

# **Sunday Vespers as a Reader Service**

## **Grave Tone**

### **Maui Orthodox Christian Mission**

*Metropolis of San Francisco*

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

*Service held at Saint Theresa Church*

*Kihei, Maui, Hawaii*

(Dated: November 23, 2014)

### **Maui Orthodox Christian Mission Project for a Daily Sequential Hymnal in English**

*Liturgical Texts courtesy of*

*Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America*

*8 East 79th Street, New York, NY 10075*

*and*

*The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver*

*4550 East Alameda Avenue, Denver, Colorado*

*and*

*Saint Jonah Orthodox Church*

*2910 Spring Cypress Road, Spring, Texas 77383*

---

## Contents

### The Service Of The Sunday Vespers

<b>Proemial Psalm: Psalm 103 (104)</b>	2
<b>Instead of the Great Litany</b>	3
<b>Psalm 140 (141)</b>	4
Plagal of the Fourth Tone	4
<b>At the Kyrie Ekekraksa</b>	4
Resurrection Stichera	4
Grave Tone	4
Stichos 1	4
Stichos 2	4
Stichos 3	4
Anatolian Stichera	4
Stichos 4	4
Stichos 5	5
Stichos 6	5
Prosomoia Stichera of the Feast	5
Plagal of the Fourth Tone. O paradoxical wonder.	5
Stichos 7	5
Stichos 8	5
Stichos 9	6
Stichos 10	6
Idiomelon of the Feast	6
Plagal of the Fourth Tone	6
The First Theotokion of the Tone	6
Grave Tone	6
<b>O Joyful Light</b>	7
<b>Prokeimena</b>	7
<b>Instead of the Augmented Litany</b>	7
<b>Resurrection Aposticha</b>	8
Resurrection Stichera	8
Grave Tone	8
Another Idiomelon of the Feast	8
Plagal of the Second Tone	8
Theotokion	9
Grave Tone	9
<b>Ode of Symeon</b>	9

<b>Resurrection Apolytikia and Theotokia</b>	10
Resurrection Apolitikion	10
Grave Tone	10
Apolitikion of the Feast	10
Fourth Tone	10
Theotokion	10
Grave Tone	10
<b>Dismissal</b>	10

## 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.

**AT THE KYRIE EKEKRAKSA****Resurrection Stichera***Grave Tone***Stichos 1**

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

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord who destroyed the power of death and enlightened mankind; and let us cry along with the angels: Glory to you, our Creator and our Savior.

**Stichos 2**

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

On our account, O Savior, you endured the cross and the tomb. As God you put death to death by death. Therefore, we worship your resurrection on the third day. Glory to you, O Lord.

**Stichos 3**

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

On beholding the resurrection of the Creator, the apostles, marveling, sang an angelic song of praise: This is the glory of the Church. These are the riches of the kingdom. Glory be to you, O Lord, who suffered death for us.

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

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

Though you, O Christ, have been taken captive by evil men, you are my God and I am not ashamed. I do not deny that your back was scourged, nor will I hide that you were nailed to the cross. I boast of your resurrection, for your death is my life. Almighty and loving God, glory to you.

### Stichos 5

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

Fulfilling the prophecy of David, Christ revealed to his disciples the majesty of his habitation in Zion. He showed himself praised and glorified forever with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Formerly, as the Word without flesh, and then incarnate for our sake and slain as man he rose in power as a loving God.

### 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.*

As God and Master, O Christ, by your will you descended into Hades despoiling death; and on the third day you rose, raising with you Adam, held captive by the chains of hell and of corruption, who cried and said: Glory be to your resurrection, O only loving God.

### Prosomoia Stichera of the Feast

*Plagal of the Fourth Tone. O paradoxical wonder.*

### Stichos 7

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

Today, O faithful, let us exchange glad tidings, singing psalms to the Lord and hymns of praise in honor of His Mother, the holy Tabernacle, the Ark that contained the Word Whom nothing can contain. She is offered to God as a child in a marvelous way, and Zachariah, the high priest, receives her with great joy, for she is the dwelling-place of God.

### 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)* Today, O faithful, let us exchange glad tidings, singing psalms to the Lord and hymns of praise in honor of His Mother, the holy Tabernacle, the Ark that contained the

Word Whom nothing can contain. She is offered to God as a child in a marvelous way, and Zachariah, the high priest, receives her with great joy, for she is the dwelling-place of God.

**Stichos 9**

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

Today the living Temple of the holy glory of Christ our God, Mary, the pure and blessed one, is presented to the Temple of Moses to live within its holy precincts. Joachim and Anna rejoice with her in the Spirit, and all the virgins sing hymns of praise to the Lord in honor of His Mother.

