

The Service of Matins
Sixth Saturday after Pascha
Saint Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada

Maui Orthodox Christian Mission

Metropolis of San Francisco

Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America

Service held at Saint Theresa Church

Kihei, Maui, Hawaii

(Dated: May 23, 2015)

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

Liturgical Texts courtesy from the following:

Holy Cross Press

50 Goddard Avenue, Brookline, Massachusetts

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of Denver

4550 East Alameda Avenue, Denver, Colorado

Fr. Seraphim Dedes

7900 Greenside Ct., Charlotte, North Carolina

Contents

SATURDAY OF BRIGHT WEEK

The Service of Matins

Akolouth (Fixed portion)

ROYAL BEGINNING	2
Trisagion	2
THE ROYAL TROPARIA	3
Troparion of the Cross	3
Kontakion of the Cross	3
Theotokion	3
LITANY	3
HEXAPSALM (Six Psalms)	4
Psalm 3	4
Psalm 37	5
Psalm 62	6
Psalm 87	7
Psalm 102	8
Psalm 142	9
LITANY OF THE PEACE (The Great Litany)	11

Sequences (Variable portion)

THEOS KYRIOS (God is Lord)	13
Mode pl. 4.	13
APOLYTIKIA AND THEOTOKION	13
Apolytikia	13
Holy Ascension	13
Mode 4.	13
Saint Michael the Confessor Bishop of Synnada	13
May 23. Mode pl. 4.	13
Mode pl. 4.	13

THE PSALTER	14
THE LITTLE LITANY	14
SESSIONAL HYMNS (Kathismata)	14
Kathisma I	14
Mode 1. Pa=D. The stone.	14
Kathisma II	15
Mode 3. Ga=F. Seeing how beautiful.	15
Kathisma III	15
Mode pl. 1. Ke=A. Let us worship the Word.	15
PSALM 50	16
Kontakion of Ascension	17
Mode pl. 4.	17
Kontakion of the Saint	17
Mode pl. 4.	17
Oikos of Ascension	17
Mode 4.	17
SYNAXARION	17
KATAVASIAI OF PENTECOST II	18
Mode 4. Vu=E.	18
Ode 1	18
Ode 3	18
Ode 4	18
Ode 5	18
Ode 6	18
Ode 7	18
Ode 8	18
MAGNIFICAT	19
Mode 4.	19
Katavasia	20
Mode 4. Vu=E.	20
Ode ix	20
THE LITTLE LITANY	20
Exaposteilarion for Ascension	20
Mode 2. Automelon.	20
LAUDS (Praises)	21
Mode 1.	21
Prosomoia Stichera of Ascension	21

Mode 1. Pa=D. For the celestial orders.	21
First Hymn of Praise	21
Second Hymn of Praise	21
Third Hymn of Praise	21
Fourth Hymn of Praise	21
Idiomelon of Ascension	22
Mode 2. Di=G.	22
THE GREAT DOXOLOGY	23
Mode pl. 4.	23
Saint Michael the Confessor Bishop of Synnada	23
May 23. Mode pl. 4.	23

SATURDAY OF BRIGHT WEEK

The Service of Matins

Akolouth (Fixed portion)

ROYAL BEGINNING

Priest: Blessed is our God, always, now, and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader: (*intoned*) Amen.

Priest: Glory to You, O God, glory to You.

Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, present everywhere and filling all things, Treasury of good things and Giver of life: come and dwell in us, cleanse us of every impurity; and save our souls, O good One.

Reader: Amen.

Trisagion

Reader: **Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us.

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us.

Lord, cleanse us of our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. 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 to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, Who art in the heavens, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy 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, *(intoned) but deliver us from the evil one.*

Priest: For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

THE ROYAL TROPARIA

Troparion of the Cross

Reader: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance; grant victory to the rulers against the adversaries of the faith, and protect Your commonwealth through Your holy Cross.

