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READER'S GREAT VESPERS ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

(Eve of 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost)

***The Holy Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, 1st Bishop of Damascus;  
Our Righteous Father Romanos the Melodist***

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*Reader:* Amen.

Glory to Thee, our God. Glory to Thee!

O heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of truth, who art everywhere present and fillest all things, the Treasury of good things and Giver of life: Come, and abide in us, and cleanse us from every stain, and save our souls, O good One.

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.

*Leader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.

*Reader:* Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

O come, let us worship and fall down before God our King.

O come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

O come, let us worship and fall down before the Very Christ, our King and our God.

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 for ever 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. But man shall go forth unto his work, and to his labour 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, therein are things creeping innumerable, small living creatures with the great. There go the ships; there this dragon, 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, and 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. (*Twice*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

#### THE LITANY OF PEACE REPLACEMENT

*Choir:* Lord, have mercy. (*12 times*)

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

*Choir:* Amen.

## FIRST STASIS OF FIRST KATHISMA

### *Psalm 1*

*Reader:* Blessed is the man that hath not walked in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stood in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seat of the pestilent. But his will is rather in the law of the Lord, and in His law will he meditate day and night. And he shall be like the tree which is planted by the streams of the waters, which shall bring forth its fruit in its season; and its leaf shall not fall, and all things whatsoever he may do shall prosper. Not so are the ungodly, not so; but rather they are like the chaff which the wind doth hurl away from the face of the earth. For this reason shall the ungodly not stand up in judgement, nor sinners in the council of the righteous. For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous, and the way of the ungodly shall perish.

### *Psalm 2*

Why have the heathen raged, and the peoples meditated empty things? The kings of the earth were aroused, and the rulers were assembled together, against the Lord, and against His Christ. Let us break their bonds asunder, and let us cast away their yoke from us. He that dwelleth in the heavens shall laugh them to scorn, and the Lord shall deride them. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and in His anger shall He trouble them. But as for Me, I was established as king by Him, upon Sion His holy mountain, proclaiming the commandment of the Lord. The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee. Ask of Me, and I will give Thee the nations for Thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession. Thou shalt herd them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt shatter them like a potter's vessels. And now, O ye kings, understand; be instructed, all ye that judge the earth. Serve ye the Lord with fear, and rejoice in Him with trembling. Lay hold of instruction, lest at any time the Lord be angry, and ye perish from the righteous way. When quickly His wrath be kindled, blessed are all that have put their trust in Him.

### *Psalm 3*

O Lord, why are they multiplied that afflict me? Many rise up against me. Many say unto my soul: There is no salvation for him in his God. But Thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I cried unto the Lord with my voice, and He heard me out of His holy mountain. I laid me down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord will help me. I will not be afraid of ten thousands of people that set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord, save me, O my God, for Thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemies; the teeth of sinners hast Thou broken. Salvation is of the Lord, and Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

### *Stasis*

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. (*Twice*)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia: Glory to Thee, O God our Hope, O Lord, glory be to Thee.

### “O LORD, I HAVE CRIED” IN TONE EIGHT

*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 Eight

*Verse 10. Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise Thy Name.*

Evening praise and spoken worship do we offer Thee, O Christ; for Thou didst consent to have mercy upon us by Thy Resurrection.

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

O Lord, O Lord, cast us not from before Thy face, but consent to have mercy upon us by Thy Resurrection.

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

Rejoice, O holy Zion, mother of the churches, the abode of God; for thou didst first receive forgiveness of sins by His Resurrection.

*Verse 7. Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.*

Verily, the Word, born of the Father before the ages, hath Himself been incarnate in the last times by His own will, of one who knowest not wedlock. He did suffer crucifixion and death; and by His Resurrection He hath saved man dead of old.

For St. Ananias in Tone Four (\*\**Thou who wast called from on high*\*\*)

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

When Saul received that divine ray out of Heaven \* and at a divine behest was stricken blind thereby, \* and he who once had been held in gloom \* came and requested \* from thee divine cleansing, O most blest of God, \* then as a wise hierarch, thou didst make a son of him \* through the adoption of Baptism \* who would thereafter \* himself adopt the whole world as his own child. \* Wherefore, with him, we also call thee blest, \* godly-minded Apostle of Jesus Christ, \* O far-famed Ananias, \* who entrest that we all be saved.

