

18th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

VESPERS: Tone 1

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried...

1. **Accept** our evening prayers, O **Holy** Lord,/ and grant us remission **of** our sins,/ for only Thou hast shown forth **unto** the world// the Resurrection.
2. **Walk** about Zion, ye **people**,/ and **encompass** her./ Give glory therein to Him Who is risen **from** the dead./ For **He** is our God// Who hath delivered us from our **iniquities**.
3. **Come** ye people, praise and **worship** Christ,/ glorifying His Resurrection **from** the dead:/ for He is Our God, Who hath **delivered** the world// from the beguiling of the **enemy**.
4. Ye **heavens** be glad, sound the **trumpets**,/ ye foundations **of** the earth./ Shout for joy ye **hills**, for lo!/ Emmanuel hath **nailed** our sins to the Cross,/ and He, the Giver of life, hath put death to death by raising **Adam** up,// because He **loveth** mankind.

Stichera for the Fathers (Tone 6)

- 5/6. The Patriarch **Germanus** the New,/ taking the honoured councils of the **fathers**,/ brought them together in one single **canon**,/ recording and holding their **dogmas**;/ and these valorous intercessors for salvation doth he **present** to the Lord,// and to the flock and its **pastors**.
7. The **Scriptures** of the Law/ appointed the honoured number seven for the Hebrew **children**,/ who wait in shadow and **serve** it;/ whilst the fathers who, at the **command** of God/ Who created all that exists in six days and blessed the **seventh**,/ met at the sevenfold **Councils**,// have made it most **honourable**.
8. O thrice-blessed **fathers**!/ from things that are **real**,/ unto all have ye clearly taught the **Trinity**,/ Who is the Cause of the world's creation;/ for, being like the four **elements**,/ and having set down the three and four **councils**/ and been shown to be vindicators of Orthodox **discourse**,/ ye have made clear the doctrine of the **Trinity**,// Who hath created these things and **fashioned** the world.
9. A single bending of the greatly renowned Prophet Elisha/ over the prone son of the **woman**/ who had rendered him service was sufficient to breathe **life** into him;/ yet he returned and bent over him **seven** times,/ proclaiming beforehand, as a seer of things to come, your **Councils**,/ whereby ye have brought to life the mortality of **God** the Word,// slaying Arius and them that **labored** with him.

10. Who hath rent Thy garment, O **Saviour**?/ It was Arius, **Thou** hast said,/ who separated the Trinity's authority of equal honour into divisions./ He hath denied Thee to be One of the **Trinity**./ He hath taught Nestorius not to say 'The**o**tokos.'/ But the Council in Nicaea hath proclaimed Thee, O Lord, to be the **Son** of God,// equally enthroned with the Father and the **Spirit**.

Glory... (Tone 6)

This day let us praise the God-bearing **fathers**/ as trumpets of the **Spirit**,/ which play within the Church the melodious hymn of theology,/ that the Trinity is One and Immutable in essence and divinity./ They are casters down of the **Arians**,/ the champions of the **Orthodox**,// who ever beseech the Lord to have mercy **on** our souls.

Both... Dogmatikon (Tone 1)

Let us **praise** the Virgin **Mary**,/ glory of all the world and doorway to **heaven**,/ who begotten of man hast **borne** the Lord:/ and who, adornment of the faithful, is sung by the **angelic** hosts./ For she hath been shown forth as Heaven and Temple of the **Godhead**./ She it is, who breaking down the middle wall of **enmity**,/ ushered in peace and threw the Kingdom **open**./ Therefore with her as **anchor** of our faith,/ we, in the Lord born of her, have a **Defender**./ Make bold therefore, ye people of **God**, make bold,// for He, the Almighty will defeat your **enemies**.

P. Wisdom. Aright!

C. O Joyful Light...

P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...

P. Wisdom!

Readings for the Fathers

R. The reading from the book of Genesis (14:14-20)

Abram, having heard that Lot, his nephew, had been taken captive, numbered his own home-born servants, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued after them to Dan. And he came upon them by night, he and his servants; and he smote them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is on the left of Damascus. And he recovered all the cavalry of Sodom, and he recovered Lot, his nephew, and all his possessions, and the women and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after he returned from the slaughter of Chedorla-omer, and the kings with him, to the valley of Shaveh (this was the plain of the kings). And Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought forth loaves and wine, and he was the priest of the Most High God. And he blessed Abram, and said: "Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, Who made heaven and earth; and blessed be the Most High God Who delivered thine enemies into thy power."

R. The reading from the book of Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17)

In those days, Moses said to the children of Israel: "Behold, God hath delivered the land before you. Go in and inherit the land, which He promised to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give it to them and to their seed after them. And I spake to you at that time, saying: I shall not be able by myself to bear you. The Lord your God hath multiplied you; and, behold, ye are today as the stars of heaven in multitude. The Lord God of your fathers add to you a thousandfold more than you are, and bless you as He hath said to you. How shall I alone be able to bear your labor, and your

burden, and your gainsayings? Take to yourselves wise men for your tribes, and I will set your leaders over you. And ye answered me, and said: 'The thing which thou hast told us is good to do.' So I took of you wise and understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you as rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, and rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens, and officers to your judges. And I charged your judges at that time, saying: Hear causes between your brethren, and judge rightly between a man and his brother, and the stranger who is with him. Thou shalt not have respect to persons in judgment, thou shalt judge small and great equally; thou shalt not shrink from before the person of a man, for the judgment is God's."

