

19th Sunday after Pentecost
Commemoration of the Holy Protomartyr and Equal of the Apostles Thecla

VESPERS: Tone 2

P. Regular Beginning

C. Lord I have cried...

1. Come let us adore the **Word** of God,/ begotten of the Father before the **world** began,/ and **incarnate** of the Virgin **Mary**./ For of His own will He suffered the Cross and submitted to **burial**.// He also rose from the dead and saved me, an **erring** man.
2. Christ, our **Saviour**,/ blotted out the bond that pledged us to the **decrees** of the law/ by nailing it **to** the Cross,/ and He put down the **dominion** of death.// We worship His Resurrection on the **third** day.
3. In common with the Arch**angels**/ let us praise the Resurrection of Christ./ He is the Deliverer and **Saviour** of our souls./ And He will come again in dread glory and great **power**,// to judge the world He **fashioned**.
4. The angel proclaimed Thee, O Master, crucified and **buried**,/ and he said to the **women**:/ 'Come and **see** the place where the **Lord** lay./ For He is risen as He said, because He is **Almighty**.'/ Therefore, we worship Thee Who alone art **immortal**:// Have mercy upon us, O Christ, Thou **Giver** of life.
5. Thou hast abolished the curse of the tree **by** Thy Cross/ and by Thy burial Thou hast done away with the **dominion** of death,/ while by Thy **rising** Thou hast **enlightened** mankind./ Therefore, we **cry** unto Thee:// 'Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God and **Benefactor**.'
6. The gates of death opened before Thee in **fear**, O Lord,/ and the gatekeepers of hell, beholding Thee were **filled** with dread./ **Thou** it was Who hast destroyed the **gates** of brass/ and burst asunder the chains of **iron**./ Thou also hast led us out of the valley of the **shadow** of death// and torn our **bonds** apart.

Stichera for the Protomartyr Thecla (Tone 8)

7. O **Lord**, though Thecla was added to the **windows** of Thy love,/ yet, standing noetically in the highest **before** Thy throne,/ she marveled at thine incomparable **majesty**/ which hath been manifested in Thy **love** for mankind,// that Thou mayest **save** our souls.
8. O **Lord**, though Thecla was involuntarily separated from her **teacher** Paul,/ yet during her suffering, stripped of her **garments**,/ she had Thee **abiding** with her,/ and was covered with Thy **glory**:// and crowned by Thy hand, she **defendeth** our souls.
9. O **Lord**, though Thecla made haste to the bound **Apostle** Paul,/ yet she rejected the bond of attachment to **earthly** things,/ and with the chain

of the **might** of Thy love/ she bound herself **fast** to Thee,// the Saviour
of our souls.

10. O **Lord**, though Thy pure protomartyr was committed to the fire,/ yet she was not **consumed** therein,/ having Thee as a **cooler** of the flames;/ and, preserved by the **hand** of Thee,/ the **Saviour** of our souls,// she remained unconsumed amid many **wild** beasts.

Glory... (Tone 6)

In thine athletic **struggles**/ thou didst trample the enemy underfoot, O most blessed **Thecla**,/ and having set at naught his wiles as a **struggler**,/ thou didst flee from **Thamyris**/ and betroth thyself to Christ thy true **Lover**./ O converser with Paul and fellow sufferer with **Stephen**,/ as thou among women hast **boldness**,/ O protomartyr of Christ,/ by thy supplications deliver from mis**fortunes**// those who keep thine all-festive **memory**.

Both now & ever... Dogmatikon (Tone 2)

At the coming of grace, the shadow that is the law **passed** away./ Just as the bush that burned was **not** consumed,/ so hast **thou**, Virgin, given birth and **Virgin** remained./ Gone was the **Pillar** of fire,/ and lo, in its stead the Sun of Righteousness **shone** forth.// Behold, instead of Moses, Christ, the **salvation** of our souls.

- P. Wisdom. Aright!
C. O Joyful Light...
P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
P. Wisdom! (And readings, if any)
P. Augmented Litany
R. Vouchsafe...
P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

- C. Litya Prayers
First sticheron of the Temple...

Sticheron for the Martyr Thecla (Tone 4)

Thy superhuman suffering, O protomartyr of Christ,/ not only astonished the nations of men,/ but also amazed the savage beasts./ Flames were not considered flames by thee, O good virgin Thecla,/ for the sake of Christ thy Bridegroom;/ and, suffering for His sake, thou didst rejoice./ Thou wast cut off from the world,/ that thou mightiest receive the blessedness of heaven,// praying with boldness in behalf of our souls.

