Forefeast of the Exaltation of the Cross, Sunday before the Exaltation Commemoration of the Founding of the Church of the Resurrection (Holy Sepulcher) at Jerusalem

#### "Lord I Call..." - Tone 5

Reader: In the Fifth Tone, Lord, I call upon You, hear me!

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!



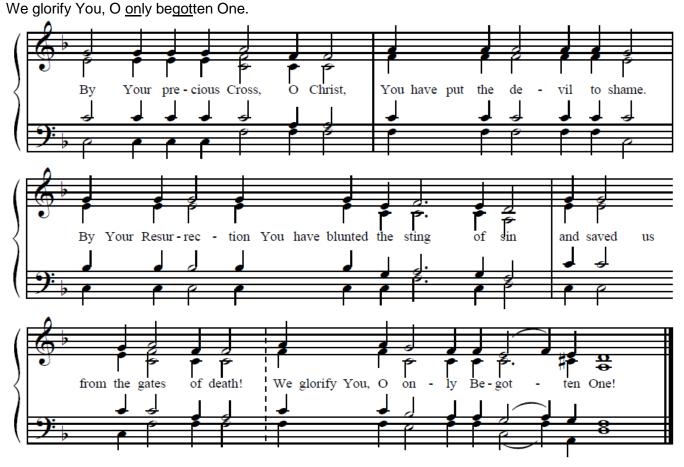


Reader: (Reads text from service book)

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

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.//



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.

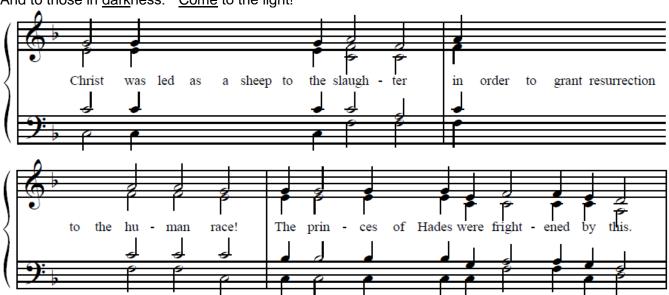
The <u>prin</u>ces of Hades were <u>fright</u>ened by this,

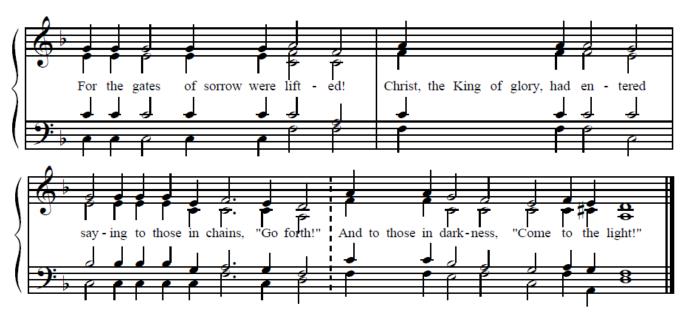
for the gates of sorrow were lifted.

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!

Oh, great wonder!

The Creator of the invisible suffered in the flesh in His <u>love</u> for man and <u>rose</u> again im<u>mor</u>tal.

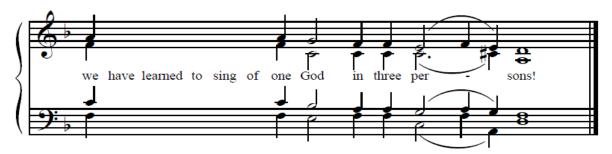
Come, O sons of nations,

let us worship Him,

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 <u>came</u> in these last days to the <u>world</u> in the flesh;

Who even descended to Hades to dispel its darkness.

And Who have revealed the light of Resurrection to the <u>na</u>tions.//

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 6

(for the Founding)

Dedication is to be <u>hon</u>ored, as was decreed in the <u>Old</u> Law;

even more should the New Law be honored through dedication; for as Isaiah proclaims: "The islands are <u>ded</u>icated to God." By this we understand the churches now built by the <u>Gen</u>tiles, which receive a firm foun<u>dation</u> from God.//

Therefore let us spiritually celebrate this present feast!



