

**GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 27,
2024; TONE 1
OUR RIGHTEOUS FATHER EPHRAIM THE
SYRIAN**

VENERABLE PALLADIOS OF ANTIOCH; VENERABLE THEODOSIOS OF
TOTMA

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

Choir: Amen.
Come, let us worship and fall down before God our
King.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ,
our King and our God.
Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ
Himself, our King and our God.

THE PSALM OF INTRODUCTION—PSALM 103

Reader: Bless the Lord, O my soul; O Lord my God, Thou hast
been magnified exceedingly. Confession and majesty hast Thou
put on, Who coverest Thyself with light as with a garment, Who
stretchest out the heaven as it were a curtain; Who supporteth His
chambers in the waters, Who appointeth the clouds for His ascent,
Who walketh upon the wings of the winds, Who maketh His angels
spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.

Who establisheth the earth in the sureness thereof; it shall not be
turned back forever and ever. The abyss like a garment is His
mantle; upon the mountains shall the waters stand. At Thy rebuke
they will flee, at the voice of Thy thunder shall they be afraid.

The mountains rise up and the plains sink down, unto the place
where Thou hast established them. Thou appointedst a bound that
they shall not pass, neither return to cover the earth. He sendeth
forth springs in the valleys; between the mountains will the waters
run. They shall give drink to all the beasts of the field; the wild
asses will wait to quench their thirst. Beside them will the birds of
the heaven lodge, from the midst of the rocks will they give voice.

He watereth the mountains from His chambers; the earth shall be satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and green herb for the service of men, to bring forth bread out of the earth; and wine maketh glad the heart of man. To make his face cheerful with oil; and bread strengtheneth man's heart.

The trees of the plain shall be satisfied, the cedars of Lebanon, which Thou hast planted. There will the sparrows make their nests; the house of the heron is chief among them. The high mountains are a refuge for the harts, and so is the rock for the hares.

He hath made the moon for seasons; the sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night, wherein all the beasts of the forest will go abroad; young lions roaring after their prey, and seeking their food from God. The sun ariseth, and they are gathered together, and they lay them down in their dens. Man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labor until the evening. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

The earth is filled with Thy creation. So is this great and spacious sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this leviathan, whom Thou hast made to play therein. All things wait on Thee, to give them their food in due season; when Thou givest it them, they will gather it. When Thou openest Thy hand, all things shall be filled with goodness; when Thou turnest away Thy face, they shall be troubled. Thou wilt take their spirit, and they shall cease; and unto their dust shall they return. Thou wilt send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created; and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let the glory of the Lord be unto the ages; the Lord will rejoice in His works. Who looketh on the earth and maketh it tremble, Who toucheth the mountains and they smoke. I will sing unto the Lord throughout my life, I will chant to my God for as long as I have my being.

May my words be sweet unto Him; I will rejoice in the Lord. O that sinners would cease from the earth, and they that work iniquity, that they should be no more. Bless the Lord, O my soul.

The sun knoweth his going down. Thou appointedst the darkness, and there was the night. How magnified are Thy works, O Lord! In wisdom hast Thou made them all.

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

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Glory to Thee, O God. (*thrice*)

O our God and our Hope, glory to Thee!

THE GREAT LITANY

Deacon: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to each petition until noted.

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

For the peace of the whole world, the good estate of the holy churches of God and the union of all, let us pray to the Lord.

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

For our father and metropolitan, N., (our bishop, N.) the honorable presbytery, the diaconate in Christ, all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord.

For our country, its president (or appropriate head of state), civil authorities and armed forces, let us pray to the Lord.

For this city and every city and countryside and the faithful who dwell therein, let us pray to the Lord.

For healthful seasons, abundance of the fruits of the earth and peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord.

For travelers by sea, by land and by air, the sick, the suffering, the captive, and for their salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other and all our life unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For unto thee are due all glory, honor and worship, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

“O LORD I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE ONE

Choir: O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me; hear Thou me, O Lord. O Lord, I have cried out unto Thee, hear Thou me. Give ear to the voice of my supplication when I cry out unto Thee: hear Thou me, O Lord.

Choir: Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as the incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice; hear Thou me, O Lord.

- + Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth, and a protecting door round about my lips.
- + Incline not my heart to evil words, to make excuses in sins.
- + With men that work iniquity; and I will not communicate with the choicest of them.