Kontakion of the Cross

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

Reader: You, O Christ our God, Who chose of Your own will to be lifted up on the Cross, grant Your mercies to Your new commonwealth which is called by Your name. In Your power, gladden the hearts of our faithful rulers against those who war against them, having Your alliance as their weapon of peace, an invincible standard.

Theotokion

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

Reader: Awesome and blameless protection, do not overlook our petitions, O pure and praiseworthy Theotokos; make firm the community of the Orthodox; save those whom you have called to rule; and grant them victory from heaven, *(intoned) for you bore God, only blessed one.*

LITANY

Priest: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your great mercy; we beseech You, hear us and have mercy.

Chanter: (*intoned*) Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for pious and Orthodox Christians.

Chanter: (*intoned*) Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Again we pray for our Archbishop (Name), and for all our brotherhood in Christ.

Chanter: (*intoned*) Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Priest: Truly You are a merciful God Who loves mankind, and to You we send up glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: (*intoned*) Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father, bless.

Priest: Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-creating and undivided Trinity, always; now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

HEXAPSALM (SIX PSALMS)

Reader: Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

Glory to God in the highest, and peace on earth, good will to men.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth shall show forth Your praise.

Psalm 3

Reader: O Lord, why are those who afflict me multiplied?

Many rise up against me. Many say to my soul: there is no salvation for him in his God.

But You, O Lord, are my Helper, my Glory, and the One who lifts up my head.

I cried to the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain.

I laid down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves round about against me.

Rise, O Lord; save me, my God; for You have struck down all who without cause are my enemies; You have broken the teeth of sinners.

Salvation is of the Lord, and Your blessing is on Your people.

(And Again) I laid down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me.

Psalm 37

Reader: O Lord, do not rebuke me in Your anger, nor chasten me in Your wrath!

For Your arrows are fastened in me, and You have laid Your hand heavily upon me.

There is no healing in my flesh in the face of Your wrath; and there is no peace in my bones in the face of my sins.

For my iniquities have risen higher than my head; they have pressed heavily on me as a heavy burden.

My wounds have become foul and festering in the face of my foolishness.

I have been wretched and utterly bowed down until the end; I went all the day long with downcast face.

For my loins are filled with inflammation, and there is no healing in my flesh.

I am afflicted and exceedingly humbled, I have groaned from the turmoil of my heart.

O Lord, all my desire is before You, and my groaning is not hidden from You.

My heart is troubled, my strength has failed me; and the light of my eyes, even this is not with me.

My friends and my neighbors drew near over against me and stood, and my nearest of kin stood afar off.

And those who sought after my soul used violence; and those who sought evils for me spoke vain things, and they meditated deception all the day long.

But as for me, like a deaf man I did not hear them, and I was as a speechless man who does not open his mouth.

And I became as a man that does not hear, and that has no reproofs in his mouth.

For I have hoped in You, O Lord; You will hear me, Lord my God.

For I said: Let my enemies never rejoice over me; indeed, when my feet were shaken, those men spoke boastful words against me.

For I am ready for scourges, and my sorrow is continually before me.

For I will declare my iniquity, and I will anguish concerning my sin.

But my enemies live and are made stronger than I, and those who hated me unjustly are multiplied.

Those who render me evil for good slandered me, because I pursued goodness.

Do not forsake me, O Lord my God, do not depart from me.

Be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

(And Again) Do not forsake me, O Lord my God, do not depart from me.

Be attentive to my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Psalm 62

Reader: O God, my God, to You I rise early at dawn.

My soul has thirsted for You; how often has my flesh longed after You in a land barren and untrodden and unwatered.

So I have appeared before You in the sanctuary to see Your power and Your glory.

For Your mercy is better than lives; my lips shall praise You.

So shall I bless You in my life, and I will lift up my hands in Your name.

Let my soul be filled as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise You with lips of rejoicing.

If I remembered You on my bed, I meditated on You at the dawn.

For You have become my Helper; I will rejoice in the shelter of Your wings.

My soul has cleaved after You, Your right hand has been quick to help me.