R. The reading from the book of Deuteronomy (10:14-21)

In those days, Moses said to the children of Israel: "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord thy God, the earth and all things that are therein. Only the Lord chose your fathers to love them, and He chose out their seed after them, even you, beyond all nations, as at this day. Therefore, ye shall circumcise the hardness of your heart, and ye shall not harden your neck. For the Lord your God, He is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, and strong, and terrible God, Who doth not accept persons, nor will He by any means accept a bribe, executing judgment for the stranger and orphan and widow. And as He loveth the stranger, to give him food and raiment, so shall ye love the stranger; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve Him, and shalt cleave unto Him, and shalt swear by His name. He is thy boast, and He is thy God, Who hath wrought in the midst of thee these great and glorious things, which thine eyes have seen."

P. Augmented Litany

C. Vouchsafe...

P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya - one sticheron of the temple and then the following:

Glory... (Tone 3)

O holy fathers,/ ye were careful preservers of the Tradition of the apostles,/ for, having taught in Orthodox manner the consubstantiality of the Holy Trinity,/ in council ye cast down the blasphemy of Arius;/ and having denounced both him and Macedonius,/ who contended against the Spirit,/ ye condemned Nestorius, Eutyches and Dioscorus,/ Sabellius and the mindless Severus.// Pray ye that our life may be kept undefiled in the Faith, we beseech you.

Both now and ever...

Through the divine Spirit,/ by the will of the Father,/ without seed thou didst conceive the Son of God/ Who hath existed without mother from before the ages,/ and for our sake thou gavest birth in the flesh/ unto Him Who came forth from thee without father;/ and thou didst nurture Him on milk as a babe./ Wherefore, cease not to pray,// that our souls be delivered from tribulations.

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church.*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 1)

1. We were set **free** by Thy **passion**, O Christ,/ and we were redeemed from corruption by Thy **Resurrection**.// Unto Thee, O Lord, be **glory**.
 V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious **apparel**.
2. Let the creation exult, the **heavens** make glad,/ the nations clap their **hands** with joy:/ For Christ our Saviour, because He **loveth** mankind,/ hath **nailed** our sins to the Cross,/ put death to death and given us life by raising fallen **Adam**,// father of **all** mankind.
 V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it **cannot** be moved.
3. O **Thou** Who art beyond all **understanding**,/ King of **heaven** and earth,/ for love of mankind hast been of Thine own Will **crucified**:/ Hell was filled with bitterness when it **met** Thee below/ and the souls of the just at receiving **Thee** rejoiced./ And when he saw Thee, the Creator, in the depths, **Adam** rose up./ What a **wonder** this is:/ That the life of all men should **taste** death/ in His desire to give light to the world that **cries** and says:// Glory unto Thee, O Lord, risen **from** the dead.
 V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, **forever**.
4. The **myrrh**-bearing women bringing **spices**,/ hastened mourning **to** Thy tomb,/ and when they found Thy immaculate Body gone and learnt from the **angel**/ of the unprecedented and all-glorious **wonder**,/ they said to the Apostles: "The Lord is **risen**,// granting the world great **mercy**."

Glory... (Tone 4)

This **day** let us, the assemblies of the **Orthodox**,/ faithfully acting in accordance with **piety**,/ **celebrate** the prayerful memory of the God-bearing **fathers**/ who assembled from throughout all the world in the splendid city of **Nicaea**;/ for with pious mind they cast down the godless dogma of the fearful **Arius**,/ and in Council cast him out of the **catholic** Church,/ and in their Symbol of Faith have clearly taught all to confess the **Son** of God/ to be consubstantial, equally everlasting, and existent before the **ages**,/ setting this forth precisely and **piously**./ Wherefore, following their divine dogmas and believing them with **certainty**,/ we worship the Trinity One in **Essence**:// the Son and the Holy Spirit together with the Father, in One **Godhead**.

Both now and ever... (Tone 4)

Take **heed** of the entreaties of thy **servants**,/ O all-immaculate one,/ **subduing** the attacks of the wicked **against** us/ and freeing us from every **sorrow**;/ for thee alone do we have as a steadfast and sure **confirmation**,/ and thine intercession have **we** obtained,/ that we that **invoke** thee/ be not put to shame, O **Mistress**./ Haste thou to pray for them that cry out to thee **with** faith:/ Rejoice, O **Mistress**,/ thou help, joy and **protection** of all,// and **salvation** of our souls.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos

x2

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 8)

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God,/ Who hast established our fathers upon the earth as beacons,/ and hast thereby guided us all to the true Faith!// O greatly Compassionate One, glory be to Thee!

- P. Blessing of the loaves
 C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3
 Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 1

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

- C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 1) x2

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews;/ While the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure Body;/ Thou didst rise on the third Day, O Saviour/ granting life to the world./ The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of life./ Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!/ Glory to Thy kingdom!// Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Glory... Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 8)

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God,/ Who hast established our fathers upon the earth as beacons,/ and hast thereby guided us all to the true Faith!// O greatly Compassionate One, glory be to Thee!

