

TONE 2 - VESPER

## AT GREAT VESPER

ON SATURDAY AT GREAT VESPER, WE BEGIN THE EVENING SERVICE AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY.

AT LORD I HAVE CRIED, STICHERA OF THE RESURRECTION:  
TONE 2  
(We sing ten verses)

V. Bring my soul out of prison, **that I may confess Thy name.**

Come, let us worship God the Word, Who was begotten of the Father before the ages, and was incarnate of the Virgin Mary; for, having suffered crucifixion, He was also delivered over to burial, as He Himself willed; and having risen from the dead, He hath saved me, a man gone astray.

V. The righteous shall wait patiently for me, **until Thou shalt reward me.**

Christ our Saviour, having been nailed to the Cross, tore up the handwriting that was against us and did away with the dominion of death. We worship His arising on the third day.

V. Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; **O Lord, hear my voice.**

With the Archangels let us hymn the Resurrection of Christ; for He is the Deliverer and Saviour of our souls. In awesome glory and mighty power He shall come again to judge the world which He fashioned.

*Other stichera, composed by Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople:*

V. Let Thine ears, **be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

Thee Who wast crucified and buried did the angel proclaim as Master; and he said to the women, Come and behold where the Lord lay; for He is risen, as He said, as the Almighty. Therefore, we worship Thee, Who alone art immortal. O Christ, Giver of life, have mercy on us.

**TONE 2 - VESPER**

**V.** If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? **For with Thee there is forgiveness.**

**B**y Thy Cross Thou didst abolish the curse which came from the tree; by Thy burial Thou didst slay the might of death; and by Thine arising Thou didst enlighten the human race. Therefore, we cry out to Thee: O Benefactor, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

**V.** My soul hath waited patiently for Thy word; **my soul hath hoped in the Lord.**

The gates of death opened unto Thee in fear, O Lord; and on beholding Thee the gate-keepers of Hades were terrified; for Thou didst break the brazen gates and didst shatter the iron bars. Thou didst lead us out of darkness and the shadow of death, and didst break our bonds asunder.

**V.** From the morning watch until the night; **let Israel hope in the Lord.**

**A** hymn of salvation let us send up from our mouths, singing: Come, all of you, to the house of the Lord; and let us fall down and say: O Thou Who wast crucified on the Tree, and didst arise from the dead, and art in the bosom of the Father, cleanse us of our sins.

*Then: Stichera to the saint, from the Menaion; Glory: to the saint (if he has [a doxasticon, or slavnik]); Now: the Theotokion. If there is no [doxasticon, or slavnik]: Glory, Now: the Theotokion.*

*Other stichera, to the Mother of God, composed by Paul of Amorium. We sing these if there is no Menaion, in the Sixth tone, to the melody of: Desperate because of her way of life :*

**V.** And He shall redeem Israel, **out of all his iniquities.**

**O** thou who art the sure hope of the hopeless and salvation of the sinful, O Mary all-hymned, pure Mother of God: Accept this entreaty of mine, and by thy maternal prayers obtain for me pardon for all the sins which I have committed in this life; and save me from adversities and from the future judgement, O Lady, for the sake of thy great mercy.

**TONE 2 - VESPERS**

**V.** O praise the Lord, all ye nations; **praise Him, all ye peoples.**

**W**icked is the time of my life, wicked and full of every evil! When the evil Satan doth grievously trouble me, do thou, O Mother of God, deliver me from his insults; do thou pluck me from his maw, O all-holy one; for in thee have I placed all my hope. Save me by thy vigilant prayers.

**V.** For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, **and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.**

**H**ail, O advocate who cannot be put to shame. Hail, most kind Mother of God. Hail, mercy-seat of the world. Hail, joy of the sorrowful and haven of the storm-tossed. Hail, thou who helpest all in need. Do thou protect me also, O Virgin, and deliver me from all afflictions, O all-immaculate Lady.

**Glory, Now.** *Theotokion in the Second Tone:* The shadow of the Law is passed away with the coming of grace; for as the bush was not consumed though it blazed with fire, so also did the Virgin give birth and yet remain a virgin. In place of the pillar of fire, the Sun of righteousness hath shone forth; in place of Moses, Christ, for the salvation of our souls.

*Then: the exit with the censer. And: O gentle Light; the prokeimenon of the day; and the litanies. Then the Litia.\**

**AT THE APOSTICHA, STICHERA OF THE  
RESURRECTION: TONE 2**

**T**hy Resurrection, O Christ our Saviour, enlightened the whole world and called back Thy creation. O all-powerful Lord, glory to Thee.

**V.** The Lord is King, **He is clothed with majesty.**

**B**y the Tree, O Saviour, Thou didst abolish the curse which came from the tree; by Thy burial Thou didst put to death the power of death; and by Thine arising Thou didst enlighten our race. Therefore, we cry out to Thee: O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee.

**TONE 2 - VESPERS**

V. For He hath established the world, **which shall not be shaken.**

As One nailed to a Cross Thou didst appear, O Christ; Thou hast altered the beauty of created things. The soldiers, displaying their inhumanity, pierced Thy side with a lance; and the Jews, not recognising Thy power, asked that Thy tomb be sealed; but in Thine immeasurable loving-kindness Thou didst accept burial, and didst rise again on the third day. O Lord, glory to Thee.

V. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, **unto length of days.**

O Christ, Giver of life, Thou didst undertake [Thy] voluntary Passion for the sake of mortal men. Having descended into hell, as One powerful Thou didst snatch, as if from a mighty beast, those that awaited Thy coming there, and didst grant them paradise instead of Hades for a dwelling. Therefore, grant also unto us, who glorify Thine arising on the third day, purification from sins and great mercy.

Glory, Now. *Theotokion*: O new wonder, greater than all the wonders of the past! For who hath ever known a mother to give birth without a man and to carry in her arms Him that sustaineth all creation? It is the Word of God Who is born. O most pure one, who didst carry Him in thine arms as an Infant, and hast the boldness of a mother before Him: Cease not to entreat [Him] on behalf of those who honour thee, to have compassion on the world and to save our souls.

*Then*: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant: *The Trisagion*. After Our Father, *the troparion*: When Thou didst descend to death, O immortal Life: *as given at Sunday Matins*. Then the dismissal.

**\* NOTE RE: LITIA AT GREAT VESPERS:** According to the Church Typicon, in the Russian pre-Nikonian Rite, Litia is always served on Saturday Great Vespers - whether as part of a Vigil or served separately from Matins. At the Litia, the Stichera to be sung, after the Sticheron of the Temple, are those by Paul of Amorium - shown at Lord I have Cried, and those to the Theotokos from the Aposticha of Small Vespers. If there is a commemoration of a saint of Polyeleos rank (with a Magnification), the Stichera to be sung at Litia are those to that respective saint.