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

Be dedicated anew, O <u>people!</u>
Putting away the old man, live i

Putting away the old man, live in <u>new</u>ness of life, placing a bridle on everything from which death may come!

Let us chasten all our members, hating every evil <u>fruit</u> of the tree! Mindful of this, let us avoid our ancient <u>errors</u>, that mankind may <u>thus</u> be restored!// Thus this day of dedication is honored.



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

Tone 6 (by Anatolius)

O Christ, the pre-eternal Word,

You set up Your Church as a tower of strength,

founding it upon the rock of the faith.

Therefore it abides in You, unshaken forever,

for, without undergoing change,

You became Man in these latter times for its sake.

Therefore we give thanks to You and praise You in hymns, saying:

"You are our King since before time began;//

now and forever: glory to You!"



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 5 Automelon (for the Forefeast)

Rejoice, O Life-bearing Cross,

the invincible trophy of godliness,

door to Paradise, firm support of the faithful,

a wall that encompasses the Church!

Through you corruption has been destroyed and abolished.

The power of death has been swallowed up, and we are raised from earth to Heaven.

You are a weapon that cannot be vanquished,

the adversary of demons,

the glory of the martyrs, the true adornment of saints,

and the haven of salvation,//

granting the world great mercy.



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

Rejoice, O Cross of the Lord,

through which mankind has been delivered from the curse!

You are a sign of true joy,

shattering our enemies by your Exaltation.

O Cross, worthy of all <u>hon</u>or,

you are our help, you are the strength of kings.

You are the power of the <u>right</u>eous.

You are the majesty of priests.

All who sign themselves with you are freed from danger.

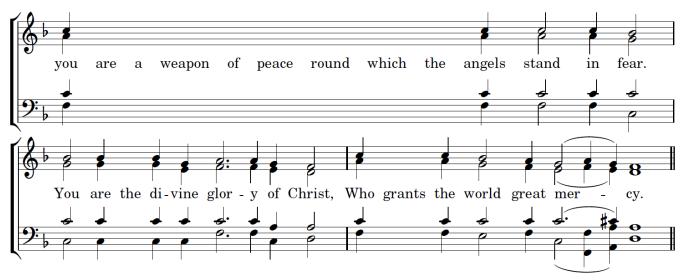
O rod of strength, under which we like sheep are tended,

you are a weapon of peace round which the angels stand in fear.

You are the divine glory of Christ,//

Who grants the world great mercy.





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

Rejoice, O guide of the blind,

physician of the sick and resurrection of all the dead;

you have raised us up when we were fallen into mortality, O precious Cross!

Through you corruption has been destroyed,

and incorruption has blossomed forth.

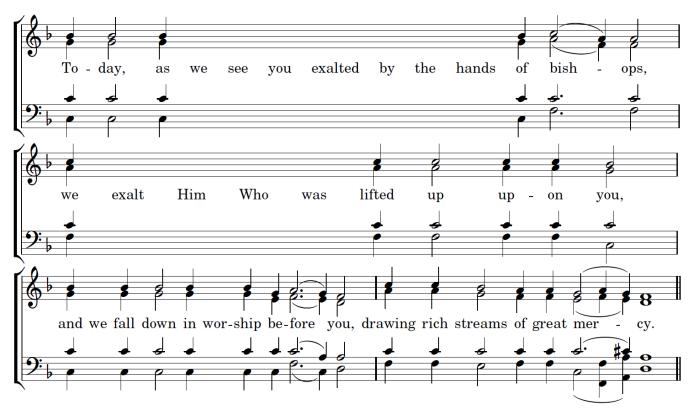
We mortals are deified, and the devil is completely overthrown.

