

TONE 3 – VESPERS

AT GREAT VESPERS

ON SATURDAY AT GREAT VESPERS, WE BEGIN THE ENTIRE EVENING SERVICE AT GREAT VESPERS, AS INDICATED PREVIOUSLY. AT LORD I HAVE CRIED, THE STICHERA OF THE RESURRECTION:

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(We sing ten verses)

V. Bring my soul out of prison, **that I may confess Thy name.**

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Saviour, the dominion of death hath been destroyed, and the deception of the devil hath been abolished; and the human race, saved by faith, ever offereth a hymn unto Thee.

V. The righteous shall wait patiently for me, **until Thou shalt reward me.**

All things have been illumined by Thy Resurrection, O Lord, and paradise is opened again; and all creation, as it extolleth Thee, ever offereth a hymn unto Thee.

V. Out of the depths have I cried unto Thee, O Lord; **O Lord, hear my voice.**

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son, and I hymn the lordship of the Spirit: the indivisible and uncreated Godhead, the Trinity one in essence, Which reigneth unto the ages of ages.

*Other stichera, composed by Patriarch Anatolius of Constantinople:*

V. Let Thine ears, **be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

We worship Thy precious Cross, O Christ, and Thy Resurrection we praise and glorify; for by Thy wounds have we all been healed.

V. If Thou shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? **For with Thee there is forgiveness.**

We hymn the Saviour, Who was incarnate of the Virgin; for He was crucified for our sake and arose on the third day, granting us

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great mercy.

**V. My soul hath waited patiently for Thy word; my soul hath hoped in the Lord.**

Going down to those in Hades, Christ proclaimed the glad tidings, saying: Take courage; now have I triumphed. I am the Resurrection; having destroyed the gates of death, I shall lead you up.

**V. From the morning watch until the night, let Israel hope in the Lord.**

We who stand unworthily in Thy most pure house send up our evening hymnody, crying from the depths: O Christ God, Who didst enlighten the world by Thy Resurrection on the third day, rescue Thy people from the hands of Thine enemies, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

*Then: Stichera to the saint, from the Menaion; Glory: to the saint (if he has [a doxasticon, or slavnik]). If there is no [doxasticon, or slavnik]: Glory, Now: the Theotokion of the tone.*

*Other stichera, to the Mother of God, composed by Paul of Amorium. We sing these if there is no Menaion, in the Seventh Tone, to the melody of: Today Judas watcheth.*

**V. And He shall redeem Israel, out of all his iniquities.**

O Virgin, thou hast shown thyself to be merciful, favourable and attentive to me when I invoke thy divine grace, truly, in all that befalleth me; for all the hope of my soul have I placed in thee, and in all things I trust in thy divine providence. Do thou also vouchsafe me the glory which is yet to come and life with God.

**V. O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.**

O Mother of God, the burning coals of my passions have been kindled within me by wrath and anger, by drunkenness and lechery, by avarice and hard-heartedness, by terrible dejection, despondency and disquiet, by vainglory and trampling upon my conscience. From these things, I pray, deliver my soul, O Lady, and

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save me.

**V.** For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, **and the truth of the Lord abideth forever.**

With pure consciences let us all fall down before the Mother of God, crying out unceasingly from the depths of our hearts: O holy Lady, save us all from wrath and distress, from adversities and falls; for we have acquired thee as a rampart and fortress, since we are saved by thee and we take refuge under thy protection.

Glory, **Now. Theotokion:** How can we not marvel at thy giving birth to God and Man, O most pure one? For without undergoing the experience of wedlock, O all-immaculate one, thou gavest birth in the flesh to a Son without a father, Him Who was begotten of the Father before the ages without a mother, and Who in no way suffered change, confusion or division, but preserved in their entirety the properties of each essence. Therefore, O Lady, Virgin Mother, do thou entreat Him to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee to be the Theotokos.

*Then: the exit with the censer. O gentle Light. The prokeimenon: The Lord is King; and the litanies. Then, the Litia \*.*

**AT THE APOSTICHA, THESE STICHERA OF THE  
RESURRECTION:  
TONE 3**

O Christ, Who by Thy Passion didst darken the sun, and Who by the light of Thy Resurrection didst enlighten all things: Accept our evening hymn, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

**V.** The Lord is King, **He is clothed with majesty.**

Thy life-giving Resurrection, O Lord, hath brought light to all the inhabited earth, and hath called corrupted creation upward; therefore, released from the curse of Adam, we all cry out: O all-powerful Lord, glory to Thee.

**V.** For He hath established the world, **which shall not be shaken.**

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Though as God Thou art changeless, Thou wast changed when Thou didst suffer in the flesh. Creation, unable to bear the sight of Thee hanging [on the Cross], bowed down in fear; as it groaneth, it hymneth Thy long-suffering. But Thou didst descend into hell and arise on the third day, granting the world life and great mercy.

V. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

To deliver our kind from death, O Christ, Thou didst suffer death; and, having risen as the first-born from the dead, Thou didst raise up with Thyself those who acknowledged Thee as God, and Thou didst enlighten the world. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Glory, Now. *Theotokion:* By the Divine Spirit thou didst freely conceive without seed the Son of God, Who is of the Father without mother before the ages. When for our sake He was made flesh of thee without father, thou gavest birth to Him and didst feed Him with thy milk as an Infant. Therefore, cease not to pray that our souls be delivered from dangers.

*Then:* Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart: *The Trisagion.* After Our Father, *the troparion of the Resurrection, in the third tone:* Let the heavens rejoice: *as given at Matins. Then the dismissal.*

**\* NOTE RE: LITIA AT GREAT VESPERS:** *According to the Church Typicon, in the Russian pre-Nikonian Rite, Litia is always served on Saturday Great Vespers - whether as part of a Vigil or served separately from Matins. At the Litia, the Stichera to be sung, after the Sticheron of the Temple, are those by Paul of Amorium - shown at Lord I have Cried, and those to the Theotokos from the Aposticha of Small Vespers. If there is a commemoration of a saint of Polyeleos rank (with a Magnification), the Stichera to be sung at Litia are those to that respective saint.*