31st Sunday after Pentecost (Dec 21/Jan 3)
Sunday of the Holy Fathers
Commemoration of Our Father Among the Saints Peter, Metropolitan of Kiev & All Russia (2026 marks the 700th anniversary of his response)

VESPERS: Tone 6

P. Regular Beginning
C. Lord I have cried...

1. O Christ, triumphant **o**ver hell,/ Thou hast ascended up**on** the Cross,/ to raise up with Thyself those dwelling in the **dark**ness of death./ Free a**mong** the dead,/ Thou pourest forth life from **Thine** own light:// O almighty Saviour, have mercy up**on** us.

2. Christ, having trampled upon **death** today,/ according to His word, rose up bestowing **joy** upon the world,/ that all of us shouting this **hymn** might say:/ O Fount of life, O Light that no **man** can approach,// O almighty Saviour, have mercy up**on** us.

3. Whither shall we sinners fly from **Thee**, O Lord,/ Who art everywhere in the cre**a**tion?/ Into heaven? Thy a**bode** is there./ Into hell? Thou hast trampled up**on** death./ Into the uttermost **parts** of the sea?/ Thy hand reaches thither, O **Mas**ter./ We run to Thee and falling before **Thee** we pray:// O Thou, risen from the dead, have mercy up**on** us.

Stichera for the Holy Fathers (Tone 6)

4. Unto the **ends** of the earth/ hath the memory of the forefathers been **ma**nifest/ as truly filled with light and shining with **rays** of grace;/ for Christ, the radiant Sun, shining from a**far** on high,/ doth lead forth an assembly of stars which **shi**neth with Him,/ and in the midst of Bethlehem a nativity is shown to be that of **God** and man./ Therefore, piously **clap**ping our hands,// with faith let us all join chorus to utter pre-festive praise unto His na**ti**vity.

5. Re**joic**ing today,/ Adam is adorned with the glory of divine com**mun**ion,/ as the foundation and confirmation of the wise fore**fa**thers;/ and with him Abel doth **leap** for joy/ and Enoch is glad, and Seth danceth together with **No**ah;/ the all-praised Abraham doth chant with the **pa**triarchs,/ and from on high Melchizedek doth behold a birth wherein a father **had** no part./ Wherefore, celebrating the divine memory of the fore**fa**thers of Christ,// we beseech Him, that our **souls** be saved.

6. With gladness hath the assembly of the divinely wise children in the furnace **shone** forth,/ and it proclaimeth the nativity of **Christ** on earth;/ for the Lord, descending like a **pre**cious dew,/ doth preserve unconsumed her that **gav**eth Him birth,/ doth keep her undefiled and doth enrich her with di**vine** gifts./ Wherefore, the God-pleasing Daniel rejoiceth in **glad**ness,/ for he hath clearly foreseen the Stone uncut from the **moun**tain,// and with boldness doth he now pray in be**half** of our souls.

Stichera for St. Peter of Kiev (Tone 2)

7/8. With what wreaths of praise shall we crown the holy **hi**erarch:/ the crown of the priesthood, the instiller of **pi**ety,/ the brilliant ornament **of** the Church,/ the inexhaustible wellspring of divine **heal**ings,/ the river of many **won**ders/—Peter, who maketh the land of Russia glad with torrents of **mi**racles,// our fervent intercessor and **guard**ian?

9. With what humble mouths shall we hymn the holy **hi**erarch,/ who dwelleth with the incorporeal ones and is wondrous in **mi**racles,/ who was sanctified from earliest **in**fancy:/ the unshakable pillar of the Church, the source of gladness **for** our land,/ the standard of righteousness, the feeder of **or**phans,/ the defender of the oppressed and physician **of** the sick// who exacted **no** fee?

10. Come, ye assemblies of the **faith**ful,/ and let us clap our hands as say the psalms, hymning the divine **Pe**ter,/ the consolation of the grieving and helper of the **des**perate,/ the boast of the Russian land and adornment of the whole **priest**hood,/ the river of mercy, who was truly a lover of the divine hu**mi**lity of Christ,// Who granteth great mercy **to** the world.

Glory... (Tone 6)

Daniel, the man of di**vine** desires,/ seeing Thee, the Stone uncut by **hu**man hands,/ O Lord, prophetically called Thee a babe **born** without seed,/ the Word incarnate of the Virgin, the im**mac**ulate God,// the **Saviour** of our souls.

Both now & ever... of the Forefeast (Tone 6)

Splendidly adorn thyself, **O** cave,/ for the ewe-lamb cometh who doth bear **Christ** in her womb!/ O manger, receive thou Him Who by a word doth release us mortals from irrational ac**tiv**ity!/ Ye piping shepherds, bear witness to the awesome **won**der!/ Ye magi from Persia, bring forth gold, **frank**incense and myrrh,/ for the Lord hath appeared from the Virgin **Ma**ry./ And the Mother, regarding Him as befitteth a **hand**maid,/ worshipped Him and cried out in greeting unto Him Who was **laid** in her arms:/ How wast Thou sown with**in** me?/ How didst Thou spring **forth** in me,// O my De**liv**erer and God?

P. Wisdom. Aright!
C. O Joyful Light...
P. Prokimenon. The Lord is King...
P. Wisdom!

Readings for the Fathers

R. The reading from Genesis (14:14-20)

Abram, having heard that Lot, his nephew, had been taken captive, numbered his own home-born servants, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued after them to Dan. And he came upon them by night, he and his servants; and he smote them and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is on the left of Damascus. And he recovered all the cavalry of Sodom, and he recovered Lot,

his nephew, and all his possessions, and the women and the people. And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after he returned from the slaughter of Chedorla-omer, and the kings with him, to the valley of Shaveh (this was the plain of the kings). And Melchizedek, King of Salem, brought forth loaves and wine, and he was the priest of the Most High God. And he blessed Abram, and said: "Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, Who made heaven and earth; and blessed be the Most High God Who delivered thine enemies into thy power."

R. The reading from Deuteronomy (1:8-11, 15-17)

In those days, Moses said to the children of Israel: "Behold, God hath delivered the land before you. Go in and inherit the land, which He promised to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give it to them and to their seed after them. And I spake to you at that time, saying: I shall not be able by myself to bear you. The Lord your God hath multiplied you; and, behold, ye are today as the stars of heaven in multitude. The Lord God of your fathers add to you a thousandfold more than you are, and bless you as He hath said to you. How shall I alone be able to bear your labor, and your burden, and your gainsayings? Take to yourselves wise men for your tribes, and I will set your leaders over you. And ye answered me, and said: 'The thing which thou hast told us is good to do.' So I took of you wise and understanding and prudent men, and I set them to rule over you as rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, and rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens, and officers to your judges. And I charged your judges at that time, saying: Hear causes between your brethren, and judge rightly between a man and his brother, and the stranger who is with him. Thou shalt not have respect to persons in judgment, thou shalt judge small and great equally; thou shalt not shrink from before the person of a man, for the judgment is God's."

R. The reading from Deuteronomy (10:14-21)

In those days, Moses said to the children of Israel: "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens belong to the Lord thy God, the earth and all things that are therein. Only the Lord chose your fathers to love them, and He chose out their seed after them, even you, beyond all nations, as at this day. Therefore, ye shall circumcise the hardness of your heart, and ye shall not harden your neck. For the Lord your God, He is the God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, and strong, and terrible God, Who doth not accept persons, nor will He by any means accept a bribe, executing judgment for the stranger and orphan and widow. And as He loveth the stranger, to give him food and raiment, so shall ye love the stranger; for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God, and serve Him, and shalt cleave unto Him, and shalt swear by His name. He is thy boast, and He is thy God, Who hath wrought in the midst of thee these great and glorious things, which thine eyes have seen."