Both now and ever... (Tone 8) (use music in vigil book)

Thou, O good Lord, for our *sakes* wast born of a **Virgin**/ and hast endured crucifixion, despoiling **death** by death,/ and as God, Thou hast *shown* forth the Resurrection./ Despise not the work of **Thine** hands./ Show Thy love for man, O **merciful** Lord./ Accept the intercession made on our behalf by the Theotokos who **bore** Thee,// and, O our Saviour, save Thy despairing **people**.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
 Glory...

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

- R. Sessional Hymns:

The soldiers guarding Thy tomb, O Saviour, became as dead men because of the radiance of the angel who appeared before them, proclaiming the resurrection to the women. We glorify Thee, the Destroyer of corruption, and we bow down before Thee, our one God Who hast risen from the grave.

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

Nailed to the Cross of Thine own will, and laid in the tomb as one dead, O compassionate Bestower of life, by Thy death Thou didst break the dominion of death, O Mighty One; for the gatekeepers of hades trembled before Thee, and Thou didst raise up with Thyself the dead of ages past, in that Thou alone lovest mankind.

G/B... At the sound of Gabriel's voice calling out to thee: "Hail, Virgin," the Master of all things became incarnate in thee, thou the Holy Tabernacle, as David the righteous said. In bearing thy Creator, thou hast shown thyself to surpass the vastness of the heavens. Glory unto Him Who dwelt in thee. Glory unto Him Who from thee came forth. Glory unto Him, Who by thy childbirth hath set us free.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Very early the women arrived at the tomb and, beholding the appearance of the angel, they trembled. The tomb shone forth life, and the miracle filled them with awe. Wherefore, going to the disciples, they proclaimed the resurrection: Christ hath made hell captive, in that He alone is mighty and powerful; and destroying the fear of damnation by the Cross, He hath raised up with Himself all who had fallen prey to corruption!

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

Thou wast nailed to the Cross, O Life of all, and wast reckoned among the dead, O immortal Lord. Thou didst rise on the third day, O Saviour, with Thee raising Adam up from corruption. Wherefore, the hosts of heaven cried out to Thee, O Christ, Bestower of life: Glory to Thy resurrection! Glory to Thy condescension, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind!

G/B... O Mary, precious receptacle of the Master, raise us up who have fallen into the chasm of grievous despondency, transgressions and sorrows; for thou art salvation, help and mighty intercession for sinners, and thou savest thy servants.

C. Polyeleos
C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)
P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:

The repentance of the thief stole paradise, and the lamentation of the myrrh-bearers announced joy: for Thou didst arise, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

When I am sorrowful, hearken unto my pain, O Lord. Unto Thee do I cry. Unceasing divine desire befitteth those in the wilderness, who are beyond this vainglorious world.

G/B... Worship and glory are due the Holy Spirit, as also to the Father and the Son. Wherefore, let us hymn the single dominion of the Trinity.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

Thou hast brought me up to the mountains of Thy laws, O God. Illumine me with the virtues, that I may hymn Thee.

Taking me in Thy right hand, O Word, preserve and protect me, that the fire of sin may not consume me.

G/B... By the Holy Spirit is every creature restored, returning to its primal state; for He is equal in power with the Father and the Son.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

My spirit was glad and my heart rejoiceth for those who said to me: Let us enter into the courts of the Lord.

There is great fear in the house of David, for there, when the thrones are set up, all the tribes and nations of the earth will be judged.

G/B... It is meet and fitting to offer honour and worship, glory and power unto the Holy Spirit, as to the Father and the Son, for the Trinity is a unity in nature, but not in Persons.

P. Prokimenon:

Now will I arise, saith the Lord,/ I will establish them in salvation, I will be manifest therein.

V. The words of the Lord are pure words.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #7

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: Thy victorious right arm/ hath in godly manner been glorified in strength;/ for as almighty, O Immortal One,/ it smote the adversary,// fashioning anew the path of the deep for the Israelites.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Thou Who in the beginning didst divinely fashion me out of dust with Thine all-pure hands, Thou didst stretch out Thine arms upon the Cross, calling forth from the earth my corrupt body, which Thou hadst received from the Virgin.

Thou didst assume mortality for my sake and didst surrender Thy soul unto death, O Thou Who by Thy divine breath didst instill my soul within me; and having loosed the everlasting bonds, thou didst glorify it with incorruption, raising it up with Thee.

Theotokion

Rejoice, O wellspring of grace! Rejoice, O ladder and door of heaven! Rejoice, O lampstand and golden jar, thou unquarried mountain, who for the world gavest birth unto Christ, the Bestower of life.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Christ deifieth me, assuming my flesh; Christ exalteth me, humbling Himself; Christ, the Bestower of life, maketh me dispassionate, suffering in

His fleshly nature. Wherefore, I chant a hymn of thanksgiving, for He hath been glorified.

Crucified, Christ lifteth me up; put to death, Christ raiseth me up with Himself. Christ giveth me life. Wherefore, clapping my hands in gladness, I chant a hymn of victory to the Saviour, for He hath been glorified.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

What fitting hymnody can our weakness offer thee, who alone art full of grace, to whom Gabriel hath mystically taught us to chant: "Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mother unwedded!"?

Immeasurable is the depth of thine incomprehensible birthgiving, O most pure one; wherefore, with undoubting faith we make offering unto thee in purity, saying: Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Mother unwedded!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

O Lord, grant unto me, who desire to hymn the Seventh Council, an assemblage of the seven gifts of the Paraclete, Who, with tongues of fire, made it wise and hath caused all sacrilegious blasphemy to fall silent.