Today, as we see you exalted by the hands of bishops,

we exalt Him Who was lifted up upon you,

and we fall down in worship before you,//





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

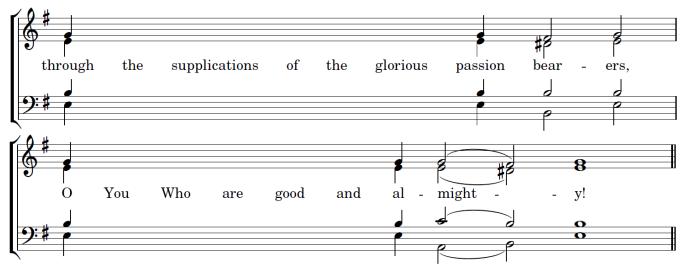
# Tone 6 (for the Founding, by John the Monk)

Celebrating the memory of the dedi<u>ca</u>tion, O Lord, and glorifying You, the Giver of <u>ho</u>liness, we ask that You hallow the senses of our souls,

through the supplications of the glorious passion-bearers,//

O You Who are good and almighty!





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,

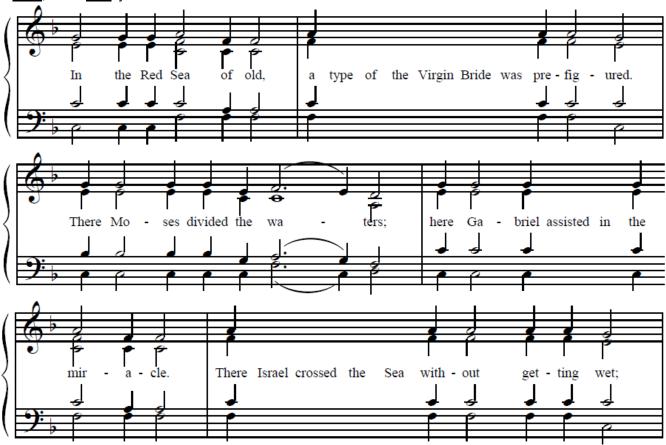
here the Virgin gave birth to Christ without seed.

After Israel's passage, the sea remained impassable;

after Emmanuel's birth, the Virgin remained a Virgin.

O ever-existing God, Who appeared as Man,//

O Lord, have mercy on us!





Prokeimenon of the Day, three readings

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from the Third Book of Kingdoms. (3 (1) Kings 8:22, 23, 27-30)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: 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 shall act and show pity."

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: The Reading from The Proverbs of Solomon. (Proverbs 3:19-34)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: With wisdom God founded the earth. He prepared the heavens with understanding. With his knowledge the deeps were broken open and the clouds poured down dew. My son, keep my counsel and my thought, do not pour them away, that your soul may live and grace be around your neck; and there shall be health for your flesh and safety for your bones; that with confidence you may walk all your ways in peace, and your foot may not stumble. For if you sit down, you shall be unafraid; if you slumber, you shall have sweet sleep; you shall not fear alarm coming upon you, nor the assaults of the impious; for the Lord shall be over all your ways and shall support your feet, so that you are not snared. Do not hold back from doing good to the needy, whenever your hand is able to help. Do not say, "Come back again sometime", and "Tomorrow I shall give": when you are able, do good, for you do not know what the coming day shall bring forth. Do not devise evils for your friend who lives near you and trusts you. Do not guarrel with someone needlessly, lest they devise some evil against you. Do not gain the reproaches of wicked men, nor covet their ways; for every transgressor is unclean before the Lord, he does not take his seat among the righteous. The Lord's curse is on the houses of the ungodly, but the dwellings of the righteous are blessed. The Lord opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.

Priest: Wisdom!

Reader: Reader: The Reading from The Proverbs of Solomon. (Proverbs 9:1-11)

Priest: Let us attend!

