

## Vespers sung on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023 for Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ♦ The Holy Prophet Zephaniah

“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)**

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.*

Let us praise Him  
Who voluntarily was crucified in the flesh for our sake.  
He suffered, was buried, but rose from the dead.  
By Orthodoxy confirm Thy Church, O Christ.//  
Grant peace for our life as the gracious Lover of man.

*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 stand before Thy life-bearing tomb unworthily, O Christ God,  
offering glory to Thine ineffable compassion.  
Thou hast accepted the Cross and death, O sinless One//  
to grant Resurrection to the world as the Lover of man.

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

Let us praise the Word,  
co-eternal with the Father.  
He ineffably came forth from the virginal womb.  
He freely accepted the Cross and death for our sake.  
He was raised in glory.//  
Glory to Thee, O life-giving Lord, the Saviour of our souls!

*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 Prophet Zephaniah)*

As a divine prophet, herald and proclaimer of the words of God,  
receiving the radiance of divine splendour in purity of mind,  
thou wast revealed as the divinely inspired mouth of the Spirit.  
Thou proclaimest the things He revealed to thee,  
telling all the nations, O most honoured one,  
of the Kingdom of Christ and the salvation that is given to men.//  
Entreat Him to save and enlighten our souls!

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

Thou dost fittingly shine forth in the vision of God, O divinely inspired one,  
honoured with grace and a chief place among the Prophets,  
receiving the blessings of God.  
Now that thou hast boldness towards the All-Good One and sympathy for us,  
we honour thee for having the eloquence of God, being honourable and pleasing to Him.  
Never cease to pray on behalf of those who praise thee in faith,//  
that He may deliver us from misfortunes and save our souls!

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

Thou didst reveal Thy Prophet, O Immortal One,  
to be a living cloud pouring forth the water of eternal life.  
Thou didst send him forth, giving him freely the All-holy Spirit,  
consubstantial with Thee, the Almighty Father,  
and Thy Son, who shone forth from Thine Essence,  
by which he prophesied the saving coming of Christ our God,//  
proclaiming salvation to all the nations.

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

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

### **Tone 1** (*Theotokion*)

Behold, Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled,  
for the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin!  
God was born, and so nature was restored anew.  
Do not despise the entreaties of thy servants, O Mother of God!  
We offer them to thee in thy temple.  
Since thou hast carried in thine arms the compassionate One,  
have compassion on thy servants, //  
and pray that our souls may be saved.

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### **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;*

#### **Troparion of the Prophet Zephaniah in Tone 2**

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

We celebrate the memory  
of Thy prophet Zephaniah, O Lord;  
through him we beseech Thee: //  
"Save our souls!"

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

#### **Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion in Tone 2**

All of thy most glorious mysteries  
are beyond comprehension, O Theotokos;  
for, thy purity sealed and thy virginity intact,  
thou art known to be a true Mother, having given birth unto God.  
Him do thou entreat, that our souls may be saved.