But as for those who in vain have sought after my soul, they shall go into the lowest parts of the earth, they shall be surrendered to the edge of the sword, they shall be portions

for foxes.

But the king shall be glad in God; everyone shall be praised that swears by Him; for the mouth of those who speak unjust things is stopped.

(And Again) At the dawn I meditated on You; for You have become my Helper; in the shelter of Your wings I will rejoice.

My soul has cleaved after You, Your right hand has been quick to help me.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to You, O God.

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

Psalm 87

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

O Lord, God of my salvation, I have cried by day and by night before You.

Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear to my supplication.

For my soul is filled with evils, and my life has drawn near to Hades.

I am counted with those who go down into the pit; I have become as a man without help, free among the dead.

I am like the bodies of the slain that sleep in the grave, Whom You remember no more, and who are cut off from Your hand.

They laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness and the shadow of death.

Your anger lies heavily on me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves.

You have removed my friends far from me; they have made me an abomination to themselves.

I have been delivered up, and have not come forth; my eyes have grown weak from poverty.

I have cried to You, O Lord, the whole day long; I have stretched out my hands to You.

No, will You work wonders for the dead? Or shall physicians raise them up that they may give thanks to You?

No, shall any in the grave tell of Your mercy, and of Your truth in that destruction?

No, shall Your wonders be known in that darkness, and Your righteousness in that land that is forgotten?

But as for me, I have cried to You, O Lord; and in the morning my prayer shall come before You.

O Lord, why do You therefore cast off my soul and turn Your face away from me?

I am as a poor man, and in troubles from my youth; indeed, having been exalted, I was humbled and brought to distress.

Your fierce wrath has gone over me, and Your terrors have sorely troubled me.

They came around me all day long like water, they engulfed me altogether.

Because of my misery You have removed friend and neighbor and my acquaintances far from me.

(And Again) O Lord God of my salvation, I have cried by day and by night before You.

Let my prayer come before You, bow down Your ear to my supplication!

Psalm 102

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all that He has done for you.

Who is gracious to all your iniquities, Who heals all your infirmities.

Who redeems your life from corruption, Who crowns you with mercy and compassion.

Who fulfills your desire with good things; your youth shall be renewed as the eagle's.

The Lord does deeds of mercy, and executes judgment for all those who are wronged.

He has made His ways known to Moses, the things that He has willed to the sons of Israel.

The Lord is compassionate and merciful, long-suffering and plenteous in mercy; He will not be angered to the end, neither will He be angry to eternity.

He has not dealt with us according to our iniquities, neither has He rewarded us according to our sins.

For according to the height of heaven from the earth, so has the Lord made His mercy to prevail over those who fear Him.

As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our iniquities from us.

Like a father has compassion on his sons, so has the Lord had compassion on those who fear Him; for He knows of what we are made, He has remembered that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as the grass; as a flower of the field, so shall he blossom forth.

For when the wind passes over it, then it shall be gone, and its place will no longer remember it.

But the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, even to eternity, on those who fear Him.

And His righteousness is on sons of sons, on those who keep His testament and remember to do His commandments.

The Lord in heaven has prepared His throne, and His kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O all you His Angels, mighty in strength, that perform His word, to hear the voice of His words.

Bless the Lord, O all you His hosts, His ministers that do His will.

Bless the Lord, O all you His works, in every place of His dominion; bless the Lord, my soul.

(And Again) Bless the Lord, O all you His works, in every place of His dominion; bless the Lord, my soul.

Psalm 142

Reader: O Lord, hear my prayer, in Your truth give ear to my supplications; hear me in Your righteousness.

And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no man living shall be justified.

For the enemy has persecuted my soul; he has humbled my life down to the earth.

He has sat me in darkness as those who have been long dead, and my spirit within me has become despondent; my heart within me is troubled.

I remembered days of old, I meditated on all Your works, I pondered on the creations of Your hands.

I stretched forth my hands to You; my soul thirsts after You like a waterless land.

Quickly hear me, O Lord; my spirit has fainted away.