<u>Readings for St. Peter of Kiev</u>

R. The reading from the Book of Proverbs

The memory of the just is praised, and the blessing of the Lord is upon his head. Blessed is the man who hath found wisdom, and the mortal who knoweth prudence. For it is better to traffic for her, than for treasures of gold and silver. And she is more valuable than precious stones: no

precious thing is equal to her in value. For length of existence and years of life are in her right hand; and in her left hand are wealth and glory: out of her mouth righteousness proceedeth, and she carrieth law and mercy upon her tongue. Hearken to me, O children, for I will speak solemn truths. Blessed is the man who shall keep my ways; for my outgoings are the outgoings of life, and in them is prepared favor from the Lord. Ye, O men, do I exhort; and utter my voice to the sons of men. I, wisdom, have built up; upon counsel, knowledge and understanding have I called. Counsel and safety are mine; prudence is mine, and strength is mine. I love those that love me; they that seek me shall find grace. O ye simple, understand subtlety, and ye that are untaught, imbibe knowledge. Hearken unto me again; for I will speak solemn truths. For my throat shall meditate truth; and false lips are an abomination before me. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing in them wrong or perverse. They are all evident to those that understand, and right to those that find knowledge. For I will instruct you in truth, that your hope may be in the Lord, and ye may be filled with the Spirit.

R. The reading from the Wisdom of Solomon

Though the righteous be prevented with death, yet shall he be in rest. Thus the righteous who is dead shall condemn the ungodly who are living. For they shall see the end of the wise, and shall not understand what God in His counsel hath decreed of him. For the Lord shall cast the ungodly down headlong, that they shall be speechless, and He shall shake them from the foundation; and they shall be utterly laid waste, and be in sorrow; and their memorial shall perish. And when they cast up the account of their sins, they shall come with fear: and their own iniquities shall convict them to their face. Then shall the righteous man stand in great boldness before the face of such as have afflicted him, and made no account of his labors. When they see it, they shall be troubled with terrible fear, and shall be amazed at the strangeness of his salvation. And they, repenting and groaning for anguish of spirit, shall say within themselves: "This was he whom we held betimes in derision, and as a proverb of reproach. We fools accounted his life madness, and his end to be without honour. How is he numbered among the children of God, and his lot among the saints? Therefore have we erred from the way of truth, and the light of righteousness hath not shined unto us, and the sun of righteousness rose not upon us. We have been full of the ways of the iniquitous and destruction, and have trodden trackless paths, but the ways of the Lord have we not known."

R. The reading from the Book of Proverbs:

The mouth of the righteous droppeth wisdom: but the tongue of the unjust shall perish. The lips of men drop grace: but the mouth of the ungodly is perverse. False balances are an abomination before the Lord: but a just weight is acceptable unto Him. Wherever pride entereth, there will also disgrace: but the mouth of the humble doth meditate wisdom. The integrity of the upright shall guide them, but the overthrow of the rebellious shall spoil them. Possessions shall not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness will deliver from death. When a just man dieth, he leaveth regret: but the destruction of the ungodly is speedy and causeth joy. Righteousness traceth out blameless paths: but ungodliness encountereth unjust dealing. The righteousness of upright men delivereth

them: but transgressors are caught in their own destruction. At the death of a just man his hope doth not perish: but the boast of the ungodly perisheth. A righteous man escapeth from a snare, and the ungodly man is delivered up in his place. In the mouth of ungodly men is a snare for citizens: but the understanding of righteous men is prosperous. In the prosperity of righteous men a city prospereth, but at the destruction of the wicked there is exultation. At the blessing of the upright a city shall be exalted, but by the mouths of ungodly men it is overthrown. A man void of understanding sneereth at his fellow citizens: but a sensible man is quiet.

P. Augmented Litany
R. Vouchsafe...
P. Litany of Fervent Supplication

C. Litya from service of December 21st Aposticha (Tone 1)

Seeing the Creator held in thine arms, O most **pure** one,/ thou didst exclaim: "O my sweet Child, how is it that I behold Thee **as** a babe,/ **and** am now unable to understand Thine unapproachable condes**cen**sion?/ I hymn Thy might and worship Thy loving-**kind**ness,// for which cause Thou hast come to **save** the world!"

O **Mo**ther who knewest not **wed**lock,/ He Who is invisible hath appeared, in**car**nate of thee,/ **born** in a cave, and seen of the divine ranks of **hea**ven;/ for He hath come to deliver man from the deception of the **ser**pent./ Be not a**mazed** at thy birthgiving which transcendeth **na**ture,// O most im**ma**culate one!

"I be**hold** Thee, the all-perfect Babe, lying in the **man**ger,/ and I cannot fathom the ineffable depths of this **mys**tery!/ **How** have I remained incorrupt after **giv**ing birth,/ transcending the laws of **na**ture?/ What **man**ner of praise shall I **of**fer Thee?// How shall I glorify Thee?" the Virgin **Mai**den exclaimed.

Stichera for St. Peter of Kiev (Tone 4)

Today is the Church splendidly adorned, and it rejoiceth, crying:/ My beauty is more luminous than all others;/ for the glorious Peter, the ornament of holy hierarchs,/ hath gone up to heaven, to the King Who reigneth above all kings!/ Come, ye assemblies of the Orthodox who love the feasts of the Church,/ and let us offer up hymns and praises unto Him, crying aloud:/ O adornment of hierarchs, entreat Christ God,// that He deliver the Christian people from all sorrow and save our souls!

(Tone 6)

The divine grace of the Spirit hath revealed thee as a holy hierarch/ and hath shown thee forth as an excellent teacher./ Wherefore, rebuking the darkness of ungodliness,/ thou didst enlighten the people with teachings of the knowledge of God,/ O divinely wise and holy hierarch Peter./ Thou art the glory and adornment of hierarchs,/ and wast all an excellent model of teachings.// As thou hast boldness before Christ God, ever pray that our souls be saved.

The fruit of thy noble woks enlightened the hearts of the faithful, O sacred father./ For who hath heard of thy boundless humility and is not amazed at thy patience,/ and at thy kindness toward the poor and mercy toward the sorrowful!/ Thou didst teach all in godly manner, O holy hierarch Peter;/ and crowned now in the heavens with a wreath which withereth not,// pray thou in behalf of our souls.

Glory... of the Fathers (Tone 3)

Come, ye lovers of the **feasts** of the Church,/ and with **psalms** let us praise the assembly of the fore**fath**ers:/ **A**dam, the fore**fa**ther of us all,/ **E**noch, Noah, Melchizedek, Abraham, Isaac and **Ja**cob;/ and, after the **Law**, Moses and Aaron, Joshua, Samuel and **Da**vid,/ and, with **them**, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and the twelve **pro**phets,/ to**get**her with Elijah, Elisha and **all** the rest,/ Zecha**ri**ah and the Fore**run**ner:// who all preached Christ, the Life and Resur**rec**tion of our race.

Both now and ever... of the Forefeast (Tone 3)

A**dorn** thyself splendidly, O Bethlehem, for Eden hath been **o**pened!/ Make **read**y, O Ephratha, for Adam is restored, and E-eve **with** him;/ **for** the curse is annulled, the salvation of the world hath **blos**somed forth,/ **and** the souls of the **right**eous are adorned./ And **bear**ing hymnody as a gift of offering in**stead** of myrrh,/ they re**ceive** salvation of soul and incor**rup**tion./ For, **lo!** He Who lieth in the manger doth com**mand** before,/ **that** a spiritual hymn be chanted by those who cry out un**ceas**ingly:// O Lord, **glo**ry be to Thee!

P. *Litya prayers in back of Church*

APOSTICHA: (Tone 6)

1. Angels in heaven sing the **prai**ses/ of Thy Resurrection, O Christ our **Saviour**./ Vouchsafe that we **too** on earth// may from pure hearts give Thee **glo**ry.

   V. The Lord is King,/ and hath put on glorious apparel.

2. After breaking in pieces the **gates** of brass/ and crushing the bolts and **bars** of hell,/ Thou, being almighty God, didst raise **fal**len man./ Therefore, with one ac**cord**, we cry:// Glory unto Thee, O Lord, **ris**en from the dead.

