

**THE FIRST ANTIPHON**

The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. (Ps. 18:1)  
**Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!**

Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. (Ps 18:2)  
**Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!**

Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe. (Ps 18:4) **Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Through the prayers of the Mother of God, O Savior, save us!**

**THE SECOND ANTIPHON**

The Lord answer you in the day of trouble; the name of the God of Jacob protect you! (Ps.19:1)  
**O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"**

May He send you help from the sanctuary and give you support from Zion! (Ps 19:2)  
**O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"**

May He remember all your offerings, and fulfill all your plans! (Ps 19/20:3)  
**O Good Comforter, save us who sing to You: "Alleluia!"**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Only-begotten Son and immortal Word of God, Who for our salvation didst will to be incarnate of the holy Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, Who without change became man and wast crucified, O Christ our God, trampling down death by death, Who art one of the Holy Trinity, glorified with the Father and the Holy Spirit: save us!

**THE THIRD ANTIPHON**

*In Your strength the king rejoices, O Lord, and exults greatly in Your salvation. (Ps. 20:1)*

**Tone 8** Blessed are You, O Christ our God; / for You have shown the fishermen to be most wise / by sending down on them the Holy Spirit / and through them catching all the world in Your net.//  
Glory to You, O good God Who love mankind!

*You have given him his heart's desire, and have not withheld the request of his lips. (Ps 20:2)*

**Tone 8** Blessed are You, O Christ our God;...

*For You meet him with goodly blessings; You set a crown of fine gold upon his head. (Ps 20:3)*

**Tone 8** Blessed are You, O Christ our God;...

**TROPARIA**

**Tone 8** Blessed are You, O Christ our God; / for You have shown the fishermen to be most wise / by sending down on them the Holy Spirit / and through them catching all the world in Your net.//  
Glory to You, O good God Who love mankind!

**Tone 4** In truth you were revealed to your flock as a rule of faith,  
a model of meekness, and teacher of abstinence,  
so you won the heights by humility, and riches by poverty,  
O Holy Father Nicholas,  
intercede with Christ God to save our souls.

**Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.**

**Amen. (Kontakion) Tone 8** When He came down and confused the tongues, the Most High divided the nations; but when He distributed the tongues of fire, He called all people to unity.//  
Therefore, with one voice we glorify the most-Holy Spirit.

*The Prokeimenon in the Third Tone: My soul magnifies the Lord / and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

*v: For He has regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed.*

## **EPISTLE**

**The reading is from the epistle of the apostle Paul to the Romans (1-10)**

Brethren, the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man - and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen. For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

*Alleluia, Tone 8*

**v. Hear, O daughter, and see, and incline your ear.**

**v. Before your face the richest of people will pray.**

**GOSPEL** Matthew 5:20-26

*(Instead of "It is truly meet ...," we sing:)*

Rejoice, O Queen, glory of mothers and virgins! / No tongue, however sweet or fluent, is eloquent enough to praise you worthily. / Every mind is overawed by your childbearing. / Therefore, with one voice, we glorify you.

**Communion Hymn** Let Your good Spirit lead me into the land of righteousness! (Ps 142:10)

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!