- + The just man shall correct me in mercy and shall reprove me; but let not the oil of the sinner anoint my head.
- + For my prayer also shall still be against the things with which they are well pleased; their judges falling upon the rock have been swallowed up.
- + They shall hear my words, for they are sweet; as when the thickness of the earth is broken upon the ground, their bones are scattered by the side of hell.
- + But to Thee, O Lord, Lord, are mine eyes; in Thee have I put my trust, take not away my soul.
- + Keep me from the snare which they have laid for me, and the traps of the workers of iniquity.
- + Let the wicked fall into their own nets, whilst I alone escape.
- + I cried unto the Lord with my voice, with my voice unto the Lord, did I make my supplication.
- + I poured out my supplication before Him; I showed before Him my trouble.
- + When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then Thou knewest my path.
- + In the way wherein I walked have they secretly laid a snare for me.
- + I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me.
- + Refuge failed me; no one cared for my soul.
- + I cried unto Thee, O Lord; I said: Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living.
- + Attend unto my cry, for I am brought very low.
- + Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are stronger than I.

For the Resurrection in Tone One

Verse 10. *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.*
 Accept our evening prayers, O Holy Lord. Grant us forgiveness of our sins; for Thou alone hast made manifest the Resurrection unto the world.

Verse 9. *The righteous shall wait for me until Thou recompense me.*

Encompass Zion, O ye people, and surround it; give ye glory therein to Him Who arose from the dead; for He is our God Who hath delivered us from our transgressions.

Verse 8. Out of the depths have I cried to Thee, O Lord, Lord hear my voice.

O come, ye people, let us praise Christ and bow down before Him, glorifying His Resurrection from the dead; for He is our God Who hath delivered the world from the wiles of the enemy.

Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. Rejoice, O ye heavens; sound the trumpets, ye foundations of the earth; thunder forth gladness, O ye mountains; for behold, Emmanuel hath nailed to the Cross our sins; and the Giver of Life hath slain death, raising up Adam; for He is the Lover of mankind.

Verse 6. If Thou, O Lord, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee there is forgiveness.

He Who was willingly crucified in the flesh for our sake; Who didst suffer and was buried, and arose again from the dead: let us praise, saying, O Christ: confirm Thy Church in Orthodoxy, and make peaceful our lives; for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

Verse 5. Because of Thy Name have I waited for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited upon Thy word, my soul hath hoped in the Lord.

Standing before Thy life-giving tomb, we, though unworthy, offer glory to Thine ineffable compassion, O Christ our God; for Thou didst accept the Cross and death, O sinless One, that Thou mightest grant Resurrection to the world; for Thou art good and the Lover of mankind.

For St. Ephraim in Tone One (***Thou art the joy***)

Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.

Clearly reflecting the beauties of holy Paradise, * and taking great delight in those immaculate meadows, * thou didst bloom with knowledge of God for the world; * as we richly partake thereof *

now in the spiritual faculty of our souls, * we all flourish in the spirit, O Saint.

Verse 3. For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is abundant redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Clearly reflecting the beauties of holy Paradise ... (*repeat above*)

Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.
Thou didst describe in thy writings the coming of the Judge * and taughtest all to kindle the lamps of their soul brightly * with their streams of tears; and to all, thou didst cry * that the Bridegroom is drawing near: * Let us all put on a spotless and shining robe, * wherewith we may meet the Bridegroom Christ.

Verse 1. For His mercy is great toward us, and the truth of the Lord endureth forever.

Fencing thy body about with unsparing abstinence, * thou slewest all the movements of the passions, O Ephraim, * in prayers and vigils. Hence, the Divine Spirit's might * overshadowed thee mystically; * and thus, O Father, it made thee a spiritual * luminary lighting all the world.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. EPHRAIM IN TONE SIX

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

Wisely renouncing the tumult of life, O Ephraim, worthy of our hymns, thou fleddest to the desert for love of peace. In it, thou drewest near to God, shining as a light for the world, pouring forth the words of life for mankind. Thus, O venerable father, by thy ceaseless prayers do thou strengthen us that our souls might be saved from the ravages of the enemy.

THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE ONE

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Let us sing the praises of Mary the Virgin, Door of Heaven, glory of all the world, sprung forth from man, who also didst bear the Lord; the song of the bodiless powers, and the enriching of the faithful; for she revealed herself as Heaven and the Temple of the Godhead. She destroyed the bulwarks of enmity and ushered in

peace and did throw open the Kingdom. Wherefore, in that we possess this confirmation of our Faith, we have a defender, even the Lord Who was born of her. Be bold, therefore, be bold, ye people of God, for He, the All-powerful, will vanquish all your enemies.

- *When “both now” is chanted, the clergy make the entrance with the censer.*

Deacon: Wisdom! Stand upright!

O GLADSOME LIGHT

Choir: O gladsome Light of the holy glory of the immortal, heavenly, holy and blessed Father: O Jesus Christ. Lo now that we have come to the setting of the sun, as we behold the evening light, we hymn Thee: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God. Meet it is for Thee at all times to be magnified by joyous voices, O Son of God and Giver of life. Wherefore the whole world doth glorify Thee.

Deacon: The evening prokeimenon!

SATURDAY PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

Choir: The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. (ONCE)

Verse 1. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength. (Refrain)

Verse 2. For He has established the world so sure that it shall never be moved. (Refrain)

THE LITANY OF FERVENT SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us all say with our whole soul and with our whole mind, let us say:

The choir responds “Lord, have mercy” to the first two petitions.

O Lord Almighty, the God of our fathers, we pray thee hearken and have mercy.

Have mercy on us, O God, according to thy great mercy, we pray thee, hearken and have mercy.

The choir responds “Lord, have mercy” (thrice) to this and the remaining petitions until noted.

Again we pray for all pious and Orthodox Christians.

Again we pray for our father and metropolitan, N., (and our bishop, N.).

Again we pray for our brethren: the priests, hieromonks, deacons, hierodeacons and monastics and all our brotherhood in Christ.

Again we pray for mercy, life, peace, health, salvation, visitation, pardon and remission of sins for (the servants of God, NN., and) all Orthodox Christians of true worship, who live and dwell in this community.

Again we pray for the blessed and ever-memorable founders of this holy church (and for the servants of God, NN.,) and all of our fathers and brethren, the Orthodox departed this life before us, who here and in all the world lie asleep in the Lord.

Again we pray for those who bear fruit and do good works in this holy and all-venerable temple, those who serve and those who sing and all the people here present, who await thy great and rich mercy.

Priest: For thou art a merciful God and lovest mankind, and unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE EVENING PRAYER

People: 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 forever. Amen.

Let Thy mercy be upon us, O Lord, even as we have set our hope on Thee. Blessed art Thou, O Lord; teach me Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Master; make me to understand Thy statutes. Blessed art Thou, O Holy One; enlighten me with Thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever. O despise not the works of Thy hands. To Thee belongeth worship, to Thee belongeth praise, to Thee belongeth glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

THE LITANY OF SUPPLICATION

Deacon: Let us complete our evening prayer unto the Lord.

The choir responds "Lord, have mercy" to the first two petitions.

Help us; save us; have mercy on us; and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

That the whole evening may be perfect, holy, peaceful and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

The choir responds "Grant this, O Lord" to this and the remaining petitions until noted.

An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord.

All things good and profitable for our souls and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord.

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, peaceful, and a good defense before the fearful judgment seat of Christ, let us ask.

Calling to remembrance our all-holy, immaculate, most blessed and glorious Lady, the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary, with all the saints, let us

commend ourselves and each other and all our life
unto Christ our God.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

Priest: For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and
unto thee we ascribe glory, to the Father and to the
Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto
ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

THE PEACE

Priest: Peace be to all.

Choir: And to thy spirit.

Deacon: Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

Choir: To Thee, O Lord.

- *All bow their heads as the priest says the following prayer:*

Priest: O Lord our God, Who didst bow the heavens and
come down for the salvation of mankind: Look
upon Thy servants and Thine inheritance; for unto
Thee, the fearful Judge Who yet lovest mankind,
have Thy servants bowed their heads and
submissively inclined their necks, awaiting not help
from men but entreating Thy mercy and looking
confidently for Thy salvation. Guard them at all
times, both during this present evening and in the
approaching night, from every foe, from all adverse
powers of the devil, and from vain thoughts and
from evil imaginations.