   V. He hath made the world so sure/ that it cannot be moved.

3. Wishing to lift us out of the ancient cor**rup**tion,/ Christ was nailed upon the Cross and **laid** in the tomb./ As in tears the women bearing myrrh **searched** for Him,/ they said, lamenting: Woe are we, O **Saviour** of all:/ How comes it that Thou wast pleased to **dwell** in the tomb?/ How comes it, if that was Thy wish, that Thou hast now been **sto**len?/ How comes it that Thou hast been taken **else**where?/ In what place have they laid Thy life-bearing **Bo**dy?/ But, O Master, as Thou hast **prom**ised,/ appear to us and dry up the **foun**tain of our tears./ Upon which, as they wept, an angel **came** to them and cried:/ Cease your weeping and

tell the apostles that the Lord is **ri**sen// giving the world purification and great **mer**cy.

V. Holiness becometh Thine house/ O Lord, forever.

4. Crucified according to Thy **Will**, O Christ,/ despoiling death by Thy en**tomb**ment,/ Thou hast risen up on the third day as God in **glo**ry,// granting the world life without end and great **mer**cy.

Glory... (Tone 2)

Rejoice, ye honorable **pro**phets/ who dedicated yourselves well to the **Law** of the Lord,/ and by **faith** revealed yourselves as unshaken and unbreakable **pil**lars of Christ;/ and, having passed on to **hea**ven,// ye beseech Him to grant peace to the world and to **save** our souls.

Both... (Tone 2)

Behold, the hour of our salvation **draw**eth nigh!/ Make ready, O cave, for the Virgin approacheth to **give** birth!/ Re**joice** and be glad, O Bethlehem, land of **Ju**dah,/ for from thee shall our **Lord** shine forth!/ Hearken, ye mountains and hills, and ye surrounding lands of Ju**de**a,/ for Christ cometh to save man whom He cre**a**ted,// in that He is the Lover of **man**kind!

C. St. Symeon's Prayer
R. Trisagion
C. Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos (once only)

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith!/ In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water,/ the three holy children rejoiced;/ and the prophet Daniel was shown to be a shepherd of lions, as of sheep.// By their prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

Troparion for St. Peter of Kiev (Tone 4)

Be glad now, O earth that before wast barren!/ For, lo! Christ hath shown forth within thee a luminary/ who shineth forth clearly in the world and healeth our infirmities and ailments./ Wherefore, join chorus and rejoice with boldness;// for it is the high priest of the Most High who doeth these things.

P. Blessing of loaves.
C. Amen. Blessed be the Name of the Lord... x3

MATINS: Tone 6

P. Regular Beginning
P. Great Ectenia
C. God is the Lord...

C. Sunday Troparia (Tone 6) (once only)

The angelic powers were at thy tomb;/ the guards became as dead men./ Mary stood by Thy grave,/ seeking Thy most pure Body./ Thou didst capture

hell not being tempted by it./ Thou didst come to the Virgin, granting life./ O Lord, Who didst rise from the dead:// Glory to Thee.

Troparion of the Fathers (Tone 2)

Great are the accomplishments of faith!/ In the fountain of flame, as in refreshing water,/ the three holy children rejoiced;/ and the prophet Daniel was shown to be a shepherd of lions, as of sheep.// By their prayers, O Christ God, save Thou our souls!

Glory... Troparion of St. Peter of Kiev (Tone 4)

Be glad now, O earth that before wast barren!/ For, lo! Christ hath shown forth within thee a luminary/ who shineth forth clearly in the world and healeth our infirmities and ailments./ Wherefore, join chorus and rejoice with boldness;// for it is the high priest of the Most High who doeth these things.

Both... Troparion of the Forefeast (Tone 4)

Make ready, O Bethlehem!/ Open unto all, O Eden!/ Adorn thyself, O Ephratha!/ For the Tree of life hath blossomed forth from the Virgin in the cave./ Her womb is shown to be a noetic paradise,/ wherein lieth a divine garden,/ eating from whence we live, not dying like Adam./ Christ is born// to raise up His image which before was fallen.

Lord Have Mercy 3x
Glory...

R. Now...
R. Kathisma II
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:

When the tomb was opened and hades wept, Mary cried out to the apostles, who had hidden themselves: "Come forth, ye laborers of the vineyard! Proclaim the tidings of the resurrection! The Lord hath risen, granting the world great mercy."

V. Arise, O Lord my God, let Thy hand be lifted high; forget not Thy paupers to the end.

O Lord, Mary Magdalene stood before Thy tomb and wept aloud; and supposing Thee to be the gardener, she said: "Where hast Thou hidden our eternal Life? Where hast Thou laid Him Who sitteth upon the throne of the cherubim? For those who guarded Him have become as dead through fear. Either give me my Lord, or cry out with me: O Thou Who wast among the dead and hast raised up the dead, glory to Thee!"

G/B... He Who called thee Mother and blessed went up of His own will to suffer, and wishing to search out Adam, He made light shine with the Cross, saying unto the angels: Rejoice with Me, for I have found the lost piece of silver. Glory unto Thee, O God, Who hast ordered all things wisely.

R. Kathisma III
P. Small Ectenia

R. Sessional Hymns:
Life lay in the tomb, and a seal was affixed to the stone. Soldiers guarded Christ as they would a sleeping king, and the Lord arose, invisibly smiting His enemies.

V. I will confess Thee, O Lord, with my whole heart, I will tell of all Thy wonders.

Jonah prefigured Thy tomb, and Symeon told of Thy divine resurrection, O immortal Lord; for Thou didst descend into the tomb as one dead, demolishing the gates of hades, and didst arise as Master, without corruption, for the salvation of the world, O Christ our God, Who hast enlightened those in darkness.

G/B... O Virgin Theotokos, entreat thy Son, Christ our God, Who of His own will was nailed to the Cross and arose from the dead, that our souls be saved.

C. Polyeleos

P. Magnification for St. Peter of Kiev (once only by clergy)
We magnify thee,/ O holy hierarch father Peter,/ and we honor thy holy memory;// for thou dost pray for us to Christ our God.

C. Evlogitaria (Blessed art Thou, O Lord...)
P. Small Ectenia

R. Ypakoe:
Having, as God broken down the gates of hades by Thy voluntary and life-creating death, O Christ, Thou didst open ancient paradise unto us; and rising from the dead, Thou hast delivered our life from corruption.

R. Sessional Hymns for St. Peter of Kiev
Let the great hierarch of Christ, the godly Peter, be hymned: the pillar of light illumining us with the splendors of miracles, the moist cloud extinguishing the flame of the passions and bedewing the thoughts of the faithful.

With love do we all cry out unto thee, the merciful favorite of Christ, guileless and meek; and we earnestly pray: Bring an end to the civil strife of our passions, set at nought the ungodly wiles of the Moslems and make them subject to the Orthodox, O ever-blessed one, and deliver from all temptations those who hymn thee with love.

Glory... With the effulgence of Orthodoxy thou hast enlightened those heavy laden with sins as ones lying in darkness; and thou hast repulsed all the wiles of the evil spirits, revealing thyself as a worker of miracles, and hast been glorified by the providence of the Most High. Wherefore, we

honor thee with faith, O holy hierarch Peter, who dwellest in company with the apostles and patriarchs.

Both... O Bethlehem, make ready to greet the Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. For, lo! She cometh to thee, bearing the infant Christ, Who with the Father and the Spirit is ever equally without beginning. To Him shall she give birth in the cave, and yet shall remain a Virgin even after giving birth.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon One)
I lift up mine eyes to heaven, to Thee, O Word. Have pity, that I may live in Thee.
Have mercy upon us who are downcast, O Word, making us vessels useful to Thee.
G/B... The Holy Spirit is the Cause of all salvation. And if He blow upon anyone as is meet, He quickly taketh him away from among the things of earth: He giveth him wings, maketh him grow and setteth him on high.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Two)
If the Lord were not among us, none of us would be able to combat the warfare of the enemy; for they who conquer are lifted upon from hence.
Let not my soul be seized like a bird by the teeth of the enemy, O Word. Woe is me! How shall I, who love sin, escape them?
G/B... From the Holy Spirit come deification, goodwill, understanding, peace and blessing for all; for He worketh equally with the Father and the Word.

Hymn of Degrees: (Antiphon Three)
They that hope in the Lord are fearsome to the enemy and wondrous to all; for they direct their gaze on high.
He who hath Thee, O Saviour, as his Helper, the Portion of the righteous, doth not stretch out his hands toward iniquities.
G/B... The dominion of the Holy Spirit is over all. Him do the armies on high worship, as doth every creature here below.

