

The 29th Day of June



Holy Glorious and All-praised Leaders of the Apostles Peter and Paul

Small Evening Service

At “Lord, I call...,” 4 stikhera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, “Thou hast given a sign....”*

Thou hast given to Thy Church, O Lord, /
Thine honored Apostles to be a source of praise. /
For from within her, Peter and Paul shine like spiritual stars /
And illumine the whole inhabited earth /
Bringing it out of the gloom of darkness, ///
O Almighty Jesus, the Savior of our souls. (*twice*)

Thou hast given to Thy Church, O Lord /
The strength of Peter and the understanding of Paul, /
Whose truthful words established her firm foundation /
And the inspired brightness of her wisdom /
That destroyed the proud deceit of the pagans. /
Therefore, being led into the Mysteries by both, we praise Thee. ///
O Almighty Jesus, the Savior of our souls.

Thou hast given to us Thy two Apostles /
To be examples of true repentance and conversion. /
For one denied Thee at Thy passion and then repented, /
And the other opposed Thy teachings then came to believe; /
And together they stood as the leaders of Thy disciples, ///
O Almighty Jesus, the Savior of our souls.

Glory..., in Tone 8: *the composition of John of Damascus*

O blessèd Apostle Paul, /
Once a persecutor and a hater of the Church /
Thou wast called from heaven to become her defender. /
Pray then now on her behalf ///
That she be delivered from all danger and that our souls may be saved.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

I flee to thee, O Mother of God, /
For under thy mystical protection ///
We are healed from spiritual infirmities.

The Prokeimenon of the Day.

At the Apostikha, the stikhera, in Tone 2: *To the melody, “When Joseph of Arimathea took Thee down from the tree....”*

O Peter, the founding stone of the apostles, /
The supporting rock of the Church of Christ,
The first among Christians, /
Glorious pastor of the sheep of thy flock: /
Protect us from the ravenous wolves that beset us, /
And from the evil attacks of the enemy, /
For thou dost truly intercede for us before God ///
And we who praise thee are saved through thy holy prayers.

Verse: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe.

O Paul, the fisher of all the nations, /
The foremost of all the Christians, /
The light that shines to the ends of the universe, /
Who like the Sun traverses the breadth of the earth, /
The preacher of the divine faith, and tireless herald of Christ, the Living God; /
Deliver us all from the bonds of sin ///
Who praise thee and rejoice at thy holy prayers.

Verse: The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

O Peter, the chief of the disciples /
And Paul, the fulfillment of the apostles, /
Earnestly pray to God that He deliver us, /
And send down His speedy help upon His people /
That we may faithfully rejoice in the blessed shadow, ///
Sheltered by the protection of your holy works.

Glory..., in Tone 4: *the composition of John of Damascus*

Christ, the Chief Archpriest, chose thee, O Peter, /
To build the foundation of the Church /
When Himself He crowned thee saying: /
“Blessèd art thou, O holy preacher, Simon bar-Jonah: /
Because flesh and blood hath not revealed it to thee, /
But my Father Who is in heaven.” ///
Entreat Him, O divine Apostle, that He may grant us great mercy.

Now and ever..., Theotokion

Deliver us from all perils /
O Mother of Christ our God, /
Thou who gavest birth to the Creator of all /
That we may all cry to thee: ///
Rejoice, thou only mediatrix of our souls.

The Troparion of the Apostles in Tone 4:

O first-enthroned of the apostles, /
Teachers of the universe, /
Entreat the Master of all /
To grant peace to the world ///
And great mercy to our souls.

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion in the same Tone:

The mystery of all eternity /
Unknown even by angels /
Through thee is revealed on earth, O Mother of God /
God incarnate by union without confusion. /
For our sake He voluntarily endured the Cross, /
By it He resurrected the first-created Adam ///
And saved our souls from death.

Great Evening Service

After the Introductory Psalm, “Blessèd is the man...,” the first Kathisma.

At “Lord, I call,” 8 stikhera, of the Apostles, in Tone 2: *the composition of Andrew Pyros*

With what wreaths of praise shall we crown Peter and Paul, /
Separate in body, yet united in spirit, /
The two leaders of the divine preachers? /
For one, indeed, led the apostles, /
While the other labored more than all the rest. /
And Christ, our God, hath worthily crowned them with immortal glory, ///
For He hath great mercy. (*thrice*)

With what songs of beauty shall we praise Peter and Paul, /
Who, upon the wings of wisdom, travelled to all the ends of the earth, /
Ascending to the heights of heaven? /

Carrying in their arms the Good News of Grace, /
Those words of preaching, those streams of wisdom, and those bars of the Cross, /
Which Christ brought down upon the brows of the demons ///
For He hath great mercy. (*thrice*)