Reader: Wisdom has built herself a house and set up seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, mixed the wine in her mixing bowl and prepared her table. She has sent out her servants, inviting with a loud proclamation to her banquet saying, "Whoever is foolish, let him turn in here to me," and to those lacking understanding she said, "Come, eat my bread, drink the wine I have mixed for you. Abandon folly and you shall live; seek sagacity that you may have life, and correct understanding with knowledge. He who reproves wicked men shall receive from them dishonor; he who rebukes the impious shall shame himself. For to the impious rebukes are bruises. Do not rebuke the wicked, lest they hate you: rebuke a wise man and he shall love you. Give a wise man an opportunity, and he shall become wiser; instruct a righteous man and he shall continue to receive. The beginning of wisdom is fear of the Lord; and the counsel of saints, understanding; knowing the law is the mark of a right mind. For by this means you shall live a long time, and years shall be added to your life."

Then, the Augmented Litany (p. 18)

## 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 <u>Hades</u>,//

and arose 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,

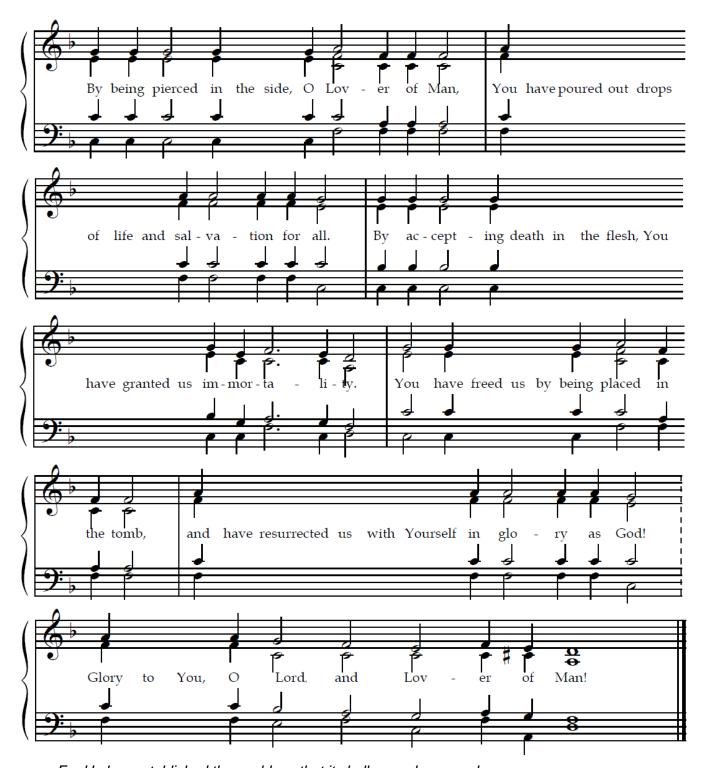
You have poured out drops of life and salvation for all.

By accepting death in the flesh, You have granted us immortality.

You have freed us by being placed in the tomb,

and have resurrected us with Yourself in glory, as God.//

Glory to You, O Lord and Lover of man!



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

Your crucifixion and descent into Hades are awesome, O Lover of man.

You have captured it, releasing the ancient <u>pris</u>oners.

You have opened Paradise and given it to us.

Grant us purification of sins,

who glorify Your Resurrection on the third day!

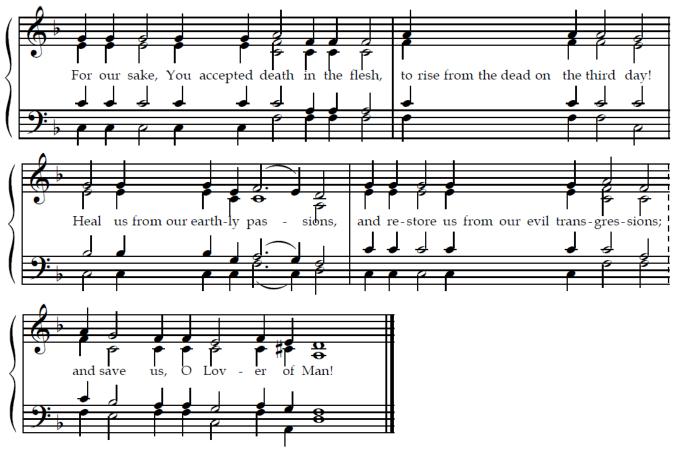
Make us worthy of Paradise//

and save us, O Lover of man!



v. Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore!

