

Vespers sung on Saturday 11th October for Sunday 12th October 2025
18th Sunday after Pentecost (3rd of Luke) – Tone 1
Commemoration of the Holy Fathers of the 7th Ecumenical Council

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 1

[Music in book]

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 forth my soul out of prison, that I may confess Thy name.

Tone 1 (For the Resurrection)

Acept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!
Grant us remission of sins,//
for Thou alone hast manifested the Resurrection to the world.

The righteous await me until Thou shalt reward me.

Encircle Zion
and surround her, O people!
Give glory in her to the One Who rose from the dead!
For He is our God,//
Who has delivered us from our transgressions!

Out of the depths have I cried to thee, O Lord; O Lord, hear my voice.

Come, O people,
let us hymn and fall down before Christ,
glorifying His Resurrection from the dead!
For He is our God,//
Who has delivered the world from the Enemy's deceit!

Let Thine ears give heed to the voice of my cry.

Be glad, O heavens!
Sound trumpets, O foundations of the earth!
Sing in gladness, O mountains!
Behold Emmanuel has nailed our sins to the Cross!
Granting life, He has slain death.//
He has resurrected Adam as the Lover of man.

If Thou shouldst mark iniquities, Lord, O Lord, who shall stand? For with Thee is propitiation.

Tone 6 (*For the Holy Fathers*)

[Music on website]

The Patriarch Gemanus the New,
taking the honoured councils of the fathers,
brought them together in one single canon,
recording and holding their dogmas;
and these valorous intercessors for salvation
doth he present to the Lord, and to the flock and its pastors.

*For Thy name's sake have I waited patiently for Thee, O Lord; my soul hath waited patiently for Thy word;
my soul hath hoped in the Lord.*

Repeat 'The Patriarch Gemanus the New'

From the morning watch until night; from the morning watch, let Israel hope in the Lord.

The Scriptures of the law appointed the honoured number seven
for the Hebrew children, who wait in shadow and serve it;
whilst the fathers
who, at the command of God Who created all that exists in six days and blessed the seventh,
met at the sevenfold Councils,
have made it most honourable.

*For with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption; and He shall deliver Israel out of all
his iniquities.*

O thrice blessed fathers!
Using material things ye taught unto all the Trinity
Who is the cause of the world's creation;
for, having instituted the three and four Council with most mystical discourse,
and as manifest champions of Orthodox doctrine,
ye expounded the four elements,
and the Trinity Who created them and made the world.

O praise the Lord, all ye nations; praise Him, all ye peoples.

A single bending of the greatly renowned Prophet Elisha
over the prone son of the woman who had rendered him service
was sufficient to bring life into him;
yet he returned and bent over him seven times,
proclaiming beforehand as a seer of things to come
your councils, whereby ye have brought to life the mortality of God the Word,
slaying Arius and those who laboured with him.

For He hath made His mercy to prevail over us, and the truth of the Lord remaineth forever.

Who hath rent Thy garment, O Saviour?
It was Arius, Thou hast said,
who separated the Trinity's authority of equal honour into divisions.
He hath denied that Thou art One of the Trinity.
He hath taught Nestorius not to say 'Theotokos'.
But the Council in Nicaea hath proclaimed Thee, O Lord, to be the Son of God,
equally enthroned with the Father and the Spirit.

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

Let us praise the God-bearing fathers today,
as clarions of the Spirit,
which sound forth within the Church the melodious hymn of theology,
that the Trinity is One
and immutable in essence and divinity.
They have cast down the Arians, and are the champions of the Orthodox,
who ever beseech the Lord to have mercy on our souls.

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

Tone 1 (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

[Music in book]

Let us praise the Virgin Mary!
The gate of heaven, the glory of the world!
The song of the angels, the beauty of the faithful! She was
born of man, yet gave birth to God!
She was revealed as the heaven, as the temple of the Godhead! She
destroyed the wall of enmity!
She commenced the peace; she opened the Kingdom! Since she
is our foundation of faith,
our defender is the Lord Whom she bore! Courage!
Courage! O People of God!
For Christ will destroy our enemies//
since He is all powerful.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

The reading from the first book of Moses, the book of the Genesis.

¹⁴When Abram heard that his nephew Lot was taken captive, he numbered his own homeborn servants, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan. ¹⁵And he came upon them by night, he and his servants, and smote them and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. ¹⁶And he brought back all the horses of Sodom, and brought back again his nephew Lot and all his goods and the women and the people.

¹⁷And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after that he returned from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, in the valley of Shaveh: this was the king's plain.