With what spiritual songs shall we praise Peter and Paul, /
Who destroyed the gaping jaws of godlessness /
With the fearsome swords of the Spirit? /
Those glorious heroes of Rome /
Who nourish the entire universe; /
Those living Tablets of the New Testament inscribed by God ///
Whom Christ proclaimed to the world from Zion. (*twice*)

Glory..., in Tone 4: the composition of John of Damascus

By asking Peter three times “Lovest thou Me?” /
Christ sets aright the three-fold denial. /
When Simon said to the Master, “Thou knowest all things, thou knowest
that I love Thee” /
The Savior answered him saying: “Feed My sheep, feed My elect, /
Feed My lambs for whom, by My Blood, I have wrought salvation.” ///
Entreat Him, O blessèd Apostle, that He grant us great mercy.

Now and ever..., Dogmatic Theotokion, in Tone 4:

The prophet David was a father of the Lord /
Through thee, O Virgin /
He foretold in songs the one who worked wonders in thee: /
“At thy right hand stood the Queen, thy Mother /
The Mediatrix of life /
Since God was freely born of her without a father.” /
He wanted to renew His fallen image, made corrupt in passion, /
So He took the lost sheep upon His shoulder /
And brought it to His Father /
Joining it with the heavenly powers; /
Christ Who has great and rich mercy ///
Has saved the world, O Theotokos.

The Entrance and the Prokeimenon of the day.

Three Readings:

The Reading from the First General Epistle of Peter (1:3-9)

Brethren, ^{1:3}blessèd be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again to a living hope through the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that cannot fade, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶In this ye greatly rejoice, though now for a little while if need be, ye have

been grieved by various trials, ⁷that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found unto praise and honor and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, ⁸Whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, ⁹receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

The Reading from the First General Epistle of Peter (1:13-19)

^{1:13}**M**y beloved, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; ¹⁴as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; ¹⁵but as He Who called you is Holy, so be ye also holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶because it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am Holy.” ¹⁷And if ye call on

the Father, Who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear; ¹⁸knowing that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your vain conduct received by tradition from your fathers, ¹⁹but with the precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

The Reading from the First General Epistle of Peter (2:11-24)

^{2:11}**M**y beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, ¹²having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation. ¹³Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake, whether to the king as supreme, ¹⁴or unto governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers

and for the praise of those who do good. ¹⁵For so is the will of God, that by doing good ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men; ¹⁶as free, yet not using your liberty as a cloak for maliciousness, but as the servants of God. ¹⁷Honor all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king. ¹⁸Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh. ¹⁹For this is commendable, if because of conscience toward God one endures grief,

suffering wrongfully. ²⁰For what glory is it if, when you are beaten for your faults, you take it patiently? But when you do good and suffer for it, if you take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. ²¹For even unto this you were called because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: ²²“Who did not sin,

neither was guile found in His mouth”; ²³Who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him that judges righteously; ²⁴Who Himself bore our sins in His own Body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live unto righteousness.

At the Litya, these stikhera of the Apostles, in Tone 2: the composition of Andrew of Jerusalem

Come, O ye assembly of the righteous, /
You faithful and pious gathered together, /
And let us praise the chosen heroes, Peter and Paul, /
And let us crown them with worthy songs of praise, /
For they freely sowed the Word to all, /
Enriching us with the Grace of the Spirit. /
Indeed, they are the fruit of the True Vine, /
Bringing forth for us clusters of grapes and making glad our hearts. /
Let us openly and honestly sing their praises saying: /
Rejoice, enemies of senselessness and servants of reasoning, /
Rejoice, splendid chosen ones of the Maker and Creator of all, /
Rejoice, champions of Goodness and enemies of deceit! /
Let us entreat them to earnestly pray to our Fashioner and Teacher ///
That He grant lasting peace to the world and great mercy to our souls.

[Four other stikhera not translated at this time 5/2014]

Glory..., Tone 5:

O Apostles, the admiration of all the earth! /
You were foretold in the Gospels: /
You are the fruit of the True Vine of the Wisdom of God, /
Of Him that is God, the Word of the Father, /
And you carry upon the brace of your shoulders /
The ripe and beautiful clusters of grapes, /
That are sweet to the taste of the faithful, /
O Peter, thou rock of faith, and Paul, thou pride of the world, ///
Confirm the flock you have acquired through your teachings.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

We bless thee, O Virgin Mother of God, /
And we the faithful worthily glorify thee, /
O invincible city that cannot be broken, ///
O steadfast protectress and the refuge of our souls.

At the Apostikha, these stikhera, in Tone 1: *the composition of Andrew of Crete*

Who can tell of the tribulations and sorrows /
That thou didst endure throughout thy travels, O holy Apostle Paul? /
Who can describe thine accomplishments and all the greatness of thy deeds, /
Of all thy labors for the Gospel of Christ /
In order to gain mankind /
And to lead them into the Church of Christ? /
Pray that she, preserves thy Witness even unto the end of all things, ///
O Apostle Paul, the teacher of the Church.