Blessed and glorified be the might of Thy kingdom:
of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit;
now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE ONE

By Thy passion, O Christ, we have been set free from sufferings; and by Thy Resurrection we have been delivered from corruption. O Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 1. The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is robed; He is girded with strength.

Let creation rejoice; let the heavens cheer; let the nations clap their hands for joy; for Christ our Savior to the Cross hath nailed our sins; and having slain death and raised up Adam, the progenitor of mankind, hath granted us life, for He loveth mankind.

Verse 2. For He has established the world so that it shall never be moved.

King of heaven and earth, O inscrutable Creator, Thou Who, for love of mankind, wast of Thy free-will crucified. Having met Thee below, Hades was vexed while the souls of the righteous on receiving Thee were gladdened; and Adam seeing Thee, the Creator, in the nethermost parts rose again. O wonder! How the Life of all hath tasted death by His own will, to enlighten the world that crieth, saying: O Thou Who didst rise from the dead, O Lord, glory to Thee.

Verse 3. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore.

Thy myrrh-bearing women, carrying spices, with haste and moaning reached Thy sepulcher; but not finding Thine all-pure body, and from the angel, having heard of the new and most glorious miracle, said to the Apostles: Risen is the Lord Who granteth unto the world the Great Mercy.

DOXASTICON FOR ST. EPHRAIM IN TONE FOUR

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

Like the prophet, thou didst drench thy bed with tears and make repentance the center of thy life in word and deed. Thou didst show us the fearful final judgement. Thus, in unison, we all venerate thy memory, O wonderworker of the Lord, O blessed Ephraim, worthy of our hymns. Thus, we implore thee: intercede for our souls before Christ our God.

THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE FOUR

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O thou who art free from all blemish, hear the petitions of thy servants, removing from us the difficulties that rise against us, and delivering us from all sorrows; for thou alone art a safe and secure haven; and we have secured thee as an intercessor. Therefore, we who call upon thee shall never be put to shame. Hasten to fulfill the pleadings of those who cry to thee in faith: Rejoice, O Lady, the help of all, O joy, protection, and salvation of our souls.

THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

THE TRISAGION PRAYERS

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

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

All-holy Trinity, have mercy on us. Lord, cleanse us from our sins. Master, pardon our iniquities. Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities for thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. (*thrice*)

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, 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, 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 unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen.

RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE ONE

While the stone was sealed by the Jews, and the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body, Thou didst arise on the third day, O Savior, granting life to the world. For which cause the heavenly powers cried aloud unto Thee, O giver of life. Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ, glory to Thy kingdom, glory to Thy providence, O Thou Who alone art the lover of mankind.

APOLYTIKION OF ST. EPHRAIM THE SYRIAN IN TONE THREE

(***Thy confession***)

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

Out of Paradise, a river floweth, * flooding all the earth with joy unending, * cheering souls with compunction and saving fear: * Ephraim, the wine bowl of gladness inspired of God, * from all eternity chosen to light the Church * with his sacred hymns, his sermons, his shining canticles, * whereby he filleth faithful souls with godliness.

RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION IN TONE THREE

Both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Thee, who art the mediatrix for the salvation of our race, we praise, O Virgin Theotokos; for in the flesh assumed from thee, after that He had suffered the passion of the Cross, thy Son and our God delivered us from corruption, because He is the Lover of mankind.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Wisdom!

Choir: Father, bless.

Priest: Christ our God, the Existing One, is blessed, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

Choir: Amen. Preserve, O God, the holy Orthodox Faith and all Orthodox Christians, unto ages of ages. Amen.

Priest: Most-holy Theotokos, save us.

Choir: More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the Seraphim, thou who without corruption didst bear God the Word and art truly Theotokos: we magnify thee.

Priest: Glory to Thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

Choir: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; both now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Lord, have mercy (*thrice*). Father, bless.

Priest: May He Who rose from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; by the might of the Precious and Life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable Bodiless Powers of Heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious and all-laudable apostles; of the holy, glorious and right-victorious Martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing Fathers; *of Saint N., the patron and protector of this holy community*; of the holy and righteous ancestors of God, Joachim and Anna; of our Righteous Father Ephraim the Syrian, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us and save us, for as much as He is good and loveth mankind.

Priest: Through the prayers of our Holy Fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy upon us and save us.

Choir: Amen.