

Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Afterfeast of the Meeting of our Lord

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 Resur**rection** 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.

Stichera from the Triodion (Tone 1)

- 5/6. I was **entrusted** with a sinless and **living** land,/ but I sowed the **ground** with sin/ and reaped with a sickle the ears of **slothfulness**;/ in thick sheaves I garnered my **actions**/ but winnowed them not on the threshing floor of **repentance**./ But I beg Thee, my God, the pre-eternal **husbandman**,/ with the wind of Thy loving-kindness winnow the **chaff** of my works,/ and grant to my soul the corn of **forgiveness**;// shut me in Thy heavenly storehouse and **save** me.
7. **Brethren**, let us learn the meaning of this **mystery**./ For when the Prodigal Son ran back from sin to his **Father's** house,/ his loving Father came out to meet him and **kissed** him./ He restored to the Prodigal the tokens of his proper **glory**,/ and mystically He made glad on high, sacrificing the **fatted** calf./ Let our lives, then, be worthy of the loving **Father**/ Who has offered **sacrifice**, // and of the glorious Victim Who is the **Saviour** of our souls.

Stichera for the Feast (Tone 1)

8. The Creator of all and our Deliverer/ is borne into the temple by the Virgin **Mother**;/ **wherefore**, the elder, receiving Him, cried **aloud** with joy:/ "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O **Good** One,// as Thou **hast** been pleased.

9. Symeon, receiving in his arms from the Virgin the **Saviour** of all/ Who was begotten before all the ages, **cried** aloud:/ "I have seen the effulgence of Thy glory!" to the **ends** of the earth./ "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O **Good** One,// for I have **beheld** Thee today!"
10. Symeon, bearing in his arms the **Saviour**/ Who for the salvation of men was born in the **fullness** of time,/ cried aloud, **rejoicing**:/ "I have beheld the light of the nations and the glory of **Israel**!/ Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, at **Thy** command,/ from among those here, as **Thou** didst say,// in that **Thou** art God!

Glory... (Tone 2)

Of what great blessings in my wretchedness have I **deprived** myself!/ From what a kingdom in my misery have I **fallen**!/ I have wasted the riches that were **given** to me,/ I have transgressed the **commandment**./ Alas, unhappy soul! Thou art henceforth condemned to the **eternal** fire./ Therefore before the end cry out to **Christ** our God:// Receive me as the Prodigal Son, O God, and have mercy **upon** me.

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

Stichera for the Feast (Tone 1)

Now let us celebrate the saving grace of the ineffable manifestation of God;/ for Christ God, having without change become a babe through the Virgin Maiden,/ is borne by His Mother into the temple of God the Father, and Symeon, receiving Him,// embraceth Him in his arms.

Of old Thou wast seen by the prophets,/ insofar as they were able to see Thee O Jesus;/ but now, O Word of God,/ Thou hast of Thine own will revealed Thyself to the whole world,/ in the flesh, through the Virgin Mary, O Christ,/ and Thou hast manifested Thy salvation to all who are descended from Adam,// in that Thou lovest mankind.

O Christ Who of old laid down the law on Mount Sinai,/ now, fulfilling the provisions of the law on Mount Sion,/ Thou hast desired to be borne into the temple in the flesh,/ in the arms of the Theotokos,/ together with doves for sacrifice,// and to be held in the arms of Symeon.

Stichera from the Triodion (Tone 2)

I come **before** Thee, Lord,/ with the cry of the **Prodigal**:/ I have sinned in Thy sight, gracious **Master**;/ I have wasted the riches of Thy **gifts** of grace.// But receive me in repentance, Saviour, and **save** me.

(Tone 8)

As the Prodigal I have wasted the riches which the Father **gave** me;/ I have spent them all and now am **destitute**,/ dwelling in the land of evil **citizens**./ No longer can I bear to live **among** them,/ but turning back I cry to Thee, merciful **Father**:/ I have sinned against heaven and **before** Thee,/ and I am not worthy to be **called** Thy son:// make me as one of Thy hired servants, O God, and have mercy **upon** me.

Glory... from the Triodion (Tone 4)

As the **Prodigal** Son/ I come to Thee, **merciful** Lord./ I have **wasted** my whole life in a **foreign** land;/ I have scattered the wealth which Thou gavest me, O **Father**./ Receive me in **repentance**, O God,// and have **mercy** on me.