Glory... (Tone 2)

Come, ye who love the martyrs,/ and in hymns let us honour the protomartyr Thecla, the boast of women;/ for with the power of the Cross she trampled down the adverse foe,/ and, receiving the victory, hath been crowned as is meet./ Wherefore, the much suffering one prayeth/ that they that keep her memory with faith and love// be delivered from misfortunes and the judgment to come.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Here is a new wonder greater than all the **miracles** of old,/ for who has ever known a mother bear a child without the **help** of man?;/ and hold in her arms Him Who encompasseth the whole creation?/ It was the will of God to be

born and thou,/ O all-pure Virgin, hast carried Him, an **infant** in thine arms./ The boldness of a mother is **therefore** thine./ Do thou then pray to Him without ceasing for us who **honour** thee,// and entreat Him to save our souls and have mercy upon us.

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 2)

1. Thy Resurrection, O Christ,/ has given light to **all** the earth/ and has **called** up Thy **creature**:// Therefore, glory to Thee, O **Almighty** God.

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

2. Through Thy rood, O **Saviour**,/ Thou hast done away with the **curse** of the tree,/ and through Thy **burial** Thou hast put down the **dominion** of death,/ and Thou hast enlightened mankind by Thy Resurrection./ Therefore we **cry** to Thee:// Glory to Thee, O Christ, our God, the **Giver** of life.

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

3. Thou, O Christ, didst appear, nailed **upon** the Cross/ having changed the beauty of created things./ And in **cruelty** the soldiers pierced Thy **side** with a lance;/ while the Jews begged that Thy **tomb** might be sealed,/ for they both had no faith in Thy **power**./ But Thou, O Lord, for Thy mercy's sake hast submitted **to** the tomb/ and hast risen on the **third** day:// Therefore, unto Thee be **glory**.

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

4. Of Thine own will Thou, O Christ, the **Giver** of life,/ for the sake of mortal man hast endured Thy **passion**/ and hast descended into hell, in mighty **power**,/ snatching as it were from the jaws of a great monster those who **awaited** Thee there,/ granting them an abode in **paradise**./ Therefore to us who give glory to Thy Rising on the **third** day,// grant cleansing of our sins and Thy great **mercy**.

Glory... (Tone 8)

The **assault** of the lions didst **thou** repel,/ and thou didst put Thamyris to shame, O much suffering protomartyr;/ and thou didst follow after thy Bridegroom, **crying** out:/ I have fled to the fragrance of Thy **myrrh**, O Christ!/ Wherefore, seeking out Paul, thou didst receive a gift from **heaven**/ and wast given a crown by God, the Judge of the **contests**/ and thou prayest **unceasingly**,// that forgiveness of sins be given to those who with faith keep thy sacred **memory**.

Both now and ever... (Tone 8)

O **Virgin** unwedded, O Mother of **God** on high,/ thou hast ineffably conceived **God** in the flesh;/ and being beyond reproach, thou hast granted us all purification of our **transgressions**./ Accept the supplications of thy **servants**,/ and do thou, who now receivest our **entreaties**,// pray for us **all** to be saved.

- C. St. Symeon's Prayer
 R. Trisagion
 C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x3
- P. Blessing of loaves.
 C. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3
 Psalm 33:1-10

MATINS: Tone 2

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

- C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 2) x2

When Thou didst descend to death, O life immortal,/ Thou didst slay hell with the splendor of Thy Godhead/ and when from the depths Thou didst raise the dead/ all the powers of heaven cried out:/ O Giver of life, Christ our God,// Glory to Thee!

Glory... Troparion for the Protomartyr Thecla (Tone 4)

Taught by the words of Paul, O Thecla, bride of God,/ and confirmed through faith by Peter, O divinely called one,/ thou wast shown to be the protomartyr and first sufferer among women./ Thou didst enter the flame as it were a place abloom with flowers,/ and the wild beasts and bulls stood in awe of thee,/ for thou didst arm thyself with the Cross.// Wherefore, O most lauded one, entreat Christ, that our souls be saved.

Both now and ever... 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:

The noble Joseph, taking Thine all-pure body down from the Tree and wrapping it in a clean winding-sheet, enclosed it in a new tomb with sweet spices; yet Thou didst arise on the third day, O Lord, granting great mercy to the world.