P. Prokimenon:
O Lord, stir up Thy might/ and come to save us.
V. O Shepherd of Israel, attend, Thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.

C. Let every breath praise the Lord.
P. GOSPEL #9

C. Having Beheld the Resurrection of Christ...
R. Psalm 50
C. Glory... Now... Have mercy on me... Jesus having risen...

P. Save, O God, Thy People...
Anointing.

Canticle One

Irmos: Traversing the deep on foot/ as though it were dry land,/ and seeing the tyrant Pharaoh drowned,/ Israel cried aloud:// Let us chant unto God a hymn of victory.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Jesus the Good, by Thine arms outspread upon the Cross, Thou hast filled all things with the good pleasure of the Father. Therefore shall we all sing Thee a triumphal song.

For fear of Thee, the end that is death became like a servant and was ordered to approach the Master of Life, whereby He awarded us life without end and the Resurrection.

Theotokion

Having received thine own Creator incarnate of thy seedless womb in manner past understanding, O pure one, as He Himself desired, thou wast truly shown to be the Mistress of creation.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

O divinely wise father, holy hierarch Peter, open thou mine unworthy lips, that I may hymn thee; and accept as incense of sweet savor that which, unworthy though I am, I have offered unto thee out of my poverty.

Let us all hymn Peter, the great hierarch. Let us honor the helper and confirmation of the land of Russia, whom the Lord hath given to the city of Moscow as a vigilant guardian.

Thou didst follow the saving commandments of Christ, O all-wise and holy hierarch Peter, and wast an intercessor for widows and orphans, and the great defense of the Russian land.

Theotokion

O all-pure Theotokos, who gavest birth unto the Creator and Saviour of all who hymn thee: from misfortunes save thy city, unceasingly praying to thy Son and our God for us.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Taking the grace of the Spirit into thy heart, O father, holy hierarch of Christ, illumine the tongue and enlighten the heart of those who hymn thee, that with splendor we may hymn thy memory, O venerable Peter.

The great Peter, the mighty pastor of the Church, summoneth shepherds and flock, and the whole Church, to his memorial. Wherefore, having assembled, let us with splendor keep the festival of our common father.

Even though thy corrections are beyond our words and thoughts, O father Peter, yet do thou accept with love the spiritual offering which we make

unto thee according to our strength, O right wondrous one; for we are none of us able to fashion fitting hymns for thee.

Theotokion

The radiant Sun cometh, appearing from the gates which were shut; for His appearance hath abolished the night, and the day draweth nigh. Wherefore, O our corrupt nature, receive from the Virgin the Master Who is become man for thy sake.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Today the assembly of the divine fathers doth radiantly celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ, and most glorious grace doth prefigure it, for Abraham and the children of the Law are an image thereof.

Of old the sacred Abraham received One of the three Persons of the Godhead, and now the Word of the Father, Who is equally enthroned with Him, doth, through the divine Spirit, come to the children, He Who is gloriously praised.

The children that cast down godlessness in the furnace are in number and faith images of the divine Trinity, and they have revealed to the world the hidden mysteries of God.

Glory... Abraham delivered from the hands of the unrighteous, and the divine youths and Daniel the prophet were once saved from the flame of the furnace and from the den of wild beasts. Wherefore, we now celebrate the forefeast of the nativity of Christ.

Both... O joyous and unwedded Mother, incorrupt Virgin, we bless thee, for thou didst blossom forth from the generation of Abraham and the tribe of David, and gavest birth unto Christ, Who of old was foretold by the prophets.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

Christ is born, glorify Him./ Christ is from heaven receive Him./ Christ is on earth, be ye lifted up./ Sing unto the Lord, all the earth./ And praise Him with joy, ye people;// For He hath glorified Himself.

Canticle Three

Irmos: There is none as holy as Thee,/ O Lord my God,/ Who hast uplifted the horn of Thy faithful/ and established us// on the rock of the confession of Thee, O Good One.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The creation, looking upon God crucified in the flesh was dissolved by fear but was strongly held together by the firm hand of Him Who was crucified for us.

Death having been destroyed by death, the wretch lay lifeless; For, not able to bear the divine assault, he who was strong was put to death and the Resurrection was bestowed upon all.

Theotokion

The miracle of thy divine birthgiving transcendeth every order of nature, O pure one; for thou didst supernaturally conceive God in thy womb, and having given birth thou dost ever remain a virgin.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

By thine entreaty to our Creator and God crush the Moslems and all our godless adversaries, O venerable Peter; show forth their power, which warreth against us, as impotent; and subdue their wicked savagery.

O Master, in a generation gone by, Thou didst show forth a wonder-worker, the holy hierarch Peter, the confirmation of the Russian land, the upright rule of Thy Church, the leader of the priestly rank.

The man who touched thee while thou wast in thy coffin was counted worthy to receive healing, O holy one; for by the grace of God thou didst enable him to stretch forth his arms, which were bent in upon his breast.

Theotokion

Be thou for me a refuge and haven, an unassailable rampart and helper, O all-pure Virgin who gavest birth in the flesh unto God, the most compassionate Deliverer and Saviour of those who hymn thee, O Bride of God.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

God, Who knoweth all things, knew thee in the womb before thou wast conceived, O God-bearer. And when thou wast born, He sanctified thee and made thee a great shepherd of His sheep; for He entrusted His sheep to thee, as He did to the Apostle Peter.

Parting the sea of the passions with the staff of abstinence, O blessed one, like Moses thou didst ascend the mountain of dispassion, and, having received noetic tablets, thou didst teach thy flock the law of God.

Thou wast shown to be humble, meek and gentle, O Peter; wherefore, the grace of the Spirit, abundantly poured forth upon thee, revealed thee to be a great man who shineth over our land with rays of miracles.

Theotokion

God, Who is strong and mighty, hath now revealed Himself to those who are in the darkness of the shadow of death. O ye faithful, behold the great Light-Christ-in the cave, who is to be born of the Virgin in awesome manner. Let us hymn her with faith.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Faithfully preserving the glory of the image and likeness of God, with the fire of the Spirit the children, as champions, extinguished the fire of the golden image, chanting: We know but one Lord!

The captive children, clothed with the wisdom and power of the Spirit, put to shame the wise men of Babylon and boldly cried out: None is holy save Thee, O Lord, Lover of mankind!

Glory... The law doth rejoice and joineth chorus with the children and the prophets and doth exult today before the divine advent of the Lord. And Abraham doth rejoice, for from his seed hath the incarnate Lord appeared.

Both... A conception without pain, an acceptance of thy birthgiving hath transpired in manner beyond recounting, O Theotokos, for the Word of God, Who is God and was proclaimed by the prophets, hath shown Himself to be a mystery beyond nature.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

To the Son Who was begotten of the Father/ without change before all ages,/ and in the last times was without seed made flesh of the Virgin,/ to Christ our God let us cry aloud:// Thou hast raised up our horn, holy art Thou, O Lord.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of St. Peter of Kiev (Tone 8)

Unto thee, the chosen and wondrous wonderworker of our land,/ do we flee today with love, weaving hymns, O God-bearer./ As thou hast boldness before the Lord, deliver us from multifarious evil circumstances,// that we may cry to thee: Rejoice, O confirmation of our city.

R. Ikos for St. Peter of Kiev

Thou hast been shown to be a new wonderworker, imparting healings unto all who fervently approach thee in humility of heart. And, invisibly visiting the Christian people, O God-bearer, thou dost enlighten our land, that together we may cry out to thee thus: Rejoice abode of the light of dispassion; rejoice, dispeller of dark passions! Rejoice, thou who hast set at nought the wiles of the demons; rejoice, thou who hast gladdened the ranks of the angels! Rejoice, summit of the pure vision of God; rejoice, depths of humility, washing sicknesses away! Rejoice, for thou didst behold invisible things; rejoice, for thou hast joined the choir of holy hierarchs! Rejoice, pastor and teacher of the Russian land; rejoice, excellent boast of bishops! Rejoice, thou for whose sake God hath shown forth great miracles; rejoice, thou in whom God is glorified! Rejoice, O confirmation of our city!

