

**Sunday Vespers as a Reader Service**  
**Plagal of the Fourth Tone**

**Maui Orthodox Christian Mission**

*Metropolis of San Francisco*

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

*Service held at Saint Theresa Church*

*Kihei, Maui, Hawaii*

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## The Service Of The Sunday Vespers

Senior Reader: Through the prayers of our holy fathers, O Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us.

Reader: Amen.

Reader: Come, let us worship and bow down before our King and God.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ our King and God.

Come, let us worship and bow down before Christ himself, our King and God.

### PROEMIAL PSALM: PSALM 103 (104)

Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord, my God, you are very great. You are clothed in praise and honor; who covers yourself with light as with a garment, spreading out the heavens as a curtain. You cover your chambers with the waters; you make the clouds your chariot; you walk on the wings of the wind, you make the angels spirits, and your ministers a flaming fire. You established the earth on its sure foundation; it shall never be moved. You covered it with the deep as with a garment; the waters shall stand on the hills. At your rebuke they shall flee; at the voice of your thunder they shall be alarmed. They go up to the mountains and down to the plains, to the place which you founded for them. You have set a boundary which they shall not pass, neither shall they turn again to cover the earth. You send forth fountains among the valleys; the waters shall run between the mountains. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys shall quench their thirst. By them the birds of the heavens shall have their habitation; they shall sing among the rocks.

You water the mountains from your chambers; the earth is satisfied with the fruit of your miracles. You make grass grow for the cattle, and vegetation for the service of man that you may bring bread out of the earth, and wine that gladdens the heart of man, oil to make his face cheerful, and bread which strengthens man's heart. The trees of the plain shall be full of sap, even the cedars of Lebanon which you have planted. There birds will build their nests; the stork has her home in the fir trees. The high mountains are a refuge for stags, and the rock for the rabbits. You appointed the moon for seasons; the sun knows his going

down. You make darkness and it is night; in it all the wild beasts of the forest will creep about. Young lions roar for prey, and seek their food from God. The sun rises, and they gather together, and lie down in their dens. Man goes forth to his work, and to his labor until the evening.

O Lord, how great are your works. In wisdom you have made them all. The earth is filled with your creation. This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable living things both small and great. There sail the ships, and there is Leviathan which you have made to play there. All wait for you, to give them their food in due season. When you give it to them, they will gather it up; when you open your hand, they shall be filled with goodness. But when you have turned away your face, they shall be troubled. When you take away their breath, they fail, and return to their dust. You sent forth your Spirit, and they are created; and you renew the face of the earth. May the glory of the Lord endure forever; may the Lord rejoice in his works; who looks upon the earth and makes it tremble; who touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing praises to the Lord all my life; I will sing praises to my God as long as I live. May my meditation be sweet to him; I will rejoice in the Lord. May sinners and wicked men disappear from the earth and may they be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

*(Again)*

The sun knows its going down. You make darkness, and it is night. O Lord, how great are your works. In wisdom you have made them all.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to you, O God (3). Lord, you are our hope, glory to you.

### INSTEAD OF THE GREAT LITANY

People: Lord, have mercy. *(Twelve times)*

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

*(Then the people begin singing: Lord, I have cried out to you in the designated tone:)*

**PSALM 140 (141)***Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

People: Lord, I have cried out to you, hear me. Hear me, O Lord. Lord, I have cried out to you, hear me. Receive the voice of my prayer when I cry out to you. Hear me, O Lord.

Let my prayer be set forth as incense before you, the lifting up of my hands as an evening sacrifice. Hear me, O Lord.

*(If the commemorated saint has a doxastikon, we sing six resurrection stichera from the Octoechos and four of the saint; “Glory” of the saint, and “Now and always” and the Theotokion of the Octoechos. If the saint has no doxastikon, we sing seven resurrection stichera and three from the saint, “Glory Now and always” and the Theotokion of the tone.)*

**AT THE KYRIE EKEKRAKSA****Resurrection Stichera***Plagal of the Fourth Tone***Stichos 1**

*Verse 1. Bring my soul out of prison that I may give thanks to your name.*

We offer up to you, O Christ, our evening hymn and spiritual worship, for it has pleased you to have mercy on us by your resurrection.

**Stichos 2**

*Verse 2. The righteous will surround me; for you will deal bountifully with me.*

Lord, Lord, cast us not away from your presence, but be pleased to have mercy on us by the resurrection.

**Stichos 3**

*Verse 3. Out of the depths I cry to you O Lord. Lord, hear my voice.*

Rejoice, O holy Zion, mother of churches and dwelling place of God, for you were the first to receive remission of sins by the resurrection.