¹⁸And Melchisedek king of Salem brought forth bread loaves and wine; and he was priest of the Most High God. ¹⁹And he blessed Abram and said, Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, Which made the heaven and the earth, ²⁰and blessed be the Most High God, Which hath delivered up thine enemies under thy hands to thee. And Abram gave him the tithe of all. [Genesis 14:14-20]

The reading from the fifth book of Moses, the book of Deuteronomy.

⁸Behold, God hath delivered the land before you: go in, and inherit the land, which I swear unto your fathers, Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, to give it unto them, and to their seed after them. ⁹And I spake unto you at that time, saying, I shall not be able to bear you myself alone. ¹⁰The Lord your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye are this day as the stars of heaven for multitude. ¹¹The Lord God of your fathers increase you a thousand times so many more as ye are, and bless you, as He hath spoken unto you!

¹²So I took of you wise men and understanding and discerning, and made them to be rulers over you, captains of thousands, and captains of hundreds, and captains of fifties, and captains of tens, and officers unto your judges. ¹³And I charged your judges at that time, saying, Hear the causes between your brethren, and judge righteously between a man and his brother, and his stranger that is with him. ¹⁴Thou shalt not have respect unto a face in judgment; thou shalt judge according to small and great; thou shalt not shrink before the face of man; for the judgment is God's: and whatsoever matter shall be too hard for you, ye shall bring it unto me; and I will hear it. [Deuteronomy 1:8-11, 15-17]

The reading from the fifth book of Moses, the book of Deuteronomy.

¹Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heaven is the Lord thy God's, the earth also, with all that therein is. ²Only the Lord chose thy fathers, to love them, and He chose their seed after them, even you above all people, as it is this day. ³Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. ⁴For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and terrible, which accepteth not persons, nor taketh reward. ⁵He doth execute the judgment of the stranger, and the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, giving him food and raiment. ⁶Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. ⁷Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him thou shalt cleave, and swear by His name. ⁸He is thy praise, and He is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen. [Deuteronomy 10:14-21]

APOSTICHA

Tone 1 *(For the Resurrection)*

We have been freed from sufferings by Thy suffering, O Christ.
We have been delivered from corruption by Thy Resurrection.//
O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Let creation rejoice!
Let the heavens be glad!
Let the nations clap their hands with gladness,
for Christ our Savior has nailed our sins to the Cross. Slaying death, He has given life.//
He has resurrected fallen Adam as the Lover of man.

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

As King of heaven and earth,
Thou wast voluntarily crucified in Thy love for man. Hell was
angered when it met Thee below.
Adam rose seeing Thee, the Creator, under the earth. O
wonder! How has the Life of all tasted death?
Thou didst enlighten the world which cries://
O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead, glory to Thee!

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

The myrrhbearing women came with haste to Thy tomb,
bearing myrrh and lamenting. Not finding
Thy most pure body,
they learned from the angel of the new and glorious wonder.
They told the Apostles://
“The Lord is risen, granting the world great mercy.”

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

And for the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council in Tone 4:

This day let us the assemblies of the Orthodox, [Music on website]
faithfully act in accordance with piety,
celebrate the prayerful commemoration of the God-bearing Fathers
who in the splendid city of Nicaea
assembled from throughout all the world,
for with pious resolve they cast down the godless dogma of the fearsome Arius,
and in council expelled him from the catholic Church,
and in their Symbol of Faith have clearly taught all to confess
the Son of God to be consubstantial, equally everlasting, and existent from before the ages
setting this forth precisely and devoutly.
Wherefore, following their divine dogmas
and believing them with certainty,
we worship the Trinity One in Essence:
the Son and the Holy Spirit together with the Father in One Godhead.

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

Theotokion in Tone 4:

[Music in book]

Look upon the entreaties of thy servants, O blameless one,
stop all the terrible attacks against us.
Free us from every affliction,
for we have only thee as our sure and firm anchor.
Let us not be put to shame, O Lady,
for we call upon thee for intercession.
Hasten to pray for those who call upon thee in faith.
Rejoice, O Lady the help of all;
the joy and shelter and salvation of our souls!

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 1

[Music in book]

When the stone had been sealed by the Jews,
while the soldiers were guarding Thy most pure body,
Thou didst rise on the third day, O Savior,
granting life to the world.
The powers of heaven therefore cried to Thee, O Giver of Life:
“Glory to Thy Resurrection, O Christ!
Glory to Thy Kingdom!//
Glory to Thy dispensation, O Thou Who lovest mankind!”

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

Troparion of the Holy Fathers in Tone 8

[Music on website / Sheet]

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

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

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 8

[Music in book]

For our sakes Thou was born of a virgin,
and didst endure crucifixion, O good One,
and didst destroy Death by death,
and being God didst reveal the resurrection.
Despise not the works of Thy hands
but show Thy love for man, O merciful one.
Accept the prayers of the one who gave birth to Thee
and save Thy despairing people, O our Saviour.