,/ who poured forth upon us a spring of divine knowledge through their translation of the divine Scriptures./ Drawing forth abundantly therefrom to this very day,/ we bless you, O Cyril and Methodius,/ who stand before the throne of the Most High// and fervently pray for our souls.

R. Ikos for SS Methodius & Cyril

Come, ye faithful, let us praise our Godbearing fathers Methodius and Cyril, the preachers of piety who shone forth in virtue, the true pillars and foundation of the Church, the divine clarions of Christian dogmas; for having driven the darkness of unbelief away from us and burned up the impieties of heresy with the fire of the Spirit, by their translation of the Scriptures they transformed the Slavic race from wild olive-trees into a fruitful grove, through divine baptism have brought them into the Christian Faith, and have filled the whole world with a multitude of miracles; wherefore, they stand, crowned, before God Almighty. And we cry out to them: O divine fathers, peers of the apostles, entreat Christ, that He grant all the Slavic peoples steadfastness in Orthodoxy and oneness of mind, bring peace to the world, and save Thou our souls.

R. Sessional Hymns of the Fathers

Ye truly were shown, O blessed Fathers, unto the world as luminous stars bright with the truth of Christ that have shone most brilliantly on the earth. Ye burnt up the heresies of slanderous babblers; and ye wholly quenched blasphemers' flagrant confusions. As hierarchs of Christ, do ye then pray that we may be saved.

Glory... (of SS Methodius & Cyril)

Thou didst liken the holy consubstantial Trinity to the sun, O divinely inspired Cyril, declaring that the visible, created sun in the sky is an image of the Holy Trinity, saying: "The solar disc is an image of God the Father, Who hath neither beginning nor end; and as a ray of light issueth forth from the solar disc, illumining the earth, so is the Son, the Effulgence of the Father, begotten of God the Father; and the warmth which giveth life to the whole world, and with the ray is poured forth from the same disc, is an image of the Holy Spirit, Who proceedeth from the same Father." Heeding thy wondrous teaching, we also worship the one God in Trinity, blessing thy memory, O right wondrous one.

Both... (of the Ascension)

Thou Who didst rise into the Heavens with glory, and didst sit down at the right hand of the Father, from Whom Thou never hadst parted, O Lover of man, Thou, O Christ, didst promise to send down Thy Holy Spirit to Thy wise initiates. Do Thou now grant unto us enlightenment, illumining our minds, O Master, that we may hymn Thee unceasingly.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Christ is my power, my God and my Lord,/ the honoured Church doth sing,/ crying out in godly manner/ with a pure mind,// keeping festival in the Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Wood made life truly flower, O Christ. For the Cross set up and watered by the Blood and Water from Thy spotless side, put forth life for us.

The serpent no more whispers falsely to me that I should be God; for Christ, the divine Maker of the nature of man has now unfolded unto me, without hindrance, the path of life.

Theotokion

Truly ineffable and unapproachable to those on earth and in heaven are the mysteries of thy divine birthgiving, O Ever-virgin.

Holy Equal-of-the-Apostles Methodius & Cyril, pray to God for us.

Thou didst set the keeping of the commandments as thy corner-stone, O venerable Methodius, and building the house of thy soul thereon thou didst make it a habitation of the Holy Spirit. And I, who am the abode of sin, fall down before thee, O most blessed one: cleanse me with the dew of thy prayers, that I may cry out in thanksgiving: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

"Grant that I may understand what is pleasing unto Thee, O Master!", thou didst cry out, O blessed Cyril, when thou wast given over to study with the young emperor; wherefore, in addition to outward philosophy, thou didst receive the wisdom of the Spirit and the fear of God from on high, and didst regard earthly wisdom as naught, crying: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Thou didst set love for thy Creator like a seal upon thy heart, O most blessed Cyril; wherefore, thou didst reject an earthly betrothal and the glory of this world, and, escaping like a bird from the hunters' snares, thou didst attain unto the calm haven of monastics and wast clothed in the robe of joy, chanting with Methodius: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Theotokion

Setting mine iniquities and injustices before me, I see that they have multiplied more than the sands of the sea. To thee do I flee, O most

immaculate one: heal the sores of my soul, that in thanksgiving I may cry out to Him Who was born of thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Arius of evil fame, having, in his foolish mind, adulterated the Orthodox Faith, was banished from the Church as a rotten member by the decrees of the Fathers.

