

SUNDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER 2025
13th Sunday after Pentecost
Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos
Sunday Before the Exaltation of the Cross
Martyr Sozón of Cilicia

TONE 4

"LORD I CALL..."

Tone 4

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!

V. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy Name.

Tone 4 *(for the Resurrection)*

We glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day, O Christ God,
by always honouring Thy life-creating Cross;
by it, Thou hast renewed the corrupted nature of man,
O almighty One.
By it, Thou hast renewed our entrance to heaven,//
for Thou art good and the Lover of man.

V. (9) The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.

Thou didst loose the Tree's verdict of disobedience, O Saviour,
by being voluntarily nailed to the tree of the Cross.
By descending to hell, O almighty God,
Thou didst break the bonds of death.
Therefore, we adore Thy Resurrection from the dead, singing in joy://
"Glory to Thee, O all-powerful Lord!"

V. (8) Out of the depths I cry to Thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!

Thou didst smash the gates of hell, O Lord,
and by Thy death Thou didst demolish the kingdom of death.
Thou didst deliver the race of men from corruption,//
granting the world life, incorruption and great mercy.

V. (7) Let Thine ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

Come, O people,
let us sing of the Saviour's Resurrection on the third day!
By it, we have been freed from the unbreakable bonds of hell.
By it, we have received life and incorruption.
Save us by Thy Resurrection!//
O Life-creating and almighty Saviour, glory to Thee!

V. (6) If Thou, O Lord, shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.

Tone 1 *(for the Forefeast)*

By thy birth, O Pure One,
beams of joy shine on all the universe,
announcing Christ our God to all.
He is the Sun of glory.
Thou wilt give birth to Him for us;//
He brings us gladness, grace and truth.

V. (5) 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.

We anticipate thy glorious feast, O Pure One.
It proclaims to all the good will of our Benefactor.
Now thou hast become the cause of our joy,
the herald of promised grace//
and the fruit of divine gladness.

V. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

The child of God, the holy Theotokos,
the promise of the Prophets, the daughter of David,
today is born from wise Joachim and Anna.
She has overthrown the curse of Adam for us//
by her holy childbearing.

V. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

Tone 4 *(for St. Sozón)*

When He, Who of His own will took our weakness upon Himself,
strengthened thy weakness with power, O blessed one,
thou didst run the race of martyrdom for His sake with joy.
Thou didst crush the impotent enemy with thy most beautiful feet.
Therefore, Jesus, the Lover of mankind and Saviour of our souls,//
has woven wreaths of victory for thee.

V. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

When thou wast wounded, O glorious one,
thou didst wound thine enemies
and armed with the Cross, thou didst throw them down to the ground.
Thou wast openly arrayed in invincible armour
and wast made steady by the love of Him
Who has translated thee to the spiritual kingdoms//
as an unconquered martyr and heavenly man!

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Thou didst openly imitate the Saviour and Lord,
Who for thy sake endured voluntary sufferings.
Of thine own will, O athlete Sozón, thou gavest thyself
to wounds and beatings and unbearable torments.
Therefore, He has honoured thee with heavenly gifts//
and revealed thee to be a source of healings for those who love thee.

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

Tone 4 *(for the Forefeast)*

The angelic host of heaven and we mortals on earth,
bless thine honourable birth, O most holy Virgin,
for thou becamest the Mother of Christ our God, the Creator of all.
Never cease to pray to Him for us, who after God have set our hope on thee,//
O all-praised and unwedded Theotokos!

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

Tone 4 *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The Prophet David was a father of the Lord
through thee, O Virgin.
He foretold in songs the One Who worked wonder in thee:
“At Thy right hand stood the Queen,”
Thy Mother, the mediatrix of life,
since God was freely born of her without a father.
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion,
so He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder
and brought it to His Father,
joining it to the heavenly pow’rs.//
Christ, Who has great and rich mercy, has saved the world, O Theotokos.

APOSTICHA

Tone 4 *(for the Resurrection)*

By ascending the Cross, O Lord,
Thou hast annulled our ancestral curse.
By descending to hell, Thou hast freed the eternal prisoners,
granting incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Thy life-creating and saving Resurrection.

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

By hanging upon the tree, O only powerful Lord,
Thou didst shake all of creation.
By being laid in the tomb Thou hast raised those who dwelt in the tombs,
granting life and incorruption to the human race.//
Therefore in songs we glorify Thy rising on the third day.

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

The lawless people, O Christ,
handed Thee over to Pilate, condemned to be crucified,
thus proving themselves ungrateful before their Benefactor.
But voluntarily Thou didst endure burial,
rising by Thine own power on the third day as God,//
granting us life everlasting and great mercy.

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

With tears the women reached Thy tomb,
searching for Thee, but not finding Thee.
They wept with wailing and lamented:
“Woe to us! Our Saviour, King of all,
how wast Thou stolen?
What place can hold Thy life-bearing body?”
An Angel replied to them:
“Do not weep, but go and proclaim that the Lord is risen,//
granting us joy as the only compassionate One!”

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

Tone 4 *Idiomelon* *(for the Forefeast, by Patriarch Germanus)*

The joy of all the world has dawned for us from the righteous ones:
the all-praised Virgin who springs from Joachim and Anna.
Through the abundance of goodness she becomes the living temple of God,
and she alone is acknowledged as truly the Theotokos.
Through her prayers, O Christ God,//
send peace to the world and to our souls great mercy!

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 4

[Music on website / Green Book page 8]

When the women disciples of the Lord learned from the angel
the joyous message of Thy Resurrection,
they cast away the ancestral curse
and elatedly told the apostles:
“Death is overthrown!
Christ God is risen,//
granting the world great mercy!”

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

Troparion of Saint Sozon in Tone 4

[\[Music on website / Sheet\]](#)

Thy holy martyr Sozón, O Lord,
through his sufferings has received an incorruptible crown from Thee, our God.
For having Thy strength, he laid low his adversaries,
and shattered the powerless boldness of demons.//
Through his intercession, save our souls!

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

Troparion of the Forefeast of the Nativity in Tone 4

[\[Music on website / Sheet\]](#)

Today from the stem of Jesse and from the loins of David,
the handmaid of God Mary is being born for us.
Therefore all creation is renewed and rejoices.
Heaven and earth rejoice together.
Praise her, you families of nations,
for Joachim rejoices and Anna celebrates crying out://
“The barren one gives birth to the Theotokos, the Nourisher of our life!”