The number seven hath been greater than others from the beginning, for originally the all-accomplished cessation of the divine creation of all was on the seventh day, and now an end hath come to all heresies at the Council of the same number.

Glory... Of old, in Nicaea with their shepherds' staves the choir of the fathers vanquished Arius, who did battle against God, and thus they have taught the Church to walk in accordance with orthodox teachings; and now, as champion, it hath put to shame the iconoclasts therewith as well.

Both... As the fathers piously taught, confessing in faith the Virgin's womb which, without pain, gaveth birth in the flesh unto the Incorporeal One, so we also worship it, inscribing its image upon pillars and venerating it with honour.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

I shall open my mouth/ and the Spirit will **inspire** it,/ and **I** shall utter the words of my song to the Queen and **Mother**:/ I shall be seen radiantly **keeping** feast// and joyfully praising her **wonders**.

Canticle Three

Irmos: Thou, Who alone hast known the weakness of human nature,/ having in Thy mercy formed Thyself therein:/ Thou girdest me about with power from on high,/ that I may chant to Thee:/ Holy is the living temple of Thine ineffable glory,// O Thou Who lovest mankind!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

As God, O Good One, Thou hast taken pity on me who have fallen; and it being Thy good pleasure to come down to me, Thou hast by Thy crucifixion raised me up to cry unto Thee: Holy is the Lord of glory, immutable in goodness!

As enhypostatic Life, O Christ, clothing Thyself in me who have become corrupt, in that Thou art the God of lovingkindness, and descending to my mortal dust, O Master, Thou didst destroy the dominion of death; and having risen after three days of death, Thou hast clothed me in incorruption.

Theotokion

Conceiving God in thy womb through the all-holy Spirit, O Virgin, thou didst remain unconsumed; for the bush which burned without being consumed clearly, to Moses the Law-giver, proclaimed thee beforehand, who received the unbearable Fire.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

To Christ God, Who took the lost sheep upon His shoulder and by the Tree erased its sin, let us cry aloud: Holy art Thou, O Lord, Who hast lifted up our estate!

O ye faithful, in truth and a godly spirit let us serve Him Who led Christ, the great Shepherd out of hell and doth manifestly shepherd the nations through the apostles, His hierarchy.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The choir of the prophets truly called thee the sealed wellspring and the closed door, clearly describing for us the signs of thy virginity, O most hymned one, which thou didst preserve even after giving birth.

Accounted worthy to perceive the transcendent Mind as far as he was able, Gabriel offered thee a cry of joy, O immaculate Virgin, openly announcing the conception of the Word and proclaiming His ineffable birth.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Initiated into the mysteries by Christ, the divine chief shepherds drove away from the pious the parties of Antichrist, who wished to trouble the Church of Christ, that it not be shaken.

The company of the fathers, drawing forth streams of teaching from the wellsprings of salvation, give the thirsting people of Christ to drink thereof, and wash away the turbid streams of filth.

Glory... The Seventh Council of the Christ-loving, whose defenders were the imperial Irene and Constantine, was held in the splendid city of Nicaea against them that in truth despise Christians and prosecuted them.

Both... Let all the impious depart that do not honour the precious icon of the Theotokos and do not proclaim her to be her that gaveth birth to Christ theandrically; and let them be sent into the fire, to burn without being consumed.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

O **M**other of God,/ thou living and **p**lentiful fount,/ give **s**trength to those united in spiritual **f**ellowship,/ who sing hymns of **p**raise to thee:/ And in thy divine **g**lory// vouchsafe unto them crowns of **g**lory.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion (Tone 2)

Hell became afraid, O almighty Saviour,/ seeing the miracle of Thy Resurrection from the tomb!/ The dead arose! Creation, with Adam, beheld this and rejoiced with Thee!// And the world, O my Saviour praises Thee forever.

R. Ikos

Thou art the light of those in darkness; Thou art the resurrection of all and the life of men, and hast raised up all with Thyself, O Saviour, abolishing the dominion of death and breaking down the gates of hades, O Word. And the dead, beholding the wonder, marveled, and all creation rejoiceth in Thy resurrection, O Thou Who lovest mankind. Wherefore, we all glorify and hymn Thy condescension; and the world, O my Saviour, ever hymneth Thee.

R. Sessional Hymns for the Fathers

O ye truly most blessed and divinely eloquent fathers, ye have appeared on earth as most radiant lamps of the truth of Christ to the world, drying up the sacrilegious blasphemies of heresy and quenching the fiery tumults of the heretics. Wherefore, as ye are hierarchs of Christ, pray that we be saved.

G/B... Go thou quickly before us, O pure Virgin Mother. Rescue us from the enemies who blaspheme against thee. Destroy all the sacrilege of heresies. Set at naught their assaults by thy might, that they may understand that thou alone art the Mother of God, who by thy supplications dost save the congregation of the Orthodox.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Gazing with the eyes of foresight upon thee,/ the mountain overshadowed by the grace of God,/ Habbakuk prophesied that the Holy One of Israel would come forth from thee,// for our salvation and restoration.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Who is this Saviour Who issueth forth from Edom, wearing a crown of thorns, His robe stained red, lifted up upon the Tree? He is the Holy One of Israel, Who is come for our salvation and restoration!