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

Standing before the myrrh-bearing women at the tomb, the angel cried: "Myrrh is meet for the dead, yet Christ hath shown Himself to be a stranger to corruption! But cry aloud: The Lord hath risen, granting the world great mercy!"

G/B... Thy mystery, O Mother of God, is most glorious and passeth all understanding, for stamped with the seal of purity and thy virginity inviolate, thou art acknowledged without doubt to be the Mother who indeed hast given birth to the true God. Do thou beseech Him to save our souls.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

Without hindering the Jews from sealing the stone of the tomb, in arising Thou didst bestow the rock of faith upon all. O Lord, glory be to Thee!

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

With one accord the choir of Thy disciples rejoiceth with the myrrh-bearing women; and with them we celebrate a common feast to the glory and honour of Thy resurrection. And through them we cry out to Thee, O Lord Who lovest mankind: Grant Thy people great mercy!

G/B... All-blessed art thou, O Virgin Theotokos, for by Him Who became incarnate through thee hath hades been made captive, Adam restored, the curse annulled, Eve set free, death slain, and we have been given life. Wherefore, chanting, we cry aloud: Blessed is Christ God Who hath been thus well pleased! Glory be to Thee!

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

R. Ypakoe:

After the Passion, when the women went to the tomb to anoint Thy Body, O Christ our God, they saw angels in the sepulcher and were affrighted, for they heard them say that the Lord was risen granting the world great mercy.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)

I cast the eyes of my heart toward Thee in heaven, O Saviour. Save me by Thine overshadowing.

Have mercy on us who offend Thee greatly every hour, O my Christ, and grant that we may offer Thee repentance before the end.

G/B... It is fitting that the Holy Spirit reign, sanctify and move creation, for He is God, consubstantial with the Father and the Word.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)

If the Lord Himself were not with us, who would be preserved whole from the enemy, the slayer of men?

Give not Thy servant over to the teeth of mine enemies, O Saviour, for they move against me like lions.

G/B... The Holy Spirit is the Source of life and worship, for by His power as God He preserveth all created things in the Father by the Son.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)

They who hope in the Lord are like a holy mountain: they are in nowise moved by the assaults of the enemy.

Let those who live godly lives stretch not their hands forth to iniquities, for Christ will not withhold His staff from such in His portion.

G/B... Through the Holy Spirit doth all wisdom flow: through Him have the prophets received vision, hath grace come upon the apostles, and have the martyrs been crowned with the endurance of suffering.

P. Prokimenon: (Tone 2)

Arouse Thyself, O Lord my God, in the commandment which Thou hast enjoined,/ and a congregation of peoples shall surround Thee.

V. O Lord my God, in Thee have I put my hope: Save me.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.

P. GOSPEL #8

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: Overwhelming power once laid low the whole army of Pharaoh in the deep,/ and the incarnate Word hath destroyed pernicious sin./ All-glorious is the Lord,// for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The prince of this world, under whom we have enlisted, not having obeyed Thy commandment, was condemned by Thy Cross, O Good One; for the weak one attacked Thee as one mortal, recoiled from the might of Thine authority, and was exposed as weak.

Thou camest into the world, the Deliverer of the human race and Author of life incorruptible; for by Thy resurrection Thou didst break asunder the bonds of death. This do we all glorify, for gloriously hast Thou been glorified.

Theotokion

Thou wast revealed as higher than all creation, visible and invisible, O pure Ever-virgin; for thou gavest birth to the Creator, in that He was well pleased to become incarnate in thy womb. Entreat Him with boldness, to save our souls.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

O Christ, through the suffering of Thy flesh Thou becamest the power of the weak, the resurrection of the fallen and the incorruption of the dead, for Thou hast been glorified.

God the Creator, the Restorer Who was put to death, had compassion on His fallen image, raised it up which was broken down, and hath given life unto all, for He hath been glorified.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

The Power of the Most High, the perfect Hypostasis, the Wisdom of God, Who became incarnate of thee, O most pure one, drew nigh unto men, for He hath been glorified.

The Sun of righteousness passed through the impassable door, thy closed womb, O pure one, and shone forth upon the world, for He hath been glorified.

Holy Protomartyr Thecla, pray to God for us!

The sound of man's tongue is unable to recount the most glorious sufferings of the protomartyr, for it falleth short of fitting praise.

The all-prideful superstition of the tyrant hath been set at naught, for in Christ women have piously prevailed like men against him.