Both... for the Feast (Tone 1)

The Ancient of days, having **become** a babe,/ is borne into the temple by the Virgin **Mother**,/ fulfilling the prescription of His **own** law;/ and, receiving Him, **Symeon** said:/ "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, **according** to Thy word:// for mine eyes have seen Thy **salvation**, O **Holy** One!"

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 2)

1. Thy Resurre**ction**, 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 Resurre**ction**./ 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 desc**ended** 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 6)

I have wasted the wealth which the Father **gave** to me,/ and in my
wretchedness I have fed with the **dumb** beasts./ Yearning after their food, I
remained hungry and could not **eat** my fill./ But now I return to the
compassionate Father and cry **out** with tears:/ I fall down before Thy
loving-**kindness**,// receive me as a hired servant and **save** me.

Both... for the Feast (Tone 1)

Today, He Who gave the law to Moses on **Sinai**/ submitteth to the
commands of the law,/ having become like us **for** our sake,/ in that He is
full of loving**kindness**./ Now our pure God, as a holy **Infant**,/ having opened
the womb of the **pure** one,/ is offered to **Himself**, as God,// freeing our
souls from the curse of the law and **enlightening** them.

C. St. Symeon's Prayer

R. Trisagion

C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos x2

Troparion for the Feast (Tone 1) (See music)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace,/ for from thee hath shone
forth Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness,/ Who doth illumine them that
are in darkness./ Be glad, thou also, O righteous elder/ who receivest in
thine arms the Deliverer of our souls,// Who granteth us resurrection.

P. Blessing of loaves.

C. Amen. 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!

G/B... Troparion for the Feast (Tone 1) (See music)

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, full of grace,/ for from thee hath shone
forth Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness,/ Who doth illumine them that
are in darkness./ Be glad, thou also, O righteous elder/ who receivest in
thine arms the Deliverer of our souls,// Who granteth us resurrection.

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 with the addition of the following: (Tone 6)

By the waters of Babylon/ we sat down and wept,/ when we remembered Zion.// Alleluia.

We hanged our harps/ upon the willows in the midst thereof.// Alleluia.

For there they that had taken us captive/ required of us a song;/ and they that had carried us away/ required of us a hymn, saying,/ Sing us one of the songs of Zion.// Alleluia.

How shall we sing/ the Lord's song in a strange land?// Alleluia.

If I forget thee, O Jerusalem,/ let my right hand be forgotten.// Alleluia.

If I do not remember thee,/ let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth;/ if I prefer not Jerusalem as my chief joy.// Alleluia.

Remember, O Lord,/ the children of Edom in the day of Jerusalem;/ who said, Down with it, down with it,/ even to the foundation thereof.// Alleluia.

O wretched daughter of Babylon,/ happy shall he be that shall reward thee/ as thou hast served us.// Alleluia.

Happy shall he be,/ that shall take and dash thy little ones against the rock.// Alleluia.

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 #2

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...

R. Psalm 50

C. (Tone 8)

Glory... Open unto me, O **Giver** of Life,/ the gates of **repentance**:/ for early in the morning my spirit seeks Thy holy **temple**,/ bearing a temple of the body **all** defiled.// But in Thy compassion cleanse it by Thy loving-kindness and Thy **mercy**.

Both now... **Guide** me in the paths of salvation, O Theotokos:/ for I have befouled my soul with **shameful** sins/ and have wasted all my life in **slothfulness**.// By thine intercessions deliver me from all **uncleanness**.

(Tone 6)

Have mercy **upon** me, O God,/ in Thy great **mercy**:/ and according to the multitude of Thy **compassion**// blot out my **transgressions**.

As I ponder in my **wretchedness**/ the many evil things that **I** have done,/ I tremble for the fearful day of **judgment**./ But trusting in Thy merciful **compassion**,/ like David do I **cry** to Thee:// Have mercy upon me, O God, in Thy great **mercy**.

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.

Most Holy Theotokos, Save us.

Of old, the immaterial ladder and the strangely solidified path amid the sea revealed thy birthgiving, O pure one, which we all hymn, for it hath been glorified.

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.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Jesus my God, as the Prodigal Son now accept me also in repentance. All my life I have lived in carelessness and provoked Thee to anger.

The divine wealth that once Thou gavest me I have sinfully wasted. I have departed far from Thee and lived as the Prodigal, O compassionate Father. Accept me also now as I return.

Open Thy fatherly embrace now and accept me also as the Prodigal Son, O most merciful Lord, that I may glorify Thee with thanksgiving.