Behold, ye disobedient people, and be ashamed! For He Whom ye madly asked Pilate to lift up on the Cross as a malefactor hath destroyed the power of death and risen as God from the tomb!

Theotokion

O Virgin, we know thee to be the tree of life; for it is no fruit deadly for men to eat which thou hast put forth, but the delight of everlasting Life, for the salvation of us who hymn thee.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Who is this Beautiful One from Edom, Whose robe is dyed red by the grapes of Bozrah? He Who is comely as God, and as man weareth vesture of flesh stained with blood? Unto Him, O ye faithful, let us chant: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Showing Himself to be the High Priest of the good things to come, Christ destroyed our sins; and indicating the strange way by His own blood, as our forerunner He hath entered the higher and more perfect tabernacle, the Holy of holies.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Hearken, O heaven, to the wonders! Pay heed, O earth! For the daughter of fallen Adam who was made of dust hath been appointed for God, to be the Mother of her own Creator, for our salvation and restoration.

O most hymned Theotokos, thou Holy of holies, expectation of the nations and salvation of the faithful: from thee hath the Deliverer, Lord and Bestower of life shone forth, Whom do thou entreat, that thy servants be saved.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

The most godly fathers, having the word of God as arrow and sword, with the sign of the Cross slaughter together all the enemy who do not honour alike the images of Christ, the Theotokos, and of all the saints.

As at the blast of seven trumpets the walls of Jericho fell at the seventh circuit thereof, so by these seven Councils all the multitude which hath risen up against God hath been cast down into the abyss at the assembly of the divinely sounding trumpets of the Spirit.

Glory... Showing forth youthful diligence, and aflame with divine zeal, the multitude of the fathers, like Elijah, hath slain the abominable priests. Wherefore, with boldness they have taught all to worship the icon of Christ with love.

Both... Thou art my hope, O all-pure one. Thou art my hymn. Thou art my refuge, thou art my restoration, O thou that without mating gavest birth to God, the incarnate Word of the Father. Wherefore, I bow down without hesitation before thine icon, strengthened by thy might.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

He Who sits in glory upon the throne of the **Godhead**,/ Jesus the **true** God,/ is **come** in a **swift** cloud,/ and with His pure hand He has saved **those** who cry:// Glory to Thy **power**, O Lord.

Canticle Five

Irmos: O Christ, Who hast enlightened the ends of the world/ with the radiance of Thy coming,/ and illumined them by Thy Cross:/ With the light of Thy divine knowledge/ enlighten the hearts of those// who hymn Thee in Orthodox manner.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Jews put the great Shepherd and Lord of the sheep to death by the Tree of the Cross; but the dead buried in hades did He deliver, like sheep, from the dominion of death.

Having announced peace by Thy Cross and proclaimed remission to those held captive, O my Saviour, Thou didst put to shame him who hath dominion, as though he were naked, by Thy divine resurrection showing him to be impoverished.

Theotokion

Disdain not the requests of those who petition thee with faith, O most hymned and all-pure one, but accept and convey them to thy Son, the one God and Benefactor; for thee have we acquired as our intercessor.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

O the richness, O the depth of the wisdom of God! Laying hold of the wise, the Lord delivered us from their wiles; for having of His own will suffered in the weakness of the flesh, by His might He hath raised up the dead, granting them life.

Christ God, He Who Is, uniteth Himself to the flesh for our sake, and is crucified and dieth; He is buried, and riseth again, and with His flesh He ascendeth unto the Father in splendor. And therewith He shall come and save those who worship Him in piety.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Let all the tongues and thoughts of men be moved to the praise of thee who art truly the adornment of mankind, for the Virgin standeth forth, clearly raising to glory those who with faith hymn her wonders.

The hymns and laudation of the most wise, which are offered unto the Virgin Mother of God, are glorious; for she became the temple of all-divine glory, and we glorify her as is meet.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Deliberating together with exalted thought, the honoured fathers committed the iconoclasts to anathema, as ones that thought strange things. And they commanded that honour be rendered unto the icon of Christ, as is fitting.

Glory... Now is the time for gladness! Now is the day of salvation made manifest! Let us therefore be glad, and let us cry out to Christ with joy: Grant us Thy peace, through the prayers of the fathers of the Seventh Council, O Lover of mankind.

Both... For the sake of the mercy of His compassion, the Son of God was immutably born of the Virgin, taking what was foreign to Him as His own, and, being in His essence uncircumscribable, He willingly appeareth circumscribed in this form.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The whole **world** was amazed at thy divine **glory**,/ for **thou**, O Virgin who hast not known **wedlock**,/ hast **held** in thy womb the **God** of all,/ and hast given birth to an **eternal** Son,// Who rewards with salvation all who sing thy **praises**.

Canticle Six

Irmos: The uttermost abyss hath engulfed us,/ and there is none to deliver us./ We are accounted as lambs for the slaughter./ Save Thy people, O our God,// for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

We were grievously wounded by the offense of the first-created man, O Lord, but we have been healed by the wounds wherewith Thou wast wounded for us, O Christ; for Thou art the strength and correction of the weak.

Thou hast led us up out of hades, O Lord, having slain the all-devouring monster and set his power at naught by Thy might, O Omnipotent One; for Thou art Life, Light and Resurrection.

