

TONE 4 – VESPERS

AT GREAT VESPERS

ON SATURDAY, WE BEGIN THE EVENING SERVICE AT GREAT VESPERS, AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY. AT LORD I HAVE CRIED, THE STICHERA OF THE RESURRECTION:

TONE 4

(We sing ten verses)

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

As we constantly worship Thy life-giving Cross, O Christ, we also glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day; for thereby Thou hast renewed the corrupted nature of man, O Almighty One, and Thou hast reopened for us the upward path to heaven, since Thou alone art good and lovest mankind.

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

Thou didst annul the sentence of the tree of disobedience, O Saviour, when Thou wast willingly nailed to the Tree of the Cross; and when Thou didst descend into hell, O Powerful One, as God Thou didst rend asunder the bonds of death; therefore, we worship Thy Resurrection from the dead, as we joyfully cry out: Almighty Lord, glory to Thee.

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

The gates of Hades didst Thou shatter, O Lord, and by Thy death didst Thou destroy the kingdom of death; and Thou didst free the human race from corruption, granting the world life and incorruption and great mercy.

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

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

Come, O ye people, let us hymn the Saviour's rising on the third day, whereby we were delivered from the unbreakable bonds of Hades, and we all received incorruption and life, while crying: Thou Who wast crucified and wast buried and didst arise, save us

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by Thy Resurrection, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

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

Angels and men hymn Thy rising on the third day, O Saviour, whereby the ends of the inhabited earth have been illumined, and we have all been delivered from enslavement to the enemy, as we cry aloud: O Creator of life, all-powerful Saviour, save us by Thy Resurrection, O Thou Who alone lovest mankind.

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

Thou didst break the gates of bronze and shatter the chains, O Christ God, and Thou didst raise up the fallen human race; therefore, we cry to Thee with one accord: O Lord Who art risen from the dead, glory to Thee.

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

O Lord, Thy begetting by the Father is outside of time and equally eternal; Thine Incarnation from the Virgin is ineffable and inexplicable for men; and Thy descent into hell is terrible for the devil and his angels; for, having trampled down death, Thou didst rise on the third day, granting men incorruption and great mercy.

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

*Other stichera, to the most holy Mother of God, composed by Paul of Amorium. We sing these if there is no Menaion, in the Eighth Tone, to the melody of: O most glorious wonder.*

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

He Who is God of all, Who took flesh of thy blood, O all-pure Mother of God, hath shown thee to be the protection of the faithful, the advocate and champion of those who are in need and in difficult circumstances, and a calm and safe haven amidst the storm. Do thou, therefore, save from all affliction and hardship all who have

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recourse to thy divine protection.

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

Let me glorify and venerate, let me honour and hymn, let me ever raise a song to thy divine name, O most blessed Lady. Do not abandon me, who flee to thy protection, lest I become a source of joy to the enemy, but with the pinions of thy precious prayers do thou ever keep me safe from all temptations.

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

Hail, most pure Mother of God. Hail, hope of the faithful. Hail, cleansing of the world. Hail, thou who dost deliver thy servants from every sort of sorrow, thou who art the destroyer of death. Hail, thou who art the bearer of life. Hail, O comforter. Hail, O advocate. Hail, O refuge.

Glory, **Now. *Theotokion, in the fourth tone:*** He that on thine account is [now] God's ancestor, the Prophet David, aforetime raised his voice in song about thee. He that hath done great things for thee set thee at His right hand as a queen; for thou wast shown to be the Mother and Mediatrix of Life by God, Who was pleased to become incarnate of thee without a father, that He might restore His image, corrupted by passions; and that, having found the stray sheep seized by the wolf, He might put it upon His shoulder, bring it to the Father, and by His own will unite it with the heavenly powers, and save the world, O Theotokos; for Christ hath great mercy.

***Then: the exit with the censer. O*** gentle Light. ***The prokeimenon:*** The Lord is King; ***and the litany. And: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening: Then, the Litia. (\* See Note on P. 134).***

**AT THE APOSTICHA, STICHERA OF THE RESURRECTION:  
TONE 4**

**O** Lord, when Thou didst ascend the Cross, Thou didst wipe out our ancestral curse; and when Thou didst descend into Hades, Thou didst set free those in fetters from ages past, granting incorruption to the human race. Therefore, with hymns we glorify

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Thy life-giving and saving Resurrection from the dead.

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

**S**uspended upon the Tree, O Thou Who alone art powerful, Thou didst shake all creation; and, laid in the grave, Thou didst raise up those who dwelt in the graves, granting incorruption and life to the human race. Therefore, with hymns we glorify Thine arising on the third day.

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

**P**eople most iniquitous handed Thee over to Pilate, O Christ, and condemned Thee to be crucified, showing themselves to be ungrateful for Thy benefactions; yet Thou didst willingly undergo burial and didst rise again on the third day by Thine own power, as God, granting us unending life and great mercy.

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

**A**rriving at the tomb with tears, the women looked for Thee; and when they found Thee not, they cried aloud, mourning, weeping and saying: Woe is us, O our Saviour, King of all! How is it that Thou hast been stolen? And what place can hold Thy life-bearing Body? But an angel answered them: Weep not, he said, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen, giving us joy, because He is uniquely merciful.

**Glory, Now.** *Theotokion:* Grant consolation to thy servants, O all-immaculate one, alleviating the grievous circumstances that beset us, and delivering us from every affliction; for we have thee alone as a firm and sure foundation, and we have obtained thee as an advocate. May we not be put to shame in calling upon thee, O Lady. Hasten to hear the entreaties of those who cry out to thee in faith: Hail, O Lady, helper of all, thou joy and protection of our souls.

*Then:* Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart: *The Trisagion. After Our Father, the troparion of the Resurrection, in the fourth tone:* When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel the joyous proclamation of the Resurrection: *as given at Sunday Matins. Then the dismissal.*