Do not turn Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit.

Cause me to hear Your mercy in the morning; for I have put my hope in You.

Cause me to know, O Lord, the way in which I should walk; for I have lifted up my soul to You.

Rescue me from my enemies, O Lord; I have fled to You for refuge.

Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

Your good Spirit shall lead me in the land of uprightness; You shall quicken me for Your name's sake, O Lord.

In Your righteousness You shall bring my soul out of affliction, and in Your mercy You shall utterly destroy my enemies.

And You shall cut off all those who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant.

(Repeat) Hear me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

(And Again) Hear me in Your righteousness, O Lord, and do not enter into judgment with Your servant.

(And Again) Let Your good spirit lead me on a level path!

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God.

Reader: (*intoned*) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Glory to You, O God. Lord, my Hope, glory to You.

LITANY OF THE PEACE (THE GREAT LITANY)

Deacon: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the peace in the whole world, for the stability of the holy churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this holy house and for those who enter with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For pious and Orthodox Christians, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our Archbishop (Name), the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the laity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For the president of our country, for all civil authorities, and for our armed forces on land, at sea, and in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For this city, for every city and land, and for the faithful who dwell in them, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For favorable weather, an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For travelers by sea, land and air; the sick, the suffering, the captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: For our deliverance from all tribulation, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and protect us, O God, by Your grace.

Chanter: (*sung*) Lord, have mercy.

Deacon: Commemorating our all-holy, pure, most-blessed, and glorious * Lady, the Theotokos and ever-Virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another and all our life to Christ our God.

Chanter: (*sung*) To You, O Lord.

Priest: For to You belong all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and to the ages of ages.

Chanter: (*sung*) Amen.

Sequences (Variable portion)

THEOS KYRIOS (GOD IS LORD)

Mode pl. 4.

God is the Lord, and He appeared to us. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Verse: O give thanks unto the Lord and call upon His holy name.

Verse: All the nations circled me, and I warded them off with the name of the Lord.

Verse: This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes.

APOLYTIKIA AND THEOTOKION

Apolytikia

Holy Ascension

Mode 4.

Thou hast ascended in glory, O Christ our God, and gladdened Thy disciples with the promise of the Holy Spirit; and they were assured by the blessing that Thou art the Son of God and Redeemer of the world.

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

Saint Michael the Confessor Bishop of Synnada

May 23. Mode pl. 4.

Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary of the world, God-inspired adornment of hierarchs, O wise Michael, by thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the Spirit. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.

Mode pl. 4.

Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Born of a Virgin, O Good One who also endured crucifixion for our sake, who by death took the spoils of death as plunder and showed resurrection, being God, O despise not the ones that You formed with Your own hand. Demonstrate Your love for man, O Lord of mercy, and accept Your Mother, the Theotokos, who intercedes on our behalf, O Savior, and save us a despairing people.

THE PSALTER**THE LITTLE LITANY**

Priest/Deacon: In peace let us again pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest/Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest/Deacon: Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious * Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For Yours is the dominion, and Yours the Kingdom and the power and the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always and forever and ever.

Reader: Amen.

SESSIONAL HYMNS (KATHISMATA)**Kathisma I**

Mode 1. Pa=D. The stone.

While Angels were amazed by Your unusual ascension, * and the Disciples were astounded by Your awe-inspiring lift-off, * in glory You ascended, as God, * and gates were lifted up for You, O Lord. * For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You in amazement, * “Glory, O Savior, to Your descent; * glory to Your Kingdom; * glory be to Your Ascension, only One who loves mankind.”

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

While Angels were amazed by Your unusual ascension, * and the Disciples were astounded by Your awe-inspiring lift-off, * in glory You ascended, as God, * and gates were lifted up for You, O Lord. * For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You in amazement, * “Glory, O Savior, to Your descent; * glory to Your Kingdom; * glory be to Your Ascension, only One who loves mankind.”

Kathisma II

Mode 3. Ga=F. Seeing how beautiful.