C. Ypakoe of the Holy Fathers (Tone 8)

An **An**gel bedewed the children in the **fur**nace,/ and hath now put an end to the lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women, **say**ing:/ Why bring ye myrrh? Whom seek ye **in** the tomb?/ Christ God is **ri**sen,// for He is the life and salvation of the **hu**man race!

R. Sessional Hymn for St. Peter of Kiev

Thou hast been revealed to the world as a resplendent beacon, illumining the thoughts of the faithful with the brilliance of thy discourses, O holy hierarch Peter our father; wherefore, with joy we all celebrate thy sacred and divine memory today.

G/B... of the Forefeast

O virgins, begin ye beforehand the joy of virgins; ye mothers, praise the coming forth of the Mother of Christ our God; rejoice, O magi, with the angels, and ye shepherds with us! For the Vigin cometh to give birth in the city of Bethlehem to a Son, the pre-eternal God, Who saveth the world from corruption.

Canticle Four

Irmos: Christ is my power, my God and my Lord,/ the honoured Church doth sing,/ crying out in godly manner/ with a pure mind,// keeping festival in the Lord.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The Wood made life truly flower, O Christ. For the Cross set up and watered by the Blood and Water from Thy spotless side, put forth life for us.

The serpent no more whispers falsely to me that I should be God; for Christ, the divine Maker of the nature of man hath now unfolded unto me, without hindrance, the path of life.

Theotokion

Truly ineffable and unapproachable to those on earth and in heaven are the mysteries of thy divine birthgiving, O Ever-virgin.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

With the grace of the Spirit thou wast anointed a high priest, O most excellent Peter; for thou didst put on Christ because of thy pure life. Wherefore, thou didst teach all to glorify the one God in Trinity.

Deliver thy flock from the storm of sin, from tribulations and sorrows, O venerable hierarch Peter, leading us to the calm harbor of the divine will of Christ.

Thou wast shown to be a favorite of Christ, O all-hallowed father Peter; wherefore, cease thou never to pray to the Lord, that He deliver thy flock from perils, misfortunes and sorrows, and from violent trials.

Theotokion

The assemblies of hierarchs and the choirs of the venerable glorify thee in sacred manner; for thou didst bear in thine arms, as an infant, the Creator of all, the Son and Word of God.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Bowing to the laws of the Spirit from earliest childhood, O venerable one, thou didst pass over the laws of the flesh, which by mighty asceticism thou didst mortify in thy life. Wherefore, thou art given to the faithful as a great wonderworker, O blessed Peter.

Thou gavest neither sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids, until the Creator of all found thy heart to be a tranquil place. And, having fittingly purified it, the eternal King and God showed it forth to be His habitation of glory.

Slay thou the incurable carnality of my mind, O all-wise one, and as thou art mighty and powerful, guide me to the divine ways. Make me subject to good laws, O blessed one, and show me, who have been enslaved to cruel passions, to be a servant of Christ.

Theotokion

As it is written, the Lord hath now sent deliverance unto peoples, tribes and nations; for He maketh all peoples for Himself, that they may worship the one incarnation of the Son and confess thee to be the Theotokos.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let us honour Abraham, Isaac and Jacob as the firstfruits of the fathers, for from their seed hath Christ shone forth incarnate of the Virgin, in that He is almighty.

Indicating the coming events of the descent of Christ unto all, Daniel clearly showed forth lions as sheep, for, as a prophet of God, he foresaw the future.

Glory... Not attracted by the poison of sin, O children, ye were delivered from the flame; for, being of wisdom more pure than gold, ye were not melted in the furnace of deception.

Both... O honoured and all-pure one, thine Offspring, Who surpasseth nature, is proclaimed aloud to be the expectation of the nations and the salvation of the world. And today the multitude of the fathers doth hymn Him.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

A rod from the root of Jesse/ and blossom therefrom, O Christ,/ Thou didst spring forth from the Virgin;/ from the mountain overshadowed and densely wooded hast Thou come,/ incarnate of her who knew not man,/ O Thou praised and immaterial God.// Glory to Thy power, O Lord!

Canticle Five

Irmos: With Thy divine light/ illumine the souls of those who with love/ rise at dawn unto Thee, I pray Thee, O Good One,/ that

they may know Thee, O Word of God, to be the true God// Who calleth all forth from the darkness of sin.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The cherubim now withdraws from me and the flaming sword turns its back on me, O Master, after beholding Thee, O Word of God Who art God indeed, making for the thief a way in Paradise.

I shall no more fear my return to the earth, O Master Christ, for through much compassion hast Thou by Thy Resurrection led me, forgotten, from the earth to the height of immortality.

Theotokion

Save those who with all their soul confess thee to be the Theotokos, O good Mistress of the world, for we have thee, the true Theotokos, as an invincible intercession.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Standing round about thy shrine, O venerable hierarch Peter, we have thee as a mediator before God, a help and an unshakable confirmation for the land of Russia.

As thou wast merciful to the poor, O all-praised one, ask now the mercy of the Spirit; for in exercising almsgiving, O holy father Peter, thou didst set up a radiant lamp.

Thou wast truly the habitation of the Holy Spirit, O blessed Peter, and wast well enriched by the divine gifts revealed in Him.

Theotokion

O all-pure one, we call thee the myrrh, in that thou gavest birth in the flesh unto God, the gracious Myrrh poured forth upon all who have recourse to thy protection.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

The great wealth of thy compassions hath been shown forth in our land as an infinite outpouring of thy mercy, O servant of Christ; for thou dost answer those who petition thee, and dost strive to fulfill their request, O blessed one.

Thou wast shown to be meek and humble in deed and word, and thereby drew all to thee. With love and good works thou subduest all, and by thy miracles thou didst gladden the hearts of those thou didst strengthen.

Christ, the great Shepherd of all, showed thee forth as the shepherd and teacher of His reason-endowed sheep, O blessed one. As a compassionate shepherd, seek me out now, who am thy sheep lost in the mountains of perdition.

Theotokion

In the abyss of His ineffable compassions, the great Shepherd of men and High Priest cometh forth as a man from the Virgin. Prepare thyself, O Bethlehem! Ye shepherds, raise a hymn proclaiming unto the ends of the earth our common exaltation!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Let us honour today the divine Daniel, of the race of Abraham, the firstfruit of the fathers, as a leader of the Law and of grace; for, as a prophet of God, he foretold the advent of Christ from the Virgin and goeth forth to meet His divine nativity.

Clearly prefiguring through the Angel's descent the coming of the Lord unto us, the children of Abraham extinguished the furnace; and, rendering the flame dewy with their faith, they consumed the splendor of the golden image therein.

Glory... Through the Spirit, Daniel closed the mouths of the wild beasts in the pit; and, through grace, the children of Abraham quenched the strength of the fire. And, saved from corruption, they proclaim Christ Who is born of the Virgin, entreating Him as the Deliverer of our salvation.

Both... Revealing through the divine Spirit Thy painless assumption of our nature, and keeping vigil in the Law of grace, O Lord, Isaiah cried out: From the race of Abraham and the tribe of Judah doth a Virgin come, giving birth in the flesh without seed.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

God of peace, the Father of mercies,/ Thou hast sent unto us an Angel of Thy great council,/ Who giveth us peace./ Therefore having been led unto the light of godly wisdom,/ waking early from the night// we do sing praises of Thee, O Lover of mankind.

Canticle Six

Irmos: Beholding the sea of life/ surging with the tempest of temptations,/ fleeing to Thy calm haven I cry unto Thee:/ Lead up my life from corruption,// O greatly Merciful One.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

O Master, crucified with nails, Thou hast wiped out the curse against us while pierced in Thy side by the lance, Thou hast torn up the handwriting against Adam and set the world free.

Tripped up by the heel through beguilement, Adam hath been led down towards the pit of hell. But God Who is compassionate by nature, descended to seek him and carrying him on His shoulders, He raised him up with Himself.

Theotokion

O all-pure Mistress who for men gavest birth to Christ, the Helmsman, allay the inconstant and grievous tumult of my passions, and grant serenity to my heart.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Thou didst make thy life chaste, O thou who art manifest in sanctity, adorning thyself with righteousness and uniting to thyself the virtues by manliness of mind, O all-blessed and holy hierarch Peter.