Verse: Their proclamation has gone out into all the earth and their words to the ends of the universe.

Who can tell of thy tribulations and sorrows, /
O holy Apostle Paul, /
All thy labors, weariness and vigils, /
Hunger, thirst, the cold and nakedness, /
Imprisonment and beatings with iron rods, /
Being the victim of stoning, and kept under constant watch, /
The terrors of the deep, the shipwrecks, /
Made a spectacle for both angels and men. /
Thou didst endure all these things for Christ /
Who strengthened thee that thou mightest obtain /
The wold for Christ, our Lord: /
Therefore, we who celebrate thy memory with faith ///
Entreat thee to pray without ceasing that our souls may be saved.

Verse: The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.

Let us praise the great luminaries of the Church, Peter and Paul, /
For they shine upon the firmament of faith more brightly than the Sun, /
Leading all nations to enlightenment from the darkness of ignorance /
By the light of their teachings. /
For the one, was nailed to a cross thus making his journey to heaven /
Where he received the keys to the kingdom of Christ, /
And the other, beheaded by the sword, departed to the Savior. /

Thus are both worthily bless't for they remind the sinning people /
That the Lord Himself was unjustly stretched out upon the Cross! /
Through their prayers, lay low our enemies, O Christ God, ///
And strengthen the Orthodox Faith, for Thou lovest mankind.

Glory..., Tone 6: *the composition of Ephraim Karias*

A joyous feast hath shone forth this day /
Upon all the ends of the earth — /
The celebration of the sacred memory of Peter and Paul, /
The all-wise leaders of the apostles! /
Behold, the city of Rome makes glad and rejoices today! /
Let us also keep the feast, O ye faithful, /
And on this holy day let us sing these hymns of praise: /
Rejoice, O Peter the Apostle, /
Thou true friend of thy Teacher, Christ our God! /
Rejoice O Paul, thou most beloved preacher of the Faith /
Thou teacher of the whole world! /
And as ye both have boldness before Him who hath chosen you, ///
Pray to Christ our God that our souls may be saved.

Now and ever..., in the same Tone:

Christ the Maker, Redeemer and Lord proceeded from thy womb, /
O all-pure Virgin, /
And putting on my nature, set man free from the ancestral curse. /
So we sing to thee without ceasing, O all-pure Virgin, as Mother of God /
With the angelic salutation: /
Rejoice, O Sovereign Lady, ///
Protection, refuge, and salvation of our souls.

After the blessing of the loaves, the Troparion of the Apostles in Tone 4:

O first-enthroned of the apostles, /
Teachers of the universe, /
Entreat the Master of all /
To grant peace to the world ///
And great mercy to our souls. (*twice*)

And the Theotokion: “Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos...,” (once)

Morning Service

At “God is the Lord...” the Troparion of the Apostles, in Tone 4:

O first-enthroned of the apostles, /
Teachers of the universe, /
Entreat the Master of all /
To grant peace to the world ///
And great mercy to our souls. (*twice*)

Glory..., now and ever, the Theotokion, in Tone 4:

The mystery of all eternity /
Unknown even by angels /
Through thee is revealed on earth, O Mother of God /
God incarnate by union without confusion. /
For our sake He voluntarily endured the Cross, /
By it He resurrected the first-created Adam ///
And saved our souls from death.

After the 1st Kathisma, the sessional hymn, in Tone 8: To the melody, “Of Wisdom....”

Receiving the divine revelation from the Father in heaven /
Of the incarnation of the Word /
Thou didst forsake the catching of fish in the sea,
And with faith and boldness thou didst cry to thy Creator: /
“I acknowledge Thee as the Son, One Essence with the Father!” /
And wast worthily revealed as the rock of faith /
And the keeper of the keys of grace. /
O Peter, thou holy Apostle, /
Intercede with Christ God ///
That the remission of sins be granted to those who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory.

Glory..., in Tone 1: To the melody, “When the stone had been sealed....”

Let us the faithful worthily glorify /
Peter, the all-praised, the rock of the Church, /
And Paul, the fervent fisher of the world, /
For indeed, they both hold the keys of heaven; /
Both have enlightened the universe /
With the Faith of the Holy Trinity. /
Glory to Him Who hath enlightened you! /
Glory to Him Who gave you strength! ///
Glory to Him Who through you grants eternal life!

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Stretch forth thy divine hands, O most pure Virgin, /
Upon which thou didst carry the Creator of all /
Who became incarnate of His own Good Will. /
And pray that He may deliver us /
Who lovingly sing thy praises and cry out to thee, /
From every temptation, peril and sorrow. /
Glory to Him Who made His abode in thee! /
Glory to Him Who came forth from thee! ///
Glory to Him, our Deliverer, Who wast born of thee!