The un-originate and pre-eternal God, * having in mystical manner now deified * the human nature He assumed, has on this day ascended. * As He was proceeding up * into heaven with glory great, * Angels who had run ahead * pointed Him out to the Apostles; * and worshipping before Him, they cried aloud, * “Glory to You, O God, who has ascended.”

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

The un-originate and pre-eternal God, * having in mystical manner now deified * the human nature He assumed, has on this day ascended. * As He was proceeding up * into heaven with glory great, * Angels who had run ahead * pointed Him out to the Apostles; * and worshipping before Him, they cried aloud, * “Glory to You, O God, who has ascended.”

Kathisma III

Mode pl. 1. Ke=A. Let us worship the Word.

When You came down from heaven, O Savior, to the earth, * and with yourself as God resurrected Adam’s form * which was lying down below in the dungeon of hell, * and then to heaven raised it up by Your Ascension, O Christ, * You made it sit with You together * on the throne of Your Father, * for You are merciful and love mankind.

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

When You came down from heaven, O Savior, to the earth, * and with yourself as God resurrected Adam’s form * which was lying down below in the dungeon of hell, * and then to heaven raised it up by Your Ascension, O Christ, * You made it sit with You together * on the throne of Your Father, * for You are merciful and love mankind.

PSALM 50

Reader: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy; and according to the multitude of Your compassions, blot out my transgression.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I acknowledge my iniquity, and my sin is continually before me.

Against You only have I sinned and done this evil before You; that You may be justified in Your words, and prevail when You are judged.

For behold, I was conceived in iniquities, and in sins did my mother bear me.

For behold, You have loved truth; the hidden and secret things of Your wisdom You have made clear to me.

You will sprinkle me with hyssop, and I will be made clean; You will wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow.

You will make me hear joy and gladness; the bones that have been humbled will rejoice.

Turn Your face away from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Your presence, and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and with Your governing Spirit establish me.

I will teach transgressors Your ways, and the ungodly will turn back to You.

Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, my tongue will rejoice in Your righteousness.

O Lord, You will open my lips, and my mouth will declare Your praise.

For if You had desired sacrifice, I would have given it; with whole burnt offerings You will not be pleased.

A sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a heart that is broken and humbled God will not despise.

Do good, O Lord, in Your good pleasure to Zion, and let the walls of Jerusalem be built;

Then you will be pleased with a sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole burnt offerings;

Then shall they offer young bulls on Your altar. And have mercy on me, O God.

KONTAKION OF ASCENSION

Mode pl. 4.

Reader: When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake and had united things on earth with things in heaven, You were taken up in glory, O Christ our God; in no way divided, but remaining inseparable, You cry to those who love You, “I am with you, (*intoned*) and there is no one against you.”

KONTAKION OF THE SAINT

Mode pl. 4.

Reader: By the practice of virtue and the performance of miracles, you were like a sun shining on mankind, O wonder-worker Michael, (*intoned*) whose name conjures the presence of the Angels.

OIKOS OF ASCENSION

Mode 4.

Reader: Abandoning on earth the things of earth, and leaving to the dust the things of ash, let us now come to our senses and raise on high our eyes and minds. O mortals, let us make our sight together with our senses fly to heavens gates. Let us imagine that we are standing on the Mount of Olives, and that we cast our gaze upon the Redeemer, as He rides up on a cloud. For, from where the Lord has hastened back to heaven, there too the One Who loves to give has distributed His gifts to His Apostles, cherishing them as a Father and confirming them, guiding them as sons and saying to them, “I am not parting from you. I am with you, (*intoned*) and there is no one against you.”

SYNTAXARION

Reader: On May 23, we commemorate our venerable Father Michael the Confessor, Bishop of Synnada in Phrygia.

Tossed to and fro by the waves which troubled the sea of your life, O Michael, you departed from it, rising up like a light bubble. From rigid confinement in a land of exile, Michael sets out on the path home up into the freedom in the heavens on the twenty-third.