Theotokion

O God, bestow the fullness of Thy grace upon me. Be Thou my Benefactor, and at the holy prayers of Thy Mother pass over the multitude of my offenses.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

Let the clouds pour forth rain, for Christ the Sun Who is borne aloft upon a light cloud is brought to the temple as a Babe on the arm of the unblemished one. Wherefore, O ye faithful, let us cry aloud: Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

Glory... Be strong, ye hands of Symeon feeble with age; and ye weary legs of the elder, move quickly and straight to meet Christ, joining chorus with the incorporeal ones, chanting: Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

Both... O ye heavens stretched out in wisdom, be glad; and rejoice, O thou earth! For Christ the Artificer, having come forth from the most blessed womb of His Mother, is borne by the Virgin Mother to God the Father as a babe, He Who was before all the ages, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

The sun once passed over dry land born of the deep,/ for the water became firm as a wall on either side/ when the people traversed the sea,/ chanting in God-pleasing manner:// Let us sing unto the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified!

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.

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.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Utterly beside myself, I have clung in madness to the sins suggested to me by the passions. But accept me, O Christ, as the Prodigal.

With the words of the Prodigal I cry aloud: I have sinned, O Father; like him, receive me now in Thine embrace and reject me not.

Open Thine arms, O Christ, and in loving-kindness receive me as I return from a far country of sin and passions.

Theotokion

O fair among women, my many sins have brought me to poverty: enrich me, O pure Virgin, with the vision of beauty, that I may glorify thee.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

He that was first begotten of the Father before the ages hath appeared as the firstborn Babe of the undefiled Virgin, stretching forth His hand unto Adam.

Glory... God the Word hath appeared as a babe, setting aright the first-created man, who through deception had become childish of mind.

Both... The Creator, having become a Babe without undergoing change, hath shown forth our nature, the product of the earth to which it doth return again, to be like unto divinity.

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

O Lord, the firm foundation of those that put their trust in Thee, / do Thou confirm the Church, // which Thou hast purchased with Thy precious blood.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the Feast (Tone 1) (see music)

O Thou that didst hallow the Virgin's womb by Thy birth / and didst bless the hands of Symeon as was meet, / by anticipation Thou hast now saved

even us, O Christ God./ But in the midst of battle grant peace to Thy community,/ and strengthen the hierarchs whom Thou hast loved,// O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

R. Ikos of the Feast

Let us make haste to the Theotokos, desiring to behold her Son borne to Symeon. Looking upon Him from heaven, the bodiless hosts are amazed, saying: "Things wondrous, most glorious, unapproachable and ineffable do we behold: for He Who created Adam is borne as an infant; He Whom naught can contain is held in the elder's arms; He Who is in the infinite bosom of His Father is of His own will limited by the flesh, but not in His divinity, He Who alone loveth mankind."

C. Sessional Hymn from the Triodion (Tone 1)

Make **haste** to open unto me Thy fatherly **embrace**,/ for as the Prodigal I have **wasted** my life./ In the **unfailing** wealth of Thy mercy, O **Saviour**,/ reject not my heart in its **poverty**./ For with **compunction** I cry to **Thee**, O Lord:// Father, I have sinned against heaven and **before** Thee. (2x)

R. G/B... Sessional Hymn for the Feast

Rejoicing, the sacred Symeon took Thee up Who hadst become incarnate of the Virgin, O Christ, crying: Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart, O Master! And Anna, the blameless and glorious prophetess, now offereth Thee confession and hymnody. And we, O Bestower of life, cry out to Thee: Glory to Thee Who hast thus been well pleased!

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.

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.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

The wealth of blessings which Thou gavest me, heavenly Father, have I wrongly wasted and become the slave of strangers. Therefore I cry aloud to Thee: I have sinned against Thee; receive me like the Prodigal of old, opening Thine arms to me.

I have become enslaved to every evil and in my wretchedness I have bowed down before the demons that provoke the passions; through heedlessness I have lost possession of myself. O Saviour, heavenly Father, take pity on me as I flee for refuge to Thy many mercies.

I am filled with every shameful thing and dare not look up at the height of heaven, for I have foolishly bowed down to sin. But now I return and cry aloud in compunction: I have sinned against Thee; receive me, King of all.