The choir of the Fathers that struggled for Thee, O Master, mightily put to flight Thine enemies; and they glorified Thee as consubstantial with the Father and the Spirit.

Glory... Thou Who art God and man becamest a Mediator between God and men. Wherefore, O Christ, the men of godly mind proclaimed Thee, knowing Thee to be one Son in two natures.

Both... The tasting of the tree showed me forth as dead; but the Tree of Life, which appeared from thee, O all-pure One, raised me up and made me an heir of the joy of Paradise.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O **King** of **kings**,/ even Thou Who art from the **Holy** One,/ O **Word**, Who comest forth from the only uncaused **Father**,/ Thou, as our Benefactor, didst unflinchingly send Thine equipotent **Spirit**/ unto the **Apostles**, who sing:// Glory to Thy **power**, O Lord.

Canticle Five

Irmos: With Thy divine light/ illumine the souls of those who with love/ rise at dawn unto Thee, I pray Thee, O Good one,/ that they may know Thee, O Word of God, to be the true God// Who calleth all forth from the darkness of sin.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The cherubim now withdraws from me and the flaming sword turns its back on me, O Master, after beholding Thee, O Word of God Who art God indeed, making for the thief a way in Paradise.

I shall no more fear my return to the earth, O Master Christ, for through much compassion hast Thou by Thy Resurrection led me, forgotten, from the earth to the height of immortality.

Theotokion

Save those who with all their soul confess thee to be the Theotokos, O good Mistress of the world, for we have thee, the true Theotokos, as an invincible intercession.

Holy Equal-of-the-Apostles Methodius & Cyril, pray to God for us.

Thou didst flower like a fragrant lily in the wilderness, O venerable Methodius, adorning thy soul with prayer, vigils and fasting; and, having lived angelically upon the earth, with the angels thou dost now contemplate in splendor the never-waning Light Who reigneth with peace.

Praying in the wilderness to Him Who is upborne by the angels of glory, O Cyril, thou wast prevailed upon to return to the Imperial City and adorned with priestly rank, that thou mightest show the way of salvation to men, illumining them with the light of doctrine and offering up the unbloody sacrifice to the never-waning Light Who reigneth with peace, for all.

Thou wast shown to be an inexhaustible well of wisdom, O God-bearing Cyril, when thou wast sent by the emperor to dispute with the Saracens, who blaspheme the all-holy Trinity; and they were unable to drown in the turgid waters of their false religion thee who art illumined from on high by the never-waning Light.

Theotokion

How can I fail to fear the dread felling, since I am a barren tree, wretch that I am? Make haste quickly to her who is full of grace, O my soul; for if she will not help thee, thou wilt never behold the never-waning Light Who reigneth with peace!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Truly comely are the feet of them that proclaim Thee, the Peace that passeth all understanding of all Angels and men, O Christ, Who by the abundance of peace hast united the world.

Coming together, the divine teachers of the all-holy priesthood, augustly sealed by the Law, proclaimed Thee to be the Enhypostatic Word, the Wisdom and Power of the Father.

Glory... Having watered the Church with the pure waters of Christ's teaching, ye now take delight by the waters of rest, rejoicing forever.

Both... O all-pure One, knowing thee to be the radiant lamp that upon all hath shone its ray, even Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, we now invoke thy protection, O only pure Mother of God.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O ye children **of** the Church,/ whose likeness is like **unto** light,/ **receive** ye the fire-breathing dew of the **Spirit**,/ which is a redeeming purification of **offences**;/ For now hath the Law gone forth from **Sion**,// even the Spirit's grace, in the **form** of tongues of fire.

Canticle Six

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life/ surging with the tempest of temptations,/ fleeing to Thy calm haven I cry unto Thee:/ Lead up my life from corruption,// O greatly Merciful One.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Master, crucified with nails, Thou hast wiped out the curse against us while pierced in Thy side by the lance, Thou hast torn up the handwriting against Adam and set the world free.