**Anatolian Stichera****Stichos 4**

*Verse 4. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

Begotten before all ages of God the Father, the Word, who in latter times took flesh of a virgin, willingly endured death by the cross and by his resurrection saved us who had been subject to death.

**Stichos 5**

*Verse 5. If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you.*

We glorify your resurrection from the dead, O Christ, by which you have set free the race of Adam from the torment of Hades and, as God, have granted to the world eternal life and your great mercy.

**Stichos 6**

*Verse 6. For your name's sake I have waited for you, O Lord; my soul waits for your word. My soul has trusted in the Lord.*

Glory to you, O Christ, Savior, only begotten Son of God who were nailed to the cross and on the third day rose from the tomb.

**Prosomoia Stichera of the Venerable Mary**

*Plagal of the Second Tone. Having laid up all their hope. (When the saints deposited).*

**Stichos 7**

*Verse 7: From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel hope in the Lord.*

The pollution of past sins prevented you from entering the church to see the elevation of the Holy Cross; but then your conscience and the awareness of your actions turned you, O wise in God, to a better way of life. And, having looked upon the Icon of the blessed Maid of God, you have condemned all your previous transgressions, O mother worthy of all praise, and so have gone with boldness to venerate the precious Cross.

**Stichos 8**

*Verse 8: For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall redeem Israel out of all his iniquities.*

*(Repeat)* The pollution of past sins prevented you from entering the church to see the elevation of the Holy Cross; but then your conscience and the awareness of your actions turned you, O wise in God, to a better way of life. And, having looked upon the Icon of the blessed Maid of God, you have condemned all your previous transgressions, O mother worthy of all praise, and so have gone with boldness to venerate the precious Cross.

**Stichos 9**

*Verse 9: Praise the Lord, all you nations; praise Him, all you peoples.*

Having worshipped at the holy places with great joy, you have received saving grace for the journey of virtue, and with all haste you have set out upon the good path you have chosen. Crossing the stream of Jordan, with eagerness you have gone to live in the dwelling-place of the Baptist. You have tamed the savagery of the passions through your ascetic way of life, and you have boldly broken the rebelliousness of the flesh, O mother ever-glorious.

**Stichos 10**

*Verse 10: For his mercy has been abundant toward us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Having gone to dwell in the wilderness, you have blotted out from your soul the images of your sensual passions, and have marked upon it the God-given imprint of holiness. You have attained such glory, blessed mother, as to walk upon the surface of the waters, and in your prayers to God you were raised up from the earth. And now, all-glorious Mary, standing before Christ with boldness, entreat Him for our souls.

**Idiomelon of the Venerable Mary**

*Fourth Tone*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

The power of Your Cross, O Christ, has worked wonders, for even the woman who was once a harlot chose to follow the ascetic way. Casting aside her weakness, she bravely opposed the devil; and having gained the prize of victory, she intercedes for our souls.

**The First Theotokion of the Tone**

*Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

In his love for mankind, the King of heaven appeared upon earth and dwelled among us. For he took flesh from the pure Virgin, and thus incarnate he came forth from her. The only Son is he: two-fold in nature, but not in person. For this reason proclaiming him to be truly perfect man and perfect God, we confess Christ to be our God. Therefore, beseech him, O virgin Mother, to have mercy on our souls.

### O JOYFUL LIGHT

Senior Reader: O Joyful Light.

People: O joyful light of the holy glory of the immortal Father, the heavenly, holy, blessed Jesus Christ. Now that we have reached the setting of the sun and behold the evening light, we sing to God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. It is fitting at all times to praise you with cheerful voices, O Son of God, the Giver of life. Behold, the world sings your glory.

### PROKEIMENA

Reader: The Prokimenon in Plagal of the Second Tone.

People: The Lord reigns; he has clothed himself with honor (3).

*(The following are the Prokeimena of the rest of the days of the week:)*

On Sunday Evening: Behold now, bless the Lord all you servants of the Lord.

On Monday: The Lord will hear me when I cry out to him.

On Tuesday: Your mercy, O Lord, shall follow me all the days of my life.

On Wednesday: O God, by your name save me, and judge me by your might.

On Thursday: My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

On Friday: O God, you are my helper, and your mercy shall go before me.

*(On major feast days there are also readings.)*

### INSTEAD OF THE AUGMENTED LITANY

Reader: Vouchsafe, O Lord, to keep us this evening without sin. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. Amen.

Let Thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we have hoped in Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord, teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master, give me understanding of Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One, enlighten me by Thy statutes.