Preserve thy city from the predations of the ungodly infidels and from civil strife, O all-blessed hierarch Peter, unceasingly entreating Christ the Master to grant peace to thy flock.

Glorified even after thy death as one living, thou workest miracles for the infirm and by the grace of God givest healing unto those who are crippled; for the Lord saith: I will glorify him who glorifieth Me.

Theotokion

Thou wast more exalted than the heavenly hosts, having conceived the ineffable Word of God, Who hath accomplished all things by His word, and Who was begotten of the Father before time began. Him do thou never cease to entreat, O pure one.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Thou wast truly a father to orphans and a helper of widows, O glorious one, the sweet consolation of the grieving and those in sorrow, the healer of sufferings of soul and body; wherefore, we call upon thee to be our intercessor amid our adverse circumstances.

Joyfully celebrating thy memorial with the people today, sacred men keep festival, O father, and together with them true hermits and simple folk hymn thee in common as their intercessor and teacher.

I alone am become a wicked child through vile passions, O all-glorious father, and for this cause am unworthy to participate in thy goodly and beautiful celebration; yet, having washed away the defilement of my soul and body, O venerable one, show me forth as worthy of thy festival.

Theotokion

O true wonder! Wonder past recounting and all understanding! The Virgin is acknowledged to be both Virgin and Mother, and Him Who was born of her to be both God and man. Celebrating the forefeast of His radiant nativity, we sing hymns of joy.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Hospitable was the nature and exalted was the faith of Abraham the forefather. Wherefore, receiving in image the divine mystery, he rejoiced, and, running before Christ, he now maketh merry.

The faith of the youths now holdeth creation subject by the gift of the Creator, for the all-devouring and shameless fire stood in awe of them that honour Jesus Christ, the Creator of fire.

Glory... Daniel the prophet, once closing the mouths of the lions in the pit, showed in godly manner that through the coming of Christ the savagery of the world is in harmony with divine peace.

Both... O Mary, Mother who knewest not man, from a virgin womb didst thou give birth unto Christ, Whom the prophets beheld in the Spirit; and the fathers who begot Him now join chorus before His nativity.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The sea monster spat forth Jonah/ as it had received him, like a babe from the womb;/ while the Word, having dwelt in the Virgin and taken flesh,/ came forth from her yet kept her uncorrupt./ For being Himself not subject to decay,// He preserved His Mother free from harm.

P. Small Ectenia

C. Kontakion of the prefestal period (Tone 1)

Be glad, O Bethlehem! Make ready, O Ephratha!/ For, lo! She who beareth the Lamb and great Shepherd in her womb/ doth make haste to give birth./ Beholding this, the God-bearing fathers are glad,// with the shepherds hymning the Virgin who giveth milk.

R. Ikos of the Fathers of the prefestal period

Beholding the splendid radiance of thy birthgiving, O Virgin, the God-loving Abraham, the ever-memorable Isaac, Jacob and all the divinely assembled choir of saints rejoice, and, with joyous utterances, they lead creation forth to meet thee; for thou art shown to be the mediatress of joy for all, having conceived in thy womb Him Who once was seen in Babylon, Who preserved unconsumed the youths that had been cast unjustly into the furnace, and Who showed thee forth in manner past all comprehension. Wherefore, the young maidens chant unto Him Who is borne in thine arms, hymning thee as the Virgin who giveth milk.

R. Reading from the Prologue or Synaxarion

Canticle Seven

Irmos: An angel caused the furnace to pour forth dew/ upon the pious youths,/ and the command of God, which consumed the Chaldeans,/ prevailed upon the tyrant to cry out:// Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

The sun, lamenting at Thy Passion, was wrapped in gloom, and on that day, O Master, the light was darkened over the whole earth, that cried aloud: Blessed art Thou, the God of our fathers.

At Thy descent, O Christ, the lowest parts of the earth put on light: while our forefather appeared singing full of joy and he danced crying aloud: Blessed art Thou, O God of our fathers.

Theotokion

Through thee, O Virgin Mother, radiant Light hath shone forth upon the whole world; for thou gavest birth unto God, the Creator of all. Him do thou entreat, O most pure one, that He send down great mercy upon us, the faithful.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Open unto me the gates of repentance, O all-blessed hierarch Peter, that I may wash away the defilement of my wretched soul and body, directing all my senses and my conscience to chant unto God: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

We, thy servants, have thee as a fervent helper and the unassailable rampart and confirmation of thy city of Moscow; and we fear not the adverse foe, but vanquish them by the power of Christ, chanting: O God of our fathers; blessed art Thou!

Thou didst confirm the rules of the fathers, and with the magnificence of the priesthood didst build an all-beauteous church for the all-holy Mother of God; and by thy teachings thou didst instruct the people to chant: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Theotokion

Having thee now as a haven of salvation, O Virgin Theotokos, we flee the misfortunes and storms of life; and, escaping to the harbor of thy tranquility, we cry out to thy Son: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Together our land and other countries proclaim thy wonders, O father, teaching all to chant unto Christ most joyously: O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou!

The Bridegroom Who surpasseth all the sons of men in beauty, as it is written, showed thee forth to His bride, the Church, as a most comely bridegroom who bore the likeness of His image.

Having adorned thy life with almsgiving, meekness and true love, thou wast shown to be an excellent emulator of the good Shepherd, having chosen well His virtues.

Theotokion

The Master cometh to be born in the cave as a man. Let us go forth to greet the pure Virgin, O ye faithful, chanting unto her with joy: Rejoice, joy of the world! Rejoice, O Virgin Mother of Christ!

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

O father Abraham, founder of thy race, having begotten Christ in the flesh, thou art clearly revealed by the Spirit as the father of nations, unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

The hymn of the inspired ones hath put to shame them that utter soulless noises, for the youths, bodily trampling down unharmed the furnace which burned with fire, chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Glory... Of old, the prophet Daniel, gazing with spiritual vision, revealed the second coming of Christ, and he foretelleth the dreadful things which shall come to pass therein, crying out: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

Both... O strange wonder, known among the prophets and revealed of old to the fathers: a pure Virgin is come, wishing to give birth unto the salvation of us that chant: O God, our Deliverer, blessed art Thou!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The youths who were brought up together in godliness,/ despising the command of the unrighteous infidel,/ were not terrified by the threatening fire,/ but standing in the midst of the flames they did sing:// O God of our fathers, blessed art Thou.

Canticle Eight

Irmos: From the flame didst Thou pour forth dew upon the venerable ones,/ and didst consume the sacrifice of the righteous one with water;/ for Thou, O Christ, dost do all things soever Thou desirest.// Thee do we exalt supremely for all ages!

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Envy hath now made the people of the Jews who killed the Prophets in past times into killers of God, since they hung Thee upon the Cross, O Word of God Whom we exalt above all for ever.

Without forsaking the vaults of Heaven, Thou hast gone down into hell, and hast raised up with Thyself, O Christ, man entire who lay in decay and who exalts Thee above all forever.

Theotokion

From Light thou didst conceive the Word, the Bestower of light; and having ineffably given birth unto Him, thou hast been glorified. For the Spirit of God dwelt within thee, O Maiden. Wherefore, we hymn thee for all ages.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Though I have been overcome by the enemy through many transgressions of the tumults of life, like Manasseh I approach Thee with faith, O Christ, and cry out to Thee in repentance: Hymn the Lord, O ye works, and exalt Him supremely forever!

O all-blessed one, earnestly make supplications and entreaties unto God for thy servants, for, having thee as helper and ally amid griefs, we are saved from misfortunes, hymning the Lord and exalting Him supremely forever.

The children of Hagar are arming themselves against thy humble people, O all-honored hierarch, father Peter. Crush them with the invisible power of thy prayers to the Master in behalf of us, thy faithful servants, who hymn the Lord and exalt Him supremely forever.

