

Vespers sung on Saturday 1st February for Sunday 2nd February 2025

32nd Sunday after Pentecost ♦ The Meeting of Our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ in the Temple

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 7

[Music on website]

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)

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 1 (For the Feast)

Simeon, tell us, Whom dost thou bear in thine arms,
that thou dost rejoice so greatly in the Temple?

To Whom dost thou shout and cry aloud:

Now am I set free, for I have seen my Saviour?"

This is He Who was born of a Virgin;

this is God the Word, Who came forth from God,

Who for our sakes has taken flesh and has saved man.//

Let us worship Him!

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: Simeon, tell us ...

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

Simeon, receive Him Whom Moses once beheld in darkness,
granting the Law on Sinai,
now that He has become a Babe subject to the Law!
This is He Who spoke through the Law.
This is He, of Whom the Prophets spoke,
Who for our sakes has taken flesh and has saved man.//
Let us worship Him!

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

Repeat: Simeon, receive Him ...

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

Come, let us also go to meet Christ with divine songs!
Let us receive Him Whose salvation Simeon saw!
This is He Whom David announced;
this is He Who spoke in the Prophets,
Who, for our sakes, has taken flesh and Who speaks through the Law.//
Let us worship Him!

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

Repeat: Come, let us also go to meet Christ ...

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

Tone 6 (For the Feast)

Let the gate of heaven be opened today,
for the unoriginate Word of the Father
has made a beginning in time without forsaking His divinity.
As a Babe forty days old,
of His own will He is brought by the Virgin, His Mother,
as an offering in the Temple of the Law.
The Elder receives Him in his arms,
crying as a servant to his Master:
"Let me depart, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation!"//
Glory to Thee, O Lord, for Thou hast come into the world to save mankind!

OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The Reading from the Book of Exodus.

The Lord spoke to Moses in that very day on which He led the children of Israel out from the land of Egypt saying: "Sanctify to Me all the first-born, the first-produced opening the womb among the children of Israel." And Moses went and gathered all the people and said: "Remember this day, in which you came out from the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage, for with a strong hand the Lord led you out from thence; and you shall keep His law. And it shall come to pass when the Lord your God shall bring you into the land of the Canaanites, as He swore to your fathers: you shall set apart all the first-born, whatever opens the womb, the males for the Lord. And it shall come to pass that if thy son asks thee, saying, "What is this?" thou shalt say to him: "By strength of hand the Lord led thee out of the land Egypt, out of the house of bondage. For when Pharaoh hardened his heart, so as not to let us go, the Lord slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both the first-born of man and the first-born of cattle. Therefore, I bring a sacrifice to the Lord: every male that opens the womb; but all the first-born

of my sons I will redeem." And it shall be for a sign, set firmly before your eyes. For thus saith the Lord God Almighty: "The first-born of your sons you shall give to Me. And it shall be that a woman who bears a male child, on the eighth day shall circumcise the flesh of his foreskin. Then for thirty-three days she shall not enter into the sanctuary of God to the priest until the days of purification are fulfilled. "And after this she shall bring to the Lord an unblemished lamb one year old, as a whole-burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove, to the doors of the tent of witness, to the priest. Or, instead of these she shall bring before the Lord two turtledoves or two young pigeons, and the priest shall pray for her. "For these are given to Me as a recompense from all the sons of Israel, and I have taken them and consecrated them for Myself, instead of the first-born of the Egyptians, in the day in which I slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt, of both man and cattle." Thus saith God Most High, the Holy One of Israel. [Exodus 12:51-13:3; Leviticus 12:2-7, Numbers 8:16-17]

The reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up. The house was full of His glory. Around Him stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." The lintel was lifted up by the voice of those who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said, "Woe is me, because I am pierced to the heart, for being a man and having unclean lips, I dwell in the midst of a people with unclean lips; for I saw the King, the Lord of hosts, with my eyes!" Then one of the seraphim was sent to me. He had a live coal in his hand, which he took with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth, and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips. Your lawlessness is taken away, and your sin is cleansed." I also heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go to this people?" Then I said, "Behold, here am I, send me." So He said, "Go, and tell this people, 'You shall hear indeed, but not understand; and you shall see indeed, but not perceive.' For the heart of this people has become insensitive, and their ears hear with difficulty. They have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return, and I should heal them." Then I said, "Lord, how long?" So He answered, "Until the cities are laid waste and without inhabitant, the houses are without people, and the land shall be left desolate. After this God will remove the people far away, and those left in the land shall multiply." [Isaiah 6:1-12]

The Reading from the Prophecy of Isaiah.

Behold, the Lord sitteth on a light cloud, and shall come to Egypt; and the idols of Egypt will tremble at His presence, and their hearts shall faint within them. And their spirit shall be troubled within them, and He will frustrate their counsel. He will deliver Egypt into the hands of cruel lords ... Thus saith the Lord, the Holy Lord of Hosts! And the Egyptians shall drink the water that is by the sea, but will fail and be dried up. Thus saith the Lord: Where now are your wise men? Let them tell you and make known what the Lord of Hosts has purposed against Egypt. In that day the Egyptians will be in fear and trembling because of the hand of the Lord of Hosts which He shall lay upon them. And there shall be an altar to the Lord in the land of the Egyptians, and a pillar to the Lord at its border. And it shall be a sign to the Lord of Hosts forever in the land of the Egyptians; for they shall cry to the Lord and the Lord shall send to them a man who shall save them. And the Lord will make Himself known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day, and they shall offer sacrifices and gifts, and shall pray, and make their vows unto the Lord. [Isaiah 19:1, 3, 4-5, 12, 16, 19-21]

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

Tone 8 (For the Feast)

He Who is borne on high by the Cherubim
and praised in hymns by the Seraphim
is brought today according to the Law into the holy Temple
and rests in the arms of the Elder as on a throne.
From Joseph He receives gifts fitting for God:
a pair of doves, a symbol of the spotless Church
and of the newly chosen people of the Gentiles,
and two young pigeons,
for He is the originator of the two Covenants, both Old and New.
Simeon, now granted the fulfilment of the prophesies concerning himself,
blesses the Virgin and Theotokos Mary.
He foretells in figures the Passion of her Son.
From Him he begs release, crying aloud:
“Now, Master, let me depart as Thou hast promised me,
for I have seen the pre-eternal Light //
and the Lord and Saviour of the people who bear the Name of Christ!”

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 7

[Music on website / Green Book page14]

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;
both now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Troparion of the Meeting of Our Lord in Tone 1

[Music on website / Sheet]

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From thee shone the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God,
enlightening those who sat in darkness.
Rejoice and be glad, O righteous Elder,
thou didst accept in thine arms the Redeemer of our souls, //
Who grants us the Resurrection!