Theotokion

The ancestors of our race rejoice in thee, O all-pure Virgin, receiving through thee the Eden which they lost through transgression; for thou wast pure before giving birth and art so after birthgiving.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Christ God, the dispassionate and immaterial Mind, doth associate Himself with the mind of man, which standeth midway between the divine Essence and the grossness of the flesh; and, wholly immutable, He hath united Himself unto all of me, that, crucified, He might grant salvation unto the whole of me who have fallen.

Tripping, Adam fell and was broken, deceived of old by the hope of deification; yet he ariseth, deified through union with the Word, and through His suffering receiveth dispassion, and is glorified as a son, sitting upon the throne with the Father and the Spirit.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

As servants the ranks of heaven attend thy birthgiving, marveling, as is meet, at thy seedless parturition, O Ever-virgin; for thou wast pure before birthgiving and art so even after giving birth.

The Incorporeal One Who existeth from before time, the Word Who createth all things by His will, and as Almighty brought the armies of the

incorporeal beings out of non-existence, hath become incarnate of thee, O all-pure one.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let the mountains rain down sweetness and joy, for the multitude of heretics, which poureth forth the bitter poison of the removal of the holy icons, hath been driven out.

Glory... Let heaven and earth celebrate together the magnificence of the daughter of God; for she is magnified, rejecting them that would diminish it.

Both... The Son of the Mother, Who was first begotten of the Father without mother, and was born in godly manner without a father, hath given me rebirth. Wherefore, fashioning an image of her that gave birth and of Him that was born, I venerate it.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

As we **celebrate**/ this sacred and solemn feast of the **Mother** of God,/ **let** us come, **clapping** our hands,/ O people **of** the Lord,/ and give **glory** to God// Who was **born** of her.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Fathers (Tone 6)

The Son Who ineffably shone forth from the Father/ hath been born in two natures of a woman,/ and beholding Him we do not disdain to depict the form thereof./ but, tracing it piously, we honour it in faith./ Wherefore, the Church, holding to the true Faith,// doth venerate the icon of the incarnation of Christ.

R. Ikos for the fathers

The all-compassionate God, who ever desireth to rouse us to the perfect memory of His incarnation, gave this suggestion to men: that they depict His precious form with the pigments of icons; that, beholding this in visible objects, we may believe what we have heard said, clearly understanding the activity, the name, the features and the sufferings of holy men and Christ, the Bestower of crowns, Who awardeth wreaths to the holy athletes and martyrs. And the Church, most diligently holding fast to the true faith for their sake, doth venerate the icon of the incarnation of Christ.

P. Reading from the Prologue or Synaxarion

Canticle Seven

Irmos: O Theotokos, we the faithful,/ perceive thee to be a noetic furnace;/ for, as the supremely Exalted One saved the three youths,/ in thy womb the praised and most glorious God of our fathers// wholly renewed the world.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The earth was afraid, the sun hid itself, the light grew dim, the divine veil of the temple was rent in twain, and the rocks split asunder;

for the Righteous One, the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers, hung upon the Cross.

Wounded among mortals of Thine own will for our sake, as though helpless, O supremely Exalted One, Thou, the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers, hung upon the Cross.

Theotokion

Rejoice, O wellspring of the water of eternal life! Rejoice, paradise of delight! Rejoice, bulwark of the faithful! Rejoice, thou who knewest not wedlock! Rejoice, universal joy, through whom the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers hath shone forth!

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Of old, the earth was cursed, having been stained with the blood of Abel by his murderous brother's hand; but dyed with Thy divinely shed blood it hath been blessed, and leaping up it crieth: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Let the God-opposing people of Judea lament their audacity in slaying Christ; but let the gentiles be glad, and let them clap their hands and cry aloud: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O Theotokos, in prophecy Jacob perceived thee to be a ladder, for through thee did the supremely Exalted One appear on earth and dwell with men, as was His good pleasure: the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers.

Rejoice, O pure one! From thee hath the Shepherd, the supremely Exalted One, come forth, in His unapproachable compassion truly clothing Himself in the skin of Adam, in me, in all of man: the praised and all-glorious God of our fathers.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

The heresiarchs are vanquished by the dogmas of the divinely eloquent men who rightly render the honour they accord images to the prototypes, as Basil the Great hath said. Blessed is the God of our fathers.

Today the temples, adorned with splendid icons, are made beautiful; wherefore, in the churches the world doth raise a song unto Him that is more comely in beauty than all men, and it singeth: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Glory... The light hath far outshone the darkness, and the impious are driven off. Wherefore, all things are filled with the light of Christ, the Bestower of light, and they cry aloud with gladness and say: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Both... O all-pure Mistress, who alone art the hope of the salvation of all, who in awesome manner gavest birth to Christ, the King of kings, and

bore Him in thine arms as a babe: He is worshipped depicted, as the fathers say.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Holy** Children bravely trampled upon the **threatening** fire,/ preferring not to worship created things rather than the Creator,/ and they **sang** in joy:/ 'Blessed art Thou and **praised** above all,// O Lord God of our **fathers.**'

Canticle Eight

Irmos: Shining in the furnace more brightly/ than gold in a crucible in the beauty of their piety,/ the children of Israel said:/ Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!// Hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Word of God, Who by Thy will dost create and refashion all things, transforming the shadow of death into life everlasting by Thy sufferings: Thee do all of us, the works of the Lord, unceasingly hymn and supremely exalt for all ages.

