

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

TONE 5

6th Sunday of Pascha / Blind Man / Holy Equals-to-the-Apostles Emperor Constantine and his mother, Helen

After Blessed be our God, Christ is risen is sung once from the Altar. The cantors then sing Christ is risen two more times. Immediately after this we read the Introductory Psalm (without Come, let us worship).

“Lord I Call...” Tone 5

Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Hear me, O Lord!
Lord, I call upon You, hear me!
Receive the voice of my prayer,
when I call upon You!//
Hear me, O Lord!

Let my prayer arise
in Your sight as incense,
and let the lifting up of my hands
be an evening sacrifice!//
Hear me, O Lord!

**After “Lord I Call...” the Reader reads the rest of Ps. 140 & Ps. 141 on pgs 31 in the pew book, then:
STICHERA**

v. (10) *Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Your Name! Tone 5*

By Your precious Cross, O Christ,
You have put the devil to shame.
By Your Resurrection, You have blunted the sting of sin
and saved us from the gates of death.//
We glorify You, O only begotten One.

v. (9) *The righteous will surround me, for You will 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!”

v. (8) *Out of the depths I cry to You, 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!

v. (7) *Let Your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!*

We offer You our evening worship, / O never setting Light, / Who came in these last days to the
world in the flesh; / Who even descended to hell to dispel its darkness. / Who has revealed the
light of Resurrection to the nations.// Glory to You, O Lord and Giver of light!

*v. (6) If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with You. **Tone 2 Idiomela** (from the Pentecostarion)*

The man blind from birth asked himself: / "Was I born blind because of my parents' sins? / Or am I a living sign of the people's faithlessness? / I am not content to continue asking whether it is night or day. / My feet can no longer endure tripping on the stones. / I have seen nothing: neither the sun shining, nor the image of my Maker.// But I entreat You, O Christ God, look upon me and have mercy on me!"

v. (5) For Your Name's sake I wait for You, O Lord. My soul has waited for Your word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.

Jesus, passing by the Temple, met a man blind from birth.

He had compassion on him and put spittle on his eyes, saying: "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam!"

He washed himself and then gave glory to God.

His neighbors asked him:

"Who opened your eyes, which no one could heal before?"

He cried out: "A man called Jesus said to me:

'Wash in Siloam!' and now I see;

He is truly the Christ, the Messiah Whom Moses foretold in the Law.//

He is the Savior of our souls!"

v. (4) From the morning watch until night, from the morning watch, let Israel hope on the Lord!

Tone 4 (for Sts. Constantine and Helen) (You have given a sign)

You gave Your precious Cross to the Emperor

as a most powerful weapon.

Through it he reigned righteously on earth, shining with godliness.

By Your compassion he was counted worthy of Your heavenly Kingdom.

Therefore with him we glorify Your dispensation, O almighty Jesus,//

the Savior of our souls and the Lover of man.

v. (3) For with the Lord there is mercy and with Him is plenteous redemption, and He will deliver Israel from all his iniquities.

You gave Your precious Cross to the Emperor

as a most powerful weapon.

Through it he reigned righteously on earth, shining with godliness.

By Your compassion he was counted worthy of Your heavenly Kingdom.

Therefore with him we glorify Your dispensation, O almighty Jesus,//

the Savior of our souls and the Lover of man.

v. (2) Praise the Lord, all nations! Praise Him, all peoples!

As the King of kings, the Lord Who reigns over all, / You, O Lover of man, granted Your servant

the wisdom of Solomon, / the meekness of David, / and the Orthodox faith of the Apostles. /

Therefore we glorify Your dispensation, O almighty Jesus,// the Savior of our souls and the Lover of man.