Tripped up by the heel through beguilement, Adam has been led down towards the pit of hell. But God Who is compassionate by nature, descended to seek him and carrying him on His shoulders, He raised him up with Himself.

Theotokion

O all-pure Mistress who for men gavest birth to Christ, the Helmsman, allay the inconstant and grievous tumult of my passions, and grant serenity to my heart.

Holy Equal-of-the-Apostles Methodius & Cyril, pray to God for us.

"Our God is like the deep of the sea, unfathomable by the mind and indescribable in words," thou didst say to the Moslems who disputed with thee, O all-wise Cyril; "and some who attempt to sail across this deep in the leaky boats of their own intellect are drowned, falling into errors and heresies, while others are buffeted by incomprehension and doubt, knowing not how to chant: O Helmsman, save us, as Thou didst Peter!"

Sunk deep in the abyss of their false understandings, the Moslems secretly offered thee deadly poison. But He Who said: "If ye drink anything deadly, it will not harm you", preserved thee whole and returned thee with honour to the Imperial City. And, fittingly blessed by the emperor and patriarch, thou wast supremely exalted, crying: "O Helmsman, Thou hast saved me as Thou didst Peter!"

The Holy Spirit once said to the disciples: "Separate for Me Barnabas and Saul for the task to which I have called them," the enlightenment of the nations who are perishing in the abyss of ignorance of God; and He likewise commanded that ye be sent to the lands of the Slavs, O venerable fathers. And, illumined by the light of your teaching, people who sat in darkness and the shadow of death have cried out: "O Helmsman, Thou hast saved us as Thou didst Peter!"

Theotokion

The uttermost abyss of sins hath encompassed me, and, beset with trembling and terrified of utter drowning, I offer thee entreaty, O all-immaculate one: Have mercy upon my passion-plagued soul! Stretch forth thy hands, in that thou art good, and as Thy Son saved Peter, so do thou save me, O thou who dost steer my soul.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

The sower of tares, who was called the namesake of madness, was not able to escape the unspeakable judgment of providence; for having zealously emulated Judas, he, the most evil one, was rent asunder like him.

The divine and august assembly of the Fathers doth proclaim Thee as the Only-begotten Effulgence that shone forth from the essence of the Father, and as the Son Who was begotten before all ages, O Master.

Glory... In a most providential manner, by the prayers of the God-inspired priests, literally rent asunder were those bowels, even that source that gushed forth the turbid and undrinkable water of impious heresies.

Both... Moses, great among the Prophets, symbolically wrote aforetime concerning thee as an ark, and table, and lamp, and an urn, signifying the incarnation of the Most High that took place in thee, O Virgin Mother.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Thou hast shone forth from the **Virgin**/ as forgiveness and salvation for us, O Christ **Master**,/ that like as Jonas who was reft from the belly of the sea **monster**,// Thou mightest snatch from corruption all the fallen race of **Adam**.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Fathers, (Tone 8) **Pg 27 PENTECOSTARION 2**

The preaching of the Apostles and the doctrines of the Fathers confirmed the one Faith in the Church./ And wearing the garment of truth woven from the theology on high,// she rightly divideth and glorifieth the great mystery of piety.

R. Ikos of the Fathers

In the lofty preaching of the Church of God, let us hearken as she crieth: he that thirsteth, let him come and drink. The cup which I bear is the cup of wisdom. Its drink have I mixed with the word of truth. I pour forth the water, not of contention, but of confession. As Israel doth now drink thereof, it beholdeth God, Who saith: See, see, that I am He, and have not changed. I am God, I am first, and I am hereafter, and besides Me there is none other. Hence, they that partake shall be filled, and shall praise the great mystery of piety.