Theotokion

Thou art the help of men, the sure hope of all Christians, O Virgin undefiled, and the refuge of the saved. Save me by thy motherly intercessions and count me worthy of the life to come.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

Rejoicing, the Theotokos cried out: O Symeon, initiate of ineffable mysteries, take in thine arms Christ, the Word become a babe, of Whom thou wast informed of old by the Holy Spirit, and cry out to Him: All things are filled with Thy praise!

Glory... O Symeon, rejoicing take up Christ, the little Child on Whom thou hast set thy hope, the Consolation of the Israel of God, the Creator and Master of the law, Who fulfilleth the order of the law; and cry aloud unto Him: All things are filled with Thy praise!

Both... Beholding the unoriginate Word borne as a babe in the flesh by the Virgin as on the throne of the cherubim, the Author of all, Symeon marveled and cried out to Him: All things are filled with Thy praise!

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

Thy virtue hath covered the heavens, O Christ; / for having issued forth from Thine immaculate Mother, / the ark of Thy holiness, / Thou hast appeared in the Temple of Thy glory as a babe borne in arms, // and all things have been filled with Thy praise.

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.

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.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I was enslaved to strangers, an exile in the land of corruption, and I was filled with shame. But now I return, merciful Lord, and cry to Thee: I have sinned.

Accept me now, O heavenly Father, in Thy fatherly compassion as I return from evil, and reject me not in Thine exceeding mercy.

I have angered Thee beyond measure, O Christ, and I dare not look up at the height of heaven. But knowing Thy compassion, merciful Lord, I cry: I have sinned, be merciful to me and save me.

Theotokion

All-holy Virgin, full of grace, who hast borne the propitiation of all, by thy prayers lighten the heavy burden of my sins.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

The divine elder, comprehending the glory that was manifested of old to the prophet, beholding the Word held in His Mother's arms, cried out: Rejoice, O pure one, for as a throne dost thou hold God, the Light unwaning, Who reigneth with peace!

Glory... The elder, bowing low and divinely touching the feet of the Mother of God who kneweth not wedlock, said: O pure one, thou dost bear Fire! I fear to hold the infant God, the Light unwaning, Who reigneth with peace!

Both... Isaiah was purified by the burning ember brought by the seraph, the elder cried to the Mother of God, and thou dost illumine me, giving me Him Whom thou dost bear in thine arms as with tongs, the Light unwaning, Who reigneth with peace!

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

In a vision Isaiah beheld God exalted upon a throne/ borne aloft by angels of glory, and he cried:/ Woe is me! for I have beheld beforehand the incarnate God,// the unwaning Light, Who reigneth with peace!

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.

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.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

The depth of sin ever holds me fast, and the tempest of transgressions overwhelms me. Pilot me, O Christ my God, to the haven of life and save me, King of glory.

I have wasted in evil living the riches which the Father gave me, and now am brought to poverty. I am filled with shame and enslaved to fruitless thoughts. Therefore I cry to Thee Who lovest mankind: Take pity on me and save me.

I am wasted with hunger, deprived of every blessing, and an exile from Thy presence, O Christ supreme in loving-kindness. Take pity on me as I now return, and save me as I sing the praises of Thy love for mankind.

Theotokion

O Maiden who hast conceived Christ the Saviour and Master, though in my poverty I lack all good, count me worthy of salvation, O pure Virgin, that I may sing the praises of thy majesty.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

In Sion wast Thou set as a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense for the disobedient, and the inviolate salvation of the faithful.

Glory... Manifestly bearing the lineaments of Him Who begot Thee before the ages, Thou hast now been clothed in the weakness of mortals in Thy lovingkindness.

Both... Now lettest Thou depart in peace him that worshipped Thee as the Son of the Most High, the Son of the Virgin, God become a Child.

C. Katavasia Tone 3

The Elder, having seen with his eyes the salvation/ that was come to the peoples, cried aloud unto Thee:// 'O Christ that comest from God, Thou art my God.'

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion from the Triodion (Tone 3)

Foolishly have I run away from Thy glory, O Father,/ wasting in sin the wealth that Thou gavest me./ Therefore with the words of the Prodigal I cry unto Thee:/ I have sinned before Thee, compassionate Father.// Accept me in repentance and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

R. Ikos from the Triodion

Our Saviour teaches us every day with His own voice: let us therefore hearken to the Scriptures concerning the Prodigal who became wise once more, and with faith let us follow the good example of his repentance. With humbleness of heart let us cry out to Him Who knows all secrets: We have sinned against Thee, merciful Father, and are not worthy ever again to be called Thy children as before. But since Thou art by nature full of love for man, accept me and make me as one of Thy hired servants.

