

GREAT VESPERS

Resurrection Tone 7 • Veneration of the Cross

Lord, I Call

Tone 7

Lord I call upon Thee, hear me! Hear me, O Lord! Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me! Receive the voice of my prayer, when I call upon Thee, hear me O Lord! Let my prayer arise, in Thy sight as incense, and let the lifting up of my hands, be an evening sacrifice, hear me O Lord!

(10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord, who destroyed the dominion of death! Let us sing to Him with the bodiless hosts, for He enlightened the race of man! O our maker and Saviour glory to Thee!

(9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Thou didst endure the Cross and Burial for our sake! By Thy death Thou didst slay death as God! We fall down before Thy Resurrection on the Third Day, O Saviour, glory to Thee!

(8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

When the Apostles beheld the Resurrection of the Maker, they were amazed and sang the angelic praise! This is the glory of the Church! This is the richness of the Kingdom! O Lord, crucified for our sake, glory to Thee!

(7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Thou wast held by lawless men, O Christ but to me Thou art God and I am not ashamed! Thou wast smitten on the cheek but I do not deny Thee! Thou wast nailed to the Cross and I do not conceal it, for I glory in Thy Resurrection: Thy death is my life! O Almighty Lord and Lover of Man, glory to Thee!

(6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

(Tone 7) Fulfilling the prophecy of David, Christ manifested His greatness in Zion to the Disciples. He is praised and always glorified, together with the Father and the Holy Spirit. At first as the Word He was bodiless, but then He took flesh and was slain for our sake, He rose in power as the Lover of Man!

(5) For Thy name's sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Thou didst descend into Hell as Thou didst will, O Christ, overthrowing death as God and rising on the Third day as Master! With Thyself Thou didst raise Adam from the bonds of hell and from corruption! Glory to Thy Resurrection, O only Lover of Man.

(4) And in the 5th Tone: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Shine, cross of the Lord; / shine, with the light of thy grace, / upon the hearts of them that honour thee. / With love inspired by God, / we embrace thee, O desire of all the world. / Through thee, our tears of sorrow have been wiped away; / we have been delivered from the snares of death, / and have passed over to unending joy. / Show us the glory of thy beauty; / and grant, to us, thy servants, / the reward of our abstinence; / for we entreat, with faith, / thy rich protection, // and great mercy.

(3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Rejoice, life-giving cross, / the fair paradise of the Church, / tree of incorruption / that bringeth us the enjoyment of eternal glory: / through thee, the hosts of demons have been driven back; / and the hierarchies of angels / rejoice with one accord, / as the congregations of the faithful keep the feast. / Thou art an invincible weapon, / an unbroken stronghold; / thou art the victory of kings, / and the glory of priests. / Grant us, now, to draw near to the passion of Christ, // and to His resurrection.

(2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

Rejoice, life-giving cross, / unconquerable trophy of godliness, / door to paradise, / succour of the faithful, / rampart set about the Church. / Through thee, corruption is utterly destroyed; / the power of death is swallowed up; / and we are raised from earth to heaven: / invincible weapon, / adversary of devils, / glory of martyrs, / true ornament of saints, / haven of salvation, // bestowing, on the world, great mercy.

(1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Come, Adam and Eve, / our first father and mother, / who fell from the choir on high / through the envy of the murderer of man, / when, of old, with bitter pleasure, / ye tasted from the tree in paradise. / See, the tree of the cross, / revered by all, draweth near. / Run, with haste, and embrace it joyfully; / and cry, to it, with faith: / O precious cross, thou art our succour; / partaking of thy fruit, we have gained incorruption; / we are restored, once more, to Eden; // and we have received great mercy.

Glory in the Third Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

O Christ our God, of Thine own will, Thou hast accepted crucifixion, / that all mankind might be restored to life. / Taking the quill of the cross, / out of love for man, / in the red ink of royalty, / with bloody fingers, / Thou hast signed our absolution. / We are in danger, once again, of being parted from Thee; / O forsake us not! / Take pity on Thy people in distress; / for Thou, alone, art longsuffering. // Rise up; and fight against our enemies in Thine almighty power.

Now and ever in the Seventh Tone: Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

(Dogmatik Theotokion - Tone 7) No tongue can speak of thy wonderful childbearing, for the order of nature was over-ruled by God. Thou wast revealed to be a mother above nature, for thou didst remain a virgin beyond reason and understanding! Thy conception was most glorious, O Theotokos! The manner of thy giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin! Knowing thee to be the Mother of God, devoutly we pray to thee! Beseech Him to save our souls.

Evening Prokeimenon

Wisdom! Let us Attend! The Prokeimenon in the 6th tone: The Lord is King, He is robed in majesty!

Aposticha

(Tone 7) As the Saviour of the world Thou didst arise from the Tomb! As God Thou didst resurrect the race of men with Thy flesh! O Lord, glory to Thee!

The Lord is King /He is robed in majesty.

Come, let us worship the One who rose from the dead, and enlightened all creation! By His death He saved us from the torments of hell! By His Resurrection He has granted us eternal life and great mercy!

For He hath established the world / So that it shall never be moved.

Into hell didst Thou descend, capturing death, O Christ! In three days didst Thou arise again, resurrecting us who glorify Thy Resurrection! O Lord and Lover of Man!

Holiness befitteth Thine house / O Lord, forever.

When Thou wast placed in the Tomb as one asleep, the sight was great and awesome! But when Thou didst rise on the Third Day as Almighty God, Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself! Glory to Thy Resurrection O only Lover of Man.

Glory now and ever in the Fourth Tone: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Lord, Who hast helped gentle David in the combat, / and enabled him to overcome the philistine, / come to the aid of Thine Orthodox people; / and, by the weapon of the cross, / cast down our enemies. / In Thy compassion, shew us Thy mercy, as of old; / and make them know, in truth, that Thou art God, / and that we that put our trust in Thee shall conquer. / At the constant intercessions of Thy most pure Mother, // grant us Thy great mercy.

Cross Procession

Clergy: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us! (3)

Choir: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal have mercy on us! (3)

Priest: Wisdom! Let us attend!

Choir: O Lord, save Thy people; / and bless Thine inheritance. / Grant victories to the Orthodox Christians / over their adversaries; / and, by virtue of Thy Cross, // preserve Thy habitation. (3)

Then immediately...

Before Thy Cross, we bow down in worship O Master, and Thy holy resurrection, we glorify! (3)