Glory... Instructed in the Gospel by thine ineffable words, O most blessed Paul, the virgin betrothed herself to Christ.

Both... The Virgin gave birth unto Thee, O Christ, the life-bearing Cluster of grapes, Who pourest forth the sweetness of universal salvation.

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: The desert, the barren Church of the nations,/ blossomed like a lily at Thine advent, O Lord;// and therein hath my heart been established.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

During Thy suffering creation was altered, beholding Thee, Who founded all by Thy divine gesture, in pauper's form, mocked by the iniquitous.

With Thy hand Thou didst fashion me out of dust, in Thine image; and having descended into hades, O Christ, with Thyself Thou didst raise me up who had again been broken down into the dust of death for my sins.

Theotokion

The ranks of the angels marveled, O most pure one, and the hearts of men have been filled with awe at thy birthgiving; wherefore, we honour thee, the Theotokos, with faith.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Christ Who is higher than all became a little lower than the nature of the angels through His suffering in the flesh.

Reckoned as dead with the iniquitous, O Christ, after the resurrection Thou didst appear to the women, resplendent in a crown of glory.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

He Who, as the Creator of time, far transcendeth all time, was of His own will formed of thee as a babe, O Virgin.

Let us hymn the womb which is more spacious than the heavens, through which Adam, rejoicing, dwelleth in the heavens.

Holy Protomartyr Thecla, pray to God for us!

O thy love which passeth understanding, O most honoured one, whereby, having united thyself in the Spirit, thou didst bind thyself to Paul in Christ!

The intention of the tyrant was unable to wound thee who wast wounded with the desire of the Spirit, O delight of mortals.

Glory... Having rejected all fleshly attachments, thou wast not softened by the conversations of thy mother, O most laudable athlete.

Both... Thou wast the correction of our first mother Eve, O Theotokos, having given birth unto the Author of life for the world.

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 for the Protomartyr Thecla (Tone 2)

Having wounded thy heart with the love of Christ, O good virgin,/ thou didst spurn a transitory betrothed as of no account;/ and didst brave the fire and shut the mouths of the wild beasts./ And, saved from them, O Thecla, // first among women to suffer, thou didst take care to seek out Paul.

R. Ikos for the Protomartyr Thecla

Having learned the path of truth from Paul, thou didst follow after him without wavering, O all-glorious one, and having abandoned thine own people as strangers, with manly mind and in manly guise thou didst follow a stranger. Wherefore, the Master hath shown thee forth as the first to suffer among women contenders in the world, wherein thou didst remain, O Thecla, first among women to suffer, going about the ends thereof in search of Paul.

R. Sessional Hymns

Transforming thy womanhood into manliness through the virtues and the love of Christ, by both thou becamest a dwelling-place of God; for, having

diminished the gloom of the passions by fasting, by martyrdom thou wast shown to be the boast of suffering. Wherefore, thou shinest forth with two-fold radiance upon the world like a beacon, illumining all with rays of the Spirit, O most lauded protomartyr. Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of transgressions unto those who with love honour thy holy memory.

G/B... All we, the generations of men, bless thee as the Virgin who, alone among women, gavest birth without seed to God in the flesh; for the fire of the Godhead made its abode within thee, and thou gavest suck unto the Creator and Lord as a babe. Wherefore, as is meet, we, the race of angels and men, glorify thy most holy birthgiving; and together we cry out to thee: Entreat Christ God, that He grant remission of transgressions to those who hymn thy glory as is meet.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Thou didst come forth from the Virgin,/ neither a mediator nor an angel,/ but Thyself incarnate, O Lord,// and hast saved me, the whole man; wherefore, I cry to thee: Glory to Thy power, O Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O God my Master, Thou standest before the judgment-seat as one condemned, without crying out, bringing forth judgment in behalf of the gentiles. Thereby Thou hast wrought salvation for the whole world through Thy suffering, O Christ.

Through Thy suffering, O Christ, the weaponry of the enemy failed, and by Thy descent into hades the cities of the adversary were destroyed and the audacity of the tyrant set at naught.

Theotokion

O Theotokos and Mistress, all of us, the faithful, know thee to be the haven of salvation and an immovable rampart; for through thy supplications, thou dost deliver our souls from perils.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Beholding thee nailed to the Tree, O Christ, the Virgin who gave birth unto Thee without pain endured a mother's pangs.

Death was vanquished when, dead, Thou didst storm the gates of hades; for when the all-devouring one was destroyed, all things which are past nature were given to me.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Lo! as the dwelling-place of the Lord, the Mother of God, the divine mountain, hath most clearly been exalted far higher than the hosts of heaven.

