

**Vespers sung on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 for Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November  
22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
The Holy Martyrs Galacteon & his wife, Epistemis**

**“LORD I CALL ...”**

**Tone 5**

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 5 (For the Resurrection)**

By Thy precious Cross, O Christ,  
Thou hast put the devil to shame.  
By Thy Resurrection, Thou hast blunted the sting of sin  
and saved us from the gates of death.//  
We glorify Thee, O only-begotten One.

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

Christ was led as a sheep to the slaughter  
in order to grant Resurrection to the human race.  
The princes of hell were frightened by this,  
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.  
Christ the King of glory had entered,  
saying to those in chains: “Go forth!”//  
And to those in darkness: “Come to the light!”

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

O great wonder!  
The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His love for man  
and rose again immortal.  
Come, O sons of nations,  
let us worship Him,  
for delivered from error by His compassion,//  
we have learned to sing of one God in three Persons!

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

We offer Thee our evening worship,  
O never-setting Light,  
Who didst come in these last days to the world in the flesh;  
Who even didst descend to hell to dispel its darkness.  
Who hast revealed the light of Resurrection to the nations.//  
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Giver of light!

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

We glorify the Leader of our salvation;  
by His Resurrection from the dead,  
the world was saved from deceit.  
The assembly of Angels rejoices  
as the deceit of demons is overthrown.//  
Fallen Adam rises as the devil falls.

*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.*

The guards were instructed by the lawless ones:  
"Hide the rising of Christ, take money and say:  
"The body was stolen from the tomb while we were asleep."  
But who has heard of a body being stolen,  
a body embalmed and naked,  
with its grave clothes left behind in the tomb?  
Do not be deceived, O Jews,  
study the words of the Prophets and understand://  
Christ is the Redeemer of the world and all powerful!

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

O Lord, Who hast captured hell  
and trampled on death,  
Thou hast enlightened the world by Thy precious Cross.//  
O Saviour, have mercy on us!

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

**Tone 8 (For the Martyrs)**

Thou wast raised on the milk of the ascetic life,  
coming to Christ in maturity, O Galacteon.  
Through many tortures and afflictions,  
thou gavest thyself as an acceptable offering and perfect sacrifice.  
By thy free will, and firm, unwavering faith,//  
thou didst come to God and now dwellest in divine glory.

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

Thou didst wisely seek the Source of all blessings,  
and the consummation of all desire, O Epistemis.  
By His illumination thou wast enlightened in soul and understanding.  
By thy steadfastness, O divinely blessed one,  
thou didst destroy the ancient and crafty Serpent.//  
Thou art the divine adornment of monastics, O long-suffering martyr.

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

The two radiant stars arise by grace from the spiritual east,  
enlightening with virtue the whole creation,  
shining with the brilliance of their struggles and the divine grace of healing.  
As we celebrate their feast, let us glorify Christ,//  
Who through them sanctifies all.

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

**Tone 5** (*Theotokion – Dogmatikon*)

In the Red Sea of old,  
a type of the Virgin Bride was prefigured.  
There Moses divided the waters;  
here Gabriel assisted in the miracle.  
There Israel crossed the sea without getting wet,  
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.  
After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;  
after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.  
O ever-existing God Who didst appear as Man, //  
O Lord, have mercy on us!

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**APOSTICHA**

**Tone 5** (*For the Resurrection*)

We magnify Thee in songs of praise,  
O incarnate Christ and Saviour.  
By accepting the Cross and death for our sake,  
as the Lord and Lover of man,  
Thou didst overthrow the gates of hell, //  
and didst arise on the third day, saving our souls.

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

By being pierced in the side, O Lover of man,  
Thou hast poured out drops of life and salvation for all.  
By accepting death in the flesh, Thou hast granted us immortality.  
Thou hast freed us by being placed in the tomb,  
and hast resurrected us with Thyself in glory, as God. //  
Glory to Thee, O Lord and Lover of man!

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

Thy crucifixion and descent into hell are awesome, O Lover of man.  
Thou hast captured it, releasing the ancient prisoners.  
Thou hast opened Paradise and given it to us.  
Grant us purification of sins,  
who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day!  
Make us worthy of Paradise //  
and save us, O Lover of man!

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

For our sake, Thou didst accept death in the flesh,  
to rise from the dead on the third day.  
Heal us from our earthly passions,  
and restore us from our evil transgressions; //  
and save us, O 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 5 (*Theotokion*)**

O most precious Virgin,  
thou art the gate, the temple,  
the palace, the throne of the King.  
From thee, my Redeemer, Christ the Lord,  
appeared to those asleep in darkness.  
He is the Sun of Righteousness,  
Who desired to enlighten His image, whom He had created.  
Since thou dost possess motherly boldness before Him, O all-praised Lady, //  
pray unceasingly that our souls may be saved!

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**TROPARIA****Troparion of the Resurrection****Tone 5**

Let us, the faithful, praise and worship the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father and the Spirit,  
born for our salvation from the Virgin;  
for He willed to be lifted up on the Cross in the flesh,  
to endure death,  
and to raise the dead //  
by His glorious Resurrection.

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

**Troparion of the Holy Martyrs****Tone 1**

Let us the faithful honour these two betrothed athletes:  
Galacteon and modest Epistemis.  
Their ascetic labours blossomed into martyrdom,  
Therefore we cry to them:  
"Glory to Him Who has strengthened you!  
Glory to Him Who has crowned you! //  
Glory to Him Who through you grants healing to all!"

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

**Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion****Tone 1**

When Gabriel announced to thee, "Rejoice!"  
the Master of all became incarnate within thee, O Virgin:  
the holy tabernacle, at his cry,  
as the righteous David said.  
Thou wast shown to be more spacious than the heavens,  
having borne thy Creator.  
Glory to Him Who made His abode within thee!  
Glory to Him Who came forth from thee!  
Glory to Him Who hath set us free //  
by thy birthgiving.