V. (1) *For His mercy is confirmed on us, and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

O ever-memorable Emperor, / you were the first willingly to submit the royal purple to Christ, / recognizing Him as true God and King of all, / the great Benefactor and Source of victory. / You saw Him set above every principality and power. / Therefore Jesus made the kingdom prosper for you, O lover of virtue, / for he is the Savior of our souls and the Lover of man.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; **Tone 2***

Having received the benefits of rich gifts from God,
O most excellent King, O greatest Constantine,
you were rightly illustrious because of them.
For being illumined by the rays of the all-holy Spirit through baptism,
you were seen among kings to be invincible.
You presented your domain and the God-fearing royal city as a gift to your Creator.
Therefore, as you have boldness,
do not cease to intercede with Christ God
that all who celebrate your memory //
may be granted forgiveness of sins and great mercy!

*now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 5** (from the Pentecostarion)*

Passing by the way, O Lord,
You met a man blind from birth.
Your Disciples were puzzled and asked:
“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
Jesus answered: “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents,
but that the works of God might be revealed in him.
I must work the works of Him Who sent me, which no one else can do.”
As He said this, He spat on the ground and made clay of the spittle,
and anointed the man’s eyes with the clay and said to him:
“Go, wash in the pool of Siloam!”
He went and washed, and was made whole, crying: “Lord, I believe!” //
He worshipped You, and we cry: “Have mercy on us!”

SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Reading is from the Third Book of Reigns. [8:22.23, 27-30]

Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands towards heaven; and said, ‘ Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you, in heaven above or on earth beneath, If, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you; how much less this house which I have built! Yet have regard to my supplication, O Lord God of Israel, hearkening to the prayer which your servant prays before you today; that your eyes may be open towards this house day and night, towards the place of which you have said, “My name shall be there,” to hearken to the prayer which your servant prays towards this place day and night. And hearken to the supplication of your servant and of your people Israel, when they pray toward this place; and hear your dwelling place in heaven; and you will act and show pity.’

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaias. [61:10-62:5]

Let my soul rejoice in my God; for he has clothed me with a garment of salvation and a tunic of gladness, as a bridegroom he has put a garland upon me, and as a bride he has adorned me with beauty. For as the earth brings forth its flower, and as a garden it seeds, so the Lord God will cause justice and joy to spring forth before all the nations. For Sion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until my justice goes forth like light, and my salvation as a burning torch. The nations shall see your justice, and kings your glory; and he will be call you by a new name which the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. You shall no more be termed 'Forsaken', and your land shall no more be termed 'Desert'; but you shall be called 'My Will', and your land 'Inhabited'; for the Lord has been well pleased in you, and your land shall be inhabited. For as a young man marries a virgin, so shall your sons make their dwelling, and as bridegroom rejoices over bride, so shall the Lord rejoice over you.

The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaias. [60:1-16]

Shine, shine, Jerusalem; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, like thick darkness over nations; but the Lord will appear upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. And kings will walk by your light, and nations by your brightness. Lift up your eyes round about, and see your children have been gathered; your sons have come from far, and your daughters shall be carried on the shoulders. Then you shall see and be afraid, and be amazed in heart; because the wealth of the sea shall be turned to you, and that of nations and peoples. Flocks of camels shall come to you, the camels of Madian and Gaipha will cover you; all those from Sheba shall come, bringing gold and they will bring incense and precious stone, and shall proclaim the good tidings of the Lord's salvation. All the sheep of Kedar shall be gathered to you, the rams of Nebaioth shall come to you; acceptable sacrifices will be offered on my altar, and my house of prayer will be glorified. Who are these that fly like clouds, and like doves with their nestlings? For the islands have waited for me, the ships of Tharsis first of all, to bring your children from far, their silver and gold with them, for the holy name of the Lord, and for the Holy One of Israel to be glorious. Foreigners shall build up your walls, and their kings shall stand before you; for in my wrath I smote you, but in mercy I have loved you. Your gates shall be open continually; day and night they shall not be shut; that men may bring to you the power of nations, with their kings led in procession. For the nation and kings that will not serve you shall perish; the nations shall be utterly laid waste. The glory of Lebanon shall come to you, with cypress, pine, and cedar, to glorify my holy place; and I will make the place of my feet glorious. The sons of those who oppressed you and troubled you shall come to you in fear; you shall be called 'City of the Lord, Sion of the Holy One of Israel'. Whereas you have been forsaken and hated, with no one to help, I will make you a joy for ever, a gladness from generation to generation. You shall suck the milk of nations, eat the wealth of kings; and you shall know that I, the Lord, am your Saviour and the God

