

SUNDAY, JULY 18, 2021

TONE 3

4th Sunday after Pentecost / Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the First Six Ecumenical Councils

STICHERA

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

Tone 3

By Your Cross, O Christ our Savior,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.
The race of man, being saved by faith, //
always offers You a song.

V. (9) The righteous will surround me; for You will deal bountifully with me.

All has been enlightened by Your Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again.
All creation, praising You, //
always offers You a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:
the undivided, uncreated Godhead, //
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

V. (7) Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

We bow down in worship before Your precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Your Resurrection, //
for by Your wounds we have all been healed.

V. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You.

Tone 6 You were begotten from the Father before the Morning Star,
but Arius taught wrongfully that You were created:
in his ignorance he designated You as a creature,
yet the Fathers of the Council proclaimed You as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

V. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

You were begotten from the Father before the Morning Star,
but Arius taught wrongfully that You were created:
in his ignorance he designated You as a creature,
yet the Fathers of the Council proclaimed You as Son of God, //
co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

O honored Fathers,
you skillfully stitched together the garment of Christ,
which had been divided and torn apart by barking dogs.
You found it unbearable to see His nakedness,
as of old Shem and Japheth could not bear to see the nakedness of their father.
You put to shame the wretchedness of Arius and those who agreed with him, //
and who professed the madness that bears his name.

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

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you skillfully stitched together the garment of Christ,
which had been divided and torn apart by barking dogs.
You found it unbearable to see His nakedness,
as of old Shem and Japheth could not bear to see the nakedness of their father.
You put to shame the wretchedness of Arius and those who agreed with him, //
and who professed the madness that bears his name.

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

The Macedónians and Nestórians, the Eutýchians and Dióscorenes,
the Appolinárians, Sabéllians, and Séverans,
who were revealed as oppressive wolves in sheep's skins,
you, as true shepherds, drove far away from the Savior's flock,
having stripped the thrice-wretched ones of their sheep's skins. //
Therefore, we call you blessed, O holy Fathers.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

The Macedónians and Nestórians, the Eutýchians and Dióscorenes,
the Appolinárians, Sabéllians, and Séverans,
who were revealed as oppressive wolves in sheep's skins,
you, as true shepherds, drove far away from the Savior's flock,
having stripped the thrice-wretched ones of their sheep's skins. //
Therefore, we call you blessed, O holy Fathers.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 6 (for the Fathers)

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,
the God-bearing Fathers,
who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,
praising the changeless Trinity!
They laid low the errors of Arius
and upheld the Orthodox Faith. // They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 3 (Theotokion - Dogmatikon)

How can we not wonder
at your mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
For without receiving the touch of man,
you gave birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
The Son born of the Father before eternity
was born of you at the fullness of time, O honored Lady.
He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
but preserved the fullness of each nature.
Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin, and Mother,
to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess you //
to be the Theotokos.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Reading is from Genesis. [14,14-20]

Now when Abram heard that Lot his nephew had been taken captive, he numbered his own home-born servants three hundred and eighteen, and pursued the enemy as far as Dan. And he fell upon them by night, he and his servants, and smote them and pursued them as far as Chobal, which is on the left of Damascus. And he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and he brought back Lot his nephew and all his goods and the women and the people. And the king of Sodom came out to meet him, after his return from the slaughter of Chodologomor and the kings with him, to the valley of Sabi; this was the plain of Kings. And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought out bread and wine; he was Priest of the Most High. And he blessed Abram and said: Blessed is Abram by the most high God, who created the heaven and the earth. And blessed is the most high God, who has delivered your enemies into your hand.

The Reading is from Deuteronomy. [1,8-11 & 15-17^b]

Moses said to the sons of Israel: See, I have delivered the land before you; go in and inherit the land which I swore to your fathers, to Abraham and to Isaac and to Jacob, to give it to them and to their seed after them. And I spoke to you at that time saying: I alone shall not be able to bear you. The Lord your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are to-day as the stars of heaven in multitude. May the Lord the God of our fathers multiply you a thousand times more than you are, and bless you as he has spoken to you. And I took from you wise and understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you, captains of thousands and hundreds and fifties and tens and recorders for your judges. And I commanded your judges at that time, saying: Hear cases between your brethren, and judge rightly between a man and his brother and the stranger who is with him. You shall not have respect to persons in judging. You shall hear the small as well as the great. You shall not shrink before any man's person; for the judgement is God's.

The Reading is from Deuteronomy. [10,14-18 & 20-21]

Moses said to the sons of Israel: Behold the heaven and the highest heaven belong to the Lord your God, the earth and all that is in it. the Lord preferred your fathers, to love them: and he chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is at this day. So circumcise the hardness of your heart and stiffen your neck no longer. For the Lord your God is God of Gods and the Lord of Lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality, who takes no bribe. He executes judgement for the stranger, the orphan and the widow; and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. You shall fear the Lord your God and serve him, and to him you shall hold fast, and take oaths in his name. He is your boast, he your God, who has done for you the great and wonderful things which your eyes have seen.

APOSTICHA

Tone 3 The sun was darkened by Your Passion, O Christ,
but all creation was enlightened by the light of Your Resurrection.//
Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Your life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
enlightened the whole universe, recalling Your creation.
Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
O Almighty Lord, glory to You!

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

You are the changeless God,

Who, suffering in the flesh, were changed.
Creation could not endure seeing You on the Cross.
It was filled with fear while praising Your patience.
By descending to hell and rising on the third day, //
You have granted to the world life and great mercy.

V. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

You endured death, O Christ,
to deliver the race of men from death.
You rose from the dead on the third day,
raising with Yourself those who knew You as God //
and enlightening the world. Glory to You!

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 4** (for the Fathers)*

Today we, the Orthodox, celebrate the annual memory
of the God-bearing Fathers who assembled in Nicea.
They laid low the godless doctrines of Arius,
driving him from the unity of the Catholic Church,
and teaching us how to confess the consubstantial and co-eternal Son of God.
They expressed this clearly in the Symbol of Faith,
and we follow their divine doctrines,
believing in and serving the Son with the Father and the all-Holy Spirit, //
the consubstantial Trinity and one Divinity.

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 4** (Theotokion)*

Look on the entreaties of your servants, O Blameless One!
Stop all the terrible attacks against us,
freeing us from every affliction,
for we have only you as our sure and firm anchor!
Do not let us be put to shame, O Lady,
for we call on you for our intercession!
Hasten to pray for those who call in faith:
"Rejoice, O Lady, Help of all: //
the Joy and Shelter and Salvation of our souls!"

TROPARIA **Tone 3** Let the heavens rejoice! / Let the earth be glad! / For the Lord has shown strength with His arm. / He has trampled down death by death. / He has become the first born of the dead. / He has delivered us from the depths of hell, / and has granted to the world // great mercy.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, **Tone 8*** You are most glorious, O Christ our God! / You have established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth. / Through them You have guided us to the true Faith. // O greatly compassionate One, glory to You!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 8*** For our sake You were born of the Virgin/ and endured crucifixion, O Good One, destroying death by death. / Revealing the Resurrection as God, do not despise the work of Your hand! / Reveal Your love for man, O Merciful One, and accept the Theotokos praying for us, // and save the despairing people, O our Savior!