**Stichos 10**

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

You are the subject of the preaching of the prophets, O Virgin Mother of God, and the glory of the Apostles. You are the pride of the martyrs and the cause of renewal for the whole human race; for through you, we have been reconciled to God. Wherefore, we honor your entrance into the Temple of the Lord, repeating to you the salutation of the angel, for we are saved through your intercession, O most-honorable one!

**Idiomelon of the Feast**

*Plagal of the Fourth Tone*

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

In your infancy, O Lady, Bride of God, you entered the temple of God to be brought up in the Holy of Holies, for you are holy. There the Archangel Gabriel was sent to serve you and to bring you food. All the heavenly powers were amazed at the sight of the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. Wherefore, O pure Mother of God, all blameless, glorified in heaven and on earth, save our race!

**The First Theotokion of the Tone**

*Grave Tone*

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

You, O Theotokos, have been acknowledged as a mother above and beyond nature, and you remain a virgin beyond words and understanding. No tongue can explain the miracle of your giving birth. For your conceiving was wondrous, pure One, and the manner of your child-bearing impossible of understanding. For when God so wills, the order of nature is

overthrown. Therefore, we all acknowledge you as the mother of God, and fervently beseech you: make supplication that our souls may be saved.

### O JOYFUL LIGHT

Senior Reader: O Gentle Light.

People: O gentle light of the holy glory of the immortal Father in heaven,  
Holy, blessed Iēsoû Christé.  
As the sun sets upon the western horizon,  
Beholding the bending light,  
We praise Father, Son, and Holy Spirit: transcendent.  
At every moment, in venerable voices, it's worthy to praise You,  
Son divine, the fountain of life, wherefore the world glorifies You.

### PROKEIMENA

Reader: The Prokimenon in Plagal of the Second Tone.

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

*(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

#### *Grave Tone*

Rising from the tomb, Savior of the world, you have, together with your flesh, raised up mankind. Glory to you, O Lord.

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

Come, let us worship him, who rose from the dead and enlightened all. For by his resurrection on the third day he set us free from the tyranny of Hades, granting us life and great mercy.

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

You have descended into Hades, O Christ, despoiling death. Rising on the third day, you have also raised us up, and we glorify your almighty resurrection, O Lord and loving God.

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

O Lord, what an awful sight it was to see you lying as if asleep in the tomb. Yet you rose on the third day in power also raising Adam who cried: Glory to your resurrection, O only loving God.

## Another Idiomelon of the Feast

### *Plagal of the Second Tone*

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

Let us celebrate this day, O assembly of the faithful, as a spiritual feast. With great love, let us honor the maiden of God, the Virgin and Mother of God, as she is presented to the Temple of the Lord, for she has been chosen from among all the generations to be the dwelling-place of Christ, the King of us all. Behold! You virgins, come forth and enter, holding your flaming torches in honor of the entrance of the ever-Virgin. You mothers, cast away sadness and regret and follow the one who became the Mother of God, and the cause of joy to the whole world, and glorify her. Let us then all together cry out with the angel our salutation to the Woman full of grace, who is always interceding for our souls.

**Theotokion**

*Grave Tone*

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

All of us who dwell on earth, taking refuge under your protection, O Lady, cry aloud to you: O Theotokos, you are our hope. Deliver us from our countless sins and save us.

**ODE OF SYMEON**

Reader (*intoned, Ode of Symeon, Luke 2:29-32.*): 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.

**RESURRECTION APOLYTIKIA AND THEOTOKIA**

**Resurrection Apolitikion**

*Grave Tone*

Through your cross you destroyed death and opened paradise to the thief. You transformed the sorrow of the Myrrh-bearers, Christ our God. You commanded the apostles to proclaim that you have risen from the dead, and granted great mercy to the world.

**Apolitikion of the Feast**

*Fourth Tone*

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

Today is the prelude of the pleasure of God, \* and the proclamation of the salvation of mankind. \* In the Temple of God \* the Virgin has shown herself clearly, \* and she announces Christ to all. \* To her \* with mighty voices cry: \* “Rejoice, O you who are \* the fulfillment of the Creator’s dispensation.”

**Theotokion**

*Grave Tone*

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

You are praised by all the world, O Virgin, and are the treasure house of the resurrection. Lead those who have put their faith in you out of the pit and abyss of their offenses. Before bearing a child you were a virgin, and in childbirth and after childbirth you remained a virgin. By giving birth to salvation, you have saved us who were guilty of sin.

**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.