(intoned) By his holy intercessions, O God, have mercy on us and save us. Amen.

KATAVASIAI OF PENTECOST II*Mode 4. Vu=E.***Ode 1**

Having been concealed in divine darkness, Moses, * slow of tongue, declared the Law that God had written. * For shaking off impurity from his mind's eye, * he sees the One who is, being an initiate * of the Spirit's knowledge, lauding with songs inspired.

Ode 3

By itself the prayer of the Prophetess Anna * broke the fetters of her womb that made her childless, * and the harsh derision of the one with many children, * of old when she brought a broken spirit * to the God of knowledge and only Sovereign.

Ode 4

Monarch of monarchs, the only from the only, * Logos who came forth from the uncaused Father, * as Benefactor You sent out Your unerring, * equipotent Spirit unto the Apostles, * as they sing, Glory be unto Your might, O Lord.

Ode 5

Receive now the fire-breathing dew of the Spirit, * redemptive purgation of all your offences, * O children of the Church having been illumined; * for now a law has gone forth out of Zion, * namely the tongued and fiery grace of the Spirit.

Ode 6

Master Christ, as expiation and salvation, * unto us You shone forth from the holy Virgin, * so as to snatch from corruption the entire * fallen race of Adam, as once You did Jonah * the Prophet of old from the chest of the sea beast.

Ode 7

The combined sound of the instruments demanded * everyone to worship the gold, lifeless image. * But the Holy Spirit's grace, which is light-bearing, * incites to shout with awe, "Only equipotent, * unoriginate Trinity, You are blessed."

Ode 8

We praise, we bless, and we worship the Lord.

Once the triple radiant type of the Godhead * loosed the bonds and bedewed the flame in the furnace. * The three young men then sang praises; and together * with all created nature they blessed the only * Savior and Maker of all as Benefactor.

MAGNIFICAT

Priest: Let us honor and magnify in song the Theotokos and the Mother of light.

Mode 4.

Verse: My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: For He has considered the humility of His handmaiden; for behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: For the Mighty One has done great things to me, and holy is His name; and His mercy is on them that fear Him unto generation and generation.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: He performed mighty deeds with His arm; He confounded the proud in the intention of their heart.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: He deposed the mighty from their thrones, and exalted the humble; He filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent empty away.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Verse: He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his seed forever.

Greater in honor than the Cherubim, and in glory greater beyond compare than the Seraphim; you without corruption gave birth to God the Word, and are truly Theotokos. You do we magnify.

Katavasia

Mode 4. Vu=E.

Ode ix

Queen of all, rejoice! Boast of mothers and virgins; * for there is no fluent, no eloquent speaker * whose words have the power worthily to praise you; * and every mind is dazed when on your childbirth it thinks; * hence we glorify you in unison.

THE LITTLE LITANY

Priest/Deacon: In peace let us again pray to the Lord.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest/Deacon: Help us, save us, have mercy upon us, and protect us, O God, by your grace.

Choir: Lord, have mercy.

Priest/Deacon: Remembering our most holy, pure, blessed, and glorious * Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commit ourselves and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.

Choir: To You, O Lord.

Priest: For all the powers of heaven praise You and give You glory, to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.

Reader: Amen.

EXAPOSTEILARION FOR ASCENSION

Mode 2. Automelon.

With your Disciples watching You, O Christ, * You were taken to be enthroned with the Father. * Angels ran forward crying out: * “Lift up the gates, lift up, * for the King has gone up * to the glorious Source of Light.”

LAUDS (PRAISES)*Mode 1.*

Let every breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest. To You, O God, is due our song.

Praise Him, all you His angels; praise Him, all you His hosts. To You, O God, is due our song.

Prosomoia Stichera of Ascension*Mode 1. Pa=D. For the celestial orders.***First Hymn of Praise**

Praise Him for His mighty acts, praise Him according to the abundance of His greatness.