Canticle Seven

Irmos: An angel caused the furnace to pour forth dew/ upon the pious youths,/ and the command of God, which consumed the Chaldeans,/ prevailed upon the tyrant to cry out:// Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The sun, lamenting at Thy Passion, was wrapped in gloom, and on that day, O Master, the light was darkened over the whole earth, that cried aloud: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

At Thy descent, O Christ, the lowest parts of the earth put on light: while our forefather appeared singing full of joy and he danced crying aloud: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Theotokion

Through thee, O Virgin Mother, radiant Light hath shone forth upon the whole world; for thou gavest birth unto God, the Creator of all. Him do thou entreat, O most pure one, that He send down great mercy upon us, the faithful.

Holy Equal-of-the-Apostles Methodius & Cyril, pray to God for us.

Abiding alone in solitude before, O Methodius, thou didst make thy soul like a divinely planted garden; but later, undertaking the apostolic preaching with the divinely wise Cyril, thou didst labor in the lands of the Slavs, where, unburnt by the fire of impiety like the youths in the furnace, ye chanted: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Thou didst best the Jews and Saracens in argument, O all-wise Cyril, and didst enlighten the land of the Khazars with holy baptism, freeing a multitude of captives, and didst transform brackish water in an arid wilderness into potable water; and, saved by thee, the people chanted: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

O venerable fathers, ye were vessels chosen to bear the name of the Lord before the nations; wherefore, the Slavic peoples desired to be illumined by the light of your doctrine. And ye deemed it better to exchange the sweetness of solitude for apostolic labor, that ye might win a great many for Christ; and together with them ye chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion

I am a vessel full of the passions, O all-holy Virgin Theotokos, and fear ultimate death and the threat of the fire. But do thou save me who am perishing, O all-pure one, and gird my spirit about with strength, that, bursting the bonds of sin, I may chant in thanksgiving: Blessed art thou who gavest birth to Him Who hath delivered the captives!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Ye conquered Arius, the namesake of madness, who was raving grievously and spake unjust things to the uttermost against God; for he refused to cry unto the Son: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

Imitating the Son of Thunder, O ye marvelous ones, with your fire-like mouths ye teach all to proclaim the Word, Who is co-beginningless and of one throne with the Father, and to cry: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

Glory... Ye came as though on wings, with the help of the Word, O ye blessed of God; for the Holy Spirit gathered you from the ends of the world, that ye might cry: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

Both... The furnace did not burn the three Youths, thus prefiguring thy giving of birth; for the Divine Fire dwelt in thee and did not consume thee, and enlightened all, that they may cry: Blessed art thou who didst conceive God in the flesh.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **unison** of instrumental **music**/ declared that all should worship the lifeless image **wrought** of gold;/ But the **light**-bearing grace of the **Comforter**/ doth teach us to cry out in **reverence**:/ O only Trinity, equipotent and **beginningless**,// **blessed** art Thou.

Canticle Eight

Irmos: From the flame didst Thou pour forth dew upon the venerable ones,/ and didst consume the sacrifice of the righteous one with water;/ for Thou, O Christ, dost do all things soever Thou desirest.// Thee do we exalt supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Envy has now made the people of the Jews who killed the Prophets in past times into killers of God, since they hung Thee upon the Cross, O Word of God Whom we exalt above all for ever.

Without forsaking the vaults of Heaven, Thou hast gone down into hell, and hast raised up with Thyself, O Christ, man entire who lay in decay and who exalts Thee above all forever.

Theotokion

From Light thou didst conceive the Word, the Bestower of light; and having ineffably given birth unto Him, thou hast been glorified. For the Spirit of God dwelt within thee, O Maiden. Wherefore, we hymn thee for all ages.

Holy Equal-of-the-Apostles Methodius & Cyril, pray to God for us.

