

Vespers sung on Saturday 12th October for Sunday 13th October 2024
16th Sunday after Pentecost ♦ 4th Sunday of Saint Luke
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 7

Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon Thee, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon Thee!//
Hear me, O Lord

Let my prayer arise
in Thy sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 7 (For the Resurrection)

[Music on website]

Come, let us rejoice in the Lord,
Who destroyed the dominion of death!
Let us sing to Him with the bodiless hosts,
for He enlightened the race of man!//
O our Maker and Saviour, glory to Thee!

The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Thou didst endure the Cross and burial for our sake.
By Thy death, Thou didst destroy death as God.
We fall down before Thy Resurrection on the third day,//
O Saviour, glory to Thee!

Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

When the Apostles beheld the Resurrection of the Maker,
they were amazed and sang the angelic praise.
This is the glory of the Church.
This is the richness of the Kingdom.//
O Lord, crucified for our sake, glory to Thee!

Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Thou wast held by lawless men, O Christ,
but to me, Thou art God, and I am not ashamed.
Thou wast smitten on the cheek, but I do not deny Thee.
Thou wast nailed to the Cross and I do not conceal it,
for I glory in Thy Resurrection: Thy death is my life.//
O almighty Lord and Lover of man, glory to Thee!

If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 6 (For the Fathers)

The seven honourable councils of the Fathers, held at various times,
were brought together under one canon in good order
by Patriarch Germanus the New.
He established and recorded their teachings;
he also presented these Fathers to the Lord
as watchful intercessors for our salvation,//
and as fellow-shepherds of the fold.

For Thy Name's sake I wait for Thee, O Lord. My soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Repeat: The seven honourable councils

From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

The book of the Law instructed the sons of Israel
that the seventh day was to be honoured,
and they devoted themselves to a shadow and revered it.
But, O Fathers, who came together in the Seventh Council,
at the behest of God,
Who fashioned the universe in six days and blessed the seventh day, //
you have made the seventh more honourable by laying down a definition of the Faith.

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

You have enabled all men, O thrice-blessed Fathers,
to come to the knowledge of the Trinity
as the Cause of the world's generation;
for by your mystical reasoning
you established three and four Councils,
and you appeared as champions of Orthodoxy,
for you showed that, while there are four elements, //
it is the Trinity Who created them and made the world.

Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

It would have been enough for Elisha the Prophet
to have bent down only once to give life to the dead son of the woman;
but he knelt and bent seven times.
And in his foresight he prophesied your gathering,
by which you breathed life into the slaying of God the Word, //
by putting to death Arius and his profane companions.

For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.

In your wisdom, O venerable Fathers,
you mended the garment of Christ, rent by howling dogs;
for you could not bear to look upon the nakedness of His Body,
but as Shem and Japheth of old who hid their father's nakedness,
you put to shame that slayer of his father, the wretched Arius, //
and those who foolishly follow his teachings.

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

Tone 6 (For the Fathers)

Today let us praise the mystical trumpets of the Spirit,
the God-bearing Fathers, who stand in the midst of the Church, singing true theology,
praising the changeless Trinity!
They laid low the errors of Arius and upheld the Orthodox Faith. //
They always entreat the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 7 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)

No tongue can speak of thy wonderful childbearing,
for the order of nature was overruled by God.
Thou wast revealed to be a Mother above nature,
for thou didst remain a Virgin beyond reason and understanding.
Thy conception was most glorious, O Theotokos!
The manner of thy giving birth was ineffable, O Virgin!
Knowing thee to be the Mother of God,
devoutly we pray to thee: //
"Beseech Him to save our souls!"

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Genesis 14:14-20

Now when Abram heard his brother Lot was taken captive, he armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants, born in his own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. So he divided his forces against them by night, and he and his servants attacked and pursued them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. So he brought back all the cavalry of Sodom, and also brought back his brother Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the people. Then the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley), after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer and the kings with him. Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. He blessed Abram and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hands."

The Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

[Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17]

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: Behold, I am delivering the land in your presence; go in and inherit the land I swore to your fathers— to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — to give it to them and their seed after them. So I spoke to you at that time, saying, 'I alone am not able to bear you. The Lord your God multiplied you, and here you are today, as the stars of heaven in multitude. May the Lord God of your fathers make you a thousand times more numerous than you are, and bless you, just as He said.' So I took from you wise, understanding, and knowledgeable men and made them leaders over you: leaders of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens; judges to interpret the law for you. Then I commanded your judges at that time, saying, 'Hear the cases between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother or the resident alien with him. You shall not show partiality in judgement; you shall judge the small and the great; you shall not shrink before any man's presence, for the judgement is God's.'

The Reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

[Deuteronomy 10:14-21]

Moses spoke to the sons of Israel: Indeed, heaven and heaven of heaven belong to the Lord your God, also the earth and everything in it. The Lord chose your fathers to love them; and He chose their seed after them, you above all nations, as it is this day. Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stiff-necked any longer. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. He administers justice for the resident alien, the fatherless, and the widow, and loves the resident alien, giving him food and clothing. You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him, and take oaths in His name. He is your boast and your God, who did these great and glorious things for you, the things you saw with your own eyes.

APOSTICHA

Tone 7 (*For the Resurrection*)

[[Music on website](#)]

As the Saviour of the world Thou didst arise from the tomb.
As God Thou didst resurrect the race of man with Thy flesh.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

V. The Lord is King; He is robed in majesty!

Come, let us worship the One Who rose from the dead,
and enlightened all creation!
By His death, He saved us from the torments of hell.//
By His Resurrection He has granted us eternal life and great mercy.

V. For He has established the world, so that it shall never be moved.

Thou didst descend into hell, capturing death, O Christ.
In three days Thou didst rise again,
resurrecting us who glorify Thy Resurrection,//
O Lord and Lover of man.

V. Holiness befits Thy house, O Lord, forevermore!

When Thou wast placed in the tomb as one asleep,
the sight was great and awesome.
But when Thou didst rise on the third day as almighty God,
Thou didst resurrect Adam with Thyself.//
Glory to Thy Resurrection, only Lover of man!

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

Tone 4 (For the Fathers)

Come, all Orthodox Churches,
let us celebrate today in faith and true worship
the yearly commemoration of the divinely-arrayed Fathers
who gathered at Nicaea from throughout the world!
There they refuted the godless teaching of Arius,
banishing him from the catholic Church by a decree of the council.
They taught all to confess openly the Son of God,
consubstantial and co-eternal with the Father,
proclaiming this with precision and true worship in the Symbol of Faith.
Therefore, as we faithfully follow their divine doctrines,
let us worship the Father, the Son, and the most Holy Spirit, //
the consubstantial Trinity in one Godhead!

Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Tone 4 (Theotokion)

Look on the entreaties of thy servants, O Blameless One!
Stop all the terrible attacks against us,
freeing us from every affliction,
for we have only thee as our sure and firm anchor!
Do not let us be put to shame, O Lady,
for we call on thee for our intercession!
Hasten to pray for those who call in faith:
"Rejoice, O Lady, Help of all: //
the Joy and Shelter and Salvation of our souls!"

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 7

[Music on website / Green Book page 14]

By Thy Cross Thou didst destroy death.
To the thief Thou didst open Paradise.
For the Myrrhbearers Thou didst change weeping into joy,
and Thou didst command Thy disciples, O Christ God,
to proclaim that Thou art risen, //
granting the world great mercy.

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

Troparion of the Holy Fathers in Tone 8

[Music on website / Green Book page 106]

Most glorious art Thou, O Christ our God,
Thou hast established the Holy Fathers as lights on the earth.
Through them Thou hast guided us to the True Faith. //
O greatly compassionate One, glory to Thee!

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

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 8

O Good One, Who for our sake wast born of the Virgin
and, having endured crucifixion, cast down death by death,
and as God revealed the resurrection:
d disdain not that which Thou hast fashioned with Thine own hand.
Show forth Thy love for mankind, O Merciful One;
accept the Theotokos who gave Thee birth and prayeth for us;
and save Thy despairing people, O our Saviour!