Thou didst destroy distress and misery within the gates and strongholds of hades, O Christ, rising from the tomb on the third day. Thee do all Thy works unceasingly hymn and supremely exalt as Lord for all ages!

Theotokion

Let us hymn her who without seed supernaturally gave rise to Christ, the Pearl of great price, through the divine Effulgence; and let us say: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord! Hymn and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Come, O ye people, let us bow down before the place where the all-pure feet stood, and to the divine Tree where Christ stretched out His life-creating arms for the salvation of all men; and standing round about the tomb of Life, let us chant: Let all creation bless and exalt the Lord supremely for all ages.

The all-iniquitous slander of the God-slaying Jews hath been exposed; for He Whom they called a deceiver hath risen as One powerful, mocking the foolish seals. Wherefore, rejoicing, let us chant: Let all creation bless and exalt the Lord supremely for all ages.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The radiant bridal-chamber, whence Christ the Master of all issued forth like a Bridegroom, let us all hymn, crying aloud: Hymn the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

O most hymned Virgin who for us gavest birth to the Lord, the Author of our salvation, pray for all who earnestly cry out: Hymn the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Most strictly doth the company of the fathers set as law for those who honour God the relative worship and the restoration of the sacred icons of Christ; and as their right dutiful children, the lovers of piety celebrate their annual commemoration and lovingly venerate the icon of Christ.

Seven times did the haughty ones cast down the humble and cut off the attacks of the lovers of virtues, thereby calumniating their divine acts. But the fathers of the Seventh Council who assembled in Nicaea straightway pulled their conceit with sevenfold swiftness.

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

The blows and wounds inflicted by the childish are as the arrows of infants against the mature, as saith the Psalms. With divine power are the many tongues disabled of them that utter blasphemies against the Most High and each one that doth not acknowledge the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit to be One God, the sole Cause of all.

Both... Of His own will, for mercy's sake, the Creator fashioned Himself into man with thy pure blood, preserving thee, even after thy birthgiving, all pure and immaculate, and cleansing the image of God within man which had been defiled. Wherefore, though God in essence, yet having become man by nature, He is depicted on icons in company with thee.

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

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Offspring** of the Theotokos/ saved the holy Children in the **furnace**./ **He** Who was then prefigured has since been **born** on earth,/ and He gathers together all the creation to sing:/ O all ye **works** of the Lord,// bless ye the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: The bush which burnt with fire yet was not consumed/ showed forth an image of thy pure birthgiving./ And we pray now that the furnace of temptations/ which rageth against us may be extinguished,// that we may magnify thee unceasingly, O Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

How have the iniquitous and disobedient people, plotting evils, justified a proud and ungodly man, yet condemned to the Tree the Righteous One, the Lord of glory, Whom we magnify as is meet?

O Saviour, Thou unblemished Lamb Who takest away the sins of the world: Thee Who hast risen on the third day do we glorify with the Father and Thy divine Spirit; and, theologizing, we magnify the Lord of glory.

Theotokion

Save Thy people, whom Thou hast acquired by Thy precious blood, O Lord, granting peace to Thy churches through the supplications of the Theotokos, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Thy Cross, O Lord, hath been glorified by Thine ineffable power, for Thy weakness hath been revealed unto all as transcending power. Thereby have the mighty been cast down upon the earth, and the poor are lifted up to the heavens.

Our vile death hath been put to death, for, appearing unto those in hades, O Christ, Thou didst grant them resurrection from the dead; wherefore, chanting, we magnify Thee as hypostatic Life, Resurrection and Light.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Every rule of praise is overturned by the magnitude of thy glory, O all-pure one. Yet accept the hymns of praise which we, thine unworthy servants, earnestly offer thee with love, O Mistress Theotokos.

Thy wonders are past understanding! For thou, O most pure Virgin who alone outshinest the sun, hast enabled all to understand the newest of wonders, thine incomprehensible birthgiving. Wherefore, we all magnify thee.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

O only God, Who art unapproachable, O Great One Who sustainest all things by Thy might and counsel, almighty Ruler and King of all: Make steadfast the Church, preserving it in Thine Orthodoxy, through the supplications of the most glorious fathers who denounced heresy.

Great honours were ye vouchsafed on earth, O holy ones of heavenly wisdom, for ye lovingly honoured the image of Christ. And now, having cast off the shadow and the covering of the flesh, ye gaze directly upon His countenance and are vouchsafed yet greater honours.

Glory... Though we be chastened by the mighty host of barbaric insanity which Thou hast loosed against us, yet do Thou Thyself crush their assault and audacity, and ally Thyself with right-believing Orthodox hierarchs who place their trust in Thee, O Thou that accomplishest all things, through the confident prayers of the holy fathers whose memory we keep.

Both... The mind of man can in no wise comprehend the mystery of thine awesome birthgiving, nor can the exalted intelligence of the angels; for, in manner transcending nature, thou didst give birth to God incarnate. Wherefore, knowing thee to be the Theotokos and depicting thee with Him, we magnify thee.

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

Let every mortal **born** on earth,/ radiant with light, in spirit **leap** for joy;/ and **let** the hosts of the angelic powers **celebrate**/ and honor the holy feast of the **Mother** of God,/ and **let** them cry:// Hail! Pure and blessed ever-Virgin, who gavest **birth** to God.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion (John 20:1-10)

Mary having said that they had taken the Lord away, Simon Peter and the other friend of Christ whom He loved, ran to the tomb and they both found the grave clothes lying alone therein and the napkin that had been about his head not with them but apart. They therefore kept silence again until they saw Christ.