For our <u>sake</u>, You accepted <u>death</u> in the flesh, to rise from the dead on the <u>third</u> day. <u>Heal</u> us from our earthly <u>passions</u>, and restore us from our evil transgressions;// and <u>save</u> us, O <u>Lov</u>er of man!



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

# Tone 2 (for the Founding, by Anatolius)

We glorify You, O Lord,

as we celebrate the dedication of the most holy temple of Your Resurrection.

You sanctified it and perfected it with Your all-perfect grace.

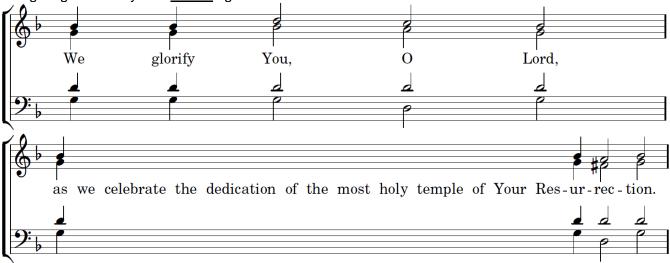
You are adorned in it by the faithful

with sacrifices that are sanctifying, mystical and holy,

receiving them bloodless and all-pure from the hands of Your servants.

To all those who rightly make offering,//

You give great mercy and <u>cleansing</u> from sins.





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

Tone 2 (for the Forefeast)

The Cross of the Giver of life,

a divine treasure hidden in the ground,

was shown in the heavens to the pious emperor,

spiritually revealing a decree of victory over the enemy.

Joyfully and divinely hastening to see it on high with faith and love,

he zealously lifted it from the bosom of the earth,//

for the deliverance of the world and the salvation of our souls.



Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

(Resurrectional Troparion - 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,

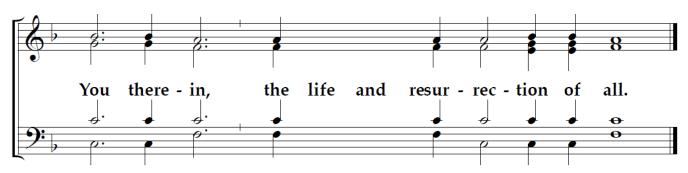
Tone 4 Troparion (Founding)

(Troparion of the Founding – Tone 4)

You have revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Your <u>glory</u> on earth to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord.

Through the prayers of the Theotokos, strengthen it for ever and ever and accept our supplication which we ceaselessly offer to You therein,// the life and resurrection of all!





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

Tone 4 **Troparion** (Forefeast)

(Troparion of the Forefeast – Tone 4)

We offer in supplication

the life-creating Cross of Your goodness, O Lord,



Tone 5 Troparion (Resurrection)

(Resurrectional Troparion – 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.