O Lord, Thy mercy endureth forever; disdain not the work of Thy hands. To Thee is due praise, to Thee is due a song, to Thee glory is due, to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto the ages of ages. Amen.

People: Lord, have mercy. (*Twelve times*)

Senior Reader: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and ever, and unto the ages of ages.

People: Amen.

*(The people then sing the resurrection aposticha of the Octoechos. "Glory" of the Saint (if celebrated), then the "Now and forever" and the Theotokion of the tone; otherwise "Glory Now and forever" with the Theotokion of the tone.)*

## RESURRECTION APOSTICHA

### Resurrection Stichera

#### *Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

You ascended the cross, Jesus, and came down from heaven and went to your death, O life eternal. You are the true light to those in darkness and the resurrection of all those who have fallen. Our enlightener and Savior, glory to you.

*The Lord reigns; he has clothed himself with honor; the Lord has clothed and girded himself with strength.*

Let us praise Christ who has risen from the dead. For he took upon himself soul and body, and by his passion separated them one from the other. He despoiled Hades when his pure soul descended there. But the holy body of our Redeemer lay uncorrupted.

*For he has established the world, and it shall not be moved.*

We glorify your resurrection from the dead, O Christ, in psalms and hymns, for by it you have freed us from the torments of Hades, and have, since you are God, granted us eternal life and great mercy.

*Holiness becomes your house, O Lord, for length of days.*

O Lord of all, incomprehensible creator of heaven and earth, through your passion on the cross you have freed me from passion. After enduring burial, you rose in glory, raising up Adam with your almighty arm. Glory to your resurrection on the third day, by which you have endowed us with eternal life and granted us pardon of our sins, for you alone are compassionate.

### **Another Idiomelon of the Saint**

#### *Second Mode*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

You have cut down with the sword of abstinence the desires of your soul and the passions of your flesh; you have choked your sinful thought with the ascetic life. With the streams of your tears you have watered all the wilderness, and caused the fruits of repentance to spring up for us; therefore, O venerable one, we celebrate your memory.

### **Theotokion of the Same Tone**

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

O wonder that transcends all the miracles of old! Who ever heard of a mother giving birth without a man, and carrying in her arms Him Who holds all of creation? This is the will of God Whom you bore; ceaselessly pray to Him Whom you carried in your arms as a baby, O pure one, and with Whom you have a mother's privilege that He may have mercy and save the souls of us who honor you.

### **ODE OF SYMEON**

*(After the completion of the aposticha, the reader intones the Ode of Symeon, Luke 2:29-32.)*

Reader or People: Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel.

People: Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us (3).

Glory to Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, forgive our sins. Master, pardon our transgressions. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for your name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

People: Our Father, who are in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Senior Reader: O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

People: Amen.

*(Immediately the people sing the resurrection apolytikion of the tone, “Glory” the troparion of the saint; “Now and always” the Theotokion of the tone or otherwise “Glory Now and always” the Theotokion.)*

## **RESURRECTION APOLYTIKIA AND THEOTOKIA**

### **Resurrection Apolitikion**

*Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

From on high did You descend, \* O merciful Lord, \* for us did You endure \* three days in the tomb \* that we may be released from passions in this world. \* You Who are our Resurrection and our Life \* glory to You, O Lord.

### **Apolitikion of the Venerable Mary**

*Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.*

In you, mother, \* the divine likeness was exactly preserved; \* for by taking on the cross \* you followed Christ, \* and through your deeds, you taught us \* on one hand to look down upon the flesh \* because it passes away; on the other hand, to diligently take care of the soul, \* which is immortal; \* wherefore, your spirit, Maria, \* rejoices with the angels.

### **Theotokion of the Same Tone**

*Now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.*

O good Lord, for our sake, you were born of a virgin and endured crucifixion, despoiling death by death, and, as God, you have shown forth the resurrection. Do not despise the work of your hands. Show your love for all, O merciful Lord. Accept the intercession made on our behalf by the Theotokos who gave birth to you, and, our Savior, save your despairing people.

**DISMISSAL**

People: Establish, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith of Orthodox Christians unto the ages of ages.

More honorable than the Cherubim, and beyond compare more glorious than the Seraphim; who without corruption gave birth to God the Word, the very Theotokos, thee do we magnify.

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

Lord have mercy. (*Three times*)

O Lord, Bless.

Senior Reader (Facing the East, rather than facing the people):

If it be Sunday: Thou that didst rise from the dead, O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, for the sake of the prayers of Thy most pure Mother, of our holy and God-bearing fathers, of (The Patron of the Temple ), of our devout Mother Mary of Egypt, and all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

People: Amen.