Having given birth beyond the laws of nature unto Him Who hath dominion over creation, O only Virgin, thou wast vouchsafed a divine calling.

Holy Protomartyr Thecla, pray to God for us!

Paul, as the arranger of marriage, joined thee, O most honoured Thecla, who hadst been betrothed to Thamyris, to the heavenly Bridegroom, as one undefiled.

Thou wast brought to the love of piety by the words of Paul, O martyr, and didst spurn the words of Thamyris as foolishness.

By the sprinkling of the divine Blood hath the race of Adam been blessed; and Eve rejoiceth, seeing the deceitful serpent brought down by women.

Glory... Loving piety, the protomartyr cast away all the beautiful things of life: riches, family, beauty, and the pleasures of a betrothed.

Both... All we, the enlightened, know thee to be the Theotokos, O most pure one; for thou, O Ever-virgin, gavest birth to the Sun of righteousness.

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: Thou art a Mediator between God and man, O Christ God:/ For by Thee, O Master,/ are we led up out of the night of ignorance to Thy Father,// the Source of light.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst break the audacity of the nations by Thy will, as if they were cedars, O Christ Master, for it was Thy will to be lifted up in the flesh upon the cypress, the pine and the cedar.

When they laid Thee, dead and bereft of breath, in a deep pit, O Christ; yet, wounded, through thy wounds Thou didst raise up with Thyself the forgotten dead who slept in the graves.

Theotokion

Entreat thy Son and Lord, O pure Virgin, that He grant peace unto those who hope in thee and deliverance from the assaults of adversaries unto captives.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

The first Adam refused to fast and ate of the deadly tree; yet his sin was erased when the second Adam was crucified.

By human nature Thou becamest able to experience suffering and death, O Christ Who in Thine immaterial divinity art dispassionate; and untouched by corruption Thou didst raise up the dead from the nethermost parts of hades.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

O ye clouds, rain down the delight of gladness upon those on earth, for a Child hath been given, He Who hath existed from before time: Our God Who is incarnate of the Virgin.

Light hath shone upon my life and flesh and destroyed the gloom of sin! In latter times the Most High became incarnate of the Virgin without seed.

Holy Protomartyr Thecla, pray to God for us!

With most grievous suffering thou didst struggle in the arena, O most blessed Thecla, and wast counted worthy of honours.

The wicked serpent hath been laid waste, for the virgin learned obedience by divine sufferings.

Glory... By divine boldness hath thy shame been overcome, for the fire at the heart of the Trinity set thee aflame.

Both... O Mary, unwedded Theotokos, make vain the hopes of our enemies and gladden those who hymn thee.

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: Whirled about in the abyss of sin,/ I call upon the unfathomable abyss of Thy loving-kindness:// Lead me out up from corruption, O God.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Righteous One was condemned as a malefactor and nailed to the Tree with iniquitous men, through His blood granting remission to the guilty.

Through one man, the first Adam, did death enter the world of old, and through the one Son of God hath the resurrection been revealed.

Theotokion

Thou gavest birth without having known a man, O Virgin, and thou remainest a virgin eternally, revealing the images of the true divinity of thy Son and God.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Thou didst set the Cherubim as guardians of the tree of life against the fallen one, yet, beholding Thee, the doors were opened; for Thou didst appear escorting the thief into paradise.

Hades was emptied and overthrown by the death of One; for the one Christ emptied it for us all of the great treasure which it had hoarded.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Human nature, enslaved to sin, hath through thee obtained its freedom, O pure Mistress; for thy Son is slaughtered like a lamb for all.

We all cry out to thee, the true Mother of God; Deliver thy servants, who move God to wrath, for thou alone hast boldness before thy Son.

Holy Protomartyr Thecla, pray to God for us!

Having fortified the weakness of her nature with the might of the Cross, and repudiated youthful adornment by divine love, at night the maiden took courage and ran away, seeking the fragrant teachings of Him Who was her Desired One.

With love, of her own will, the right glorious protomartyr Thecla supernaturally left her bridal chambers to dwell in a dungeon with malefactors; for her desire for the Creator overcame her desire for comforts.

Glory... Drinking in the words of Paul in prison as in a divine meadow, the martyr kissed the chains of her divine teacher; and she grew and truly brought forth most comely fruit for the Master.