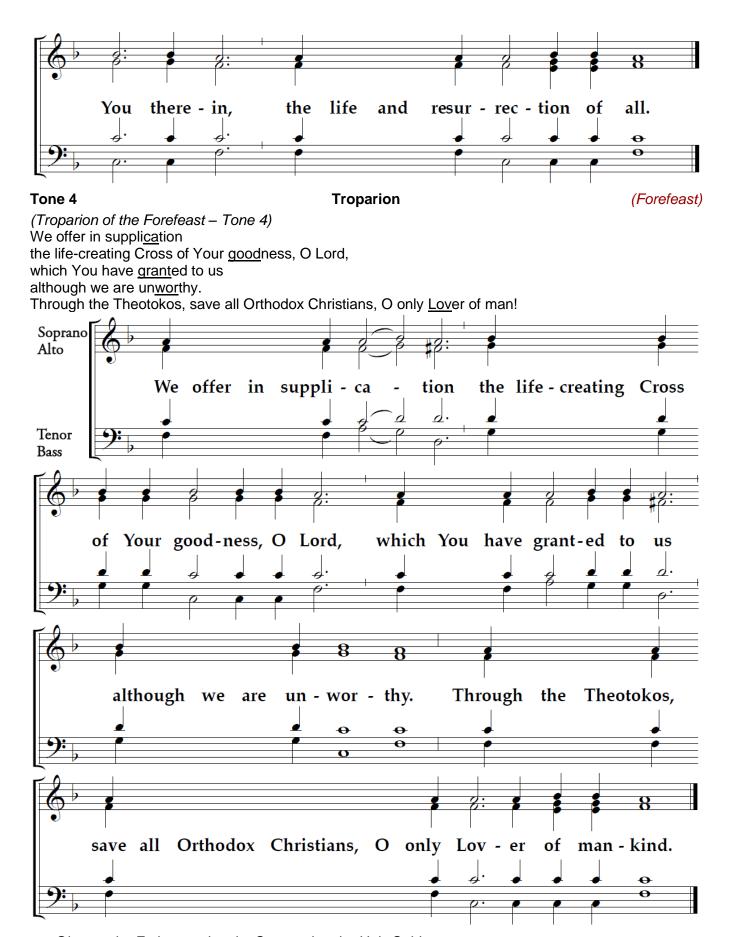
(Troparion of the Founding – Tone 4)

You have revealed the beauty of the holy dwelling place of Your <u>glory</u> on earth to be like the splendor of the heavenly firmament, O Lord.

Through the prayers of the Theo<u>to</u>kos,

strengthen it for ever and ever





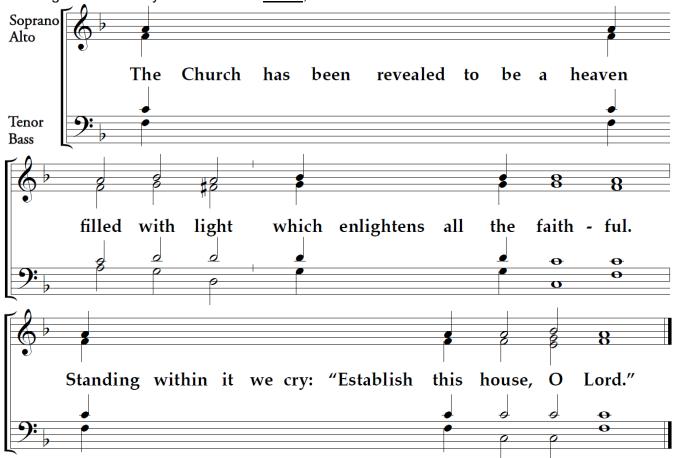
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

(Kontakion for the Founding – Tone 4)

The Church has been revealed to be a heaven filled with light,

which enlightens all the faithful.//

Standing within it we cry: "Establish this house, O Lord!"



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

Tone 5 Kontakion (Resurrection)

(Resurrectional Kontakion – Tone 5)