*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.*

Initiated most strangely in divine things, \* thou didst clearly trumpet forth the saving word of God \* louder than thunder, O blessed one; \* and thou didst rouse up \* all those that slept in the tombs of vanity, \* who shook off the deathliness that dwelleth with the dead, \* which also gripped those whom Hades held, \* O Ananias; \* and for His sake Who slew him that once slew us, \* thou madest those whom thou hadst thus redeemed \* to be vessels most hon'orable unto Him, \* even Jesus the Master \* and the only Savior of our souls.

*Verse 4. From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch let Israel trust in the Lord.* As a most godly expounder of divine things, \* as God's chosen witness of the sufferings of Christ, \* a worthy heir and partaker of \* the untold glory \* to be revealed, and a bearer of the light, \* who art always present with the Master and art cheered \* with the great rivers of streaming light \* which ever pour forth \* from light unwaning, do thou deliver us \* from dark and gloomy perils by thy prayers \* as we keep thy most radiant festival, \* O divine Ananias, \* wondrous herald of the will of God.

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

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

The skilled composer of music and the Divine Spirit's lyre, \* the nightingale and cricket ever singing divine songs, \* the reed-pipe of the Church and its fair-sounding flute \* doth present to us all today \* his sweet, melodious strains, and by means thereof \* he doth gladden them of godly mind.

*Verse 2. Praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye people.*

That bright and far-shining lamp, the august and lyric harp, \* the string that played the gracious oracles of the Spirit, \* clearly now doth sing his melodious songs, \* teaching all regions of the earth \* to offer glory and praise in unceasing hymns \* to the Godhead's single radiance.

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

As thou now standest before God, the Sovereign Lord of all, \* and since thou hast great boldness in His presence, O Father, \* remember us who keep this thy radiant feast, \* and entreat Him to rescue us \* from all temptations and perils and sufferings, \* righteous Romanos, most blest of God.

#### DOXASTICON FOR ST. ANANIAS IN TONE ONE

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

As an eyewitness of the Word, and an initiate of His miracles, as an apostle among the disciples and a faithful steward of the New Testament, O Apostle, at a revelation from God thou didst enlighten Paul the Apostle, the vessel of election, the great habitation of the Spirit. Wherefore, O Ananias, Hierarch of Christ, in imitation of Christ thy Teacher, thou didst shed thine own blood and becamest a confessor in the sufferings of martyrdom. Since thou hast finished thy course, and hast kept the Faith inviolate, and dwellest now with the ministers in the highest, intercede that our souls be saved.

#### THEOTOKION FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE EIGHT

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

Verily, the King of heaven, for His love to mankind, did appear on earth; and with men did He deal; for He took unto Himself a body from the pure Virgin. And from her did He issue in the

adopted body, He being one Son, dual in Nature, not dual in Person. Wherefore, do we confess, preaching the truth that Christ our God is perfect God and perfect Man. Therefore, O Mother who hast no groom, beseech thou Him to have mercy upon our souls.

### THE HYMN OF THANKSGIVING AT THE LIGHTING OF THE LAMPS

*Choir:* Gladsome light of the Holy glory that shines from the immortal Father in Heaven, the Holy, the Blessed, O Jesus Christ! Lo now that we come to sunset, now that we see the evening light, we sing the praise of Father, Son and Holy Spirit, One God. Worthy art Thou to be praised at all times with voices meet for holy song. Son of God, Thou Giver of Life, wherefore the world glorifieth thee.

### SATURDAY EVENING PROKEIMENON IN TONE SIX

*Leader:* The Evening Prokeimenon!

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

*Verse:* The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself;

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

*Verse:* For He established the world which shall not be shaken

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

*Verse:* Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.

*Choir:* The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty.

### AUGMENTED EKTENIA REPLACEMENT

*Reader:* Lord have mercy (*40 times*)

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

### LITANY OF SUPPLICATION (& THE PEACE) REPLACEMENT

*Reader:* Lord have mercy (*12 times*)

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

### APOSTICHA FOR THE RESURRECTION IN TONE EIGHT

Thou didst ascend the Cross, O Jesus, Who didst descend from heaven. Thou didst come to death, O Life that dieth not, and to those who are in darkness, O true Light, and to the fallen, O Resurrection of all. Wherefore, O our Light and Savior, glory to Thee.

