

**Vespers sung on Saturday 21st October 2023 for Sunday 22nd October
20th Sunday after Pentecost
The Holy Equal-to-the-Apostles Abercius, Bishop & Wonderworker of Hierapolis**

“LORD, I CALL ...”

Tone 3

[Music on website / Sheet]

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 3 (For the Resurrection)

[Music on website / Sheet]

By Thy Cross, O Christ our Saviour,
death's dominion has been shattered;
the devil's delusion destroyed.
The race of man, being saved by faith,//
always offers Thee a song.

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

All has been enlightened by Thy Resurrection, O Lord.
Paradise has been opened again.
All creation, praising Thee,//
always offers Thee a song.

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

I glorify the power of the Father and the Son.
I praise the authority of the Holy Spirit:
the undivided, uncreated Godhead,//
the consubstantial Trinity which reigns forever.

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

We bow down in worship before Thy precious Cross, O Christ,
and we glorify and praise Thy Resurrection,//
for by Thy wounds we have all been healed.

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

We praise the Saviour incarnate of the Virgin,
for He was crucified for our sake and resurrected on the third day,//
granting us great mercy.

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.

Christ descended to hell proclaiming the glad tidings:
"Behold! Now I have triumphed!
I am the Resurrection, I will lead you out, //
for I have shattered the gates of death!"

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

Standing unworthily in Thy most pure house, O Christ God,
we offer our evening song, crying from the depths:
Thou Who didst enlighten the world,
by Thy Resurrection on the third day,
O Lover of man, deliver Thy people //
from the hand of Thine enemies!

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

Tone 2 (For Saint Abercius)

[Music on website / Sheet]

With the splendours of divine teachings
thou didst destroy the night of polytheism, O Father Abercius.
Thou didst reveal the dawn in all-glorious miracles,
making those who were in darkness children of the day.
Therefore, we all celebrate thy holy memory with faith, //
singing hymns to thee, O divinely inspired one.

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

Thou didst perform a miracle, O Father,
mingling wine and oil in a single vessel, preserving them in that way,
but when needed thou didst cause them to separate by divine grace.
By thy supplication thou didst cause a gift of warm water to gush forth
healing the infirmities of those who approach thee with faith //
and call thee blessed, O Father Abercius.

[Music on website / Sheet]

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

Dedicating thy whole self to God, O Abercius,
thou didst fulfil the teachings of God.
Thou didst receive grace from on high, O venerable one,
driving away mankind's many infirmities.
Thou didst destroy the temples of the idols, //
planting the knowledge of God in those who languished in wretched ignorance, O blessed one.

[Music on website / Sheet]

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

Tone 3 (For Saint Abercius)

Venerable hierarch, most blessed Father Abercius,
thou art a wonder-worker and favourite of God.
Shining forth in thy prophetic life,
thou hast been granted apostolic gifts.
Together with the Angels thou dost ever minister before the Saviour. //
Pray that our souls may be delivered from all harm!

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

Tone 3 (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

How can we not wonder
 at thy mystical childbearing, O exalted Mother?
 For without receiving the touch of man,
 thou gavest birth to a Son in the flesh, O immaculate Virgin.
 The Son born of the Father before eternity
 was born of thee at the fullness of time, O honoured Lady.
 He underwent no mingling, no change, no division,
 but preserved the fullness of each nature.
 Entreat Him, O Lady and Virgin and Mother,
 to save the souls of those who, in the Orthodox manner, confess thee//
 to be the Theotokos.

[Music on website / Sheet]

APOSTICHA**Tone 3** (*For the Resurrection*)

The sun was darkened by Thy Passion, O Christ,
 but all creation was enlightened by the light of Thy Resurrection.//
 Accept our evening song, O Lover of man!

[Music on website / Sheet]

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

Thy life-bearing Resurrection, O Lord,
 enlightened the whole universe, recalling Thy creation.
 Delivered from Adam's curse, we sing://
 O Almighty Lord, glory to Thee!

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

Thou art the changeless God,
 Who, suffering in the flesh, wast changed.
 Creation could not endure seeing Thee on the Cross.
 It was filled with fear while praising Thy patience.
 By descending to hell and rising on the third day,//
 Thou hast granted to the world life and great mercy.

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

Thou didst endure death, O Christ,
 to deliver the race of men from death.
 Thou didst rise from the dead on the third day,
 raising with Thyself those who knew Thee as God//
 and enlightening the world. Glory to Thee!

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

Tone 3 (*Resurrectional Theotokion*)

By the will of the Father,
 without seed, of the Holy Spirit thou didst conceive the Son of God.
 He was born of the Father before eternity without a mother,
 but now for our sake He didst come from thee without a father!//
 Do not cease entreating Him to deliver our souls from harm!

TROPARIA

Troparion of the Resurrection in Tone 3

[Music on website / Green Book page 6]

Let the heavens rejoice!
Let the earth be glad!
For the Lord has shown strength with His arm.
He has trampled down death by death.
He has become the first born of the dead.
He has delivered us from the depths of hell,
and has granted to the world//
great mercy.

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

Troparion of Saint Abercius in Tone 5

[Music on website / Sheet]

Thou didst emulate the zeal of the Apostles
and shone forth like a morning star,
and thy works did show thy God-given power:
thou didst guide the erring to God,//
O hierarch Abercius.

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

Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 5

Rejoice, impassable gate of the Lord!
Rejoice, rampart and protection of those who have recourse unto thee!
Rejoice, haven untouched by storms,
thou that knowest not wedlock,
who gavest birth in the flesh to thy Creator and God!
Fail not in thy supplications//
for those who hymn and venerate thy birthgiving!