You descended into Hades, O my Savior,

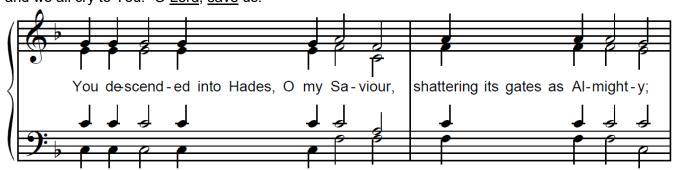
shattering its gates as Almighty,

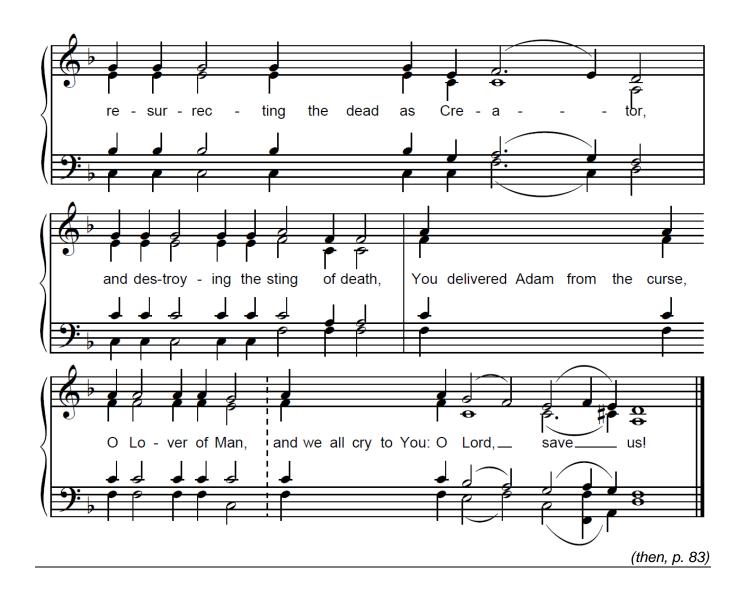
resurrecting the dead as Creator,

and destroying the sting of death.

You have delivered Adam from the curse, O Lover of Man,//

and we all cry to You: "O Lord, save us!"





Prokeimenon, Tone 6

Priest: Let us attend! † Peace be unto all!

Reader: And with your spirit!

Priest: Wisdom!

*Reader:* The Prokeimenon, in the 6<sup>th</sup> Tone: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance!

Choir: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!



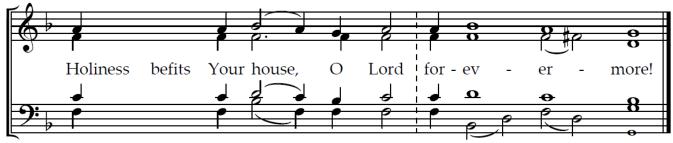
Reader: To You, O Lord, will I call. O my God, be not silent to me!

Choir: O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your inheritance, your inheritance!



Reader: In the Fourth Tone, Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.

Choir: Holiness befits Your house, O Lord, forevermore.



Deacon: Wisdom!

**Epistle:** (215) Galatians 6:11-18 (Sunday Before) and (170) 2 Corinthians 1:21-2:4 (Resurrection) and (307) Hebrews 3:1-4 (Founding)

Reader: The Reading from the Epistle of the Holy Apostle Paul to the Galatians.

Deacon: Let us attend!

Reader: Brothers and sisters, see with what large letters I write to you with my own hand! Those who desire to make a good showing in the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised, only so that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even those who receive circumcision do not themselves keep the law, but they desire to have you circumcised so that they may boast in your flesh. As for me, I shall find glory in nothing, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. In Christ Jesus, circumcision and uncircumcision mean nothing; only a new creation matters. To those who live by this rule, may there be peace and mercy upon them, and on the Israel of God. From now on, let no one cause me any trouble, for I bear the marks of the Lord Jesus branded on my body.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brethren. Amen.

Brothers and sisters, the One who establishes us with you in Christ and who has anointed us is God. He has also sealed us and given us the pledge of the Spirit in our hearts. I call God as a witness to my soul, that to spare you I did not come to Corinth. It is not that we have lordship over your faith: we are fellow workers with you for your joy, as you stand firm in faith.

But I resolved this for myself: that I would not return to you in sorrow. If I cause you distress, who will bring me joy except for you, the very ones whom I grieve? Indeed, I wrote to you as I did, so that when I came, I would not have sorrow from the ones who should be my joy; but I trust in you all, that my joy would also be shared by all. It was out of much affliction and anguish of heart that I wrote to you with many tears, not to cause you distress but to let you know what overflowing love I have for you.

Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of a heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Jesus Christ, who was faithful to the one who had appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house. Yet Jesus is accounted worthy of more glory than Moses, just as the builder of a house has more honor than the house! Every house is built by someone, but the one who built all things is God.