Continually illumined by the immaterial fire of grace, thou didst receive the rank of priest, O blessed Cyril; and with the aid of the Holy Spirit, thou didst devise an alphabet for the Slavs, that the people, enlightened by the translation of divinely inspired books into their native speech, might chant: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

O most lauded fathers, ye first thundered out the chief heading of our Faith, the unearthly words of the son of thunder: "In the beginning was the Word", and then the melodious Psalter, wherewith the Holy Church crieth out in gladness: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Ye have enriched us with an immaterial treasure, O right wondrous fathers, for thanks to you the divine liturgy began to be celebrated in the Slavonic language; and partaking of this grace to this day, we bless you, chanting: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Theotokion

The fire of temptations and evil perils hath surrounded me. To thee do I flee, O Virgin Theotokos. Disdain not the supplications of thy servant, O pure one, but deliver me from the cruel ones who beset me, that, uttering blessing, I may bless thee and exalt thy name supremely forever.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Afire with the rays of Thy Divinity, Thy good shepherds confessed Thee as the Creator, Fashioner, and Lord of all things, Whom we supremely exalt unto all the ages.

The all-famed choir of shepherds, having gathered together, speak with divine authority in a godly-minded manner concerning the uncreated Trinity, and teach all to cry: Thee do we supremely exalt unto all the ages.

Let us bless Father, Son, Holy Spirit, the Lord!

The many praiseworthy hierarchs and shepherds enlighten the Church of Christ, each of them illuminating it in diverse lands, and supremely exalting it unto all the ages.

Both... Mystically, in images, all the Prophets foresaw thee who hast conceived the Word; for by taking flesh from thee, He came forth twofold, Whom we supremely exalt unto all the ages.

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The type of the Godhead prefigured in the resplendent three/ loosened the bonds and moistened the **flames** with dew./ The Children praise, and all creation that was **made** doth bless,// the only Saviour and Creator of all, as their Benefactor.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: It is not possible for men/ to behold God,/ upon Whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze;/ but through thee, O most pure one,/ hath the Word appeared incarnate unto men;// and magnifying Him with the armies of heaven, we call thee blessed.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Having associated in the flesh with passion, Thou hast remained without participation in passion. And Thou, O our Saviour, dost set man loose from passion by having made the passions suffer. For Thou only art impassible and almighty.

Having accepted the corruption of death, Thou hast kept Thy body from tasting corruption: While Thy life-giving and divine soul, O Master, has not been left in hell, but Thou, risen as from sleep, hast made us rise with Thyself.

Triadicon

O all ye men, with pure lips let us glorify God the Father and the Son Who is equally without beginning, and let us honour the ineffable and all-glorious power of the most Holy Spirit; for Thou alone art the almighty and indivisible Trinity.

Holy Equal-of-the-Apostles Methodius & Cyril, pray to God for us.

Who can praise thee fittingly, O most glorious Methodius? And who can reckon the labors thou didst apostolicly undertake for the salvation of an erring people, O Cyril? We who have been taught by you to glorify God Most High in our native tongue magnify you in oneness of mind.

When thou hadst completed thy work and finished the race, O blessed Cyril, thou didst receive word of thy repose from on high, and, accepting it joyfully, thou didst chant: "My spirit was glad because of them that said unto me, Let us go into the courts of the Lord!" And yearning for the heavens, thou wast borne aloft in soul, where with the hosts of heaven thou dost continually magnify the consubstantial Trinity.

Receiving the episcopacy of the Church of Moravia, O venerable Methodius, in proclaiming the Holy Faith thou didst undertake many labors and struggles, and didst endure many tribulations and persecutions; and, rejoicing now in the highest with the holy Cyril, pray for us, that we may continually magnify you as our helpers and mediators.

Theotokion

O thou who art more exalted than the angels and more honourable than the cherubim, we pray thee: through the intercession of the holy Cyril and Methodius have pity on our lowliness, lead us up from the depths of sin, and deliver us from everlasting damnation, that with them we may magnify thee, the Theotokos and Mother of the Light, and our hope.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us.

Arming you with the mighty strength of the Spirit, the Word, Who is co-beginningless and of one throne with the Father before the ages, found you to be allies, and gathered you together; Him do ye now ever glorify together with the heavenly hosts, O all-sacred ones.

As physicians of both souls and bodies, ye did establish, against the spread of Arius' grievous heresy, the Symbol of Faith, which ye set forth for all in a sacred manner, to which we now cleave; and we ever glorify your memory, O sacred ministers.

