

6<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost/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 5*

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,

You have put the devil to shame.

By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin

and saved us from the gates of death.//

We glorify You, the only begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter

in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.

The princes of Hades were frightened by this,

for the gates of sorrow were lifted.

Christ the King of glory had entered,

saying to those in chains: "Go forth!"//

And to those in darkness: "Come to the light!"

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

Oh, great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for mankind

and rose again immortal.

Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

for delivered from error by His compassion,//

we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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

We offer You our evening worship,

O never setting Light,

Who came in these last days to the world in the flesh;

Who even descended to Hades to dispel its darkness.

You have revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//

Glory to You, O Lord and Giver of light!

*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 wrongly that You were created.

In his ignorance he designated You as a creature,

yet the Fathers of the Council in Nicea, O Lord,

proclaimed that You are the Son of God,//

co-enthroned with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

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

**Tone 6** You were begotten from the Father before the Morning Star, but Arius taught wrongly that You were created. In his ignorance he designated You as a creature, yet the Fathers of the Council in Nicea, O Lord, proclaimed that You are the 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.*

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. (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 abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures for ever.*

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 5 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

In the Red Sea of old,  
a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.  
There Moses divided the waters;  
here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.  
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,  
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.  
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;  
after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.  
O ever-existing God, Who appeared as Man,//  
O Lord, have mercy on us!

## OLD TESTAMENT 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<sup>b</sup>]

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 5** We magnify You in songs of praise,  
O incarnate Christ and Savior.  
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,  
as the Lord and Lover of mankind,  
You overthrew the gates of Hades,//  
and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

*v. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!*

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of mankind,  
You have poured out drops of life and salvation for all.  
By accepting death in the flesh, You have granted us immortality.  
You have freed us by being placed in the tomb,  
and have resurrected us with Yourself in glory, as God.//  
Glory to You, O Lord and Lover of mankind!

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

Your crucifixion and descent into Hades are awesome, O Lover of mankind.  
You have captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.  
You have opened Paradise and given it to us.  
Grant us purification of sins,  
who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day!  
Make us worthy of Paradise//  
and save us, O Lover of mankind!

*v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!*

For our sake, You accepted death in the flesh,  
to rise from the dead on the third day.  
Heal us from our earthly passions,  
and restore us from our evil transgressions;//  
and save us, O Lover of mankind!

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

Today we celebrate the annual memorial  
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!  
Lady, do not let us be put to shame,  
for we call on you for our intercession!  
Hasten to pray for those who call in faith:  
"Rejoice, Lady, Help of all://  
the Joy and Shelter and Salvation of our souls!"

#### TROPARIA

**Tone 5** Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead//  
by His glorious Resurrection.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Tone 8 Troparion (Holy Fathers)*

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 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion*

For our sake You were born of the Virgin and endured crucifixion, O Good One,  
destroying death by death and revealing the Resurrection as God.  
Do not despise the work of Your hand!  
Reveal Your love for mankind, O Merciful One!//  
Accept the Theotokos who is praying for us, and save the despairing people, O our Savior!