Theotokion

O all-pure and all-glorious Virgin Mistress, with the holy hierarch Peter earnestly entreat thy Son and King, that from all need and tribulation He deliver thy loyal city of Moscow, which blesseth thee with faith, O Lady, and doth hymn and exalt thee supremely for all ages.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

By thy supplication nurture this thy flock which is great in number; by thy prayers still thou the storm of contrary winds, both physical and spiritual; deliver us from all temptations and troubles and preserve us utterly unharmed.

The descendents of Hagar, who rise up against us and desire to vex thine inheritance, have fallen, vanquished by thy supplications, and are become a mockery and a byword, bewailing their fall; but we joyously hymn thy sacred memory.

Ineffable is thy love for thy children, surpassing paternal love, O father; wherefore, thou dost ever invisibly visit us, by thy constant supplications asking salvation for us, and giving us joy and tranquility, O Peter.

Theotokion

Not disdaining that which He created in His own image-me who am wholly fallen and have perished, O pure Virgin Theotokos,-God hath wholly restored me through thee. Wherefore, all creation continually hymneth thee, the cause of our salvation, saying: Blessed art thou among women, O most immaculate Mistress.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Prefiguring Thy sacrifice, O Christ, Abraham, obedient to Thee, O Master, went forth with faith, wishing to sacrifice on the mountain the son whom he had begotten; but he returned with him, rejoicing and glorifying and exalting above all Thee, the Deliverer of the world.

When Thou didst clothe Thyself in ever-blazing flame as in a divine robe, O Christ, thou didst utterly extinguish the fire for the three holy children, and by Thy descent the dew hath cried out unto them that chant: Ye priests hymn and exalt Him supremely forever!

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

The prophet Daniel is given to the lions as an unjust trial, but, through the precept of abstinence, in his piety he had the wild beasts as fellow fasters in the depths of the pit. Through his prayers and those of Abraham and the children, save them that hymn Thee in the world, O Christ!

Both... The voices of the prophets faithfully proclaimed Him as Jesus Immanuel, Who cometh in human form, God and man; and the Virgin Mary, without having known man, giveth birth in the city of Bethlehem unto a Son, the co-unoriginate Word, through the Holy Spirit.

We praise, we bless, we worship the Lord, praising and supremely exalting Him unto all ages.

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)

The furnace moist with dew/ was the image and figure of a wonder past nature./ For it burnt not the Children whom it had received,/ even as the fire of the Godhead consumed not the Virgin's womb into which it had descended./ Therefore in praise let us sing:// Let the whole creation bless the Lord and exalt Him above all forever.

P. Magnificat
C. Song of the Most Holy Theotokos.

Canticle Nine

Irmos: It is not possible for men/ to behold God,/ upon Whom the ranks of angels dare not gaze;/ but through thee, O most pure one,/ hath the Word appeared incarnate unto men;// and magnifying Him with the armies of heaven, we call thee blessed.

Glory to Thy Holy Resurrection, O Lord.

Having associated in the flesh with passion, Thou hast remained without participation in passion. And Thou, O our Saviour, dost set man loose from passion by having made the passions suffer. For Thou only art impassible and almighty.

Having accepted the corruption of death, Thou hast kept Thy body from tasting corruption: While Thy life-giving and divine soul, O Master, hath not been left in hell, but Thou, risen as from sleep, hast made us rise with Thyself.

Triadicon

O all ye men, with pure lips let us glorify God the Father and the Son Who is equally without beginning, and let us honour the ineffable and all-

glorious power of the most Holy Spirit; for Thou alone art the almighty and indivisible Trinity.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

Like the harlot, the thief and the publican I cry unto Thee from the depths of my heart: I have sinned! Forgive me my manifold offenses, O Master, and deliver me from all Thine anger through the entreaty of the holy hierarch Peter, that I may unceasingly magnify Thee.

Come, all ye people of Moscow! And, gathering at the tomb of the blessed hierarch Peter, cry out unto God with tears, saying: O Lord, deliver Thy people from misfortunes, that we may magnify Thee forever!

Thine own city of Moscow greatly rejoiceth in thee, O all-honored father, holy hierarch Peter, having thee as an ally and helper. Depart not now in spirit from us, O master, making supplication for us to God, that He deliver us from the violence of the ungodly Moslems, our enemies, that we may ever magnify thee.

Theotokion

O all-pure Mary, Mistress and Lady, by thine entreaties cleanse my defiled heart and soul, and make me an heir to life everlasting; and, remembering not my countless evils, beseech thy Son and God for me, wretch that I am, and preserve those who hymn thee, O most holy one.

Holy Hierarch Father Peter, pray to God for us!

It is not possible to sing thy glory as is meet; for thou grantest manifold miracles and countless healings in abundance unto those who with ardent faith approach thee, O holy hierarch Peter, thou boast of our land.

Christ hath set thee as the foundation of His Church and a mighty tower forever unshakable, protecting and making steadfast thy city, that it might remain utterly unshaken and unassailed by its enemies.

Let all of us-bishops, priests and monks, and all the people, men and women, the old and the young, of every age and every dignity-splendidly celebrate the memory of our holy hierarch.

Theotokion

Let us hasten to behold the greatest of wonders! For the Virgin cometh, bearing in her womb the Babe Who giveth life to babes. Angels join in common hymnody with shepherds, proclaiming the salvation made manifest in the cave.

Holy Fathers, pray to God for us!

Celebrating the feast of the fathers that were before the law, let us honour Christ, Who, in godly manner, is begotten of them in the flesh; for Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who, through faith, are proclaimers of the Spirit and grace, are shown to be the foundation of the prophets and the law.

God, Who by the fire in the bush showed to Moses the godly mystery in manner past understanding, having descended into the fire for the children, showed the flame of the furnace to be dew through the fire of the Essence of His divinity.

Glory... The all-holy children, assembling with Abraham, and Daniel, the wondrous prophet of God, Isaac and Jacob, with Moses and Aaron, faithfully join chorus before the nativity of Christ, praying unceasingly that we be saved.

Both... All of creation doth rejoice in thy birthgiving, O Virgin, for Bethlehem hath opened Eden unto us. And, lo! delighting in the Tree of Life, we all earnestly cry out in faith: Thou hast fulfilled our prayers, O Mistress!

C. Katavasia (Tone 1)
A **strange** and most wonderful mystery do I **see**;/ the cave is **hea**ven;/ the **Vir**gin the throne of the **che**rubim; / the manger a room, in which Christ, the God Whom nothing can con**tain**, is laid.// Him do we praise and **mag**nify.

P. Small Ectenia
C. Holy is the Lord our God...

R. Exapostilarion Nine, (John 20:19-31)
The doors were shut as Thou didst enter, O Master, and hast filled the Apostles with the Holy Spirit by peacefully breathing upon them; and Thou hast said to them that they would bind and set loose sins; and after eight days Thou hast shown Thomas Thy side and Thy hands. With him we cry: Thou art Lord and God.

Exapostilarion of the Fathers
Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the elect of the patriarchs, the fathers before the Law, have shone forth like beacons, for all the prophets and the righteous shone forth from them like radiant lamps. With rays of honourable prophecy have they illumined all creation; and they earnestly pray to God in behalf of the world.

Glory... Exapostilarion of St. Peter of Kiev
The Holy Spirit anointed thee a hierarch, O all-blessed Peter, to tend the flock of Christ in the fields of salvation; wherefore, thou didst strive to guide the people along the straight paths. For this cause thou hast now received twofold crowns from the Bestower of crowns.

Both... Theotokion of the Fathers
Wondrous hath this been! The unblemished ewe-lamb, the granddaughter of Adam and David, giveth birth unto the Lamb, the all-unoriginate Word, in the latter days, as is meet. The forefeast of her ineffable birthgiving doth the multitude of the fathers celebrate fittingly.

C. Lauds: Tone 6 Stichera
Let every breath **praise** the Lord/
Praise the Lord from the **Hea**vens/

Praise Him in the **high**est/
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God/
Praise Him, all ye His **A**ngels;/
Praise Him, all **ye** His hosts.//
To Thee is due a **hymn**, O God.

