Great Vespers

**SATURDAY eve for September 4, 2016 (N.S.) / August 22, 2016 (O.S.) TONE 2**

**10th Sunday After Pentecost / Afterfeast of the Dormition.** Martyr Agathonikos of Nikomedia and his companions: Martyrs Zotikos, Theoprepios, Akindynos, Severian, Zeno, and others who suffered under Maximian (+ 4th century AD). Hieromartyr Athanasios, Bishop of Tarsus in Cilicia, Ven. Anthusa—Nun, and her servants, Martyrs Charesimos and Neophytos (+ 3rd century AD). Virgin Martyr Eulalia of Barcelona (+ ca. 303).

*Priest*:“Blessed is our God . . . “

*Choir*:“Amen.”

[Vespers booklet, pp. 1-6; 14-20]

**"Lord I Call..." Tone 2** [Vespers booklet, p. 27]

*Reader: v. (10) Bring my soul out of prison, that I may give thanks to Thy name!*

*Choir:* **Tone 2** *(for the Resurrection)*

Come, let us worship the Word of God

begotten of the Father before all ages,

and incarnate of the Virgin Mary!

Having endured the Cross, He was buried as He himself desired.//

And having risen from the dead, He saved me, an erring man.

*v. (9) The righteous will surround me; for Thou wilt deal bountifully with me.*

Christ our Savior nailed to the Cross the bond against us,

He voided it and destroyed the dominion of death.//

We fall down before His Resurrection on the third day.

*v. (8) Out of the depths I cry to thee, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice!*

With the Archangels let us praise the Resurrection of Christ!

He is our Savior, our Redeemer.

He is coming with awesome glory and mighty power//

to judge the world that He made.

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

*(for the Resurrection by Anatolios)*

The Angel proclaimed Thee as the crucified and buried Master.

He told the women: “Come, see the place where He lay!

He is risen as He said, for He is almighty.”

We worship Thee, O only immortal One.//

Have mercy on us, O Christ, the Giver of life!

*v. (6) If Thou, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with Thee.*

**Tone 1** *(for the Dormition)*

Oh, the marvelous wonder!

The source of Life is laid in a grave,

and the tomb becomes a ladder to heaven.

Rejoice, Gethsemane, holy shrine of the Theotokos!

Let us, the faithful, cry out with Gabriel as our captain:

“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//

He that grants the world great mercy through thee!”

*v. (5) For Thy name’s sake have I waited for Thee, O Lord, my soul has waited for Thy word; my soul has hoped on the Lord.*

O the wonder of thy mysteries, pure Lady:

thou wast made the throne of the Most High,

and today thou hast passed from earth to heaven.

Thy glory is full of splendor, shining with grace in divine brightness.

Ye virgins, be raised to the heights with the Mother of the King!

Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//

He that grants the world great mercy through thee!

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

The Dominions and Thrones, the Rulers, Principalities and Powers,

the Cherubim and fearsome Seraphim, glorify thy falling asleep.

All those born of earth rejoice,

adorned with honor by thy divine glory.

Kings fall down and sing with the Archangels and Angels:

“Rejoice, O full of grace, the Lord is with thee,//

He that grants the world great mercy through thee!”

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

 **Tone 4** *(from the Menaion)*

Seeking the primal goodness /

and the beauty that passes understanding, /

O Agathonikos, rejoicing, /

thou proceeded valiantly to the struggles that lay before thee. /

Thou wrestled with the enemy, /

manfully cast him down to the ground, /

and plaited a splendid wreath of victory, /

entreating Him Who loves mankind //

on behalf of those who hymn thee.

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

Adorned with wisdom, /

thou poured forth living discourse, /

converting the senseless, /

denouncing the tyrant, /

and stilling the tempest of polytheism; /

and thou caused the faithful /

to remain steadfast in the grace of God. /

Wherefore, having endured cruel burning, //

crowned, thou hastened to the kingdom on high.

*v. (1) For His mercy is abundant towards us; and the truth of the Lord endures forever.*

Adorned with drops of thy blood /

shed when thou endured suffering, /

thou stood before the Master /

as a sacrifice of sweet savor, /

a pure victim, an acceptable gift, /

a sacred offering, a holocaust wholly unblemished. /

Wherefore, by thy supplications /

preserve the fullness of the Church in peace, //

O athlete Agathonikos.