Priest: † Peace be to you!

Alleluia: Tone 1

Reader: And to Your spirit. In the 1st Tone: Alleluia! I have exalted one chosen out of My people.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: For My hand shall defend him and My arm shall strengthen him.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Reader: In the Second Tone, The foundations are in the holy mountains; the Lord loves the gates of

Jerusalem.

Choir: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Gospel:** (9) John 3:13-17 (Sunday Before) (89) Matthew 22:1-14 (Resurrection) and (67) Matthew 16:13-18 (Founding)

pgs. 278, 98, 389

Priest: The reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John the Theologian.

Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

*Priest:* The Lord said, no one has ascended into heaven, except for the one who came down out of heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven.

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, likewise, the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone believing in him should not perish but have eternal life. Indeed, God so loved the world that he gave his uniquely-begotten Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. Certainly, God did not send his Son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world should be saved through him.

The Lord said this parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a king who planned a wedding feast for his son. He then sent out his slaves to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they refused to come. Again, the king sent out other slaves, saying: 'Tell those who are invited, "Behold, I have prepared my dinner! My cattle and my fatted calves have been killed and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!" But those who were invited made light of it and went off, one to his own farm, another to his merchandise, and the others seized the king's slaves, treated them shamefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. He sent out his soldiers to destroy those murderers and to burn their city.

Then the king said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Go therefore to the crossroads of the highways, and as many people as you may find, invite to the wedding feast.' Those slaves went out into the highways and gathered as many people as they could find, both good and bad. Thus, the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man who was not wearing a wedding garment. He asked him, 'Friend, how did you come in here, not wearing a wedding garment?' And the man was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth.' Indeed, many are called, but few are chosen!"

Now when Jesus arrived in the area of Caesarea Philippi, he asked a question to his disciples, saying, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Jesus then said to them, "But you, who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!"

And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. I also tell you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hades will not prevail against it.

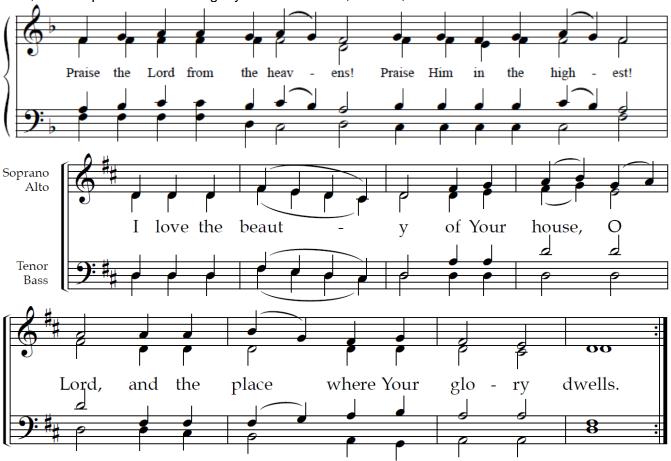
Choir: Glory to You O Lord, Glory to You.

Sermon – Fr. Marty

(then p. 89)

### **Communion Hymn**

Praise the Lord from the heavens, praise Him in the highest! I have loved the beauty of Your house, O Lord, and the place where Your glory dwells. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



- 1. Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity, and I have trusted in the Lord without wavering.
- 2. Prove me, O Lord, and try me; test my heart and my mind.
- 3. For your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in your faithfulness.
- 4. I do not sit with men of falsehood, nor do I consort with hypocrites.
- 5. I hate the assembly of evildoers, and I will not sit with the wicked.
- 6. I wash my hands in innocence and go around your altar, O Lord, proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- 7. O Lord, I love the habitation of your house and the place where your glory dwells.
- 8. Do not sweep my soul away with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands are evil devices, and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- 9. But as for me, I shall walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- 10. My foot stands on level ground; in the great assembly I will bless the Lord.