R. Reading from the Synaxarion and Prologue

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.

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!

Manifesting within thee beforehand the signs of the ineffable descent whereby He united Himself unto men of His own will, O pure one, the most divine and all-glorious God of our fathers wrestled with Jacob.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

I have bowed down miserably to the pleasures of the body and have become wholly enslaved to the demons that provoke the passions; and I have become a stranger to Thee Who lovest mankind. But now I cry with the voice of the Prodigal: I have sinned, O Christ, despise me not, for Thou alone art merciful.

I call out, 'I have sinned,' and I dare not look up at the height of heaven, O King of all; for in my foolishness I alone have angered Thee, rejecting Thy commandments. Therefore, since Thou alone art good, cast me not away from Thy presence.

At the prayers of the apostles, the prophets, the saints, the holy martyrs and the righteous, O Christ my Lord, forgive me all the offences which have provoked Thee to anger in Thy goodness, and I shall sing Thy praises for evermore.

Theotokion

O Theotokos, thou art more glorious than the cherubim and seraphim and all the heavenly hosts. With them, O Virgin undefiled, entreat Him Who took flesh from thee, God the Word from the Father without beginning, that we may all be counted worthy of eternal blessings.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

I go to announce the glad tidings unto Adam who dwelleth in hades and unto Eve, cried Symeon, joining chorus with the prophets, singing: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Glory... God Who doth deliver the mortal race shall go even unto hades; He shall grant remission to all, sight to the blind, and even the mute shall chant: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

Both... And Symeon foretold to the Virgin: A sword shall pierce thy heart, O incorrupt one, beholding thy Son upon the Cross, to Whom we cry out: Blessed is the God of our fathers!

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

We hymn Thee, God the Word/ Who bedewed the theologizing children in the fire/ and dwelt within the incorrupt Virgin,/ and piously we chant:// Blessed is the 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, cried 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.

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!

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

O Thou Who in great mercy hast come down upon earth to save the world through Thy voluntary poverty, in Thy compassion save me, for I am poor in all good works.

I have departed far from Thy commandments and in utter wretchedness I am enslaved to the deceiver. But now I turn back as the Prodigal of old: accept me as I fall before Thee, heavenly Father.

Ruled by corrupting thoughts, I am full of darkness and separated far from Thee, and I have lost all possession of myself, O merciful Lord. Therefore save me as I fall before Thee in repentance.

Theotokion

O pure Mother of God, the only restoration of the fallen, raise me up, for I am wholly crushed and humbled by every kind of sin.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

O people of Israel, beholding your glory, Emmanuel, the Babe born of the Virgin, now join ye chorus in the presence of the Ark of God, chanting: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages!

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

Behold, cried Symeon, this One Who is both God and Babe shall be a sign of contradiction. O ye faithful, let us cry out: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages.

Both... God the Word, being Life itself and having become a Babe, shall be the downfall of the disobedient, but the restoration of them that chant with faith: Bless the Lord, all ye works of the Lord, and exalt Him supremely for all ages.

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

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

Standing together in the unbearable fire/ yet not harmed by the flame,/ the Children, champions of godliness, sang a divine hymn:/ O all ye works of the Lord, bless ye the Lord// and exalt Him above all for ever.

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.

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.

Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me.

Behold, O Christ, the affliction of my heart; behold my turning back; behold my tears, O Saviour, and despise me not. But embrace me once again in Thy compassion and count me with the multitude of the saved, that with thanksgiving I may sing the praises of Thy mercy.

As the Thief I cry to Thee, 'Remember me.' As the Publican, with eyes cast down to earth, I beat my breast and say, 'Be merciful.' As the Prodigal deliver me from every evil, O King Who pities all, that I may sing the praises of Thy boundless compassion.

Groan now, my soul, all-wretched, and cry aloud to Christ: O Lord Who for my sake hast become poor of Thine own will, in my poverty I lack every good work: make me rich with the abundance of Thy blessings, for Thou alone art full of love and mercy.

O loving Lord, once Thou hast rejoiced at the voluntary return of the Prodigal: rejoice now because of me, wretched though I am: open Thy holy embrace to me, that saved I may sing the praises of Thy boundless compassion.

Glory to Thee Our God, glory to Thee.