APOSTICHA

Tone 5 We magnify You in songs of praise, / O incarnate Christ and Savior. / By accepting the Cross and death for our sake, / as the Lord and Lover of man, / You overthrew the gates of hell, // and arose on the third day, saving our souls.

(Then the Paschal Stichera with their verses from Psalm 67)

V. Let God arise, let His enemies be scattered; [let those who hate Him flee from before His face!] (Ps. 67:1)

Tone 5 Today, a sacred Pascha is revealed to us: / a new and holy Pascha, / a mystical Pascha, a Pascha worthy of veneration, / a Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer, / a blameless Pascha, a great Pascha, / a Pascha of the faithful, / a Pascha which has opened for us the gates of Paradise, a Pascha which sanctifies all the faithful.

V. As smoke vanishes so let them vanish; [as wax melts before the fire!] (Ps. 67:2a)

Come from that scene, O women bearers of glad tidings, / and say to Sion: / "Receive from us the glad tidings of joy, / of Christ's Resurrection! / Exult and be glad, / and rejoice, O Jerusalem, / seeing Christ the King, Who comes forth from the tomb / like a bridegroom in procession!"

V. So the sinners will perish before the face of God; but let the righteous be glad! (Ps. 67:2b-3a)

The myrrh-bearing women, / at the break of dawn, / drew near to the tomb of the Life-giver. / There they found an angel / sitting upon the stone. / He greeted them with these words: / "Why do you seek the Living among the dead? / Why do you mourn the Incorrupt amid corruption? / Go, proclaim the glad tidings to His disciples!"

*V. This is the day which the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
(Ps. 117:24)*

Pascha of beauty, / the Pascha of the Lord, / A Pascha worthy of all honor has dawned for us. / O Pascha! / Let us embrace each other joyously! / Pascha, ransom from affliction! / For today, as from a bridal chamber, / Christ has shone forth from the tomb, / and filled the women with joy saying: / "Proclaim the glad tidings to the Apostles!"

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; Tone 8 (for Sts. Constantine and Helen)

Brightly shining moon and star of evening, / you were turned from unbelief to faith in the true God, / and were led to sanctify the people and city. / Beholding the figure of the Cross in the sky, / you heard from above: / "Conquer with this Cross, in which lies victory over your enemies!" / Receiving wisdom from the Holy Spirit, / you were anointed as holy emperor, / establishing and supporting the Church of God. / O father of Orthodox emperors, / Constantine, Equal to the Apostles, / whose relics pour forth healings: / ever intercede for our souls!

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. Tone 8 (from the Pentecostarion)

O Christ God, Sun of Righteousness,
by Your touch You enlightened all.
Give sight now to our spiritual eyes,
and show us to be sons of the day!
Great is Your ineffable goodness towards us! / /
O Lover of man, glory to You!

"Christ is risen from the dead,
trampling down death by death,
and upon those in the tombs bestowing life!" *(once)*

TROPARIA

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, **Tone 8 Troparion** *(Sts. Constantine and Helen)*
Your servant, Constantine, O Lord and only Lover of man,
beheld the figure of the Cross in the heavens.
Like Paul, not having received his call from men,
but as an apostle among rulers set by Your hand over the royal city,//
he preserved lasting peace through the prayers of the Theotokos.

now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen. **Tone 8 Resurrectional Dismissal Theotokion**
For our sake You were born of the Virgin
and endured crucifixion, O Good One, destroying death by death.
Revealing the Resurrection as God, do not despise the work of Your hand!
Reveal Your love for man, O Merciful One, and accept the Theotokos praying for us,//
and save the despairing people, O our Savior!