Both... Choosing thee from among the beautiful valleys of the world as a rose, a most comely lily, a sweet-scented fragrance, O Maiden, the Creator made His abode within thy womb; and, having been born, He hath filled all things with a sweet savor.

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 (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.

Canticle Seven

Irmos: The command of the iniquitous tyrant, opposed to God,/ raised up a lofty flame;/ but Christ, Who is blessed and all-glorious,// spread a spiritual dew upon the pious youths.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

In Thy loving-kindness, O Master, Thou couldst not bear to see man tormented by death; and, becoming man, Thou didst come and save him by Thy blood. Blessed and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Seeing Thee arrayed in the vesture of vengeance, O Christ, the gatekeepers of hades were affrighted; for Thou didst come to slay Thy servant, the mindless tyrant. Blessed and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Theotokion

We understand thee to be holier than the Holy of holies, for thou alone gavest birth to the immutable God, O blameless Virgin, unwedded Mother; for thou hast poured forth incorruption upon all the faithful through thy divine birthgiving.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

Of old, in Eden, disobedience condemned our forefather; yet the most divine and most glorious God of our fathers was willingly condemned, loosing the transgressions of him who had transgressed.

To the light Thou didst call me who walk in the shadow of death, O Thou Who didst clothe dark hades with the lightning of divinity. Most divine and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

At night, Jacob beheld as in a vision the incarnate God, Who through thee hath appeared in splendor to those who chant: Most divine and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Abominable is he who doth not with undoubting faith and tongue proclaim Thee the Son of the Virgin, Who art one of the most hymned Trinity, crying out: Most divine and most glorious is the God of our fathers!

Holy Protomartyr Thecla, pray to God for us!

Like a prisoner thou wast bound to Paul with unbreakable bonds by love, O most blessed one, piously crying out with faith and chanting with him: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Thou didst stand with Paul before the unjust tribunal, O good virgin, and moved by love of the Master, thou didst cry out in awe, rejecting what was unseemly: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Thou gavest thy body over to the furnace for divine love, O martyr, and by the power of Him Whom thou didst desire thou didst remain unconsumed, crying out: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Glory... The storm cloud, dousing the flame with rain and hail, rightly consumed the mindless ones and saved the martyr, who chanted thy hymn: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Both... A rod sprung forth from the root of Jesse wast thou, O all-blessed one, putting forth the Fruit of salvation for those who with faith cry out to thy Son: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

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: Once, in Babylon,/ the fiery furnace divided its activity at the command of God,/ consuming the Chaldeans, but bedewing the faithful, who chant:// Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Beholding the vesture of Thy flesh stained with Thy blood, O Christ, the ranks of the angels were filled with awe and trembling at Thy great longsuffering, crying aloud: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord!

By Thine arising, O Compassionate One, Thou hast clothed my mortality in immortality; wherefore, in gladness Thy chosen people thankfully hymn Thee, O Christ, crying out to Thee: Death is swallowed up in victory!

Theotokion

Without seed thou didst conceive Him Who is inseparable from the Father, and He dwelt in thy womb as God and man; and thou didst ineffably give birth unto Him O all-pure Theotokos. Wherefore, we acknowledge thee as the salvation of us all.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

O Thou Who art rich in mercy, Thou wast seen to be nailed to the Cross and buried of Thine own will; and Thou didst arise on the third day, O Thou Who lovest mankind, and hast delivered all men, who chant with faith: Let all creation hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all the ages.

Thou didst descend into the nethermost parts, O Christ, Thou Word of God, to deliver from corruption, by Thy divine power, that which Thou hadst created; and fashioning it without corruption, Thou didst make it a partaker of Thine everlasting glory, that, crying out, it may chant: Let all creation exalt Christ supremely unto the ages.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Through thee the One Who is incomparable in goodness and power was seen on earth and dwelt with men. And, chanting unto Him, all of us, the

faithful, cry: Let all existing creation hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

Truly proclaiming thee to be the pure Theotokos, we glorify thee; for thou gavest birth to the One of the Trinity Who became incarnate, to Whom, with the Father and the Spirit, we all chant: Let all creation hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely for all the ages!

Holy Protomartyr Thecla, pray to God for us!

Strange was thy thought; for thou, O virgin martyr, madest thine abode in a grave as in Eden, hymning Christ forever.

Unable to endure that the magnificence and splendor of the beauty of thy virginity be dimmed, thou didst will to die and to live forever.