Glory... Since Thou art the all-immaculate Light, O Christ, do Thou redeem my soul out of the darkness of the passions, by the intercessions of Thy sacred ministers, O Master, who have now proclaimed Thee as the beginningless, uncreated Creator of all, and God, co-beginningless with the Father.

Both... Unto the dead hath resurrection now been granted through thine ineffable and inexpressible giving of birth, O Lady Theotokos; for Life, being clothed in flesh taken from thee, hath shone forth upon all, and hath manifestly dispelled the gloom of death.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Rejoice, O Queen, boast of virgins and **mothers**; / For every eloquent and **capable** mouth / is unable to extol thee **worthily**, / and every mind is confounded in seeking to comprehend thy **childbirth**. // Wherefore, with one accord do we **glorify** thee.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Ten (John 21:1-14)

At the sea of Tiberias, with the sons of Zebedee, with Nathaniel and Peter, the two other disciples of old with Thomas were fishing. Casting to the right at the command of Christ they drew a multitude of fish. And Peter, recognizing Him, cast himself into the water after Him. This was the third time He appeared to them and He showed them bread and fish upon the coals.

Exapostilarion of the Fathers

While celebrating on this day the holy Fathers' memory, O all-compassionate Saviour, we pray Thee by their entreaties to save Thy people and Thy flock from all the harm of heresies and thus make us all worthy to extol the Word and the Father, yea, and the All-holy Spirit.

Glory... Exapostilarion of the Saints

Celebrating your memory with splendor, O holy teachers, we entreat you most earnestly: Establish on the rock of the confession of Christ the nations which ye enriched with the treasure of the glad tidings, and preserve our life in peace.

Both... Theotokion

O Virgin, pray the Lord risen from the tomb on the third day, for those who praise thee and bless thee with love. For we all have thee as a saving refuge and a mediator before Him. We have indeed become thine heritage and thy servants, O Theotokos and we all look to thy defense.

C. Lauds: Tone 6 Stichera

Let every breath **praise** the Lord/
 Praise the Lord from the **Heavens**/
 Praise Him in the **highest**/
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
 Praise Him, all ye His **Angels**://
 Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts.//
 To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)

Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.
 Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.

He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.

Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
 Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
 The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
 The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
 Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,
 Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.

His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.

This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.

Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.
 Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.

Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.

For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.

The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.
 The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.

To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,
 To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to all His saints.

1. Thy **Cross**, O Lord,/ is the life and resurrection of Thy **people**/ and assured of this, we sing unto Thee our **risen** God:// Have mercy upon us.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His power.

2. Thy burial, O **Master**,/ opened Paradise for **mankind**,/ and we, delivered from **corruption**,/ sing unto Thee our **risen** God:// Have mercy upon us.

- V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.
3. Let us praise Christ with the Father and the **Spirit**:/ Let us cry aloud unto Him **risen** from the dead:/ Thou art our life and resurrection:// Have **mercy** on us.
- V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

Stichera for the Fathers, (Tone 6)

4. Having brought **together**/ all knowledge of things of the **spirit**/ and made careful inquiry by the divine **Spirit's** grace,/ lo, like godly scribes the august **Fathers**/ wrote the celestial Symbol, the august Creed of our **holy** Faith,/ wherein they clearly teach that, like God the **Father**,/ the Word of God, is also unoriginate and is consubstantial with **Him** in truth./ Thus did these all-blest and renowned and godly-**minded** ones// indeed follow in manifest manner in that which the **Apostles** taught.
- V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute.
5. When those blest defenders of the Gospel's doctrines, Christ's **heralds**,/ had received the fullness of noetic enlightenment through the **Spirit's** grace,/ they proclaimed the august oracle to **all** men/ under inspiration **from** our God,/ that most transcendent truth which, though few in words, is **sublimely** wise./ These champions of piety and pious traditions and **teachings**/ thus received revelation of piety and dogma **from** on high/ and were enlightened and then **set** forth// that faith which was **taught** of God.
- V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

Stichera for SS Methodius & Cyril (Tone 4)