Let us on earth like the angels festively celebrate, * crying aloud and singing * unto God, who is mounted * on the throne of glory, the thrice-holy hymn, * “Heavenly Father, holy are You; * co-unoriginate Logos, holy are You; * and all-holy Spirit, holy are You.”

Second Hymn of Praise

Praise Him with the sound of trumpet, praise Him with the harp and lyre.

Let us on earth like the angels festively celebrate, * crying aloud and singing * unto God, who is mounted * on the throne of glory, the thrice-holy hymn, * “Heavenly Father, holy are You; * co-unoriginate Logos, holy are You; * and all-holy Spirit, holy are You.”

Third Hymn of Praise

Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with strings and flute.

As the pre-eminent Angels perceived Your strange ascent, * they were perplexed, O Savior, * and they asked one another, * “What are we beholding? Human in form * is the one we are seeing here. * He has a body; and yet, look how He ascends * far above the heavens, as our God.”

Fourth Hymn of Praise

Praise Him with resounding cymbals, praise Him with triumphant cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord.

O Lord, Your Angel messenger, when he proclaimed Your resurrection, caused the guardians to be afraid but the women’s fear allayed, and addressed them, “Wherefore seek you among the dead the One Who lives? He rose, for He is God, and the gift of life He has given to the universe.”

Idiomelon of Ascension

Mode 2. Di=G.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

You were born, as You yourself so willed; You appeared, as You yourself so wished. You suffered in the flesh, O our God; you rose from the dead, having trampled death. You were taken up in glory, You who fill the universe; and You sent us the divine Spirit, that we might extol and glorify Your Divinity.

THE GREAT DOXOLOGY

Mode pl. 4.

1. Glo-ry be to You Who showed the light. Glo-ry in the high - est to God, and on earth peace, good will a - mong men.

2. We praise You; we bless You; we wor - ship You; we glo - ri - fy You; we give thanks to You for Your great glo - ry.

3. O Lord, King, heav - en - ly God, the Fa - ther Al-might - y, O Lord the on - ly-be-got-ten Son, Je-sus Christ, and the Ho-ly Spir - it.

4. O Lord, God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa - ther, Who take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us, You Who take a - way the sins of the world.

5. Re - ceive our prayer, You Who sit at the right hand of the Fa - ther; and have mer - cy on us.

6. For You a - lone are ho - ly; You a - lone are Lord, Je - sus Christ, to the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A-men.

7. Ev - 'ry day will I bless You, and I will praise Your name for - ev - er and un - to the a - ges of a - ges.

8. Vouch - safe, O Lord, to keep us this day with - out sin.

9. Bless - ed are You, O Lord, the God of our Fa - thers, and praised and glo - ri - fied is Your name un - to the a - ges. A - men.

10. Let Your mer - cy, O Lord, be up - on us, e - ven as we have hoped in You.

11. Bless - ed are You, O Lord, teach me Your stat - utes. (3x)

12. Lord, You have been our ref - uge from gen - er - a - tion to gen-er - a - tion. I said: O Lord, have mer - cy on me; heal my soul, for I have sinned a - gainst You.

13. O Lord, to You have I fled for ref - uge; teach me to do Your will, for You are my God.

14. For in You is the foun - tain of life; in Your light we shall see light.

15. Con - tin - ue Your mer - cy un - to those who know You.

Ho - ly God, ho - ly Might - y, ho - ly Im-mor - tal, have mer - cy on us. (3x)

Glo-ry to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir - it;

Both now and ev - er, and un - to the a - ges of a - ges. A-men.

Ho - ly Im-mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

Ho - - - - -ly God, Ho - - - - -ly Might - - - - -y, Ho - - - - -ly Im-mor - - - - -tal, have mer - - - - -cy on us.

Saint Michael the Confessor Bishop of Synnada

May 23. Mode pl. 4.

Guide of Orthodoxy, teacher of piety and holiness, luminary of the world, God-inspired adornment of hierarchs, O wise Michael, by thy teachings thou hast enlightened all, O harp of the Spirit. Intercede with Christ God that our souls be saved.