The ancients were wont to offer a pair of newborn doves and two young birds, but the godly elder and the chaste prophetess Anna serve in their stead, magnifying the only-begotten Son of the Father, Who was born of the Virgin and is borne into the temple.

Glory... Thou hast imparted unto me the joy of Thy salvation, cried Symeon. Accept Thou Thy servant, for I am weary of the shadow, as a mystic and sacred preacher of the new grace, magnifying Thee in praise!

Both... The aged Anna, chaste and venerable, prophesying in sacred manner, openly confessed the Lord in the temple, and she magnified the Theotokos, proclaiming her to all present.

C. Katavasia (Tone 3)

In the shadow and letter of the Law,/ let us, the faithful, discern a figure:/ every male child that opens the womb shall be sanctified to God./ Therefore do we magnify the firstborn Word and Son of the Father without beginning,// the firstborn Child of a Mother who had not known man.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Two (Mark 16:1-8)

The women bearing myrrh rejoiced at beholding the stone rolled away, for they saw a young man seated upon the tomb and he said to them: 'Lo, tell the disciples with Peter that Christ has risen. Press forward into the mountain of Galilee; there He will appear to you as He said to His friends.'

Glory... Exapostilarion from the Triodion

The wealth of grace that Thou hast given me, in my wretchedness I have wasted sinfully; all to no purpose I have left my true home, and as the Prodigal I have scattered my riches deceitfully among the demons. But now on my return accept me as the Prodigal, merciful Father, and save me.

Both... Exapostilarion of the Feast

Set by the Spirit in the sanctuary, the elder doth take the Master of the law in his arms, crying out: "Now loose Thou the bonds of my flesh in peace, as Thou didst say; for with mine eyes have I beheld the revelation of the gentiles and the salvation of Israel!"

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 Feast (Tone 6)

5. Take up in thine arms the Creator of all, O **Symeon**!/ O elder, take up
Christ to Whom the Virgin Maiden gave birth **without** seed,// unto the
joy of our race!

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

6. O ye people, **assembling**,/ let us hymn the one Benefactor, the **Bestower**
of the law,/ the Creator and God **of** the law,/ before Whom the
multitudes of angels **tremble**,// unto the **salvation** of our souls.

V. Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master, according
to Thy word.

7. Now lettest Thou Thy servant **depart** in peace,/ O Master, as **Thou** didst say;/ for I have **beheld** Thee, O Christ,/ the pre-eternal Light of revelation for the Gentiles and **Israel**,// Who hast bound me in **fleshly** bonds.

V. A light to enlighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

(Tone 2)

8. The sacred Virgin brought the Sacred One to priest in the **temple**;/ and stretching forth his hands, Symeon received Him rejoicing, and **cried** out:/ Now lettest Thou Thy servant **depart** in peace,// O Lord and Master, according **to** Thy word.

Glory... From the Triodion (Tone 6)

O loving Father, I have departed **far** from Thee,/ but forsake me not, neither reject me from Thy **Kingdom**./ The evil enemy has stripped me and taken **all** my wealth;/ I have wasted like the Prodigal the grace **given** to my soul./ But now I have arisen and returned, and to Thee I **cry** aloud:/ Make me as one of Thy hired **servants**./ For my sake on the Cross Thou hast stretched out Thy **sinless** hands,/ to snatch me from the **evil** beast/ and to clothe me once again in my first **raiment**// for Thou alone art full of **mercy**.

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

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

The Great Doxology

Dismissal Tropar:

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

P. Litanies
Dismissal

C. G/B... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 2)

To the women with Mary who came carrying sweet **spices**/ and were at a loss how to **obtain** their desire,/ the **stone** appeared lifted and a divine young man calmed the tumult **of** their souls,/ for he said: 'The Lord Jesus is **risen**./ Therefore proclaim this to His heralds and disciples, for them to hasten to **Galilee**// and ye shall see Him risen from the dead as Giver of **life** and Lord.'

R. Hours:
Tropar: Resurrection & Feast
Kontak: Feast/Triodion alternating

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:

Tropar Sunday

Tropar Feast

Glory... Kontak Triodion

Both... Kontak Feast

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 Feast (Tone 3)

My soul doth magnify the Lord...

Epistle(s): I Cor 6:12-20

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 Feast (Tone 8)

Gospel(s): Luke 15:11-32

In place of "It is truly meet...", Ode 9 w/refrain

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & I will take the cup of salvation...