6. O divinely wise Cyril and **Methodius**,/ following in the steps of the **apostles**,/ with **oneness** of mind ye labored to search **out** the lost;/ and like fleet-winged eagles ye soared above the **Slavic** lands,/ and, having illumined them with the light of the **knowledge** of God,// ye brought them to Jesus Who loveth mankind, the **Savior** of our souls.
- V. Thy priests shall be clothed with righteousness, and Thy righteous shall rejoice.
7. O **champions** of the Holy Trinity, **guides** of the lost,/ who bested the blasphemy of Islam and put to shame the impiety **of** the Jews:/ The **Church** which ye acquired through your God-pleasing labors **and** your sweat,/ do ye strive to **preserve** unharmed/ by the assaults of the **enemy**// and well-pleasing to Jesus Who loveth mankind, the **Savior** of our souls.

V. The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall speak of judgment.

(Tone 6)

8. O ye **people**,/ piously celebrating the memory of our **enlighteners**,/ let us cry out in **thanksgiving**:/ Rejoice, all-radiant beacons who have illumined the **Slavic** lands/ with the light of the **knowledge** of God!/ Rejoice, ye good shepherds, who have gathered together/ the reason-endowed sheep who were scattered amid the groves of **unbelief**,/ and have brought them to Christ, the Chief **Shepherd**.// Magnifying Him, we call you **blessed**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

When the choir of the Holy **Fathers**/ flocked from the ends of the **inhabited** world,/ they proclaimed the doctrine of the One **Essence**/ and One Nature of the Father, Son and Holy **Spirit**,/ thereby delivering plainly to the Church the mystery of **theology**./ As we acclaim them in faith, we call them blessed, **saying**:/ O divine array, ye God-proclaiming hoplites of the Lord's **company**,/ ye most brilliant stars of the spiritual **firmament**,/ ye impregnable towers of the mystical **Sion**,/ ye fragrant flowers of Paradise, ye all-golden **mouths** of the Word,/ the boast of Nicaea and adornment of the **whole** world.// Intercede ye fervently in **behalf** of our souls.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theotokos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **captive**,/ **Adam** recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set free, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry **aloud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glory** to Thee.

The Great Doxology

Dismissal Tropar:

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of hades, Thou hast destroyed the sentence of death, O Lord, delivering all from the snares of the enemy. Manifesting Thyself to Thine apostles, Thou didst send them forth to preach; and through them hast granted Thy peace to the world, O Thou Who alone art plenteous in mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

G/B... Gospel Sticheron, Tone 6

After the **descent** into hell/ and the Resurrection **from** the dead,/ the disciples in all **likelihood**,/ losing heart at Thy parting from **them**, O Christ,/ turned to work, and again to their **boats** and nets,/ and nowhere **was** there a catch./ But Thou, O Saviour, hast been revealed as **Master** of all,/ and hast commanded them to cast the net on the **right** side./ And straightway the word **became** the deed,/ and there was a great **multitude** of fish/ and Thou hast prepared on land a strange **supper**./ In this same supper of which Thy

disciples **then** partook, // make us now worthy to delight in mind, O Lord, Who **lovest** mankind.

R. Hours
 Tropar Sunday and Fathers/Saints (Alternate)
 Kontak Saints/Fathers (Alternate)

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:
 Tropar Sunday
 Tropar Holy Fathers
 Tropar SS Methodius & Cyril
 Kontak Holy Fathers
 Glory... Kontak SS Methodius & Cyril
 Both... Kontak Feast

Prokimenon for the Holy Fathers (Tone 4)
 Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our Father, and praised and glorified
 is Thy Name unto the ages.

V. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

Prokimenon for SS Methodius & Cyril (Tone 7)
 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.

Epistle(s): Acts 20:16-18, 28-36 & Heb 7:26-8:2

Alleluia for the Holy Fathers (Tone 1)

Alleluia for SS Methodius & Cyril (Tone 2)

Gospel(s): John 17:1-13 & Matt 5:14-19

Instead of "It is Truly Meet", sing 9th Ode w/refrain for the Ascension

Communion Hymn: Praise Ye & In everlasting remembrance...

Instead of "We have seen the True Light" sing Troparion of the Feast