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

It was fitting that those who themselves beheld the Word and were His servants /

should also behold the dormition of His Mother according to the flesh, /

her ultimate mystery; /

that they might not only see the ascension of the Savior from the earth, /

but might also bear witness to the repose of her who gave birth to Him. /

Wherefore, gathered from all the ends of the earth by divine power, /

they reached Zion, and were present /

when she who is more exalted than the cherubim passed over to heaven. /

With them we also pay homage to her, //

for she prays for our souls.

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

**Tone 2**  *(Theotokion – Dogmatikon)*

The shadow of the Law passed when grace came;

as the Bush burned, yet was not consumed,

so the Virgin gave birth, yet remained a Virgin.

Instead of a pillar of flame, the Righteous Sun has risen.//

Instead of Moses, Christ, the Salvation of our souls.

**Entrance with Censer**

*Deacon*: Wisdom. Let us attend!

**“O Gladsome Light”** [Vespers booklet, pp. 65-66]

*Deacon*: Let us attend

*Priest*: Peace be with thou all (+)

*Deacon*: Wisdom.

*Reader & Choir*: [**Prokeimenon** for Saturday evening: vespers booklet, p. 68]

**Litany of Fervent Supplication** [Vespers booklet, pp. 72-73]

**“Vouchsafe, O Lord”** by Reader [Vespers booklet, p. 74]

**Litany of Supplication & Prayer** [Vespers booklet, pp. 75-77]

**Aposticha**

**Tone 2** *(for the Resurrection)*

Thy Resurrection, O Christ our Savior,

has enlightened the whole universe,

calling back Thy creation.//

Glory to Thee, O almighty Lord!

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

O Savior, by the Tree Thou destroyed the curse of the Tree.

By Thy burial Thou mortified the majesty of death.

Thou hast enlightened our race by Thy Resurrection.//

O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to Thee!

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

O Christ, when Thou wast seen nailed to the Cross,

Thou restored the beauty of Thy creatures.

The soldiers showed their inhumanity when they pierced Thy side with a spear.

The Hebrews not knowing Thy power asked that Thy tomb might be sealed,

but through the mercy of Thy compassion,

Thou accepted the tomb and rose on the third day!//

O Lord, glory to Thee!

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

O Christ, the Giver of life,

for the sake of the dead Thou voluntarily endured death,

descending into hell as the Mighty One

to save those who awaited Thy coming,

granting them the life of paradise instead of hell.

Grant also to us who glorify Thy Resurrection on the third day//

cleansing of our sins and great mercy!

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

**Tone 8** *(from the Menaion)*

Named for the treasury of good things, /

thou dedicated thyself as a temple, /

O martyr Agathonikos; /

and struggling lawfully in torments for the King of all, /

thou cast down the power of the cruel enemy; /

and receiving the honor of victory, /

thou stands, crowned, before God in the highest. /

Entreat Him without ceasing on behalf of those who honor thee, //

O adornment of the martyrs.

**Tone 8** *(Theotokion—for the Domition)*

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

Jesus, thy Son and our God, O Theotokos, /

confirming His two natures, /

dies as a man and rises as God; /

and it was His good pleasure, O Mother of God, /

that thou die also according to the law of nature, /

lest the unbelieving take His dispensation to be but a phantasm. /

For thou passed over to the land of heaven, /

O celestial Bride, /

taken up from the earth as from the chamber of thy dwelling. /

The air was sanctified by thy passage, /

as the earth was illumined by thy birthgiving. /

The apostles send thee forth, and the angels bear thee up. /

Wherefore, having buried thine all-pure body /

and chanted funeral hymnody for thee, /

they gazed in awe and said with fear: /

"This change is from the right hand of the Most High; /

for He dwelt within thee, /

and thou shalt not be shaken." /

O all hymned Mother, /

depart not from thy watch over us; /

for we are thy people and the sheep of thy pasture; /

and we call upon thy name, //

asking salvation and great mercy for thy sake.

**Song of St. Simeon** [Vespers booklet, p. 89]

**Trisagion Prayers** by *Reader* [Vespers booklet, p. 91]

**Final Troparia**

*Choir:* **Tone 2** **Troparion** *(Resurrection)* [Vespers booklet, pp.100-101]

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

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

**Tone 7 Troparion** *(Dormition)* [Byzantine tone by rector]

In giving birth thou didst keep thy virginity,

And in thy repose thou didst not forsake the world, O Theotokos.

For thou art the Mother of Life, and thou didst pass over into Life //

And, through thine intercessions, from death thou dost redeem our souls.

**Conclusion of Great Vespers** [Vespers booklet, pp. 94-97]