

Reader's Vespers on Saturday 31st January 2026

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (Beginning of the Lenten Triodion)

Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

"LORD, I CALL ..."

Tone 1

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 1 (For the Resurrection)

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

Accept our evening prayers, O holy Lord!

Grant us remission of sins,//

for Thou alone hast manifested the Resurrection to the world.

The righteous will surround me, for Thou wilt deal bountifully with 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 I cry to Thee, O Lord. 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 be attentive to the voice of my supplications!

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

Tone 1 (From the Lenten Triodion)

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

Brothers, let us not pray like the Pharisee!

He who exalts himself will be humbled.

Let us prepare to abase ourselves by fasting;
let us cry aloud with the voice of the Publican://
"O God, forgive us sinners!"

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: Brothers, let us not pray like the Pharisee ...

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

The Pharisee went up to the temple with a proud and empty heart;
the Publican bowed himself in repentance.

They both stood before Thee, O Master:
the one, through boasting, lost his reward,
but the other, with tears and sighs, won Thy blessing:
Strengthen me, O Christ our God, as I weep in Thy presence,//
since Thou art the Lover of man!

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 the Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord) [Music on website]

The holy Church prepares to receive within herself
the Lord Who comes as an Infant.
With grace she spiritually illuminates the faithful and God-loving assembly.
She cries out: "Thou art my glory, my boast and the adornment of my fullness, //
O Word, Who didst become an Infant in the flesh for my sake."

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

The most splendid Bridal Chamber,
the all-honourable Tabernacle,
the holy and spacious Temple
bears the Lord within the chambers of the Temple.
She betroths Him beforehand to His honoured Church.
She prays to Him that those who fittingly glorify her as the Theotokos//
may be delivered from corruption and dangers.

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

Let us now offer to Christ the praise of the Forefeast,
glorifying His condescension;
for He is brought as an Infant in the Virgin's arms!
He comes to lie in the arms of Simeon, who prophesies to all mankind//
that as Benefactor and Lord He makes their nature divine.

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

Tone 8 (From the Lenten Triodion) [Music on website]

I know the value of tears, O almighty Lord:
they delivered Hezekiah from the gates of death,
and rescued the harlot from repeated sins.
Tears justified the Publican instead of the Pharisee.
I pray Thee, O Lord://
"Number me with the former, and have mercy on me!"

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

Tone 1 (Theotokion – Dogmatikon)

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!

[Music on website]

[She was revealed as the heaven ...]

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.

APOSTICHA

Tone 1 (*For the Resurrection*)

[Music on website]

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 Saviour 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;

Tone 5 (*From the Lenten Triodion*)

The weight of my transgressions burdens mine eyes:
I cannot lift my gaze to the heights of heaven, O Lord.
Accept me in repentance, as Thou didst accept the Publican;//
have mercy on me, O Saviour!

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

Tone 2 (*For the Forefeast of the Meeting of the Lord*) [Music on website]

The holy Virgin brought the Holy One to the priest in the sacred Temple.
Simeon, extending his arms, received Him with joy, and cried out:
"Now, Master, let Thy servant depart in peace,//
according to Thy word, O Lord!"

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 1

[Music on website / Green Book page 2]

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

Troparion of the Forefeast in Tone 1

[Music on website]

The celestial choir of heavenly Angels
bends down to the earth
and sees the First-born of all creation being carried into the Temple as a Babe
by a Mother who has not known man,
and in amazement they sing along with us//
a hymn of the Forefeast.