After the 2nd Kathisma, the sessional hymn, in Tone 8: *To the melody, "Of Wisdom...."*

Thou didst accept the call from Christ in heaven, /
And wast revealed as the apostle of light /
Enlightening all with the grace of thy teachings: /
Thou didst condemn the worship of the letter of the Law /
Revealing in letters to the faithful the Wisdom of the Spirit. /
Therefore, thou wast accounted worthy of ascending to the third heaven /
Thus attaining the joy of paradise. /
O Paul, thou holy Apostle,
Intercede with Christ God ///
That the remission of sins be granted to those who lovingly celebrate thy holy memory.

Glory..., in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Thou hast appeared today...."*

You have shone as stars unto the ends of the earth, /
Illumining all with the light of your holy teachings, ///
O initiates of the heavenly mysteries and apostles of the Lord.

Now and ever..., Theotokion, in the same Tone:

Thou art the fervent defender of those in trouble, /
The steadfast helper and intercessor before God by whom we are delivered from corruption. ///
Thus we, the faithful bless thee, O Theotokos.

Polyeley and Magnification:

We magnify you, O Apostles of Christ, Peter and Paul, who have enlightened the whole world by your divine preaching and led all the ends of the earth to Christ.

Selected Psalm verses:

The heavens are telling the glory of God and the firmament proclaims His handiwork.
The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord.

After the Polyeley, the sessional hymn, in Tone 8: To the melody: “Of Wisdom....”

Let us worthily praise Peter and the most-wise Paul: /
For they appeared as the leaders of the disciples /
Who burned as great and shining lamps; /
Turning to ash the gloom of vanity with the divine fire of the Spirit /
Revealing themselves as worthy warriors of the kingdom of heaven, /
And were co-enthroned with Grace. /
Let us therefore sing their praises: /
O ye holy Apostles, /
Intercede with Christ God ///
That the remission of sins be granted to those who lovingly celebrate your holy memory.
(twice)

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion:

O all-praised bride of the Creator,
True companion of the Comforter,
Most-pure Mother of the Deliverer, who knowest no wedlock,
Make haste to deliver me, an abode of filth and iniquity
And the willful toy of demons
That I may become a bright and worthy dwelling place of virtue,
O most-glorious and all-pure one:
Remove from me the clouds of passions, through thy prayers ///
And make me worthy of the unfading light and the fellowship of heaven.

1st Antiphon of the 4th Tone (The Song of Ascents), “From my Youth....”

Prokeimenon, in Tone 4:

Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!
Verse: The heavens are telling the Glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

Let every breath praise the Lord! ...

Gospel: (67) John 21:15-25.

After Psalm 50 (51), in Tone 6:

Glory...,

Through the prayers of the glorious chief Apostles of Christ, Peter and Paul, / O merciful Lord, / cleanse me from the multitude of my transgressions..., etc.

Then, the post-Gospel stikheron, of the Apostles, Tone 2:

Let us honor with songs of praise /
Peter, the rock of Faith and Paul the teacher of Truth /
True initiates of the Mysteries of Christ, /
The shining lights of the Church and preachers of piety /
Who planted the Word of Truth into the hearts of the faithful /
Granting to all the bountiful fruit of the Spirit ///
And who pray Christ God for the salvation of our souls.

Two Canons,
the composition of John of Damascus

Ode 1

**The first canon is of the holy Apostle Peter, with an irmos and 6 troparia
(each being sung twice),
in Tone 4**

Irmos: None is like Thee, O Lord, in glory, for by the strength of Thy mighty hand Thou hast delivered Thy people, whom Thou hast created, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Refrain: Holy Apostle of Christ Peter, pray to God for us!

With divine hymns, let us worthily praise today the first-called leader of the apostles.

The Pre-eternal One knew thee, O all-blessèd Peter, as the leader and first bishop of His Church.

Neither flesh nor blood, but the Father inspired thee to speak of Christ as the true Son of the Most-high God, O Apostle.

Refrain: Most Holy Theotokos, save us!

Theotokion: Let us praise the holy mountain, the exalted abode of God and true Virgin after giving birth, the Theotokos.

**The second canon is of the holy Apostle Paul, with an irmos and 6 troparia
(each being sung twice),
in Tone 8**

Irmos: *The Cutter cleft that which could not be cut, and the Sun beheld the earth which could not be seen; the wicked enemy was drowned in the sea, and Israel passed over the impassable singing: Let us sing to the Lord, for gloriously hath He been glorified.*

Refrain: Holy Apostle of Christ Paul, pray to God for us!