Having united thyself to Christ the life-creating and supernatural Bridegroom, O protomartyr, thou wast pleased that wild beasts be the preservers of thy virginity.

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

Having shed thy garment of corruption, O beautifully clad runner of Christ, thou didst pass on to the life which ageeth not, forever.

Both... In manner transcending nature thou gavest birth unto God the Word, the Creator and Saviour, O Virgin; wherefore, we honour thee, O pure one, forever.

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

C. Katavasia (Tone 4)

The **Off**spring 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 fore**ver**.

P. Magnificat

C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: God the Lord, the Son of the unoriginate Father,/ hath revealed Himself to us incarnate of the Virgin,/ to enlighten those in darkness and to gather the dispersed.// Wherefore, we magnify the all-hymned Theotokos.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The thrice-rich tree of Thine all-pure Cross was planted on Golgotha as in paradise, O Saviour; and watered with the blood and divine water of Thy side, as by a divine spring, O Christ, it hath budded forth life for us.

Crucified, O Omnipotent One, Thou didst cast down the mighty; and raising up human nature, which lay below in the stronghold of hades, Thou

didst set it upon the throne of the Father. And worshipping Thee Who wilt come therewith, we magnify Thee.

Triadicon

Chanting, O ye faithful, in Orthodox manner let us glorify the threefold Unity, the consubstantial Trinity, the indivisible, all-divine essence, the thrice-radiant, the only incorrupt and never-waning Effulgence, which hath shone forth light upon us.

Glory to Thy Precious Cross and Resurrection, O Lord.

On Golgotha Thou wast lifted up on the Cross like a lamb between the condemned, O Christ, and pierced in the side by a spear. In that Thou art good, Thou didst give life unto us who are made of dust, who honour Thy divine resurrection with faith.

O all ye faithful, let us worship God Who by His own death abolished the might of death with power; for He Who raised up with Himself the dead of ages past bestoweth life and resurrection upon all.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

In thy womb, O pure one, the Word of God was given to corrupt nature as a staff of strength; and He raised it up which had fallen headlong into hades. Wherefore, O most pure one, we magnify thee as the Theotokos.

O Master, mercifully accept as advocate for us Thy Mother, Whom Thou didst choose. All things will be filled with Thy goodness, that we may all magnify Thee as our Benefactor.

Holy Protomartyr Thecla, pray to God for us!

Who doth not marvel at thine invincibility, O protomartyr? For, having made subject the passions, the noetic beasts, to thy soul, thou wast not afraid of the unrestrained assaults of wild beasts, but remained incorrupt in their midst.

At the command of God, the hard and impassible rock split apart for thee, O Godbearing martyr who wast sealed by the laver of regeneration as a blessed bride, and it received thee like a chamber as thou didst flee.

Glory... Heal thou the wounds of my soul, O protomartyr; grant peace to the world, bestowing victories over heresies and schisms to all true Orthodox hierarchs, and bring peace to the Churches by thy prayers.

Both... With unceasing hymns all of us, the faithful, glorify thee, the all-glorious and most holy Theotokos, and we hymn thee as her who gave birth unto the Lord of all, unto the salvation of those who praise 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 honour 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 Eight (John 20:11-18)

Seeing two angels inside the tomb, Mary was struck with wonder and not knowing Christ, she asked Him supposing Him to be the gardener: 'Where O Lord, hast thou laid the body of my Jesus?' And recognizing by His call that He was the Saviour Himself, she heard: 'Touch me not; tell the brethren I go to my Father.'

Glory... Exapostilarion for the Protomartyr Thecla

Let us praise Thecla, the equal of the apostles and first woman to suffer, the glory of women, the instructor of athletes, who opened for all the way of martyrdom.

Both now and ever... Theotokion

O Maiden, thou hast borne past speech One of the Trinity, two by nature, two in operation, one in person. Entreat Him then for us who venerate thee with faith to be ever delivered from all enemy intent, for we all now take refuge in thee, O Lady Theotokos.

C. Lauds: Tone 2 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. All that hath breath, all the creation praises **Thee**, O Lord./ For Thou alone **lovest** men,/ **and** hast put down de-ath **through** Thy Cross,// so as to show mankind Thy Resurrection.

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

2. Let the Jews say how the soldiers lost the King over **Whom** they watched./ Why did the stone fail to guard the **rock** of life?/ **Let** them give up Him who was buried or worship Him risen and **declare** with us:// Glory to Thy manifold mercies, Glory unto Thee, our **Saviour**.