R. (The following may be read or sung antiphonally)
Praise Him, O sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars and light.
Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens.
Let them praise the name of the Lord; For He spake, and they came to be; He commanded, and they were created.
He established them forever, yea, forever and ever; He hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away.
Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons and all ye abysses,
Fire, hail, snow, ice, blast of tempest, which perform His word,
The mountains and all the hills, fruitful trees, and all cedars,
The beasts and all the cattle, creeping things and winged birds,
Kings of the earth, and all peoples, princes and all judges of the earth,
Young men and virgins, elders with the younger; let them praise the name of the Lord, for exalted is the name of Him alone.
His praise is above the earth and heaven, and He shall exalt the horn of His people.
This is the hymn for all His saints, for the sons of Israel, and for the people that draw nigh unto Him.
Sing unto the Lord a new song; His praise is in the church of the saints.
Let Israel be glad in Him that made him, let the sons of Sion rejoice in their king.
Let them praise His name in the dance; with the timbrel and the psaltery let them chant unto Him.
For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people, and He shall exalt the meek with salvation.
The saints shall boast in glory, and they shall rejoice upon their beds.
The high praise of God shall be in their throat, and two-edged swords shall be in their hands.
To do vengeance among the heathen, punishments among the peoples,
To bind their kings with fetters, and their nobles with manacles of iron,

V. To do among them the judgment that is written/ This glory shall be to all His saints.

1. Thy **Cross**, O Lord,/ is the life and resurrection of Thy **peo**ple/ and assured of this, we sing unto Thee our **ri**sen God:// Have mercy up**on** us.

V. Praise ye God in His saints,/ praise Him in the firmament of His power.

2. Thy burial, O **Mas**ter,/ opened Paradise for **man**kind,/ and we, delivered from cor**rup**tion,/ sing unto Thee our **ri**sen God:// Have mercy up**on** us.

V. Praise Him for His mighty acts,/ praise Him according to the multitude of His greatness.

3. Let us praise Christ with the Father and the **Spi**rit:/ Let us cry aloud unto Him **ri**sen from the dead:/ Thou art our life and resur**rec**tion://
Have **mer**cy on us.

V. Praise Him with the sound of trumpet,/ praise Him with psaltery and harp.

Stichera for the Fathers (Tone 5)

4. **Lift** up thy voice, O **Zi**on,/ thou truly divine **ci**ty,/ and pro**claim** the divine memory of the **fa**thers,/ honouring **A**braham, Isaac and the ever-memorable **Ja**cob;/ for, lo! we all magnify Judah and Levi, the great **Mo**ses/ **and** the wondrous Aaron, and we honour David, Joshua and **Sa**muel./
And **weav**ing divine hymns into **god**ly praise/ on the forefeast of Christ's na**ti**vity,/ we **ask** that we receive **grace** from Him,// and that He grant the **world** great mercy.

V. Praise Him with timbrel and dance,/ praise Him with strings and flute.

5. **O**-o E**li**jah,/ who once rode upon a divine **cha**riot of fire,/ come thou **forth**, and thou, O divinely wise E**li**sha;/ and **join**ing with Ezekiel and Ho**se**a, rejoice!/ O ye honoured and divinely inspired twelve **pro**phets,/ join **cho**rus, and all ye **right**eous,/ **chant** in hymns unto the na**ti**vity of Christ;/ ye most blessed youths that quenched the flame of the furnace with the dew of the **Spi**rit,/ entreat **Christ** in **our** behalf,// that He send down upon our **souls** great mercy.

V. Praise Him with tuneful cymbals, praise Him with cymbals of jubilation./ Let every breath praise the Lord.

Stichera for St. Peter of Kiev (Tone 8)

6. O **ve**nerable father Peter, while yet in thy **mo**ther's womb/ thou didst receive a calling to be a bishop which was **ut**tered by God./ From childhood thou didst love Christ,/ receiving from Him the flock of His reason-en**dowed** sheep,/ and thou didst shepherd well the **Church** of God./
Wherefore, we celebrate thy dor**mi**tion// and, rejoicing, we **mag**nify Christ.

V. My mouth shall speak of wisdom, and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding.

7. **Pray**ing for us, O venerable hierarch **Pe**ter,/ by thy supplications unto God ask confirmation **for** the Church,/ care and guidance for the bishop **of** the flock,/ victory for the nation over the Moslems and triumph over all **e**nemies,/ an unshakable and unassailable existence for thy **ci**ty,/ and remission of sins for all the faithful **peo**ple// who have recourse unto the shrine of thy relics, O holy **hi**erarch.

V. The mouth of the righteous shall meditate wisdom and his tongue shall peak of judgment.

(Tone 6)

8. Every city and land rejoiceth,/ celebrating today with the glorious city of **Mos**cow;/ for the great Peter, our wondrous physician and **sa**vior,/ doth offer us doses of heavenly **me**dicine./ He hath lovingly called all to his **free** cures,/ which are not wrought by human skill or by **phil**tres,/ but through the activity of the Holy **Spi**rit,/ imparting super-natural healing of soul and **bo**dy./ And receiving this in abundance, we of every generation and age glorify **Christ** God,/ Who for the sake of His **fa**vored one// bestoweth great mercy upon those who sing his **prai**ses.

Glory... (Tone 8)

The **com**pilation of the **teach**ings of the Law/ doth reveal the divine birth of **Christ** in the flesh/ as being from them that, be**fore** the Law,/ proclaimed the glad tidings of grace to them that lived be**yond** the Law./ Wherefore, in that this birth is the means of deliverance from cor**rup**tion,/ for the sake of the resurrection they declared to the souls held fast in **Ha**des:// O Lord, **glo**ry be to Thee!

Both now and ever... (Tone 2)

Most Blessed art Thou, O Virgin Theo**to**kos,/ for through Him Who became incarnate of thee is hades led **cap**tive,/ **A**dam recalled, the curse annulled, Eve set fre-e, **death** slain,/ and we are given life. Wherefore, we cry a**loud** in praise:/ Blessed art Thou, O **Christ** God,// Who hast been thus well-pleased, **glo**ry to Thee.

The Great Doxology

Dismissal Tropar:

Having risen from the tomb, and having burst the bonds of hades, Thou hast destroyed the sentence of death, O Lord, delivering all from the snares of the enemy. Manifesting Thyself to Thine apostles, Thou didst send them forth to preach; and through them hast granted Thy peace to the world, O Thou Who alone art plenteous in mercy.

P. Litanies
Dismissal

G/B... Gospel Sticheron (Tone 5)

As in the **lat**ter times/ it being late on the evening of the **Sab**bath,/ Thou hast come and stood with Thy **friends**, O Christ,/ and by a wonder, the entrance do-ors **being** closed,/ Thou hast confirmed a miracle that is Thy Resur**rec**tion from the dead./ And joy filled the dis**ci**ples/ and Thou hast given to them the Holy **Spi**rit,/ and hast dispensed to them the power of re**mit**ting sins,/ and Thou hast not left Thomas, to be overwhelmed by the rough waters of **dis**belief./ Therefore, O com**pass**ionate Lord,// grant us also true knowledge and re**mis**sion **of** our faults.

R. Hours

Tropar: Resurrection & Fathers/St. Peter alternating
Kontak: Fathers/St. Peter alternating

Kontakion of the Forefeast (Tone 2)
Beholding Him Who holdeth the whole world in His hands/ wrapped in swaddling-bands in Bethlehem,/ let us offer up hymns of the forefeast to her who gave birth to Him; for she rejoiceth maternally,// holding the Son of God at her bosom.

At Liturgy:

Order of Troparia & Kontakia:
Tropar Resurrection
Tropar Fathers
Tropar Forefeast
Tropar St. Peter of Kiev
Kontak St. Peter of Kiev
Glory... Kontak Fathers
Both... Kontak Forefeast

Prokimenon for the Fathers (Tone 4)
Blessed art Thou, O Lord, God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages!
V. For righteous art Thou in all which Thou hast done for us.

Prokimenon for St. Peter of Kiev (Tone 1)
My mouth shall speak wisdom...

Epistle(s): Heb 11:9-10, 17-23, 32-40 & Heb 7:26-8:2

Alleluia for the Fathers (Tone 4)
Alleluia for St. Peter of Kiev (Tone 2)

Gospel(s): Matt 1:1-25 & Luke 6:17-23

Communion Verse: Praise Ye & Rejoice in the Lord...