O most blessed Paul, When Christ called all things from non-being into being, He called thee from thy mother's womb to carry His divine Name to all the nations, for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Presaging the brightness of the cleansing piety which was to shine from thee eliminating all deceit, Christ, Who had shone on the mount clad in the brightness of light, darkened thy physical eyes so that thy spiritual eyes might be enlightened with the wisdom of the Trinity, for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Glory...

As one zealous of thy fathers' traditions and confirming circumcision on the eighth day, a Hebrew by birth of the tribe of Benjamin, and a Pharisee after the Law, thou didst reject these things and didst acquire Christ, for gloriously hath He been glorified.

Now and ever..., Theotokion:

O most-pure Mother of God Almighty, who thyself sprang forth from a noble root, O Lady, who alone gavest birth in a manner surpassing nature to God in the flesh, deliver me from all danger as I sing to thy Son: "for gloriously hath He been glorified."

Katavasia: I shall open my mouth....

Ode 3

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos: We boast not of wisdom, wealth, or power, but in Thee the Wisdom in person of the Father, O Christ, for there is none holy save Thee, O Christ, O Thou Who lovest mankind.

Christ revealed thee as a treasure of the kingdom, and a bless't and most-sweet mouthpiece of Christ our God. Therefore, we sing thy praises, O Apostle Peter.

Christ the Master built the unshakeable Church on the rock of thy theology, and with her, we glorify thee, O Apostle Peter.

Being truly greater than the angels while in the body here on earth, Christ God hath ordained thee to sit as judge by His side at the radiant Coming, O Apostle Peter.

Theotokion: **O** thou who knewest not wedlock, and gavest birth to God in the flesh, strengthen and support me in the face of all my passions, for there is no other help than thee, O pure one.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos: Thou art the strength of those who flee to Thee, O Lord; Thou art the never-setting Light; and my Spirit praises Thee.

Thou hast been set as the foundation of the souls of the faithful; a stone of great price; the

cornerstone of the Savior and Lord.

O most blessed Paul, pray that the light of the virtues may shine forth from thy foundations.

Mortifying thy body in remembrance of the death of Jesus, thou hast been accounted worthy of true Life, O Paul.

Theotokion: **W**e, the Christians, have acquired thee as our wall of protection and haven, and we ceaselessly praise thee, O thou who knewest no wedlock.

Katavasia.

The Ypakoe, in Tone 8:

What prison hath not held thee bound? What congregation hath not heard thy words? Damascus extolls thee, O Paul, for it knew thee to be blinded by the light; Rome, where thou didst shed thy blood, now boasts of thee; but Tarsus rejoices all the more and loveth thee, for it honors the swaddling clothes of thine infancy. O Paul, the boast of whole earth, and Peter, thou rock of faith, who came together in Rome, confirm us!

Ode 4

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos: Thou art our God incarnate of the Virgin, and Thou hast made our nature like unto God. Thee do we praise in song and cry aloud: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

As Christ hath promised, He made thee a divine fisher of men for His Church, from the start entrusting thee with its helm.

Pray to Christ the Giver of life, O Peter, Who hath given thee the authority to bind and loose all things, That He be merciful to me.

Pray earnestly, O Peter, that the Kingdom of Heaven be opened unto those who honor thy holy memory with abiding faith.

Theotokion: **O** most-lauded Lady Mother of God, having cleansed mine evil thoughts by thy supplications, show me to be a fruitful servant, O Theotokos.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos: *Thou hast set upon Thy swift steeds, Thine apostles, and taken into Thine hands their reins to bring salvation to those who cry to Thee with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!*

Saul once crouched like a lion and savagely destroyed the Church of Christ. Then, seized by the divine voice of the Lamb of God, Whom he had persecuted, he was entrusted with the Church as his flock, and to be its shepherd.

He, who would be called to enlighten the whole world, was struck with blindness, and Ananias was sent to him by divine command, that he may receive enlightenment of soul and body, thus becoming a chosen vessel of the Lord.

The thirst of Damascus had been fully quenched by Paul, for from it, as once from Paradise, flowed forth a great stream of divine waters, bearing the knowledge of God throughout the world.

Theotokion: **T**he Lord hath cast down the mighty from their thrones, as the Virgin Mother once did say, and the hungry were also filled with good things, who cry aloud with faith: Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Ode 5

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos: O Thou Who hast fashioned us as an excellent people by Thy blood, O Lord. Grant unto us Thy peace and preserve Thy flock in one accord.

He, who was a lowly and ignorant fisherman, through love received boldness before God, and now works all-glorious wonders through grace.

Thy divine Apostle gained neither gold nor silver for Thy sake, O Christ, but rather, he acquired virtue and was enriched by the power of working wonders.

The limbs of the lame were miraculously healed by thy words, for by the grace of Divine Spirit, thou wast able to accomplish wondrous things.