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

3. O ye people, **rejoice** and make glad./ An angel sat upon the stone of the tomb and **announced** to us:/ **Christ**, Saviour of the world is risen **from** the dead/ and has filled the universe with **fragrance**:// Rejoice and make glad, O ye **people**.

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

4. Before Thy **conception**, O Lord,/ an angel brought the joyful salutation to the Virgin, **full** of grace,/ **while** at Thy Resurrection an angel rolled back the stone of Thy **glorious** tomb./ The one, in place of sorrow disclosed **tokens** of joy,/ the other instead of death, proclaimed the Master, Giver of **life** to us./ Therefore we cry: Glory to **Thee**, O Lord,// Benefactor of **all** mankind.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with **strings** and flute.

Stichera for the Protomartyr Thecla (Tone 2)

5. Having Christ God as thy Bridegroom in the **heavens**,/ O Thecla first to suffer, thou didst reject a transitory betrothed and **bridegroom**;/ **for**, wisely ignoring the blandishments of thy **mother**,/ thou didst follow Paul, taking the sign of the Cross upon thy **shoulders**,/ and didst not **fear** the fire./ The savagery of the wild beasts thou didst transform into **meekness**./ Thou didst slay Phocas by the immersion of holy **baptism** in Christ./ Yet, o thou who didst valiantly shine forth

divinely in **sufferings**,/ cease not to entreat Christ unceasingly in **behalf** of those// who with faith keep thy most precious **memory**.

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

6. Having offered thyself for the bidding of the **Almighty**,/ and forsaken **earthly** love,/ strengthened as the protomartyr of Christ,/ thou didst array thyself in the light of ever**lasting** life,/ discovering the entrance to the blessed bridal chamber of **eternal** life/ wherein the flock of **women** rest./ With them pray thou for our souls, O **Thecla**,// equal of the **apostles**.

V. Wondrous is God in His saints, the God of Israel.

(Tone 4)

7. Form a **choir**, O ye who love the martyrs, for the time of **struggles** is come,/ the annual commemoration of the protomartyr,/ which **exhorteth** all to the glorification of God./ For Thecla, first martyr among women, having finished the course of **suffering**,/ hath been shown to be the first crown-**bearer**,// who prayeth with boldness in **behalf** of our souls.

V. In congregations bless ye God, the Lord from the wellsprings of Israel.

(Tone 1)

8. The **struggle** of the contest lieth **before** us./ Let us join chorus, O **people**,/ and **look** upon the most glorious things **accomplished** therein:/ for the good virgin Thecla, the **bride** of God,/ the unblemished **ewe-lamb**, presenteth herself for **sacrifice**,/ following Christ God who sacrificed **Himself** for our sake./ **Wherefore**, with faith in the Trinity she destroyed **ungodliness**,/ and, dancing with the **angels**,// she beseecheth the Saviour to **save** our souls.

Glory... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 8)

The **tears** of Mary are not warmly **shed** in vain./ For behold, she was held worthy of the angels' **teaching**/ and vouchsafed the sight of Thee, **Thyself**, O Christ./ But again her thoughts were earthly thoughts as those of a weak **woman**./ Therefore she was dismissed and told not to **touch** Thee, O Christ./ But she was also sent as herald to the **disciples**,/ and she affirmed to them the good tidings proclaiming the Ascension to the portion of the **Father**.// With her do Thou also make us worthy of Thy manifestation, O **Master** and Lord.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin The**otokos**,/ 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

R. Hours
Tropar: Resurrection & Protomartyr
Kontak: Resurrection

At Liturgy

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:

Tropar Sunday
Tropar Temple
Tropar Protomartyr
Kontak Sunday
Kontak Temple
Glory... Kontak Protomartyr
Both... Protection of Christians ...

Prokimenon for Tone 2

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He is become my salvation.

V. With chastisement hath the Lord chastened me, but He hath not given me over unto death.

Prokimenon for the Protomartyr (Tone 4)

Wondrous is God is His saints...

Epistle(s): IICor 11:31-12:9 & II Tim 3:10-15

Alleluia for Tone 2

V. The Lord hear thee in the day of affliction; the name of the God of Jacob defend thee.

V. O Lord, save the king, and hearken unto us in the day when we call upon Thee.

Alleluia for the Protomartyr (Tone 1)

Gospels: Luke 5:1b-11 & Matt 15:1-13

Communion Hymn: Praise ye & Rejoice in the Lord...