

STICHERA

v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your name! Tone 8

We offer to You, O Christ,
our evening song and reasonable service,
for You willed to have mercy on us//
by Your Resurrection.

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

Lord, Lord, do not cast us away from Your face!
For You willed to have mercy on us//
by Your Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Sion!
Mother of the churches, the abode of God!
For you were the first to receive remission of sins//
by the Resurrection.

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

The Word of God the Father,
begotten before the ages,
in the latter times willed to be incarnate of the Virgin
and endured crucifixion unto death.
He has saved mortal man//
by His Resurrection.

v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. Tone 6 (for the Fathers) (Despairing for her life)

The seven honorable councils of the Fathers, held at various times,
were brought together under one canon in good order
by Patriarch Germanus the New.
He established and recorded their teachings;
he also presented these Fathers to the Lord
as watchful intercessors for our salvation//
and as fellow-shepherds of the fold.

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.

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

The book of the Law instructed the sons of Israel
that the seventh day was to be honored,
and they devoted themselves to a shadow and reverenced it.
But, O Fathers, who came together in the Seventh Council,
at the behest of God,
Who fashioned the universe in six days and blessed the seventh day, //
you have made the seventh more honorable by laying down a definition of the Faith.

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

You have enabled all men, O thrice-blessed Fathers,
to come to the knowledge of the Trinity
as the Cause of the world's generation;
for by your mystical reasoning
you established three and four Councils,
and you appeared as champions of Orthodoxy,
for you showed that, while there are four elements, //
it is the Trinity Who created them and made the world.

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

It would have been enough for Elisha the Prophet
to have bent down only once to give life to the dead son of the woman;
but he knelt and bent seven times.
And in his foresight he prophesied your gathering,
by which you breathed life into the slaying of God the Word, //
by putting to death Arius and his profane companions.

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

In your wisdom, O venerable Fathers,
you mended the garment of Christ, rent by howling dogs;
for you could not bear looking upon the nakedness of His Body,
but as Shem and Japheth of old who hid their father's nakedness,
you put to shame that slayer of his father, the wretched Arius, //
and those who foolishly follow his teachings.

*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 1 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!

The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!

The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful!

She was born of man, yet gave birth to God!

She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead!

She destroyed the wall of enmity!

She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom!

Since she is our foundation of faith,

our defender is the Lord Whom she bore!

Courage! Courage! O People of God!

For Christ will destroy our enemies //

since He is all powerful.

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 8 Descending from heaven to ascend the Cross,
the Eternal Life has come for death
to raise those who are fallen;
to enlighten those in darkness./.
O Jesus, our Savior and illuminator, glory to You!

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

We glorify Christ, who rose from the dead.
He accepted the human body and soul,
and freed both from suffering.
His most pure soul descended to hell, which He spoiled.
His holy body did not see corruption in the tomb./.
He is the Redeemer of our souls.

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

In psalms and songs we glorify Your Resurrection from the dead, O Christ.
By it, You have freed us from the tortures of hell/.
and as God have granted eternal life and great mercy.

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

O Master of all, incomprehensible Creator of heaven and earth,
by Your suffering on the Cross You have gained passionlessness for me.
Accepting burial and arising in glory,
You resurrected Adam with Yourself by Your almighty hand.
Glory to Your rising on the third day!
By it You have granted us eternal life and cleansing of sins/.
as the only compassionate One.

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 8 You descended from on high, O Merciful One! You accepted the three day burial to free us from our sufferings!// O Lord, our Life and Resurrection, glory to You!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, Tone 8 Troparion (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. 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!