Theotokion: **T**hrough thee, O pure one, God became incarnate in His Person, uniting Himself to the flesh while remaining unchanged and incorporeal in His Essence.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos: *Enlighten us with Thy will, O Lord, and grant us peace through thy mighty arm, O Thou Who lovest mankind.*

Thou hast chosen the Cross of Christ the King as thy true boast, carrying it high as a trophy of victory, O Apostle Paul.

For thee, to live, is Christ; and to die, a great reward; for through love wast thou crucified with Him that was crucified for us, O most glorious Paul.

Truly thou rejoicest in the Lord, O honorable Paul, who leaving behind thy body, departed to be with Christ God, the Giver of life.

Theotokion: **N**ever cease to beseech thy Son and our God, O pure Mary, who knewest no wedlock, that He send down upon us, the faithful, His great mercy.

Ode 6

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos: O Christ, Jonah, who spent three days in the whale, hath prefigured Thee, O Immortal, as having of Thine own will, spent three days in the womb of the earth.

O Christ, Who of old didst save with Thy right hand, Peter, as he walked upon the waters; save now me, in Thy great mercy, who am drowning amidst the storm of cruel temptations.

Thou didst forsake those things not essential, O Peter, and didst attain those things that are, and as the merchant, didst attain Christ, the pearl of great price.

O Peter, thou didst slay those who mindlessly strove to tempt the Most-Holy Spirit, Whom thou didst proclaim, confessing Him as God, O most blessed one.

Theotokion: **T**hou gavest birth to God the Word in the flesh for us. Therefore with our lips and souls do we proclaim thee, Theotokos.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos: *I pour forth my prayer to the Lord, and I lift up my sorrows before Him, how my soul is become full of evil and how my life draweth near to Hades, and like Jonah I pray: Deliver me, O God, from corruption.*

Spurning all the beautiful things on this earth, thou wast smitten with love for the Master and His desire for the salvation of all; and didst become a witness unto Him, O blessed Paul, ever praying for the world.

Striving to be excellently emulate the Master, Whom indeed, thou hast put on, O Paul, thou didst truly become all things to all men, so that thou mightiest acquire and save all mankind, truly casting thy nets in all the ends of the world for Christ.

Christ hath rightfully granted thee life in heaven, O Apostle Paul, for truly thou didst not seek a city here on earth, O blessed one, but labored as a faithful servant and minister of His mysteries.

Theotokion: **B**y looking upon thee, O most pure one, God hath restored my nature; and, in that He is almighty, He hath done great things; for through thee, as He is compassionate, my God hath saved me from corruption, O Theotokos.

Katavasia.

The Kontakion of the Apostles, in Tone 2:

Thou, O Lord, hast taken into rest and the enjoyment of Thy blessings /
The two steadfast preachers and divinely ordained leaders of the apostles . /
Their labors and death pleased Thee more than any sacrifice , ///
O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of men.

Ikos: **E**nlighten my tongue, O my Savior, and grant compunction to my heart, that opening my mouth it may be filled so that I may speak; and then, may I follow the things I say, and do the things I teach. For He hath said: He who does that which he teaches is great. For if I say things and do them not, I am no better than a braying horn! Therefore grant that I may speak what is good and do that which is profitable, O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of men.

Ode 7

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos: In the beginning was the Word without beginning with the Father and the Spirit, the Only-begotten Son: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers, and exalted above all forever.

Being taught by the divine providence of God, thou hast been permitted to more perfectly emulate Him, the Merciful One, O Peter, that thy distress over denying Him before His sufferings might be assuaged.

Having risen from the dead, Christ first appeared to thee, thou greatly beloved and first-called leader of the Apostles.

O Peter, the Master hath set aright thy threefold denial of Him before His passion, in His threefold confirmation of thy love for Him.

Thou didst call God, the All-seeing Word, as a witness of thy love for Christ, O Peter, therefore, He entrusted His flock to thee.

Theotokion: **W**e all bless thee as the Mother of the God of all, thou who hast conceived God the Word in the flesh, Who hast shone forth from the pre-eternal Father.

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos: *Thy tyrant once built the fiery furnace on the Plain of Dura for the torment of the faithful, but from within, the three youths sang a three-fold song of praise to the One God: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.*

He, who in the latter times was called and then surpassed all the others in zeal, hast become both the crown and the seal of Thine apostles, O Christ, and together with him, the Church sing to Thee: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Though Paul the prisoner first persecuted Thy Church, yet he changed his former hatred to zealous love for Thee, O Christ, and gathered the nations together to sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Preaching the Gospel to all from Jerusalem around the entire breadth of the earth, O Paul, thou didst even teach the far ends of Illyrium to sing: Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Being taken up in ecstasy, thou didst attain to the third heaven, O most richly-blessèd one, and beholding the depths of glory and upon hearing the unutterable words thou didst cry: Glory to the Most-high Father and to the Son, and to the co-enthroned radiance of the Holy Spirit!