*Verse 1. The Lord is King, and hath clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord is clothed with strength and He hath girt Himself.*

Let us glorify Christ risen from the dead; for He did take unto Himself a soul and a body; and He separated one from the other in the Passion, when His pure soul went down to Hades which He

led captive; and the holy body saw no corruption in the grave, the body of the Redeemer, Savior of our souls.

*Verse 2. For He established the world which shall not be shaken.*

With psalms and with songs of praise, O Christ, do we glorify Thy Resurrection from the dead, by which Thou didst deliver us from the rebellion of Hades. And since Thou art God, Thou didst grant us eternal life and the Great Mercy.

*Verse 3. Holiness becometh Thy house, O Lord, unto length of days.*

O Lord of all, O incomprehensible One; O Maker of heaven and earth, when Thou didst suffer in Thy Passion on the Cross, Thou didst pour out for me passionlessness; and when Thou didst submit to burial and didst rise in glory, Thou didst raise Adam with Thee by a mighty hand. Wherefore, glory to Thy third-day Resurrection by which Thou didst grant us eternal life and forgiveness of sins; for Thou alone art compassionate.

#### DOXASTICON FOR ST. ROMANOS IN TONE SIX

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

Thou hast proved to be the very first-fruit of blessings and a source of salvation, O our Father Romanos; for in composing angelic hymnody, thou hast demonstrated the godliness of thy way of life. Entreat Christ God that those who sing thy praise be delivered from temptations and perils.

#### THEOTOKION OF THE RESURRECTION IN TONE SIX

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

O most pure one, when Christ the Lord, my Creator and Savior, came forth from thy womb, putting me on, He did free Adam from the ancient curse. Wherefore, O most pure one, since thou art the Theotokos and a Virgin in truth, we shout to thee untiringly with the angels, saying, Re-joyce, Lady, O thou who art the helper, the cover, and the salvation of our souls.

#### THE HYMN OF ST. SIMEON THE GOD-RECEIVER

*Leader:* 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.

*Leader:* O Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us.

*All:* Amen.

### RESURRECTIONAL APOLYTIKION IN TONE EIGHT

From the heights Thou didst descend, O compassionate One, and Thou didst submit to the three-day burial, that Thou might deliver us from passion; Thou art our life and our Resurrection, O Lord, glory to Thee.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. ANANIAS IN TONE THREE

O holy Apostle Ananias, intercede with our merciful God to grant our souls forgiveness of sins.

### APOLYTIKION OF ST. ROMANOS IN TONE EIGHT

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

Through thee, the divine likeness was securely preserved, O father Romanos; for thou didst carry the cross and follow Christ. By example and precept thou didst teach us to ignore the body, because it is perishable, and to attend to the concerns of the undying soul. Therefore, doth thy soul rejoice with the angels.

### RESURRECTIONAL THEOTOKION IN TONE EIGHT

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

Thou Who for our sake wast born of a Virgin, and didst suffer crucifixion, O good One, and didst despoil death through death, and as God didst reveal Resurrection. Despise not those Whom Thou hast created with Thine own hand, show forth Thy love for mankind, O merciful One. Accept the intercessions of Thy mother, the Theotokos for us, and save Thy despairing people, O our Savior.

### THE DISMISSAL

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

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

*The Leader bows toward the icon of Christ on the iconostasis, saying:*

*Leader:* Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our Hope, glory to thee.

*All:* 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. Lord, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. O Lord, bless.

*Leader:* O Thou Who rose again from the dead, Christ our true God, through the intercessions of His all-immaculate and all-blameless holy Mother; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of the Holy Myrrh-Bearer and Equal to the Apostles Mary Magdalene, protector of this community; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostle Ananias of the Seventy, first bishop of Damascus; of our Righteous Father Romanos the Melodist; Martyr Domninos of Thessalonica; Venerable John Koukouzelis and Gregory the Domestikos of the Great Lavra on Athos; and Venerable Sabbas of Vishera in Russia, whose memory we celebrate today, and of all the saints: have mercy on us, and save us, for Thou art good and lovest mankind.

*Then, facing the icon of Christ, on the iconostasis, the Leader says:*

*Leader:* Through the prayers of our holy fathers, Lord Jesus Christ our God, have mercy on us, and save us.

*All:* Amen.