

TONE 8 – VESPERS

AT GREAT VESPERS

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

TONE 8

(We sing ten verses)

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

An evening hymn and rational adoration do we offer unto Thee, O Christ; for Thou wast well-pleased to have mercy on us through the Resurrection.

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

O Lord, Lord, cast us not away from Thy face; but be well-pleased to have mercy on us, through the Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Zion, thou mother of the churches and dwelling-place of God; for thou wast the first to receive remission of sins through the Resurrection.

Other Stichera, composed by Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople:

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

The Word of the Father, Who was begotten of God before the ages, and Who in these latter times was by His own will incarnate of her who knew not wedlock, endured death by crucifixion; and through His Resurrection He hath saved man who was slain of old.

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

We glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ, whereby Thou didst free the race of Adam from the tyranny of Hades; and, as God, Thou hast bestowed upon the world life everlasting and great mercy.

TONE 8 – VESPER

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

Glory to Thee, O Christ our Saviour, Only-begotten Son of God, Who wast nailed to the Cross and didst arise from the tomb on the third day.

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

We glorify Thee, O Lord, Who for our sakes didst willingly endure crucifixion; and we worship Thee, O all-powerful Saviour. Cast us not away from Thy face, but hearken unto us and save us by Thy Resurrection, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

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 Fourth Tone, to the melody of: As one valiant among the martyrs:

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

The ranks of the angels glorify thee, O most pure Mother of God; for thou gavest birth unto the God Who, together with the Father and the Spirit, is ever-existent, and Who by His will brought the angelic hosts from non-existence into being. Do thou entreat Him to save and enlighten the souls of those who in orthodoxy hymn thee as the Theotokos.

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

As thou art the fountain of sanctification and the ark all golden which is made radiant by the divine Spirit, I fall down and beseech thee: Enlighten my wretched soul, which is given over to passions, O Lady, delivering me from the cruel tyranny of the demons and granting me an unimpeded path to salvation.

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

TOPE 8 – VESPER8

When the thrones are set up, and the books unrolled, and deeds exposed, every man will stand there stripped naked and bowed under his burden, trembling at God's displeasure and His just verdict. Spare me in that day, O Lady, and snatch me from all condemnation, though I be deserving of every sort of torment.

Glory, Now. *Theotokion in the Eighth tone.*

The King of heaven, in His love for mankind, appeared on earth and dwelt among men; for He took flesh of the pure Virgin and came forth from her with that which He had assumed. The Son is one, twofold in nature but not in hypostasis; therefore, when we proclaim Him to be perfect God and perfect Man, in truth, we confess Christ our God. Do thou beseech Him, O Mother who knewest not wedlock, that our souls be granted mercy.

Then: the exit with the censer. O gentle Light: *The prokeimenon:* The Lord is King: *The litanies, and: Vouchsafe,* O Lord, to keep us this evening: *Then, the Litia **

AT THE APOSTICHA, STICHERA OF THE RESURRECTION: TOPE 8

Thou didst ascend the Cross, O Jesus, Who didst descend from heaven. Thou camest unto death, O immortal Life. Unto those in the darkness Thou wast the true Light, and Resurrection for all the fallen. Our illumination and salvation, glory to Thee.

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

Let us glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead; for, having taken upon Himself soul and body, He separated one from the other by His Passion. His most pure soul descended into hell and took it captive, while the most holy Body of the Deliverer of our souls knew no corruption in the grave.

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

With psalms and hymns we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, O Christ, whereby Thou hast freed us from the tyranny of Hades; and as God Thou hast granted us eternal life and great mercy.

TOPE 8 – VESPERS

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

O incomprehensible Master of all, Maker of heaven and earth, by Thy Passion and Cross Thou hast caused dispassion to flow for me; and by accepting burial and arising in glory, Thou didst also raise up Adam with Thine all-powerful hand. Glory to Thy rising on the third day, whereby Thou hast granted unto us eternal life and purification from our sins, since Thou alone art compassionate.

Glory, Now. *Theotokion*: O unwedded Virgin who without seed conceivedst God in the flesh, O Mother of God Most High, receive the supplications of thy servants, O all-immaculate one, granting unto all purification from our transgressions. Having accepted our entreaties now, pray thou that we all be saved.

Then: Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart: *The Trisagion*. After Our Father, *the troparion of the Resurrection in the eighth tone*: From on high didst Thou descend: *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 Sticherion 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.