Theotokion: **C**hrist God descended upon thee as rain upon the fleece, O Virgin, and He proceeded forth from thee in the flesh, uniting that which had before been apart, granting peace to both heaven and earth. Blessèd art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Katavasia.

Ode 8

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos: Thou, Who didst bear all things by Thine ineffable might, O Christ, hast sprinkled the holy children with dew in the flames as they sang: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

O Peter, the Master foretold thee that: They shall stretch forth thine arms and bind thee upon a cross,” as He commanded thee to follow Him, and thou didst cry: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Working wonders by a word of grace, thou didst heal Æneus sick with palsy, and didst wondrously raise up Tabitha who was dead, and they cried: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

O Christ, Who didst clearly declare to Peter that the Gentiles were clean, cleanse Thou my thoughts with the radiance of the Spirit as I cry: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Theotokion: O all holy Virgin, who gavest birth in the flesh to God the Word, drive away the darkness from my soul through thine intercessions and enlighten me who cries: O all ye works of the Lord, bless the Lord!

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

Irmos: Thou didst display Thy glory upon the holy mountain revealing to Moses the mystery of the Virgin. Let us praise the Lord and exalt Him throughout all ages.

Filled with Thy love for him, the glorious Paul underwent a sure change; for he lived no longer for himself alone, but lived with Thee within him forever, O Bountiful Lord.

Thou didst betroth the Church as a bride unto Christ, O God-bearing Paul, like unto a father of the bride. Therefore she doth glorify thee, throughout all ages.

Thou didst fight the good fight; yet sentenced by the law, thou didst complete the race preserving the treasure of the faith. Therefore, hast thou been counted worthy of the crown of righteousness, O Paul.

Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, the Lord!

Theotokion: Rejoice, O fiery throne of the Lord! Rejoice, unwedded, Virgin bride! Rejoice, O billowing cloud shining forth with the Sun of Righteousness, Whom we exalt above all forever.

We praise, bless, and worship the Lord, singing and exalting Him throughout all ages.

Katavasia.

The Magnificat is sung.

Ode 9

Canon of the holy Apostle Peter

Irmos: O Most glorious Bride and most holy Mother of God, who hast borne the Creator of all things visible and invisible, in hymns do we magnify thee.

Thine astonishing grace is rightly glorified, O Peter, for in its shadow, the sufferings of the sick are banished, and therefore do we magnify thee.

Rightly is Peter blessed, for with divine and ineffable power, he cast down the enemy of God, the magus Simon, who through sorcery soared aloft into the air.

O Apostle Peter, grant by thy prayers the remission of our sins, the enlightenment of heart, and the gladness of spirit to those who praise thy memory.

All thy teachings, relics, and the dust of thy remains, O Peter, are filled with glory, sanctity and wonder for those who with faith venerate thy precious chains.

Theotokion: **T**he Fruit of thy womb, O Virgin, names thee Theotokos! Therefore, with a great voice, we the faithful sing to thee, Rejoice, who gavest birth to joy!

Canon of the holy Apostle Paul

***Irmos:** In conceiving the Creator and Lord, thou hast surpassed the laws of nature and hath become the very gateway of Salvation for the world. Therefore, we ceaselessly magnify thee, O Mother of God.*

We venerate thy chains, O Paul, which thou didst bear as a criminal for the sake of Christ, and we kiss the wounds of thy glorious and victorious body.

Having now departed, O Apostle, unto Him Whom thou didst fervently desire, and dwelling with Him now as a servant, draw now us, thy servants, to thyself through thy ceaseless prayers.

Christ no longer appears to thee in visions or reflections, but appears to thee face to face, revealing to thee the perfect understanding of the Godhead.

Theotokion: **O** most holy Mother of God, thou art the boast of Christ's Apostles, the glory of the martyrs, and the foundation of the prophets! Therefore we, the faithful worthily magnify thee.

Katavasia.

Exapostilarion of the Apostles:

Let us all praise the godly Peter and Paul, the leaders of the apostles, the great lights shining over all the earth, the preachers of the Faith, the divinely-sounding trumpets, the proponents of doctrine, the pillars of the Church, and the destroyers of deceit. *(twice)*

Glory..., now and ever..., Theotokion:

O beloved maiden of God and Virgin Theotokos, great and most glorious is the mystery of Thy childbearing, which the prophets did foretell, the apostles teach, the martyrs confess, the

angels praise, and we, the people, worship.

On the Praises, 4 stikhera, in Tone 4: *To the melody, "Called from on high...."*

When the Savior asked His twelve disciple and apostles saying, /
"Who do men say that I am? /
Peter, the foremost of the apostles, answered, receiving grace from above, /
And clearly he cried out saying: /
"Thou art Christ, the Son of the Living God!" /
Therefore he is rightly blessed as one who received a revelation from on-High ///
And rightly he received authority to bind and loose all things on earth.