Glory... Exapostilarion of the Fathers

O ye fathers of heavenly mind, who assembled at the Seventh Council, bear ye ever earnest prayer unto the Trinity, that we who hymn your divine Council may be delivered from all heresy and eternal judgment, and may receive the Kingdom of heaven.

Both... Theotokion of the Fathers

At the entreaties of Thy Mother, O all-good Lord, and of the fathers who assembled at the seven Councils, make steadfast the Church and strengthen the Faith; and when Thou wilt come to earth to judge all creation, show us all forth as heirs to the kingdom of heaven.

C. Lauds: Tone 1 Stichera

Let **every** bre-ath **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. We **praise** in song Thy saving **passion**, O Christ, // and glorify Thy Resurrection.

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

2. Give **peace** to our **lives**, / O Thou, the only **Almighty** Lord, / Who hast endured the Cross and hast **laid** death low // and risen **from** the dead.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts, / praise Him according to the multitude of His **greatness**.

3. Vouch**safe** that we may praise and glorify Thee with a pure **heart**, O Christ, / Who hast **despoiled** death, // and raised up man through Thy Resurrection.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, / praise Him with **psaltery** and harp.

4. **Glorifying** Thy divinely fitting condescension, / we praise **Thee**, O Christ. / Born of the Virgin without parting from the **Father**, / Thou hast suffered as man and willingly **endured** the Cross. / Glory be to Thee, O Lord, Who, preceding as from a **chamber**, // hast risen from the tomb to **save** the world.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance, praise Him with strings and flute. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation. / Let every breath **praise** the Lord.

Stichera for the Fathers (Tone 6)

5/6. Having combined their **spiritual** art, / and reviewed the heavenly and precious Symbol of Faith through the divine **Spirit**, / the honoured fathers inscribed it with a divine **writing**, / wherein the right glorious, most rich and truly divinely **wise** ones / teach most clearly that the Word is co-unoriginate and co-everlasting with Him that **begot** Him, // thus following most carefully the teachings of the **apostles**.

V. Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages of ages.

7. Having received all the noetic radiance of the Holy **Spirit**,/ as **preachers** of Christ,/ the divine defenders of the teachings of the **Gospel**/ and the traditions of the pious, **inspired** by God,/ proclaimed their most supernatural **decision**;/ and having manifestly received from on High the **revelation** thereof,// being illumined, they expounded the Faith **taught** by God.

V. Gather together unto Him His holy ones who have established His covenant upon sacrifices.

8. Having mustered all their **pastoral** skill/ and then moved to a **wrath** most just,/ as champions, as most true **servants** of Christ/ and most sacred initiates of the mysteries of divine **preaching**,/ the divine pastors drove forth the savage and **pernicious** wolves,/ casting them out of the **fullness** of the Church;/ and they fell, as it were, **to** their deaths// as ones afflicted **incurably**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

The **choir** of the holy fathers, which hath gathered from the **ends** of the earth,/ hath taught the single essence of the Father, Son and **Holy Ghost**,/ and hath carefully committed to the Church the mystery of **theology**./ Praising them in faith, let us bless them, **saying**:/ O divine legion, divinely eloquent swordsmen of the **Lord's** command,/ most radiant stars of the noetic **firmament**,/ unassailable towers of the mystical **Zion**,/ sweet-scented blossoms of paradise, golden **mouths** of the Word,/ boast of Nicaea and adornments of the **whole** world:// Pray ye earnestly 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:

Today is salvation come unto the world; let us sing to Him Who arose from the tomb, and is the Author of our life. For having destroyed death by death, He hath given us the victory and great mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

C. G/B... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 7)

Behold it is dark and very early in the **morning**./ And **what** art thou doing on the tomb, thy mind full of darkness, O **Mary**?/ **Why** dost thou ask where Jesus **has** been laid?/ **See** how the disciples running forward with the grave-clothes and the **napkin**/ have **positively** proved the **Resurrection**/ and

have remembered that which had been written concerning this in the Scriptures./ And we, believing with them and through them sing Thy praises,// O Chri-ist, Giver of life.

R. Hours

Tropar: Resurrection & Fathers

Kontak: Resurrection/Fathers alternating

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:

Tropar: Sunday

Tropar: Holy Fathers

Kontak: Sunday

Glory... Kontak: Holy Fathers

Both... O Unfailing Intercession...

Prokimenon for Tone 1

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee.

V. Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous; praise is meet for the upright.

Prokimenon for the Holy Fathers (Tone 4)

Blessed art Thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages.

Epistle(s): IICor 9:6-11 & Heb 13:7-16

Alleluia for Tone 1

V. The God that giveth avengement unto me hath subdued peoples under me.

V. It is He that magnifieth the salvation of His king and worketh mercy for His anointed, for David, and for his seed unto eternity.

Alleluia for the Holy Fathers (Tone 1)

V. The God of gods, the Lord, hath spoken, and He hath called the earth from the rising of the sun and unto the setting thereof.

Gospel(s): Luke 7:11-16 & John 17:1-13

Communion Hymn: Praise Ye & Rejoice in the Lord, O ye righteous...