When Christ, the Word of God, begotten of the Father /
Asked thee, "Who do you suppose that I am," /
Straightway thou didst answer with divine eloquence: /
"Thou art the Son of the Living God!" /
And in reward heard these words of the Savior: /
"Blessèd art thou, O Simon bar Jonah!" /
For God doth glorify those who glorify Him /
And calleth them to their just reward. /
Therefore, He set thee as the unmistakable rock: ///
The very base and foundation of the Church.

Called from on-High, O Paul, and not by man /
When an earthly darkness covered thy physical eyes; /
Then thy devious plans were put to a sudden end /
And a heavenly light illumined thy spiritual eyes /
Disclosing to thee the beauty of piety. /
Then didst thou come to know Christ our God /
Who bringeth forth light out of the darkness ///
Beseech Him now to save and enlighten our souls.

O Paul, thou art the preacher of Christ /
Who truly boasts in the Cross /
For thou didst discern the ardent fervor and divine love /
That is given to them that earnestly gaze upon it. /
Therefore, thou didst call thyself a prisoner of Christ /
Choosing the burden of hardships as sweeter than any delight; /
Thus coming to receive a blessèd end, living only for thy Master. ///
Beseech Him now to save and enlighten our souls.

Glory..., in Tone 6: *the composition of Cosmas the Monk*

The Church of Christ celebrates today the honored feast of the holy Apostles /
Who entreat the salvation of all the world. /
Let us all mystically join with her and cry aloud: /
Rejoice, luminaries bringing the dawning of the Sun to those in darkness! /
Rejoice, Peter and Paul, builders of the unshakeable foundation of divine doctrine! /
Rejoice, ye honored receptacles and friends of Christ! /
Come invisibly to us and vouchsafe thy spiritual gifts ///
To those who piously celebrate your festival in song.

Now and ever..., Theotokion: *O Theotokos, thou art the true vine....*

The Great Doxology and the Dismissal.

Liturgy

At the Beatitudes, 8 Troparia: 4 from third ode of the canon of St. Peter, and 4 from the sixth ode of the canon of St. Paul.

- 1.** Christ revealed thee as a treasure of the kingdom, and a bless't and most-sweet mouthpiece of Christ our God. Therefore, we sing thy praises, O Apostle Peter.
- 2.** Christ the Master built the unshakeable Church on the rock of thy theology, and with her, we glorify thee, O Apostle Peter.
- 3.** Being truly greater than the angels while in the body here on earth, Christ God hath ordained thee to sit as judge by His side at the radiant Coming, O Apostle Peter.
- 4. Theotokion:** **O** thou who knewest not wedlock, and gavest birth to God in the flesh, strengthen and support me in the face of all my passions, for there is no other help than thee, O pure one.
- 5.** Spurning all the beautiful things on this earth, thou wast smitten with love for the Master and His desire for the salvation of all; and didst become a witness unto Him, O blessèd Paul, ever praying for the world.
- 6.** Striving to be excellently emulate the Master, Whom indeed, thou hast put on, O Paul, thou didst truly become all things to all men, so that thou mightiest acquire and save all mankind, truly casting thy nets in all the ends of the world for Christ.
- 7.** Christ hath rightfully granted thee life in heaven, O Apostle Paul, for truly thou didst not seek a city here on earth, O blessèd one, but labored as a faithful servant and minister of His mysteries.
- 8. Theotokion:** **By** looking upon thee, O most pure one, God hath restored my nature; and, in that He is almighty, He hath done great things; for through thee, as He is compassionate, my God hath saved me from corruption, O Theotokos.

The Troparion of the Apostles in Tone 4:

O first-enthroned of the apostles, /
Teachers of the universe, /
Entreat the Master of all /
To grant peace to the world ///
And great mercy to our souls.

The Kontakion of the Apostles, in Tone 2:

Thou, O Lord, hast taken into rest and the enjoyment of Thy blessings /
The two steadfast preachers and divinely ordained leaders of the apostles. /
Their labors and death pleased Thee more than any sacrifice, ///
O Thou Who alone knowest the hearts of men.

Prokeimenon (Apostles), Tone 8: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth, / and their words to the ends of the universe! *Verse:* The heavens are telling the Glory of God, and the firmament proclaims His handiwork!

The Epistle: (193) 2 Cor. 11:21-12:9.

The Alleluia (Apostles), Tone 1: The heavens shall confess Thy wonders, O Lord, and Thy truth in the congregation of the saints! *Verse:* God is glorified in the council of the saints!

The Gospel: (67) Matt. 16:13-19.

The Communion Hymn: Their proclamation is gone out into all the earth, and their words to the ends of the universe!

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